

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



TRADE



REGULATION



GOVERNANCE



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India

Ph: +91.141.2282821

Fax: +91.141.2282485

Email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org), Web Site: [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

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Established in 1983-84 as a rural development communication initiative, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is now at the cutting edge of the consumer movement in India as well as across the globe and has become a leading Southern voice on trade, regulation and governance. Today, CUTS International, with a staff of around 150, operates out of:

- Three programme centres in Jaipur (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment, CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research and Training and CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation), one in Chittorgarh (CUTS Centre for Human Development);
- An advocacy Centre in New Delhi, and a Centre in Calcutta (focussing on Consumer Safety and Grassroots Economic Development), India; and
- Five affiliated centres in Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; Hanoi, Vietnam; and Geneva, Switzerland

The organisation elects its Board/Executive Committee every fourth year, while the Secretary General heads the Secretariat. The organisation is accredited by Credibility Alliance and affiliated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and several other inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.

CUTS International's vision is 'Consumer Sovereignty' and mission is 'Consumer Sovereignty in the Framework of Social Justice, Economic Equality and Environmental Balance, Within and Across Borders'. In all its work, it follows the method of research-based advocacy and connects the grassroots with the national and international policymaking processes.

## OUR CENTRES



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# FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S DESK



**Pradeep S Mehta**  
Secretary General

## Foreword

The year 2017 was significant in the world's history in many ways. First, a major milestone for the global trading system was reached when the Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force after two-thirds of the WTO membership completed their domestic ratification process.

Second, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the focus of discussion during the WTO's Annual Public Forum. The SDGs laid emphasis on the role which trade can play in promoting sustainable development. There are direct references to WTO activities in many of the SDGs, ranging from ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture to conserving marine resources and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Third, South Africa, Madagascar and Botswana signed the Tripartite Agreement in Africa, bringing the total of countries that have signed to 22 out of 26. Three remaining Annexes (rules of origin, trade remedies and dispute settlement) were finalised and adopted.

These agreements will have impact on global, regional and national levels in both policymaking and implementation.

At home in India, with so many events happening throughout the year, India became the 71<sup>st</sup> country to ratify the United Nations TIR Convention. The ratification is a part of India's multi-modal transport strategy that aims to integrate the economy with global and regional production networks through better connectivity.

The much contested Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 01, 2017, replacing multiple taxes levied by both the central and state governments.

It was yet another year of jubilation for Indian Space Research Organisation for it achieved a historic feat of having launched 104 satellites in one shot using its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

As I reflect on the year 2017, I see both – accomplishments and milestones – that CUTS has achieved and our unfinished but continuing agenda. In both the situations, I am convinced that more intensive and extensive work is to be done not only by CUTS but also by other

likeminded groups, particularly for seeking solutions to the myriad problems that the world in general and India in particular face.

Since inception CUTS has chosen to engage with pressing economic issues through three core pillars of Consumer Welfare: Rules-based Trade, Effective Regulation and Good Governance. All three areas are geared to address social, economic and environmental challenges and dimensions of 'Sustainable Development' through various tools and their application for 'Consumer Empowerment'.

Our European and African centres collaborated with Jaipur to launch the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project: 'Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East African Community, with the support of SIDA. The organisation's effort to promote agro-processing industry in East Africa as an effective weapon against climate change's impact on agriculture leading to poverty reduction was captured in Kenya's new Trade Policy as a policy measure.

A study on Border *Haats* (informal markets) between India and Bangladesh showed positive impact on livelihoods of local communities and cross-border trust building. More slots will now be opened.

The organisation, jointly with Customs Commissioner, Government of India, received the Trade Facilitation Innovation Award by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in September 2017 based on a case study on India's initiative to set up a Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee.

Our campaigning on consumer broadband labels led to launch of public consultation by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on how data speeds and broadband labels help in information disclosure. So far, there was no attention to this crucial aspect, which affects everyone using internet.

CUTS intensive interaction with Parliamentarians led to a strengthened Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 with more effective safety provisions. Its adoption by the Parliament is awaited.

Bhilwara district administration in southern Rajasthan, India applauded CUTS work on 'CHILDLINE 1098' which has reached out to 2728 children and resolved 2617 cases in 2017.

Ghanaian Trade & Industry Minister announced its intention to submit Competition Bill and Policy to the Cabinet at a public event on World Competition Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 acknowledging CUTS consistent contribution of promoting competition culture in Ghana. CUTS also has an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate with the Ministry of Trade & Industry in Ghana to work on trade, investment, competition, regional integration and development.

Kenya's Bomet County developed a draft Green Energy Policy to address key barriers on the basis of the baseline study done by CUTS Nairobi in February 2017. Other counties are likely to follow suit.

CUTS signed an MoU with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat to promote research on trade and development in the region. This is the third such MoU in Africa after similar ones signed with East African Community and African Union. Another such MoU with ECOWAS is in the pipeline.

In short, our footprint of interventions is from grassroots to international level. This gives us a unique edge in bridging gaps between grassroots concerns and higher-level thinking, which is so crucial for better adoption and implementation of policies and regulations.

While we are at it, we feel there is much that needs to be done to relay the concerns of the last mile to the national and international level. With this as a guiding force, I hope that in future we will not only be able to scale up our work but also the intended impact.

This year in April, we plan to launch our 6<sup>th</sup> overseas center in Washington DC to capture and promote the spirit of closer cooperation with the USA on several economic and strategic issues situated in the context of Indo-Pacific region and in partnership with Australia and Japan, reaching out to Africa at the other end.

I am extremely grateful to all partner organisations, development partners, individuals and institutions, experts, media and academia, and government departments and private groups for their continued support.

Equally important have been the efforts of my colleagues who collectively contributed towards making CUTS an internationally-recognised organisation and maintained our reputation of being an effective outcome oriented organisation. I am sure that they will continue to work with us diligently in our future endeavours with rolled up sleeves.

March 2018  
Jaipur

**Pradeep S Mehta**  
Secretary General



# ABOUT US



CUTS was established in 1983 as a small group of concerned citizens. Since then it has been working towards bridging the gap between the people at the grassroots and the international policymaking community. Today, it is a leading consumer organisation in India. More importantly, CUTS is now at the cutting edge of the consumer movement, not only in India but also in other parts of the world. The organisation focusses its programmes on three core areas:



Trade

Regulations



Governance

## Historical Perspective

CUTS began from a rural development initiative, a wall newspaper, *Gram Gadar* (Village Revolution). As the organisation's mouthpiece, *Gram Gadar* is published regularly and reaches every nook and corner of Rajasthan, even to the remote villages where radio is the only medium of communication. It has been instrumental in providing a forum for providing justice to the oppressed classes at the grassroots.



## Objectives

- Initiate, undertake and aid directly or through its affiliated bodies, schemes for the furtherance of consumer and public welfare
- Promote, organise and assist measures for the availability of consumer commodities and services
- Study consumer and public interest/welfare problems and evolve remedies
- Publish studies, periodicals, reports and other literature relating to consumer commodities and services
- Undertake, research and case studies in respect of consumer commodities and services public interest/welfare
- Advise and if necessary, assist government and the concerned authorities in framing and enforcing laws to safeguard the interests of the consumer and citizen
- Disseminate knowledge and information and to educate the public regarding consumer and public interest/welfare problems and programmes on a scientific basis

## Vision

### Consumer Sovereignty

CUTS' work for more inclusive policy making processes supports its vision of 'consumer sovereignty'.

