



In Partnership with



**EASTERN AFRICAN SUB REGIONAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN TRAINING ON EAC CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES IN KABALE
DISTRICT ON 23RD APRIL 2015**





Introduction

The East African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI) organized a workshop training on the EAC customs and immigration procedures with an objective to empower women in cross border trade, provide relevant knowledge and information on cross border procedures and increase the use of formal cross Border trading systems.

The training was organized and held in Kabale at Kirigime Guest House on 23rd of April 2015. The training targeted 100 women involved in Cross Border trade. They included trainers from Customs office katuna who made a presentation on understanding the EAC regional integration, Rules of origin, Certificate of origin and Taxation of small scale traders. Immigration office Katuna informed the Women on Immigration procedures, the Officer In charge of Katuna trained on the role of police in relation to cross Border trade, importance of police at the border especially protecting life and

property and preventing illegal trade, and Agriculture crop inspection and certification officer at katuna border also explained the regulations of trade in plant and agricultural products.

Objectives of the training

The following were the objectives of the training;

To increase awareness and understanding of the EAC regional integration to women in cross border trade.

To bridge the gap between Women in Cross Border Trade and Officials at the border.

To equip participants with knowledge on Rules of origin, Certificate of origin, taxation and plant health regulation to help Trade across the Border.

Opening remarks

Ainebyona Deborah the volunteer of Katuna recourse centre welcomed participants, she requested one of the participants to lead in opening prayer and Enid Andindire led in prayer, she informed them the objectives of the training was to impart more knowledge and awareness on the Customs and Immigration procedures to women in cross border trade to help promote cross border trade. She called upon the Chairperson of Katuna Women Cross Border Association to welcome the participants and give details of the Association.

Miria Akankwasa the Chairperson of KWCBTA welcomed participants and gave details of becoming a member, membership fees of 10,000=, stationary fees of 5,000= shillings. She invited participants to join the Association as they will benefit a lot from it. She concluded by noting that three members have joined funds to trade in juice to Rwanda.

Customs officer Mr. Twizere Moses presentation on Understanding the EAC regional integration and customs procedures

He was grateful to participate in the training of EASSI towards promoting Cross Border trade; he defined the East African Community as the combined states working together with a goal of economic development, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. He explained the benefits of EAC to be increased market, common interest, reduction of taxes for member states, political stability, sharing combined resources like Lake Victoria and free movement across borders creating investments and jobs and reduced transport costs. He gave an example of free movement in the EAC whereby Uganda used to charge taxes on the passenger buses from Rwanda and after this was reported to the Ugandan government, they were later ordered to remove that tax.

He explained the stages of EAC integration

Customs union: As the reduction of taxes between member states.

Common market: As the free movement of labour, jobs and capital.

Monetary union: As the use of the same currency for commercial transaction.

Political federation: Having the same political authority.

On the rules of Origin; He explained that the goods originating from a partner states are not charged import duty especially those completely grown or produced in the country. He added that the certificate of origin, yellow and pink in color are available at the border and are free.

He gave an example of a woman he helped who wanted to export Bread to Rwanda, he first confirmed that she had produced it herself, and then contacted the Revenue office in Rwanda to find out the price. After realizing that she would gain profits, he gave her a certificate of origin to allow her to trade. *"Moses cautioned traders to always trade in products that bring in profits"*.

Discussion

Members noted that the certificate of origin expires immediately after completion of one travel across the Border for trade and the forms are always available at the border when one is exporting a product.

Members noted that formation of cooperatives gives a good market and sets bargaining power for the traders.

Members noted that there is still need for advocacy on the issue of duties charged on the trucks crossing to Rwanda, Rwanda charging the same duty on all the trucks, the big and the small alike affects the small scale traders and makes it difficult for small scale traders to trade in Rwanda.

Presentation from Asiimwe Ronald – Agricultural Inspector Katuna

He thanked EASSI and Trade Mark East Africa for the Support extended to promote Cross Border trade. He noted that in Uganda there is a National Plant Health Organization which legalizes the importation of plants, medicine for plants and soil entering the country. Plants in Uganda are regulated by the Plant Health Act 2015. When exporting a produce one has to first go to the importing country's agriculture office to inquire on the products wanted in their country and the quality required, after which you go back to your country and receive a photo sanitary certificate to pass you through. He further noted that working as a cooperative will help the group to trade in large quantities and with little transaction charges. He advised Women not to limit their trade to Rwanda alone but also to trade in Kenya clarifying that most of the foods in Kenya are from Uganda.

Discussions

Members noted the need for production of quality products because products of poor quality cannot be given a photo sanitary certificate to enable cross to another country.

Presentation from the immigration Officer - Atukwase Cleopatra



She began by defining immigration as the movement of people across borders. She explained the factors for immigration as economic factors like trade, social factor, political and tourism factors. For one to travel you must have a passport / temporary passport/ Identity card. She noted that when crossing one should have enough money in case of any challenges in an outside country giving an example of Democratic Republic of Congo where if one loses document has to pay an amount of \$50 dollars.

Discussions

Members noted that if one loses a passport in an outside country, should report to police where they give you a document which you take to the Ugandan Embassy, and the Ugandan embassy gives you a document to help cross back to your country.

Members got to know that interstate pass helps one to cross to another country and is valid for six months. But if one travel in a week and comes back, it becomes invalid.

Members got to understand that meaning of the word "collision of the willing". For instance Tanzania and Burundi have not permitted entry of EAC members. One has to use a passport to travel to the country.

Members noted that when working in a foreign country and the pass port date expires, one has to go to the Embassy offices of his country to get help for extending the dates. In cases of your country not having an Embassy in the country you are in, one goes to the immigration office of that particular country and they give you a certificate of identity.

Members noted that one is given a work permit to work in their country.

Members noted that passports are a property of the government and should be taken with good care, and when one uses a passport to enter a country, it is under the request of the president.

Members got to know that certificates of identity and passports are collected from the regional offices in Uganda.

Presentation Asp Hasunira Ahmed - OC Katuna police station.



He began by thanking EASSI for organizing the training and the Deborah – Volunteer at Katuna Recourse centre for the follow up made. He went on to explain the role of police in relation to cross border trade, which is to protect life and property, preserve law and order, prevent and detect crimes and to cooperate with civilian authority.

He noted that international police (Interpol) helps to control and prevent crimes in outside countries. For example of recent a car was stolen from Uganda and taken to Rwanda, when the Interpol was alerted, they looked for the car and found it and sent it back to Uganda.

He further noted that Interpol Police helps control Human trafficking; it helps one to know whether the country you are entering has jobs or not. And he requested participants to always consult with Police when crossing to another country for jobs.

He requested participants to avoid smuggling to help prevent terrorism and he noted that smuggled goods do not contribute to the economy.

He noted that police help trader by creating a peaceful environment, attend to issues of those crossing the border, facilitate trader through extending awareness, and assisting those without travel documents.

He concluded by requesting members to collaborate with police in fighting child trafficking, report cases of Domestic violence and to help fight terrorism.