

# Raising Awareness for Development Cooperation

A periodical newsletter published by KOPIN

## IN FOCUS

### MERHBA!

Kopin welcomes you to this newsletter issued within our project referred to as **Global Growing**.

In this newsletter you will find articles relating to the initiatives of this project. You will also be able to read about our study visit in Ethiopia, and we will share the major findings of our research. You might also find useful our investigation about Food Security, as well as, the latest news and event updates in the sector.

We hope you will find the information useful in your endeavors and should you wish to contribute to future editions of this newsletter, we happily welcome articles from your end!

Regards,  
Annabelle and Maria  
Project Design and Research Assistants  
[info@kopin.org](mailto:info@kopin.org)

### GLOBAL GROWING has kicked off!

KOPIN, is partnering up with another nine NGOs from Europe and Africa in a project referred to as *Global Growing*, which is meant to mobilise support in Europe for actions against severe poverty and food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa. The project is led by the *ICU, Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria Onlus* and funded by the European Union.

The parties coming together for this project hail from 12 different countries which are; Italy, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Malta, Spain, Belgium, DR Congo, Kenya and Ethiopia.

In Malta, KOPIN is aiming at putting the issues of Food Security and EU Policy Coherence on the local agenda. We hope to bring about discussion and instill action in our society. For this purpose, the project includes an awareness raising campaign involving various stakeholders in the private and public sector, while also addressing the wider public. The stakeholders involved include: farmers' associations, academia, members of the media, as well as, other civil society organisations.

### Something for everyone

The activities of this project include information and educational workshops with the aim of improving knowledge and information of Sub-Saharan agricultural development problems. Such workshops are being implemented in each of the 9 European countries involved in the project and are structured according to each national context and need. In Malta, the educational workshops are mainly targeting university students who already have an established interest in the subject, thus, such workshops will reinforce knowledge and allow for a fruitful exchange of insights.

We have also embarked on a data collection initiative and we are compiling a survey on European agricultural policy framework and its impact. This will highlight the current status, the characteristics, the trends, the failures and successes with regard to global market developments.

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**CONCORD**

**...+ KOPIN NEWS & EVENTS!**



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This will then be complemented by a European communication campaign. This campaign aims at spreading the information produced by the project and will contribute to the effort of overcoming the general stereotypes which usually characterize the information on development problems in Africa.

An important tool in this campaign is the multilingual website: <http://global-growing.org>. The project partners are in the process of producing a position paper which will be circulated soon.

## Kopin Workshops

At the end of July, KOPIN will be organising a series of workshops which discuss in detail the issue of food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. Emphasis will also be made on the implications the Common Agricultural Policy is having on these less developed countries. The focus will be on a case study that was developed by KOPIN in 2010, focusing on Agricultural macro- and micro-levels in Ethiopia. The workshops will be organised for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta, the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs, students from the Institute of European Studies and International Relations of the University of Malta and also the Maltese Farmers' Association. These meetings will allow us to disseminate, share and exchange knowledge and experiences.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

**AEC Pro-Akademia** - Association of Economic Consultants Pro-Akademia – Poland

**CECFOR** - Centre Congolais de Culture, de Formation et de Développement – DRC

**SIMFR** - Solidarité Internationale des Mouvements Familiaux de Formation Rurale – Belgium

**Kopin** - Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta

**ONAY** - Organización Navarra para Ayuda entre los Pueblos – Spain

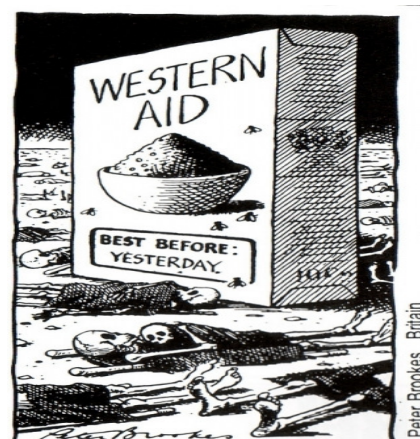
**ICEP** - Institut zur Kooperation bei Entwicklungs-Projekten – Austria