- Increase people's participation at various levels of governance and implementation of policies, laws, and rules
- Government agencies are held accountable in the provision of quality goods, services and technologies in social and utility sectors
- Development of well-functioning markets
- Effective competition policy and law regime, welfare maximising sector regulations, and an enabling investment regime
- Create a questioning society through empowering non-state actors (NSAs) to promote transparency and accountability in the system of trade governance

### Mission

Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice, economic equality and environmental balance, within and across borders

## Organisational Development

From a small voluntary group of concerned citizens operating out of a garage on a zero budget to an international nongovernmental organisations (NGO), the journey is marked with healthy growth. The year 2015-16 was marked by important organisational developments within the country and abroad. CUTS' centres are broadly divided into two distinct categories:

### Centres

- Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment
- Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training
- Centre for Human Development
- Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation
- Delhi Resource Centre
- Calcutta Resource Centre

### Affiliated Centres

- Lusaka, Zambia
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Accra, Ghana
- Hanoi, Vietnam
- Geneva, Switzerland

## Library and Documentation

CUTS library and documentation department plays a vital role in supporting in-house research work by facilitating access to relevant information sources.

CUTS library has an extensive collection of books, journals, research reports, working papers, monographs, briefing papers, brochures and pamphlets in the fields of economics, economic development, foreign direct investment (FDI), competition, poverty, industry, international trade, trade and development, trade and environment, energy, agriculture, law, consumerism etc. It subscribes 22 journals/magazines and more than 10 newspapers. It also contains wide collection of CDs/audio-videos/ photographs.

This unit has a database, which is a collection of international, national and grassroots level organisations including inter-governmental organisations, governmental organisations and NGOs. It contains Postal Mailing Lists (ML), Electronic List (EL), and Visiting Cards. Information Unit is responsible for providing Mailing List(s) to the despatch section in label format.

## Infrastructure

Considerable investments were made on information technology and office equipments. New books were added to the library. The number of computers increased from 45 to 68 and some of the existing computers were upgraded for compatibility. Heavy duty centralised printers were installed. Centralised network and Internet connectivity was provided. High-end electronic gadgets like routers at all the three offices at Jaipur to control the Internet bandwidth and fight spam in order to give users non-stop browsing and increase the productivity, were purchased.

## How We Work: Three 'Verticals' of CUTS

State institutions in many developing countries have a significant role in supplying public goods to consumers. With an active network of over 950 voluntary organisations across Rajasthan, India, CUTS works on **good governance** through grassroots capacity building, networking, and awareness leading to government engagement to bring marginalised voices to the table and ensure accountability of policy practices.

CUTS also works with a network of more than 60 research and CSO partners around the world toward **rules-based trade** for consumers across the developing world to enjoy the benefits of liberalisation and integration into the world economy.

Supply-side dimensions of many public goods and services are changing fast, becoming more like semi-public goods. Therefore, CUTS works for **effective regulation** so that consumers can have better access to quality goods and services at affordable prices.



# RULES-BASED TRADE

The Project was able to create an inclusive policy dialogue between policymakers, civil society, private sector and communities at sub- national, national and sub- regional levels for enabling reform measures and better governance of inland waterways in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) sub-region.



## Promoting Inland Waterways for Trade

This initiative (IW Project) aims to contribute to improving policies, laws, and regulations for inland waterways governance with particular emphasis on transport connectivity and livelihood in the BBIN region. The initiative is undertaken by CUTS International and its partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, with funding support from the Asia Foundation. To attain its objectives, perceptions of local stakeholders will be collected and shared with policymakers through various dialogues to encourage inclusive policy decision making.



The project helped in identifying drivers of cross-border informal trade of agricultural inputs as well as in assessing the impact of the same on the local economy.

## Cross-Border Informal Trade in Agricultural Inputs

With support from UKAID and the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR), CUTS International and partners in Bangladesh and Nepal implemented this project (LITA) to fill critical gap in existing understanding of informal trade in agricultural inputs in specific locations at India-Bangladesh and India-Nepal borders. This was achieved through primary data collection and dissemination meetings with appropriate stakeholders to enhance their understanding of informal trade in the region.

Through a deeper empirical analysis, CUTS have enabled India identify its area of interests even with countries that seemingly have dismal trade performance. Our analysis has also revealed areas of domestic reforms (Institutional or otherwise) which India may consider pursuing to improve its overall trade performance.

## Examining International Trade in Agricultural Products

CUTS provides consultancy services to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, India, in examining international trade policy issues related to agricultural products. This involves creating a database of India's trade flows for all agricultural products as well as of trade flows for major trade blocs, analysing the data to capture the broad export and import trends and conducting competitiveness analysis.

The project will help in creating greater consensus among policymakers on the need for trade facilitation measures and in promoting the buy-in of relevant international conventions at the national and state/province level, leading to enabling policy discourse and better implementation of the BBIN MVA in the long run.

## Enabling Policy Environment for Trade, Transit and Transport Facilitation

With support from DFID, UK and the US State Department, CUTS International and partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar are implementing this project (EPTAF) to facilitate trade and transit among the five countries, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Myanmar by enabling the implementation of the BBIN MVA. This will be achieved through primary data collection, evidence-based advocacy, facilitative dialogues, and capacity building activities in the respective countries.



## Promoting Regional Connectivity through BBIN MVA

The study supported by IRU aimed to analyse the benefits of the TIR System for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) countries in particular for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement as well as its role on facilitating transport and trade with other regions. It also had a case study for India describing the benefits of TIR and iCarnet for internal transport in India.

CUTS produced a comprehensive study that included a practical mapping of the transportation situation in Delhi-Mumbai-Industrial Corridor as well as other economic corridors among BBIN countries. The findings of this study were presented to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, which contributed to their knowledge base for ratifying the TIR Convention in June 2017.

## Removing NTBs between India and Bangladesh

With the support of USAID, CUTS International is implementing this project with an aim to identify non-tariff barriers being faced by Indian exporters and importers (except NTBs related to SPS and TBT measures) while trading with Bangladesh in selected agricultural products that are being traded through five Indian land ports, namely, Petrapole, Ghojadanga, Mahadipur, Hili and Agartala.

The project would help in facilitating trade in agricultural and related products between India and Bangladesh.



## South Asia Connectivity Conference

With the support from US State Department, CUTS along with East West Centre (EWC), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is conducting a two day conference with an objective to create a multi-discipline, multi-country platform for policy discussions, exchange and networking amongst key stakeholders (public and private) on connectivity issues related to economic, investment, and security that are relevant to South Asia and the US.

The conference is expected to advocate actionable policy suggestions to strengthen the connectivity agenda in the targeted South Asian countries while also helping to leverage, connect and provide a push to the existing discourses, platforms and networks invested in connectivity.

## Border *Haats* and their Socio-economic Impact

CUTS with support from The World Bank implemented a project entitled, 'Impacts of Border *Haats* on Poverty Reduction and Possible Future Benefits from their Replication and Up-Scaling along the India-Bangladesh Border'. Four Border *Haats* were studied under the scope of the project, two each along the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border and the Tripura-Bangladesh Border. The purpose of the project was to understand the impacts of existing Border *Haats* on poverty reduction through income, their impacts on informal trade, gender implications, and economic, social and political feasibility and employment generation.

Based on the findings from the field survey and the policy dialogues organised under the project, CUTS has come out with a set of practical policy recommendations which was submitted to select ministries and government departments in India and Bangladesh. Some of the policy recommendations made by CUTS were accepted by the Government of India and included in the MoU signed between the countries for opening new border *haats*.



## Building Capacity of Grassroots Consumers on Energy Conservation

CUTS, in partnership with the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission is implementing the project in two districts in West Bengal namely, South 24 Parganas and Jalpaiguri. The objectives are to reachout to electricity consumers in the selected districts and build their capacity and increase awareness about the existing regulations of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission and facilitate in improving the existing grievance redressal mechanism in the electricity sector in West Bengal.

