

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



Spring 2017

Make Brexit work for everyone

Millions of people from the poorest countries rely on trade with the UK – and we rely on them. The next few years could be make or break for them. They could face around £1 billion in extra taxes - and unfair competition if the UK signs free trade agreements with wealthy countries.

But with the right policies in place, Brexit could be the moment when the UK starts trading in ways that really benefits people from the poorest countries. **Traidcraft** is calling on the government to put in place measures to safeguard people who trade with us from the poorest countries.

These could include **duty-free access** for products from the poorest countries, and trade rules that make it easier for producers in poor countries to export more valuable products – enabling them to trade their way out of poverty.

The impact of Brexit could reach far beyond the British borders, and for people who trade with us from the world's poorest countries it could be make or break.

They could find themselves squeezed even harder by powerful international competition. Or it could be a moment when the UK starts trading in a way that really benefits them.

Email your MP now: www.traidcraft.co.uk/take-action

Drought stokes battle for pastures in Kenya's northern regions

Cattle rustling and competition for grazing have long troubled the area, which is a popular safari destination for visitors, but severe drought and political rivalries ahead of the elections have exacerbated the situation.

"The drought has been a problem for years but people have been living peacefully. This (flare-up) is because of politics," said Francis Narunbe, a local chief of the Turkana tribe. Elections in Kenya have often been marred by violence, fuelled by tribal rivalries and disputes over land. After the disputed 2007 vote, more than 1,200 were killed after political protests turned into ethnic clashes.

In Laikipia, north of Nairobi, herders from the Samburu and Pokot tribes tend to back the opposition, while smallholder farmers from the Turkana and Kikuyu ethnic groups usually support President Uhuru Kenyatta's Jubilee party, said Martin Evans, head of the Laikipia Farmers' Association..

The County Commissioner said the situation was under control and blamed drought in the region for the tensions. "It is a conflict over pasture," he said. "Once the rains come, they will leave." "The rainy season usually starts in March or April."

Read more: www.thisisplace.org

Millions of lives at risk in West Africa



Over the last four years the conflict with Boko Haram has intensified and spread from North East Nigeria across borders into Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Over 2.6 million people – of which 1.5 million are children – have fled their homes in search of safety and nearly 11 million people are in need of emergency aid. In Borno State in north east Nigeria, at least 400,000 people could be living in 'famine-like' conditions

Meanwhile the Nigerian government has announced it intends to close all camps hosting displaced people by May 2017. Many of them are already returning to areas still surrounded by fighting. Some find their home villages are still too dangerous, leaving them to seek shelter in nearby towns where there is often widespread destruction and few services or assistance available.

Pauline Ballaman, Oxfam's head of operations in the Lake Chad Basin area, said: "The risk of famine is real in parts of northern Nigeria. Millions of people have been pushed to the brink after years of conflict. Unable to grow or buy food, or get the help they desperately need, many have died."



The Africa Action Sheet is produced by the

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Brexit, Chillies and Change



Black Mamba is a small and growing food company, based in Swaziland, which produces chilli sauces, pestos and chutneys. Their main ingredients are locally-grown organic chillies. The majority of the growers are women, who tend chilli plants near their homes while also caring for their grandchildren. They've become known as the 'chilli grandmas'

One of the chilli grandmas explains how selling to **Black Mamba** has benefited them: 'With the money we have earned we have managed to pay for the diesel pump which we use for watering the fields and we are also able to look after our homes by buying food, paying the school fees and buying clothing.' But like many companies across Africa which export to the UK, **Black Mamba** is facing challenging times.

First, they have had to deal with the devaluation of the pound. That has meant that their costs have increased, but in a competitive market, they've not been able to put up their prices. With time, this may improve – but meanwhile, another big change is looming.

At the moment, **Black Mamba** products can be imported into the UK duty free – so no extra tax needs to be paid. When the UK leaves the EU, this could all change. If our government fails to put any new policies in place, **Black Mamba** products are likely to face import taxes of around **7.7%**. Yet another increase in costs which could have a big effect.

We're calling on the government to make an immediate offer to extend the best of the European market access schemes to all poor and economically vulnerable countries like Swaziland

That would reassure companies like **Black Mamba** that they could continue to invest in the local community secure in the knowledge that they can sell their amazing chilli sauces in the UK.

Send an email to your MP at:

www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaign-blog-entry/brexit-chillies-and-change

SOME GOOD NEWS! DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Sixteen investors and insurers with more than \$2.8 trillion in assets under management want G20 governments to set a clear deadline for phasing out subsidies and public finance for fossil fuels at the summit in Hamburg, Germany in July. Ending subsidies to global fossil fuel production would be equivalent to eliminating all of the global aviation sector's emissions. morningexchange@politico.eu

GLOBAL SEED GRAB

Since 2013, the **World Bank** has been rolling out the **Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA)**, an index put in place at the **demand of the G8** to score countries on how they facilitate "doing business" in agriculture. The **EBA** is supported by four Western donors – the **US, UK, Denmark** and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. To design this new index, the Bank was guided by some of the largest agrochemical firms in the world (**Bayer, Monsanto, Syngenta, Pioneer**, among others) to determine which "regulatory burdens" hamper their business.

This January, 157 organizations and academics from around the world petitioned the **World Bank** to drop the **Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA)** project, which jeopardizes farmers' right to seeds, food security, and the future of our planet.

In the seed sector, the **EBA rewards countries that implement intellectual property rights (IPRs)** to allow companies to profit from the use of their seeds by farmers. It also benchmarks how easy it is for the private sector to produce and register seeds, to access genetic resources in national seed banks, and secure majority seats on committees that introduce new seed varieties in countries.

While the Bank claims to encourage "smart and balanced policies," the **EBA** largely ignores farmer-managed seed systems, which provide 80 to 90% of farmers' seed supply in developing countries and are key to preserving agro-biodiversity and fostering resilience against climate and economic shocks. **Make your voice heard, send a message now to World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Western donors and tell them to: DROP THE EBA NOW**

Go to: www.oaklandinstitute.org/take-action-enabling-business-agriculture-seedgrab

GRABBING THE BULL BY THE HORNS

It's time to cut industrial meat and dairy to save the climate



The most widely cited official estimate holds that the **food system** is responsible for up to **30 per cent** of all **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions.¹ Some of these emissions are due to the growth of **pack-aged and frozen foods**, the increased **distance foods are shipped** and the rise in **food waste**. But the most important source of food system-related GHG emissions is the **escalation of meat and dairy consumption**— made possible by the expansion of industrial livestock and chemical-intensive feed crops.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says meat production alone now generates more GHG emissions than all the world's transport combined. Read more: www.grain.org