**ARS** - Asociace pro Rozvojovou Spolupráci – Czech Republic

**SET** - Strathmore Educational Trust – Kenya

**HID** - Híd a Harmadik Világért – Hungary

**SR** - Inštitút Medzinarodnej Spolupráce Sila Rozvoja – Slovakia



<http://www.developmenteducation.ie/cartoons-and-photos/cartoons/show.html?id=115>

[www.kopin.org](http://www.kopin.org)

Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria Onlus (ICU)  
<http://www.icu.it>

## COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY - CAP

In brief, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a mechanism initially created to provide food security and support to agricultural produce in Europe. Over the years, it did reach its objectives but has also undergone several modifications, particularly in the 1980s and the 1990s, relating to production limits.

In the last years, the European Union (EU) has invested in various policies in relation to food security in Africa. Notwithstanding such initiatives, many question the results of the EU policies to reduce food inequality and poverty world-wide. This does not put into question the EU's efforts to meet by 2015 the objectives proposed by the Millennium Development Goals, but questions whether what is being developed in theory is also being implemented in practice.

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## The Food security chain in Crisis

Lack of access to adequate food is the result of uneven distribution of resources, where the developing countries tend to be the ones mainly and most badly affected by any negative change in the world, be it in relation to climate, economy or political unrest. However, it is important to note that food security is not only hampered by the economic crisis.

### Climate Change

In recent year, studies show that changes in the climate have an impact on food security in various ways - food availability, food accessibility, food utilisation and food systems stability. The link between climate change and food security may not seem very straightforward or may be limited to the direct causes and consequences that one has on the other.

One direct impact climate change is having on food security is that of the effects of weather on crop yields. At this point, it is important to note the crucial role food management has to play in ensuring food security. In the case of rotten food, methane, a strong greenhouse gas is released, thus effecting climate change which in turn effects crop yields. For such reasons, compost is very important. This is the process of turning food waste into compost needed by local farmers.

Climate change leaves an impact on other food system processes, such as food processing, distribution, acquisition, preparation and consumption. These may be considered as indirect consequences that climate change has on food security.

Although the progress in technology has made us less dependent on climate to grow particular crops; this, however, does not imply that the mechanisms used for such productions, are not

themselves harmful for the environment. Being the most vulnerable, the populations whose standard of living is low, are highly at risk to suffer from the negative changes in the world-political, environmental and economical. A large percentage of the world's population (36%) depend highly on agriculture, in Asia and Pacific, the percentage reached 40-50 (ILO, 2007). Due to the lack of rainfalls, dry weather and other changes in weather, this group often risks crop failure.

### Food waste and consumption

Many may not be aware that the food security chain has vast dimensions and that we, as consumers, have an obligation and responsibility to purchase and consume food with consciousness. Food waste or food loss, refers to the decrease in edible food mass available for human consumption. Such losses mainly derive from the throwing away of food which is still edible and which has still a nutritional value. The consumers' decisions have various implication on food security and also climate change.

It has been estimated that the total food losses globally reach 1.3 billion tons per annum, which is roughly one-third of the world food production for human consumption. Recent studies conducted by Food and Agricultural Organisation FAO estimated yearly global quantitative food losses and waste at roughly 30% for cereals, 40-50% for root crops, fruits & vegetables, 20% for oilseeds, meat and dairy, and 30% for fish.

Food loss varies significantly between low income countries and middle and high income countries. Whilst in the latter, food loss is mainly due to the limitations in harvesting techniques, storage, transportation, processing, cooling facilities, infrastructure, packaging and marketing systems. On the other hand, the former relate to consumer behaviour as well as to policies and regulations put in place (e.g. agricultural subsidies) to address other sectoral priorities.