The organisation has been able to reachout to approximate 6,000 electricity consumers in selected districts. Consumers were able to approach appropriate forums for redressing their grievances.

## Raising Consumer Awareness on Sustainable Landscapes

The main objective of the programme is to contribute to long-term sustainable management and improved governance of the Mazabuka Landscape. Over the next four years, the project will seek to create and consolidate a multi-stakeholder platform for promoting sustainable landscape management (SLM); strengthen the capacity of CSOs to lobby and advocate for SLM; develop frameworks for attracting long-term investments in landscape management; and contribute to improved governance of Mazabuka and the landscape by 2020.

This project will have an impact on foods sold in markets and chain stores contributing to a sustainable food system.

## Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Zambia

CUTS and HIVOS are undertaking a study that is looking at promoting sustainable food consumption in Zambia. The project is under a much larger project under HIVOS called Sustainable Diets for All (SDAII) The objective of this project is to promote the consumption of food that is safe, diverse, nutritious and affordable food for consumers in Lusaka through the use of evidence-based advocacy interventions.



## Past WTO Work on New Issues

The so-called ‘new issues’, which have been floating around for 20 years, may come up again at the WTO in the post-Nairobi period. Although most developing countries clearly indicate that it is not yet time to engage in specific discussions and negotiations, they express interest in better understanding what precisely these “new issues” could be, and their own interests therein, so as to be prepared for debates when the time comes. With funding support from Australia, this project raises awareness of developing country WTO delegates about relevant aspects of past WTO work on Trade and Competition Policy on one hand, and Trade and Investment on the other.

Developing country WTO delegates are better prepared for possible upcoming debates around Trade and Competition and Trade and Investment.

## Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

This initiative hosts an informal, small caucus of World Trade Organization (WTO) ambassadors and negotiators from both smaller developing and developed countries, interacting to build trust and convergence among themselves towards a balanced outcome in negotiations. The initiative is jointly undertaken by CUTS International Geneva and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, with funding support from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassadors reported more open and regular communications among them, and better understanding of each other’s interests and concerns at WTO.



## Keeping Pace with Trade Developments

Developing countries, particularly the smaller ones, face challenges in their effective participation in the WTO due to limited human, technical and financial capacities. They will need assistance not only for effectively negotiating towards the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference set for 2017, but also for their participation in regular WTO work as well as monitoring developments at the plurilateral level. This initiative is undertaken with funding support from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Forums were established for WTO delegates from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community (EAC) and South & Southeast Asia to better engage in WTO regular committees.



## Digital Commerce Online Course

This course aims to assist stakeholders from various sectors in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) to increase their knowledge and capacity to engage in multilateral digital commerce-related negotiations and discussions. The course is undertaken with DiploFoundation, UNCTAD and ITC, with funding support from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of UK.

Developing and Least Developed Country (LDC) stakeholders are better able to engage in multilateral digital commerce-related negotiations and discussions.



CUTS effort to promote agro-processing industry in East Africa as an effective weapon against climate change's impact on agriculture leading to poverty reduction was captured in Kenya's new Trade Policy as a policy measure



## Promoting Agro-processing Industry in East Africa

While the still infant agro-processing industry in East Africa has been earmarked as having huge potential for poverty reduction, the region's success in realising this potential will partly depend on its ability to factor in the ever-increasing challenges posed by climate change, and work in synergy with its own trade agenda. Until 2019, this project will bring together, inform, train and move to advocacy action hundreds of East Africans for more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing agro-processing in their region. It is undertaken with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



EFFECTIVE  
REGULATION

## Broadband Disclosure Labels Empower

The overall objective of the project is to create a network of stakeholders and increase their long-term capacity/awareness on broadband services and related issues. The project will also ascertain the need of a broadband label and advocate bringing about certain policy and practice changes, based on the gathered evidences. This will result in safeguarding consumers from misleading advertisements, unfair contractual terms, and practices of non-disclosures.

Our campaigning on consumer broadband labels led to public consultation by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on how data speeds and broadband labels help in information disclosure.



## Evaluation of Competitiveness among North Indian States

The overall objective of the project is to engage with relevant stakeholders, such as policymakers, industries, government departments, media, regulators, etc. from six North Indian States (Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh) and sensitise them about the means of improving competitiveness of the North Indian states through the US experience, expertise and case studies. Best practices of the specified states in India regarding competitiveness will be evaluated, along with lessons from the US on ease of doing business.

Learnings and guidance from the US would be beneficial to Indian stakeholders as it would provide them a direction and the right approach for implementing necessary reforms.



## Assessment of Maharashtra City Taxi Rules, 2017

This project aims to undertake Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) of select provisions of the Maharashtra City Taxi Rules, 2017 (Rules), with the objective of identifying potential impacts on different stakeholders, including incumbent and new taxi service providers, taxi owners, aggregators, government and users. The project will also intend to provide broad recommendations to improve the regulatory framework under the Rules.

A strong evidence for potential socio-economic benefits would be created through CBET region. In addition, learning from the study would be useful for policymakers to undertake similar nature of studies in other areas to accelerate the agenda of broader regional economic integration in the BBIN region.

There would be better understanding of costs and benefits of key provisions of the Rules on critical stakeholder groups. Such understanding could be leveraged to garner attention of policy recommendations needed on requisite regulatory reforms and adopt RIA framework in rule making.

## Cooperation on Cross Border Power Exchange

This study aims to assess the overall socio-economic benefits or costs accrued to the local community by cooperation on cross border energy trade (CBET) with Nepal and Bhutan. It will examine the impact of construction of hydropower projects, established because of energy cooperation between Nepal-India and Bhutan-India, on the local livelihoods and gender concerns of the communities situated around the power plants.

