

# The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

**January 2015**



**1. Tree seedlings in a nursery 2. Dried maize crop in Kikandwa –Mityana 3. Dried vegetables: Left from Amaranthus grain, right: dried tomatoes (Photos by UCSD)**

## **Civil Society Organizations learn Climate Change Resilience tips from Communities in Mityana –Uganda**

There is a growing need for Civil Society Organizations in Uganda to learn from communities that are adapting to Climate Change practise to be able to survive during long dry spells. The Uganda National NGO Forum together with Kikandwa Environmental Association organized the 2015 CSO leaders' exposure visit to Kikandwa village in Mityana district. The two day exposure and emersion visit provided a learning opportunity for free community interaction to share experiences with house- holds on their community development projects geared towards food security, environment protection and climate change adaptation.

According to Mr. John Kaganga of the Kikandwa Environment Association, the activity attracted CSO members from more than 20 organizations." They will learn from households how they manage farming in the dry seasons and how they utilize resources to gain income. The climate change challenges are persistent but people in Kikandwa are beginning to appreciate simple climate change adaptation practices that may not yet been applied everywhere."

Water stress, prolonged dry spells and deforestation remains a challenge to this village but through sensitization, many people have planted trees. The key concept of increasing tree cover in Kikandwa is dubbed ½ plus ½ wood lots. This concept is primed on the idea that if every household uses ½ an acre to grow trees, then there will be an increase of tree cover over time.

Ms. Nabatanzi Margret a farmers who adds value to vegetables that are consumed in the dry season says "We have learnt that grain amaranths can be died, stored and consumed in the dry season. We "We have learnt to make cookies, cakes and flour from vegetable seeds that are nutritious. This place becomes very dry in the dry season and vegetables then become very scarce, but when we prepare for the dry season in time, we have vegetable supply throughout the year", she adds.

# The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

Tomatoes can be preserved and consumed in the dry season when cultivation is limited to greenhouses only". She adds that sensitization trainings at the KEA has enabled people learn how to maintain water moisture in their gardens."

Geoffrey Kizito a programme officer at KEA says many people have stopped brewing liquor in wetlands and as such many wetlands have regenerated. There still remains a water challenge because the water table is low so there are fewer wells, some of which dry up in the dry season. "These are challenges for which people may not be able to practice irrigation so we need to encourage planting of more trees. So far 20,000 tree seedlings have been planted by the community", he says.

The CSO leaders' exposure visit will culminate into resilient local communities and national level collaborations around identified areas to leverage bigger voices of small holder farmers to engage in agriculture and livelihood policy formulation, implementation and monitoring for attainment of sustained livelihoods.

## **2015 takes off with a World Bank advice to developing countries to strive for progress**

After growing by an estimated 2.6 percent in 2014, the global economy is projected to expand by 3 percent in 2015, 3.3 percent in 2016 and 3.2 percent in 2017. Using 2010 purchasing power parity weights, global growth would be 3.6 percent in 2015, and 4.0 percent for each of 2016 and 2017, predicts the Bank; in a report released on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 titled **World Bank Group's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report**.

Developing countries grew by 4.4 percent in 2014 and are expected to edge up to 4.8 percent in 2015, strengthening to 5.3 and 5.4 percent in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim says "In this uncertain economic environment, developing countries need to judiciously deploy their resources to support social programs with a laser-like focus on the poor and undertake structural reforms that invest in people". "It's also critical for countries to remove any unnecessary roadblocks for private sector investment. The private sector is by far the greatest source of jobs and that can lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty", he adds.

World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, Kaushik Basu says, that as population growth has slowed in many countries, the pool of younger workers is smaller, putting strains on productivity. But there are some silver linings behind the clouds. The lower oil price, which is expected to persist through 2015, is lowering inflation worldwide and is likely to delay interest rate hikes in rich countries. This creates a window of opportunity for oil-importing countries, such as China and India; we expect India's growth to rise to 7 percent by 2016. What is critical is for nations to use this window to usher in fiscal and structural reforms, which can boost long-run growth and inclusive development.

# The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

In Sub-Saharan Africa, growth picked up only moderately in 2014 to 4.5 percent, reflecting a slowdown in several of the region's large economies, notably South Africa. Growth is expected to remain flat in 2015 at 4.6 percent (lower than previously expected), largely due to softer commodity prices, and rise gradually to 5.1 percent by 2017, supported by infrastructure investment, increased agriculture production, and buoyant services. The outlook is subject to significant downside risks arising from a renewed spread of the Ebola epidemic, violent insurgencies, lower commodity prices, and volatile global financial conditions. Policy priorities include a need for budget restraint for some countries in the region and a shift of spending to increasingly productive ends, as infrastructure constraints are acute. Project selection and management could be improved with greater transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

In another development, World Bank study titled **Leveraging Oil and Gas Industry for the Development of a Competitive Private Sector in Uganda**. Oil discovery in Uganda offers immense potential to stimulate private sector development and capitalize on opportunities for local suppliers to integrate with oil and gas supply chains. Mr. Sajjad Shah, Acting Country Manager, World Bank Uganda, said that the discovery of oil resources offers a unique opportunity to develop the Ugandan economy. "Oil revenues can be used to finance priority domestic investments crucial for diversified growth," Mr. Shah said. "Even before oil production commences and oil revenues start coming in, local enterprises can participate in supplying the industry and start growing their business and the national economy in general".

Mr. Fred Kabanda, Principal Geologist and Head Regulatory Unit, Petroleum Exploration and Production Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development said that the National Content Policy will guide the Government, Licensees, Operators, Oil Service Companies and other key stakeholders in the identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of National Content development in the country.

## Resources and Upcoming Events

Join us in this 'Car washing' Petition!



**Join EA SusWatch Network to support the Petition to NEMA Kenya, NEMC Tanzania and NEMA Uganda to stop impunity and invoke the laws and policies to deter car washing in Lake Victoria. More: <http://chn.ge/1zB1P9v>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Food Security and Adaptation Conference 2015 | July 30 -31, Nairobi (Kenya)**

Re-imagining Africa's Food Security through harnessing Ecosystem based Adaptation (Eba) Approaches now and into the future. More: <http://bit.ly/1ECeIda>

**Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations (Stocktaking session) was held 19 Jan 2015 - 21 Jan 2015**

The focus of the discussion was on taking stock of the consultation, discussions and negotiations held so far and to get initial views from Member States on their priorities for the elements of the post-2015 agenda (Declaration, Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the broader post-2015 development agenda, means of implementation and follow up and review). More: <http://tinyurl.com/kgxyb6x>