***“FAO’s vision of a world without hunger is one in which most people are able, by themselves, to obtain the food they need for an active and healthy life, and where social safety nets ensure that those who lack resources still get enough to eat.”***  
(FAO, 2007f)

### State failure?

Political mismanagement is an important aspect which can be linked to food security on a local, national and regional level. Countries in which corruption thrives are still fighting for their rights to land which are most often owned by the people in power. Earlier this year, the government of Ethiopia was accused of forcing people out of their land in order to lease the land to foreign investors. It has been noted that people were being relocated to villages which are not adequately equipped with food and farmland facilities. As most of these people depend entirely on their own production for food, land is vital resource for the survival of these populations. Fair distribution of land would therefore contribute to the eradication of poverty.

Ensuring food for all is a universal human right. Then whose responsibility is it to ensure equal distribution of resources world-wide? How shall the international community deal with speculation on the commodities market that drives the price of staples such as rice, sugar and crops beyond the reach of the poorest?

### The Way Forward:

1. **Risk management – reduce uncertainty, disseminate information, mitigation**
2. **Changing consumption patterns and food preparation**
3. **New strategies and intervention approaches from states**

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## Ethiopia: A case study

The notion of food security stands on three pillars; *Food availability* in terms of sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis, *access*; meaning having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet and *use*; appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as, adequate water and sanitation.<sup>1</sup>

We may often think that Mother Earth does not provide enough food for seven billion people. Is this in any way true?

Not quite.

Following, our experience in Ethiopia, we can immediately rule out this myth. We are of the opinion that food insecurity is essentially induced by humankind. Although the concept can be clearly explained and the issues easily traced back to their roots, an attempt at resolving it requires willingness for change by many stakeholders.

Our case study is based on an on-the-ground analysis we carried out *vis-à-vis* the situation of food security in Ethiopia. We spoke to members of communities living on small-scale farming, since the sector contributes to the livelihood of millions in this country.

For the purpose of the study, we teamed up with an Ethiopian partner organisation, the *Emmanuel Development Association* (EDA), and through them, we have had direct contact with academic experts, local authorities and farmers alike.

The communities we encountered inhabit either the suburbs of Addis Abba or the mountainous regions of Debub Wollo and Semien Wollo (South and North Wollo) in the Amhara Region. In their majority, they are engaged in small-scale farming as their main income activity. Such villages are representative of the Ethiopian nation at large, where 85% live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture. The sector contributes to half of the national gross domestic product. Such figures clearly illustrate that farming in Ethiopia is far more than a matter of simple economics; rather it is a matter of survival for over 75 million people, while constraints in agriculture have a direct bearing on the food security of the people.

Challenges to food security emanate from various sources, both internal, as well as, external, stemming from unsuitable agrarian policies, lack of agricultural investment by the state, unfair market practices by the local and the international community, as well as, climate change. These challenges, coupled with the rapid population growth, have been contributing to the problem of food insecurity in Ethiopia since the 1960s.

Ethiopian farmers are not protected in any way and they operate within a system of corrupt internal market practices which take advantage of their *often* helpless situations. This is due to the fact that the farmers in concern are not well organised and sell their produce individually. Because of this, Ethiopian farmers do not manage to counter the aggressive market practices of the traders, who are relatively well organised and consequently push the farmers into distress selling, more often than not - dictating the prices. The vulnerability of farmers is further reinforced through poor national policies relating to the sector.

## The State

With regards to state policy, the most critical point is the issue of land insecurity. As things stand to date, all land in Ethiopia is owned by the state, giving it immense power over the farming population. This right enables the State to periodically redistribute land, consequently stripping the people of any sense of ownership. Furthermore, through this mechanism, farmland is becoming increasingly fragmented, where designated areas are decreasing in size. Besides the obvious logic that less land means less income and less food, this also means that farmers are in a way inhibited from applying good farm management practices such as crop rotation and agro-forestry which require relatively large farm land, as well as shying away from increased risks such as investment in modern farming equipment. This has led to the continuation and general application of low-tech farming techniques which have inevitably led to persistence of archaic modes of production, in turn yielding low levels of productivity. A further problem occurring as a result of this is the concern of land degradation brought about by wrong farming practices like heavy reliance on fertilisers, intense cultivation and overgrazing.