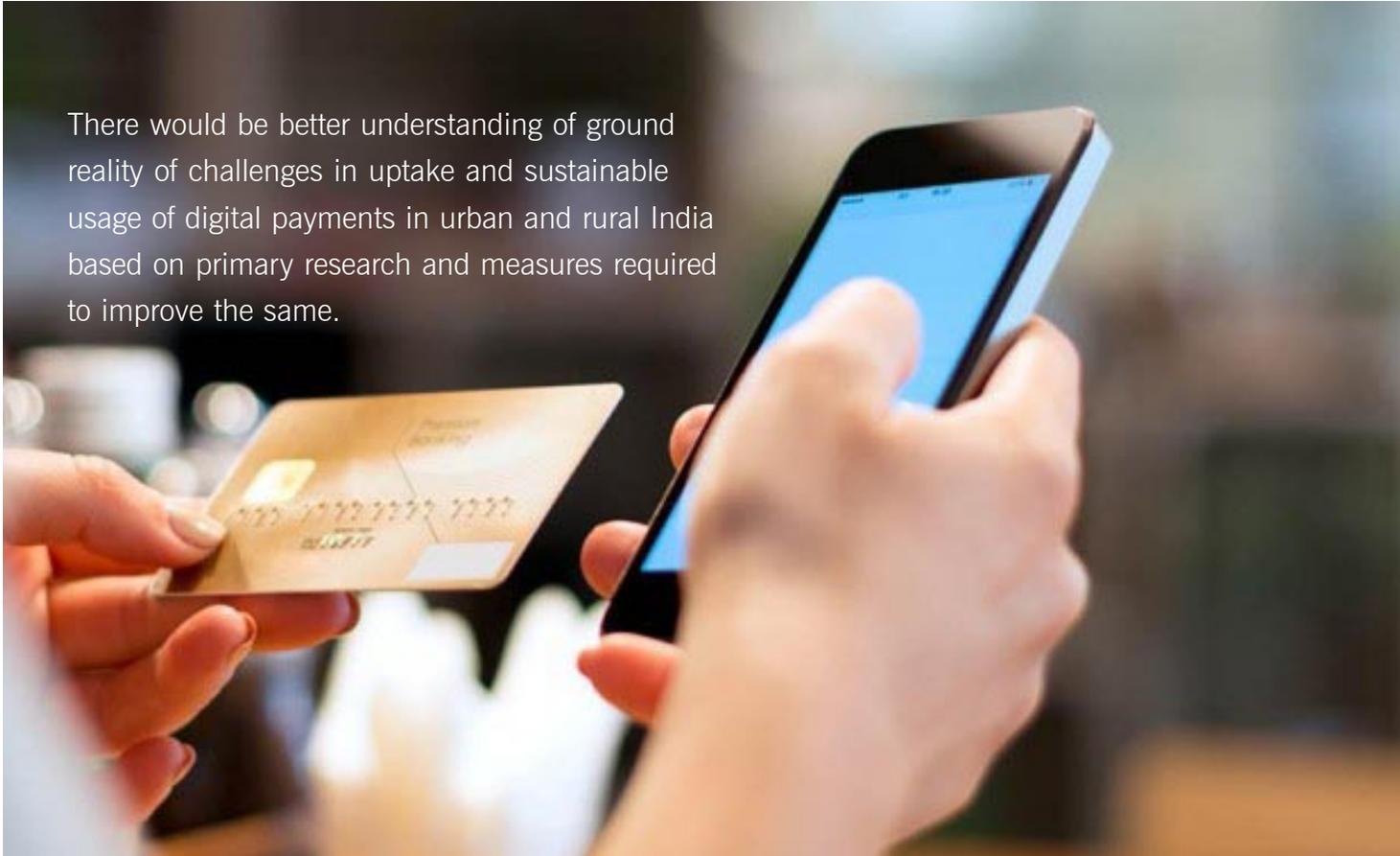


## Promoting Innovation and Competition for Efficient Use of Intellectual Property in India

There is an immediate need to examine the various standard setting models from the perspective of standardisation of the crucial 5G technology with the aim of identifying fundamental principles of an optimal standardisation framework. This would aid in advocating for a model which promotes innovation, competition, geographical universality and ease of application of communications solutions and interoperability, thereby ensuring efficient global development / deployment of the 5G technology.

The outcome of the project would be a set of principles for optimisation of 5G technology standardisation processes which policymakers and industry stakeholders can rely on for designing an optimal framework; and set of policy considerations for institutions and policymakers (especially in developing countries) to support the innovation ecosystem for standards development in the ICT sector.

There would be better understanding of ground reality of challenges in uptake and sustainable usage of digital payments in urban and rural India based on primary research and measures required to improve the same.



## Accessibility and Experience with Digital Payments

The project aims to understand the state of access and experience of merchants and consumers with respect to digital payments in rural and urban India. The project involves a survey of merchants, consumers and bank mitras in five Indian states. To this end, Indian states are clubbed in four different segments, based on their level of financial inclusion: high financially inclusive states, above average financially inclusive states, below average financially inclusive states, and low financially inclusive states. In addition, a north eastern state has been included in the study.



## Data Privacy and Consumer Welfare in India

The project is primarily focused on conducting a perception survey (being undertaken by our project partner – IDCG), with consumers at a pan India level (i.e. urban, peri-urban and rural areas) regarding data privacy concerns at online and offline platforms, and government services.

Towards the end of the project, better understanding of diverse consumer's perception and capacity regarding their information/data privacy, *vis-a-vis* the government and private players, in the digital as well as traditional economy will be formed; and findings of the study will be submitted to appropriate government departments and ministries.

## Regional Inclusive Growth Project

This study will highlight the need to strengthen digital economy while focusing on three key actors, Government, Producers and Consumers with deeper emphasis on Consumers. Best practices from across sectors and geographies, to showcase the benefits to the consumers, associated with digital platforms, will be highlighted in the study. The study will identify bottlenecks and barriers to the growth of digital economy in India, Philippines and Vietnam. Throughout the study, the objectives will be synced to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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The project would provide suggestions and recommendations for all three actors, i.e. government, producers and consumers to promote digital tools and platforms; better capacitated consumers and enhanced used of digital platforms and tools; and better understanding of impacts of digital economy on Inclusive Growth

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A network of more than 150 stakeholders (who have been associated with this initiative) in form of seed communities has been created the initiative. In the process, the initiative has also identified beneficiary groups and clusters at the grassroots level in both Rajasthan and West Bengal where solar solutions can be implemented.

## Green Growth and Energy Transformation

This project is implemented in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) India to create an implementable strategy for energy transformation in Rajasthan and West Bengal. This was done through fostering dialogue among various stakeholders on energy transformation to identify and align their common interests by creating social coalitions.

The ultimate aim of the initiative is to increase the share of renewable energy into the overall energy mix of the nation. Through deliberations and discussions, multi-stakeholder long-term working groups (seed communities) have been created which have identified 'Solar for Education' as the catalytic project to bring energy transformation in rural areas of Rajasthan and urban areas of West Bengal.

## Competition Concerns in Digital Payments

The overall objective of the project was to understand competition concerns in digital payments infrastructure sector. Elements of CUTS Competition Impact Assessment Toolkit were used to undertake the project.