## External Market Dynamics

Externally, the international market is another binding constraint on Ethiopian farmers. This is due to the deterioration of trade and the rising level of imports combined with the volume of exportable goods.<sup>1</sup> We, Europeans are not free from blame in this regard. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union for one, is heavily subsidising farmers inside the Union, resulting in low market prices, making it impossible for farmers from the majority world, such as Ethiopia, to match the "European" prices. It is estimated that the liberalisation of EU export agriculture would release *some* €33.8 billion in net agricultural trade for these countries.



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## Climate Change

Climate change, or rather its effects, is a further concern to small-scale farmers in Ethiopia. Although it impacts all of us, countries like Ethiopia that are already food insecure, the phenomenon is affecting all three elements of food security in an alarming way: availability, access and use. This is a direct consequence of more extreme weather events.<sup>1</sup> In the Addis communities, recurrent drought is already having its toll on the farmland, resulting in ecological degradation of potential arable lands. Climate change is further presenting additional risks to farmers, including new patterns of pests and diseases, as well as, increased crop failure. In Ethiopia, where the very lives of people are dependent on agricultural produce, this is no small risk. Such threats will not simply vanish; rather they call for action. Adaptation is what the experts are calling for, however Ethiopian farmers are helpless without the assistance in know-how and resources by the State and NGOs.

## Road Ahead

for the future, Ethiopia's economic development has been reaping an annual increase economic growth of around 7% with some benefits for the Ethiopian people. Amongst other things, the Government is committed to bring about a free market economy geared to productively engage the majority of the Ethiopians in the economy. This policy direction looks good on paper, but the implementation and its implications are yet to be seen and analysed.

As can be seen in this short account, an attempt at breaking the food insecurity cycle requires willingness for change, mainly on the part of the State in the form of appropriate policy formulation and a targeted assistance to small-scale farmers.

Meanwhile, we will continue working with the communities in Addis and beyond, and hope that our work would trigger suitable policy change and adequate investments, in an effort in making the issue of food insecurity history.

## Events

### 1. Outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and the People's Summit

The discussions at the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development were centred around the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that should replace the Millennium Development Goals as from 2016, but the concrete agenda for the next years is yet to be seen. For this purpose, it was established that a working group is to be set up to define the SDGs and table a proposal for the UN General Assembly.

The European Union welcomed the general outcome, although it did not consider it as fully satisfactory. Amongst the successes of the conference, the EU considers the recognition of the need to move towards a greener economy and the emphasis on the fundamental role of civil society in achieving sustainable development.

The EU reiterated its support to UNEP and insisted on the creation of a United Nations Environment Organization, which would complement UNEP and be wholly dedicated to global environmental issues.

Parallel to the official Summit, many NGOs, including representatives from CONCORD (the European Confederation of European NGOs) and the DEEEP project (Developing European Engagement for the Eradication of Global Poverty) attended the People's Summit in downtown Rio.

In discussions about development education, it was established that states must assume the responsibility of assuring quality DE learning, in practice this could be achieved through concrete reforms in the schooling system. During the Summit, NGOs also delved into some self-reflection and evaluated their work particularly about their impact on societies, highlighting the need of more visibility and fundraising.

### 2. Promoting Human Rights - Empowering Civil Society

A small group of Maltese NGO representatives have attended the TRIALOG conference entitled 'Promoting Human Rights - Empowering Civil Society', which took place in Vienna between the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The conference was a good opportunity for networking and exchange of information. The highlights were the experiences shared by the Southern NGO partners.

Lucas Wadenya from a Kenyan NGO called STIPA spoke about his work on man empowerment. Through this initiative, men are trained to be responsible husbands and fathers, thus sharing responsibilities with the women in their community. The organization, *Interpenc* from Senegal has established a democratic model designed to organize access to women's land rights in agricultural-based villages. Through this method, farmers are organized and their voice heard.

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### News

#### The EP adopts a declaration on development education and global active citizenship

After an intense four months of campaigning by the NGO sector, on July 5<sup>th</sup> the European Parliament finally adopted a declaration on development education and global active citizenship. This declaration is set to promote the strengthening of development education policies, both at national and European level. Although some Member States already have a national strategy in place, many do not have one or it is not fully implemented. For example, Malta is one of the Member States that do not have such a strategy in place.

This declaration is considered a landmark in the strengthening of the sector and calls for a long term strategy in the field.

#### The future of the CONCORD EPAN Working Group

Following a long period of time convening the CONCORD working group on Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood, Trialog is stepping back from this role as of September 2012. Over the nine years that this Working Group has been in place, there were many achievements. Amongst them, EPAN has been crucial in European policy discussions regarding neighbourhood and pre-accession. EPAN can also count as its success the highlighting of the transition phase as an important element in EU enlargement policy. This was carried out through its role in the compilation of the European Transition Compendium database.

As for the future of this WG, it has been established that some issues within the group could be integrated in other WGs, including work on future instruments for the region such as ENI and IPA. However, a final decision is to be taken by the newly elected board of CONCORD.

Source; Trialog

### Resources

#### The EU aid debate

CONCORD has just issued its annual report on EU aid, which bears the title, 'Aid We Can – Invest More in Global Development'. This report is a useful tool where to find EU aid trends and the aid levels of each EU Member State, many of which are not expected to fulfill the promise of allocating 0.7% of their GDP by 2015. According to this document, less than half the Member States are expected to meet the targets.

Source: AidWatch

#### Making your case!

Derived from the Latin word "advocare", which means "coming to the aid of someone," advocacy is an important function of most non-profit organisations. *Making your case* is the title of an Advocacy toolkit published by DEEEP and which will be distributed to all NGDO platforms and interested NGDOs Europe wide. The toolkit includes tips and guidelines on planning an effective advocacy campaign, the challenges encountered, as well as, resources to assist NGDOs in mapping the target stakeholders. In Malta, SKOP has presented this toolkit on the 18<sup>th</sup> July during a workshop for the national platform's members.

Source: SKOP, DEEEP



## Useful links

### **WEBSITES OF THE PROJECT “GLOBAL GROWING”**

<http://global-growing.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/globalgrowing>

### **ISTITUTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA ONLUS (ICU)**

<http://www.icu.it>

### **TRIALOG**

<http://www.trialog.or.at>



### **KOPIN**

<http://www.kopin.org>

### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>   <http://www.stopovertymalta.org>   <http://www.whiteband.org>

### **SKOP – THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MALTESE NGDOs**

<http://www.skopmalta.org>

### **UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

<http://www.um.edu.mt>

### **DEEEP – Advocacy Toolkit**

<http://deEEP.org/images/stories/Advocacy/NewToolkit/advocacy%20toolkit%202012.pdf>

### **AIDWATCH - Report of 2012**

<http://aidwatch.concordeurope.org/static/files/assets/3f200cc4/report.pdf>

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - WRITTEN DECLARATION on development education and active global citizenship**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+WDECL+P7-DCL-2012-0007+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

## Background information



### WHAT IS KOPIN?

*H*ave you ever thought of *the world as a ripple tank*, where one person or a group of like-minded persons at different points in time play the role of the first drop?

There is a long list of people who rose to be that drop, but their voice would not have been as powerful had it not been echoed and strengthened by the efforts of others. And this is precisely where KOPIN fits in.

We are one of the ripples working towards social global justice and we work with like-minded organisations on both national and international levels to convey to as many persons as possible the importance of the **fair distribution of the planet's resources towards the goal of social global justice**.