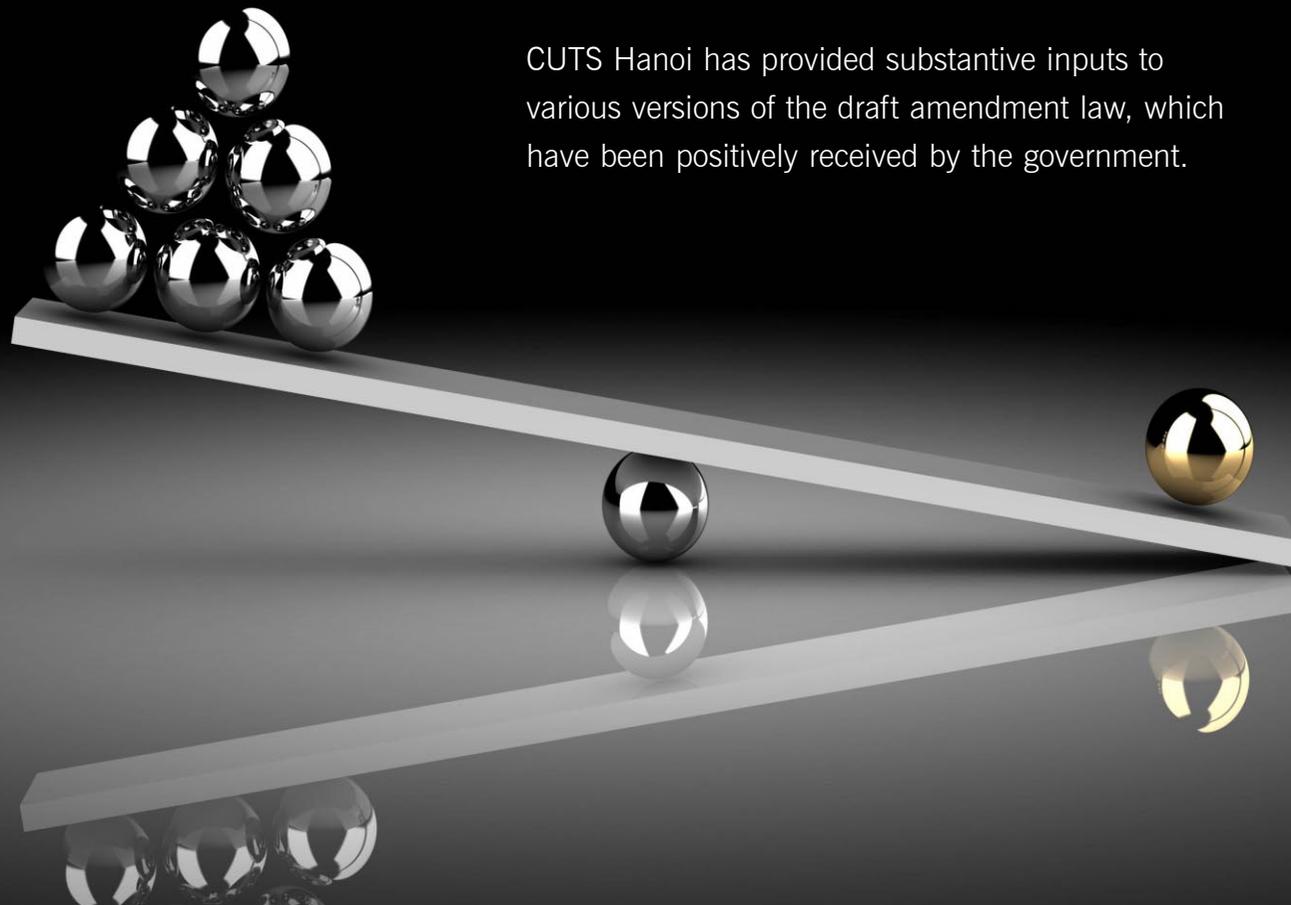


Awareness generation and advocacy for competition reforms in digital payments sector was undertaken with relevant stakeholders at national and international level.

## Amending the Competition Law 2004 of Vietnam

Since the adoption of a Competition Law in Vietnam in 2004, CUTS Hanoi has been a close partner of the competition authorities of Vietnam, providing various technical assistance and capacity building activities for strengthening the institutional capacities for effective law implementation and enforcement. In 2016, recognising important changes of the national economy and in response to the new demands of the regional and international economic integration processes, the Government of Vietnam (GOV) decided to amend the law. CUTS Hanoi has provided substantive inputs to various versions of the draft amendment law, which have been positively received by the GOV. The amendment law is expected to be approved by the National Assembly of Vietnam in early 2018.

CUTS Hanoi has provided substantive inputs to various versions of the draft amendment law, which have been positively received by the government.





The project has the provision of impetus towards passage of the National Competition Policy; drafting of the Implementation Plan for the Policy; increased knowledge level of the implementers of the policy; technical assistance to the Ministry of Trade and Industry in terms of operationalising the policy; and increased demand for the National Competition Law by private sector and consumers.

## Operationalisation of Competition Policy in Ghana

The objective of the project is to advocate for the full operationalisation of competition policy in Ghana. It aims, among other things to stimulate entrepreneurship and economic growth which becomes a 'win-win' for both consumers and producers.

## Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

The key objectives of this project are to track how the energy sector budgets are utilised at the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly (MMDA) level, help identify and address problems and weaknesses in the energy sector public expenditure, transfer and service delivery and identify how spending has changed overtime, and how these dimensions compare across administrative boundaries. It aims, among other things to help improve electricity access in rural communities in Ghana.

The project will provide policy advocacy recommendations on energy sector public budget-expenditure targeted at high-level policymakers and can also be used for offering technical assistance, training, dialogue and consensus-building meetings.

## Performance of Maize Markets in Zambia

In 2016 CUTS published the report 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the FRA and the Performance of Maize Markets in Zambia'. The report used regional case studies from Tanzania, Ghana and Kenya to inform a reform programme for Zambia's Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

Drawing on evidence from the experiences of these countries CUTS recommended to restrict FRA purchases to the national strategic reserve; use a price band to signal when government intervention in the market should be expected to occur beyond the purchase of national strategic reserves; and FRA should aim to make purchases through Zambia Agricultural Commodities Exchange in order to avoid distortionary effects on the market.





The study provided recommendations to the responsible government agencies on how best to go about fuel adjustments with specific emphasis on protecting the poor, in light of the revelations of the study.

Kenya's Bomet County developed a draft Green Energy Policy to address key barriers on the basis of the baseline study done by CUTS Nairobi in February 2017. Other counties likely to follow suit.

## Green Energy Policy to Address Barriers

The project is aimed at catalysing realisation of people's energy needs through green and inclusive energy systems that create economic opportunities for women and men while mitigating effects of climate change. CUTS Nairobi together with other CSOs in Kenya are involved to ensure that consumers are equipped with information on Renewable Energy (RE) and social accountability tools to demand for RE while policymakers and leaders at county and national level get relevant information, knowledge, and skill set to create appropriate policies to enhance access to RE.

## Energy Crisis and the Impact of the Economy

CUTS International, Lusaka and the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) conducted a research survey on the impact of fuel subsidy removal on consumer transport expenditure and consumption. The overall objective of the opinion poll was therefore to assess the impact of the hike in fuel prices resulting from the removal of the fuel subsidy on consumer's transport expenditure and consumption.

GOVERNANCE





## Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform

CUTS initiated and created a platform for Mayors of Rajasthan State to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through enhanced sharing of experiences and learning from each other. Mayors' Conferences are being organised under this platform where Mayors and Deputy Mayors of different Municipal Corporations are taking part. This platform is being used to discuss larger issues of urban local governance and share the best and innovative practices by city governments.

A formal platform for City Mayors is created and well recognised by Mayors of Rajasthan. One of the major outcomes is that this intervention has helped enhance knowledge of elected representatives, especially of Mayors through sharing of information with each other.

## Procurement Processes more Transparent and Accountable

CUTS set up a virtual Procurement Observatory with the objective of helping the State Government of Rajasthan, India to enhance its Public Procurement practices and outcomes. The Observatory developed a web portal, key performance indicators; analysed policies, Rajasthan Transparency in Public Procurement (RTPP) Act, 2012, RTPP rules; and measured actual implementation of all these in around eight departments, such as Public Works and Health.

The project helped in defining strategies, methodology and indicators for observing the procurement process in selected departments in Rajasthan by way of Procurement Tracking and Analysis of 8600 tenders related to works, goods and services. The findings were shared with the concerned officials of Asian Development Bank and by way of organising procurement, orientation and dissemination workshops/sessions for stakeholders.

This intervention will enhance the internal governance and transparency of organisations to run non-profit activities smoothly in the country for development.

## Civil Society Organisations Capacity Building on Self-Governance

The project, undertaken with the support of US Embassy in India aims to build capacities of Civil Society Organisation on Self-Governance (CiSCAG) by way of organising workshops and bringing together representatives from leading US and India think tanks, CSOs to share best practices for enhancing self-governance transparency.

## Study of Residential Rooftop Solar in Jaipur

The aim of the project is to understand the consumer experience with rooftop solar, specifically, pain points for consumers, who have installed/wish to install rooftop solar in Jaipur. The project is supported by World Resources Institute, India.

The outcome of the project would be to increase prevalence of solar rooftops by working to reduce issues people face before, during and after its installation.



## Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

ProOrganic was a two-year pilot project to promote organic consumption in Rajasthan implemented by CUTS in partnership with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The project was implemented in six districts of Rajasthan, Kota, Jaipur, Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh and Dausa covering 102 gram panchayats.

The intervention has contributed towards making organic consumption a mass movement in the state of Rajasthan. As a result of sensitisation and awareness, more farmers have shifted towards organic farming. Looking at the success of first phase, SSNC further agreed to provide support for another four years to implement the second phase entitled 'Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan in 192 *gram panchayats* of 10 selected districts of Rajasthan (India).



## Strengthen Consumer Safety in India

The project has been undertaken with the support of Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs Government of India under its Consumer Welfare Fund. It aims to strengthen consumer safety in India and publish 'State of Consumer Safety in India' report.

The report has been unveiled by the Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi at a function to commemorate World Consumer Rights Day, 2017. This report includes safety aspects of several services for consumers.