**KOPIN** (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali) **stands for international development cooperation and works in tandem with civil society organisations or NGOs in Malta, Europe, and Africa**, on various projects essentially aimed at raising awareness about the role of each individual as a **global citizen**, as well as the intrinsic values of the role, and to contribute towards the **empowerment of developing communities**. Through its projects and initiatives, **KOPIN** seeks to reach various members of society ranging from school children and their families, to civil communities (including institutions within the respective communities) to state / regional policy-makers. **KOPIN** joins forces with its **partners** on different projects to **connect people to each other** both directly and indirectly.

Direct connections are made possible mainly through educational channels, whereby educators and students in different countries come together and **share ideas** through projects coordinated by the participating NGOs in the respective countries. Indirect connections are achieved through the **awareness of how choices made by individuals in privileged countries impact the quality of life, livelihood of persons and communities in developing regions and countries**, and even threatening their very existence. To this end, **KOPIN** undertakes initiatives aimed at showing how the demand of material goods may be moderated, or at least deviated towards more sustainable patterns. The achievement of this goal would mean that no community in any part of the world would have to struggle for its existence because of the (often unwitting) whims of another society, and that the very community struggling to survive will not have to succumb to unsustainable patterns at the expense of losing their dignity and the motivation to preserve centuries-old practices that are, ultimately, beneficial to the planet itself.

**KOPIN** also supports **community-based projects overseas** that entail the **sustainable development** of infrastructure and services set up *by* the community *for* the community.

*We would like you to **join us in our efforts** and invite you to browse through **www.kopin.org** to get to know more about what we do, and learn about our partners, projects and the communities we seek to help out. Should you wish to offer your time or support **contact us at [info@kopin.org](mailto:info@kopin.org)** for more information.*

## WHAT DO WE DO?

KOPIN (*Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali- Malta*) is a voluntary organisation based in Malta (Europe) which works in the fields of international development cooperation, development global education and migration.



KOPIN was launched in public during a seminar on "The Policies of the European Union with regards to North South Cooperation" held on 24 June, 2000. Although Kopin is not bound to any other organisation it has good relations with a number of Maltese and foreign organisations. Ever since its foundation, a main aim of KOPIN is to network with other NGOs in order to share experiences and expertise with a focus on development cooperation and to build a strong position in advocating for fairer North-South relations that have a focus on the Southern, rights-based perspective.

KOPIN is the founding organisation of The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs and was mandated to coordinate the network until May 2007. Today the Platform is known as SKOP – *Solidarjetá u Koperazzjoni* – and is Malta's largest network of NGOs working in the field of development and migration.

KOPIN is also a member of the Forum for Justice and Cooperation together with the Third World Group, Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (the Fair Trade Cooperative) and Inizjamed. It actively engages in CONCORD and SKOP working groups, is a partner of the TRIALOG project and collaborates with European networks such as EUROSTEP. KOPIN is also a partner of the Terre des Hommes International Federation. Moreover, the organisation acts as the Maltese Focal Point for Social Watch.

The organisation has implemented a number of projects in the fields of North-South Collaboration, such as Global Action Schools (GAS), Building Unity Through Diversity (BUTD) and a project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society in Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to engage effectively in Dialogue with the European Institutions over Sustainable Livelihood in the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Process" and "Capacity and Synergy building among NGDOs and LAs in Greece, Cyprus and Malta for development" (MEDEVNET).

Kopin's current projects are "Global Action Schools2Communities", "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation" (RADC), "Raising the Awareness of a European Multi-Actor Network Acting for the Enhancement of Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa", and "Educating for sustainable and responsible management of the forests in the world". Moreover, KOPIN is currently implementing a European Refugee Fund project entitled "Empowerment and Self-Reliance of Women Refugees in Malta" and two development projects in Ethiopia, together with its partners on the ground, supporting impoverished communities through the provision of HIV/AIDS combatting measures and of biogas digestion systems, amongst other initiatives.

KOPIN is legally registered in Malta under the 2007 Voluntary Organisations Act (VO ID No - VO/0200). For further information, visit our website [www.kopin.org](http://www.kopin.org), contact us on [info@kopin.org](mailto:info@kopin.org) and join us on Facebook.

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