## Depositor & Education Awareness Programme

The objective of the pilot programme is to impart education and awareness for the promotion of depositor's interest and to provide safe and secured deposit lessons to various depositors in five selected districts of Rajasthan. In addition, the programme also aimed to encourage public to have a bank account, discourage them from keeping money in illegal non-bank entities, demystify KYC requirements and provide information about customer rights as a depositor.

## Making Roads Safer for Road Users

CUTS has undertaken Road Safety Advocacy with the support of Global Road Safety Partnership. The objective is to garner support from parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders for supporting smooth passage of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016. First phase of the project has been completed and the second is in progress.

CUTS intensive interaction with Parliamentarians led to a strengthened Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 with more effective safety provisions. Awaiting its adoption by the Parliament





Through the intervention, it is envisaged that the rural financial consumers, especially women are trained and capable of making decisions on financial issues.

## Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers

The objective of this intervention is to enhance Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCP) by way of building the capacities of rural consumers, especially women in terms of financial literacy there-by enhancing their financial inclusion and overcome vulnerability and ensure the economic security.

## Giving the Poorest Consumers Greater Voice

The purpose of this project is to promote use of safer and sustainable products among low income consumers and in turn improve their health and wellbeing.

It will help in contributing in behavioural change through activities to promote shift among targeted group consumers towards buying and using products that are safe for them and their environment.



Total 2728 cases have been successfully intervened throughout the project. CUTS CHILDLINE, Labour Department and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit jointly rescued 16 children in the age group of 8-14 years. The children were found working in Bricks Industries, Bhilwara. The children were taken into custody and handed over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for their rehabilitation. Besides, an FIR has been registered under Juvenile Justice Act against the owner of the Brick Industries, so that necessary action could be taken against the employers.

## Every Child has the Right to be Happy, Healthy and Protected

The project is being undertaken with the support of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to emergencies on toll-free number 1098 and advocate service for children those are inaccessible.

## Empowerment and Livelihoods through Self Help Groups

The project is supported by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) with the objective to ensure socio-economic development and enhance livelihood security in rural areas, especially women in areas of Chittorgarh, Nimbahera, Gangrar blocks of Chittorgarh and Mandalgarh, Baneda and Suwana blocks of Bhilwara. Under the project, 379 self-help groups (SHGs) have been formed in both the districts.

SHGs intervention created an enabling environment for women in project areas



## Farmers Producer Organisation

This project has been implemented with the support of NABARD to build, promote and nurture Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs); support FPOs in terms of awareness generation, capacity building, technical support, professional management, market access, regulatory requirements, etc.

There would be strengthened farmer capacity through agricultural best practices for enhanced productivity





## Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme

With support from Sightsavers; the project aims to focus on improving participation of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in society towards realisation of their rights; facilitating enhanced opportunity for economic security for PwDs; enabling DPOs to advocate for the rights of disabled persons; sensitising stakeholders and decision makers; and improving utilisation of government funds for them

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There would be improved opportunities for livelihood skill development among PwDs; increased accessibility to public facilities; sensitised stakeholders and decision makers; and increased government spending for PwDs

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## Women Leadership Development

This project has been undertaken with the support of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels; and embolden them to assume leadership roles and assert their rights, collectively or individually, in accessing services, facilities, skills, and opportunities besides claiming their due share of development benefits of the government for improving their lives and living conditions.

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About 250 women became self-reliant, accessing government/ institution schemes

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# HIGHLIGHTS



# ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM 2017



## Trade Facilitation Innovation Award

CUTS received the Trade Facilitation Innovation Award by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Development Bank in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in September 2017 based on a case study on India's initiative to set up a Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee jointly with Customs Commissioner, Government of India.

## Promoting Competition Culture in Ghana

Ghana Trade & Industry Minister announces its intention to submit Competition Bill and Policy to the Cabinet at a public event on World Competition Day on 5th December 2017 acknowledging CUTS consistent contribution of promoting competition culture in Ghana. CUTS also has an MoU to cooperate with the Ministry of Trade & Industry in Ghana to work on trade, investment, competition, regional integration and development.



## CUTS and COMESA Sign an MoU

CUTS signs an MoU with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat to promote research on trade and development in the region. This is the third such MoU in Africa after similar ones signed with East African Community and African Union. Another such MoU with ECOWAS is in the pipeline.



## Highlighting Competition Distortions & Consumer Abuses in Vietnam

CUTS Hanoi, by its own initiative, has been documenting, analysing and appraising stakeholders within and beyond Vietnam about different cases of anticompetitive practices, policy distortions and other abuses which reduce consumer welfare and negatively affect the level playing field and attractiveness of the overall business environment in Vietnam. Four newsletters have been prepared over the year and dispatched to almost a 1,000 readers situated in the country as well as around the globe on this topic.



## ANNEX I Members of the Executive Committee



**Arun Maira**

Former Member  
Planning Commission



**Asha Bhatnagar**

(Social Worker)  
Member



**Surendra Singh  
Bhandari**

(Chartered Accountant)  
Member



**Pradeep S Mehta**

Secretary General  
CUTS



**V V Singh**

(Professor of Economics,  
Rajasthan University)  
Member



**Shail Mayaram**

(Professor, Centre for the  
Study of Developing  
Societies) Member



**Ajit Singh**

Secretary cum Treasurer



**Ashok Agarwal**

(Trustee and Founder,  
IIHMR) Member



**Rima Hooja**

(Archaeologist & Writer)  
Member



**Ganga R Singh**

(Director, READS)  
Member



**Kishore Rungta**

(MD, Man Structural  
Ltd.) Member

## ANNEX II

# Major Events

### TRADE

- Assessing the Potential Impacts of Liberalizing Government Procurement  
Geneva, Switzerland, January 31, 2017
- Reflections on the Multilateral Trading System in 2017  
Geneva, Switzerland, February 01, 2017
- Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement: Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN sub-region  
Kolkata, February 16-17, 2017
- Leveraging Technology Development and Transfer to Tackle Climate Change  
East African Community, March 01, 2017
- State of Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations towards Buenos Aires  
Geneva, Switzerland, March 09, 2017
- From Research to Policies: Advocacy for Climate-aware, Trade-driven and Food security-enhancing Agro-Processing  
East African Community, March 13, 2017
- Trade and Investment in the Multilateral Trading System  
Geneva, Switzerland, March 30, 2017
- Trade in Services: What Expectations for MC11?  
Geneva, Switzerland, April 06, 2017
- Conference on Facilitating Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Region  
Dhaka, Bangladesh, April 11, 2017
- Prospects for Special and Differential Treatment at the WTO  
Geneva, Switzerland, May 04, 2017
- Leveraging Technology Development and Transfer to Tackle Climate Change  
Bonn, Germany, May 16, 2017
- Addressing Domestic Support Measures in the WTO: What is at Stake for East Africa?  
Geneva, Switzerland, May 18, 2017
- National Policy Dialogue 'Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins'  
New Delhi, India, May 23, 2017
- Expectations for Agriculture Negotiations in Buenos Aires and Beyond  
Geneva, Switzerland, June 16, 2017

- The Road Ahead on Agriculture at the WTO  
Geneva, Switzerland, July 25, 2017
- 6th Aid for Trade Global Review: Summary Report  
Geneva, Switzerland, July 11, 2017
- Ganga Basin Policy Dialogue on 'Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins'  
Kathmandu, Nepal, July 14, 2017
- Stakeholder Consultation on Understanding the Dynamics of Informal Cross-border Trade in Agricultural Products in Eastern South Asia  
New Delhi, India, August 04, 2017
- Brahmaputra Basin Policy Dialogue on 'Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins'  
Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 10, 2017
- Advocacy Dialogue to Reduce NTBs in Agricultural Trade between Bangladesh-India  
New Delhi, India, August 17, 2017
- Climate, Food, Trade Nexus with Agro-processing  
East African Community, August 22, 2017
- Time for Climate-aware, Trade-driven and Food Security-enhancing Agro-industry policies  
Kigali, Rwanda, September 04, 2017
- Advancing EAC Interests in Climate Change Negotiations: Linkages with Agriculture and Trade  
Kigali, Rwanda, September 06, 2017
- Digital Commerce Online Course  
Geneva, Switzerland, September 25, 2017
- WTO Ministerial: What Expectations and How to Build Consensus?  
Geneva, Switzerland, September 29, 2017
- Seminar on Trade and Investment in the Multilateral Trading System  
Geneva, Switzerland, October 05, 2017
- Sub-regional Dialogue on 'Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins'  
Kolkata, India, October 26-27, 2017
- Making the Paris Agreement work for Africa: Enhancing the Transparency of Actions and the Place of Climate Finance  
Bonn, Germany, November 08, 2017
- Leveraging the WTO Trade Related Investment Measures Agreement to Spur Industrialisation  
Geneva, Switzerland, November 09, 2017
- Stakeholder Consultations on Uganda Industrial Policy  
Kampala, Uganda, November 17, 2017
- Trade and Competition Policy: Has Past WTO Work Stood the Test of Time?  
Geneva, Switzerland, December 05, 2017
- Keeping Pace with Trade Developments: Needs of LDCs and Small Developing Countries  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 11, 2017
- Investment, Competition: Has Past WTO Work Stood the Test of Time?  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 12, 2017
- Ensuring Sustainability through a Nexus Approach: Climate Change, Trade and Food Security  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 13, 2017

- Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products  
New Delhi, India, December 19, 2017

## REGULATION

- Panel Discussion on 'Politics of Competition Reforms in India'  
New Delhi, January 12, 2017
- Lecture by Prof. John M. Connor on 'Major Trends in Global Enforcement of International Cartels'  
New Delhi, March 01, 2017
- Forum for Grassroots under Green Growth and Energy Transformation  
Jaipur, March 25, 2017; & Kolkata, May 02, 2017
- Project Partners Meeting 'Consumer Broadband Labels: For Greater Transparency & Informed Consumers'  
New Delhi, April 06, 2017
- Project Launch Meeting 'Consumer Broadband Labels: For Greater Transparency & Informed Consumers'  
New Delhi, April 07, 2017
- Event Roundtable Discussion on Net Neutrality  
Jaipur, April 11, 2017
- 16<sup>th</sup> SAFIR Training Programme  
Jaipur, April 24-28, 2017, Jaipur
- Expert Group Consultation Meetings with Seed Community Members and Sector Experts New Delhi, May 18, 2017: & September 27, 2017
- TRAI Consultation on 'Data Speeds under Wireless Broadband Services'  
Jaipur, June 23, 2017
- Forum for Finance under Green Growth and Energy Transformation  
Kolkata, July 24, 2017; & Jaipur, July 28, 2017
- Forum for Policy under Green Growth and Energy Transformation  
Jaipur August 25, 2017; & Kolkata, September 06, 2017
- International conference on 'The Digital Economy: Potential Benefits, Challenges, and Implications for Regulations'
- Forum for Awareness under Green Growth and Energy Transformation  
Kolkata, October 28, 2017; & Jaipur, October 30, 2017  
Philippines, October 25, 2017; Vietnam, August 30, 2017; & New Delhi, August 11, 2017
- 5<sup>th</sup> CUTS-CIRC Biennial Competition, Regulation and Development Conference  
Jaipur, November 09-11, 2017
- Workshop on 'Role of Consumer Representatives To Further Power Sector Reforms In Uttar Pradesh'  
Uttar Pradesh, November 27, 2017
- Agenda for Conference on Re-imagining Competition Policy and Law in the Era of Disruption  
New Delhi, December 05, 2017
- Policy dialogue on Mergers and Acquisitions in the absence of Competition Policy and Law  
Accra, December 05, 2017
- Seminar on Information Disclosure for Broadband Services: Empowering Informed Choices in the 4G Era  
Bangalore, December 15, 2017

## GOVERNANCE

- Organic Fair  
Jaipur, January 28, 2017
- National Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety  
New Delhi, February 02, 2017
- Road Safety Week  
Chittorgarh, February 01-06, 2017
- Exposure visit for Mayors and Deputy Mayor of Rajasthan  
Hyderabad, February 15-17, 2017
- State Level Advocacy Meeting under ProOrganic II  
February 23, 2017
- International Women's Day  
Chittorgarh, March 08, 2017
- World Consumer Rights Day  
Chittorgarh, March 15, 2017
- Launch of 'State of Consumer Safety in India'  
New Delhi, March 15, 2017
- Policy dialogue on Building a Digital and Financial World  
Consumers can Trust  
Accra, March 15, 2017
- Mayor's Conference  
Jaipur on April 10, 2017
- Workshop on Financial Literacy  
Chittorgarh, April 24-25, 2017
- Regional Advocacy meetings on Road Safety  
Jaipur, March 30, 2017; Ahmedabad, May 26, 2017;  
Thiruvananthapuram, July 14, 2017; & Kolkata on August 30,  
2017
- Divisional Level Meetings on Road Safety  
Chittorgarh, May 09, 2017; Dholpur, June 27, 2017; & Kota, July  
19, 2017
- Project Launch of ProOrganic II  
Jaipur, June 22, 2017
- Awareness through Poster Competition  
Jaipur, July 30, 2017
- Media Interface under on Road Safety  
Jaipur, September 12, 2017; & Chittorgarh, November 28, 2017
- Launch of Financial Consumer Protection Project  
Chittorgarh, August 17, 2017 & Bhilwara, September 06, 2017
- Green Action Week, 2017  
Jaipur, July-September 2017

## ANNEX III

# Major Publications

### TRADE

#### Reports/Studies

- Benefits of the TIR Convention for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement
- Expanding Tradable Benefits of Inland Waterways: Case of Bangladesh
- Expanding Tradable Benefits of Inland Waterways: Case of Bhutan
- Expanding Tradable Benefits of Inland Waterways: Case of India
- Expanding Tradable Benefits of Inland Waterways: Case of Nepal
- Trade and Competition Policy Has Past WTO Work Stood the Test of Time?
- Promoting Trade and Economic Development: Learning from WTO Trade Policy Reviews
- Trade and Investment in the Multilateral Trading System: How has it Evolved?
- The Impact of Second Hand Clothes and Shoes in East Africa
- Développer l'Agro-industrie: Aspects Climatiques et Commerciaux Vers la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi
- Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? - Kenya
- Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? – Rwanda

- Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? - Tanzania
- Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? - Uganda
- WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations: Main Issues and Interests of Least Developed Countries

#### Discussion Papers

- Many to Tango - A Granular Analysis of National Highway 8 of India
- The Trump Presidency and Future of Indo-US Relations
- Climate Change Impacts on Food Security in India - Staple Crops and Food Security Scenarios
- Trade as a Tool for LDC Graduation - How can the Multilateral Trading System Deliver on Development?
- Sustainable Economic Development of India and the role of biodiversity: Policy challenges and opportunities
- Consumer Gains from Trade: A Case Study on Promoting Trade between Bangladesh and India (Tripura State in North Eastern Region of India) in Specific Agricultural Commodities
- Harnessing the Potential for Cross-border Trade between North East India and its Neighbouring Countries
- Demystifying the Role of 'Barriers at and behind the Borders' in India: A Case Study of Pharmaceutical Products

- Boosting Competitiveness of India's Food Processing Industry: Challenges and Opportunities

### **Briefs**

- Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Bangladesh: Poverty, Livelihood, Gender and Environmental Concerns
- Navigation in Bhutan
- Expanding Tradable Benefits of Inland Waterways in India
- Developing Inland Waterways in Nepal Prospects and Challenges Galore
- Competition Policy and the WTO: A Historical Perspective
- Review of the Uganda National Industrial Policy: Synopsis of Incorporating Climate Change for Agro-processing
- Industrial Policy: Proposed Features of a National Agro-Processing Forum under the IDEC
- Trade and Investment in the Multilateral Trading System: A Look at the Past and Proposed new Approach
- Making Buy Kenya, Build Kenya Strategy Work for Local Agro-processors
- Addressing Fisheries Subsidies: A Quest for Sustainable Fisheries Production
- Making Climate Adaptation Finance Work for Developing Countries
- Greening Kenya's Trade Policy: Suggested Provisions

### **Viewpoint Papers**

- Agriculture
- LDC Interests in the WTO
- Issues relating to Blue Economy
- TRIPs-related Issues
- Investment Facilitation
- Trade Facilitation in Services

### **Notes**

- Fishery sector in the WTO and UNFCCC: Outlining a Synergetic Approach
- The WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies: Interests of the East African Community
- Domestic Support in Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities for East Africa at the WTO
- Agriculture-related Actions of EAC NDCs: Technology as a Means of Implementation
- Negotiating Trade and Investment in the WTO: A Historical Review of Multilateral Negotiations to Regulate Foreign Investment
- Technology Mechanism After Marrakesh: Enhancing Climate Technology Development and Transfer to Developing Countries
- Liberalising Government Procurement in the Multilateral Trading System

### **REGULATION**

#### **Reports**

- Exploring the Anticompetitive Practices in Fertiliser Transportation in Ghana
- Coal Sector in India: Analysing from the Lens of Competition & Regulatory Architecture
- Impact of GST Law on Mobile Phone Manufacturing in India
- Digital Payments: Level the Playing Field to Leverage the Potential — Competing with case in retail payments
- Sustainability of Business vs. Sanctity of Contract – The Classical Debate

## Discussion Paper

- Is there a Bright Future Ahead for India's Pharmaceutical Market?: An Overhaul of Policies Vs a Mere Facelift

## Briefs

- Consumer Broadband Labels: Information towards Empowerment
- Ease of Doing Business in Uttarakhand
- Ease of Doing Business in Rajasthan

## Viewpoint Paper

- Analysis of Competition Cases Against UBER Across the Globe

## GOVERNANCE

### Reports

- State of Consumer Safety in India-2016
- Baseline Survey Report 2017 (ProOrganic-II)
- Institutional and Legislative Assessment of Road Safety in India

## Other Newsletters

- CityMatters
- Tradequity
- India in Africa
- Economiquity
- Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements
- CITEE in Action
- CITEE Annual Publications Digest 2014
- ReguLetter
- PolicyWatch
- CCIER Activity Report
- Competition Distortions Dossier
- Information and Communications Technology Dossier
- Future of Jobs in India
- CCIER Annual Publications Digest 2017
- Analysis of Competition Cases in India
- Gram Gadar
- CRC Activity Report
- CUTS Geneva in Action
- CUTS Africa in Action
- PACE
- Catalyst
- Panchwa Stambh
- Consumer Watch
- What.s New At CUTS
- GSK Alert
- HRC Activity Report
- Competition Distortions Dossier, Hanoi

# ANNEX IV

## Audit Report

**GOYAL DINESH AND ASSOCIATES**  
Chartered Accountants



C-97,, JANPATH, LAL KOTHI SCHEME JAIPUR,  
JAIPUR RAJASTHAN 302015  
Ph. 9414042635, 141-2740583

### FORM NO. 10B

[See Rule 17B]

#### Audit Report under section 12A (b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the balance sheet of CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY AAATC0869P [name and PAN of the trust or institution] as at 31/03/2017 and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust or institution

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above-named trust visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us subject to the comments given below:

As Informed by the management society is having only Calcutta, Delhi, Chittorgarh Branches/Offices in addition to Jaipur Office. Accounts of these has been consolidated with Head Office accounts at the time of audit.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us the said accounts give a true and fair view: -

- i. in the case of the balance sheet of the state of affairs of the above-named trust as at 31/03/2017
- ii. in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31/03/2017

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.



Place :JAIPUR

Date : 14 OCT 2017

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur**

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2017

Figures as at 31.03.2016	Liabilities	Figures as at 31.03.2017	Figures as at 31.03.2016	Assets	Amount in 'INR' Figures as at 31.03.2017
51,855,966.47	Reserves & Funds (As Per Schedule "A")	56,906,799.40	43,521,739.12	Fixed Assets (As Per Schedule "E")	44,808,476.12
2,983,878.00	Secured Loans (As Per Schedule "B")	1,929,104.80	61,253,208.01	Cash & Bank (As Per Schedule "F")	57,044,625.54
180,000.00	Current Liabilities (As Per Schedule "C")	899,755.80	8,687,282.00	Advances & Deposits (As Per Schedule "G")	8,358,714.00
58,442,384.66	Grant In AID (As Per Schedule "D")	50,476,155.66			
<u>113,462,229.13</u>		<u>110,211,815.66</u>	<u>113,462,229.13</u>		<u>110,211,815.66</u>

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

Sch. "X"

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto  
For Goyal Dinesh & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

Dinesh K Goyal  
Partner  
M N 072959



For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Secretary General

Treasurer

Jaipur  
Dated : 14 OCT 2017

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur**

Income & Expenditure account for the year ended on 31st March 2017

Amount in 'INR'

Previous year	Expenditure	Sch.	Current year	Previous year	Income	Sch.	Current year
14,833,089.86	To Awareness Camp/ Seminar/Workshop/ Conference	"H"	26,175,453.24	2,790.00	By Contribution for Publication	"T"	1,560.00
37,286,622.55	To Research	"I"	41,382,025.06	94,054,356.90	By Grant & Donation	"U"	102,930,128.35
3,305,170.30	To Climate Change	"J"	4,976,580.50	2,572,484.40	By Interest Received	"V"	3,593,655.79
804,147.09	Welfare/Empowermen t of Women	"K"	3,689,612.78	5,000.00	By Membership Fees		5,000.00
20,267,780.15	To Rural Development	"L"	6,067,356.34	512,238.65	By Miscellaneous Income	"W"	354,570.68
1,721,567.74	To Agriculture Activities	"M"	5,103,748.00	231,707.24	By Excess of Expenditure Over Expenditure		-
1,503,378.00	To Public Accountability	"N"	1,999,549.60				
420,000.00	To, Welfare of Children	"O"	-				
5,434,268.00	To Socio-economic & other Welfare programme	"P"	2,637,435.00				
6,047,721.36	To Capacity Building	"Q"	9,151,496.83				
308,085.60	Microfinance projects, including setting up banking cooperatives and self help groups	"R"	249,833.00				
2,122,526.35	Child Rights	"S"	1,497,038.00				
670,224.90	To Office cost		1,475,314.42				
2,653,995.29	Depreciation		2,459,322.63				
	By Excess of Income over expenditure.		20,149.42				
97,378,577.19			106,884,914.82	97,378,577.19			106,884,914.82

Significant Accounting Policies and notes on Accounts

Sch. "X"

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto

For Goyal Dinesh & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

Dinesh K Goyal  
Partner  
M N 72959



For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Secretary General

Treasurer

Place - - - Jaipur  
Dated : 14 OCT 2017





Consumer sovereignty in the  
framework of social justice,  
economic equality and  
environmental balance, within  
and across borders

**CUTS** ®  
International

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India

Ph: +91.141.2282821, Fax: +91.141.2282485

Email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org), Web Site: [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

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