

Annual Report 2004-2005



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Published by
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CUTS 
International



Established in 1983, Consumer Unity & Trust Society is a rights advocacy group, having its head office in Jaipur and one centre each at Chittorgarh, Delhi and Calcutta in India. In the year 2001, CUTS started a new centre overseas, at Lusaka (Zambia), Nairobi (Kenya), and London (UK).

The organisation elects its board/executive committee every three years, while the secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. Over 1200 individuals and 300 organisations are its members. The organisation is accredited to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

CUTS also works with several national, regional and international organisations, such as Consumers International, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment, the Consumer Coordination Council of India, etc. It also serves on several policy-making bodies of the Government of India.

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From the Secretary General's Desk



The year 2004-05, like the previous one, was an eventful one in the life of CUTS, as we continue to travel, working incessantly on issues, which relate to the common person and what affects him/her at the national, regional and international levels. Our dream, since the very beginning, has been to be a global standard institution by focusing our activities on issues of real interest to the grassroots through enhanced integration of our policy analysis and advocacy.

Over the years, our areas of work continue to expand significantly – issue-wise as well as geographically. From the very beginning, our mission is to develop indigenous capacities in different countries. Thus, we are working in partnership with more than 60 research institutions and civil society organisations (CSOs) across the world. At the same time, we are faced with challenges of ‘colonisation of indigenous civil society space’. Our overseas operations are not only demand-driven but are also for creating more indigenous capacity at the local level, whereas some reputed global non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are doing exactly the opposite.

CUTS family is now nearly 140 people spread over six centres in India and three overseas. With the growing expansion in space, staff, areas and programmes, responsibilities have increased as many times. I do feel the overwhelming burden of carrying forward the CUTS’ agenda in achieving our functional areas i.e. international trade, competition policy, economic regulation, investment policy, consumer safety, sustainable consumption, human development and consumer protection. Our work at grassroots has been commendable *albeit* much remains to be done and we continue to strive for the best.

A demand driven focus on competition and investment policy & economic regulation prompted us to move CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (C-CIER), one of our programme centres, to a new building adjacent to the CUTS head office. With a spanking new office space, the Centre is now equipped to take on the expansion of research areas and new projects that are on its agenda this year.

Regional and International level

On other global issues, CUTS continued to be involved in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) process and has participated in every Ministerial since Marrakech in April 1994. At the Ministerials in Singapore, Geneva, Seattle and Doha, CUTS also organised fringe meetings on critical issues. As the Hong Kong Ministerial is approaching, we need to accelerate our activities in order to actualise the Doha Round in favour of developing countries.

For instance, on the July Package of the WTO’s Doha Round, we affirmed that it was too early to uncork the champagne bottle, because it has too many gaps. It appears unlikely that the Doha Round would be concluded even before the extended December deadline. CUTS, in association with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan; Oxfam GB in

Pakistan and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), organised a conference on 'WTO Post-Cancun Developments: Options for South Asia' on August 17-19, 2004. I spoke about the need for equipping the South Asian stakeholders, including the civil society representatives, government officials and negotiators, as well as general public, with necessary knowledge relating to the emerging WTO issues. In addition, we organised a symposium on the WTO's July Package at *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland, for a panel discussion on aspects of July Package that included Trade Facilitation.

During the year under review, we launched some significant projects at the regional and international levels. WTO Doha Negotiations & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations, Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty, two projects on South-South Economic Cooperation, Advocacy & Capacity Building on Competition Policy & Law in Africa were taken up.

Simultaneously, we took up trade law issue as one of our initiatives because this is one area that needs close attention given the complexity of global trade scenario, and went on to publish a policy brief *GSP Dispute: Winning the battle, losing the war* and a series of Myths and Realities monographs on various aspects of globalisation which address some of basic questions and concerns relating to trade.

CUTS organised an Afro-Asian Civil Society Seminar on Trade, in New Delhi, on April 13-15, 2004, in which participants from 40 countries attended and debated the key issues in the international trading system. The highlight of this meeting was to study the differences within developing countries on trade policy matters that need to be recognised fully while forming coalitions at international levels in order to take forward their interests in a cogent manner. The recommendations were taken to United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) XI in Sao Paulo, Brazil in June 2004. In Sao Paulo, we shared the findings of the multi-country project, 'Investment for Development' carried out by CUTS.

National level

CUTS was engaged in a major project to develop a Functional Competition Policy for India, by studying various sectors of our economy, and to my surprise, like many of you, preliminary results showed how uncompetitive our economy is and how it adversely affects both the producers and the consumers. In January 2005, the FunComp project report entitled, 'Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India', was released by Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission in the presence of V K Dhall, Member, Competition Commission of India (CCI) at New Delhi, India. The special feature of the event was participation of about 25 foreign experts as commentators and not speakers.

Another area that we worked upon was a nationwide survey in India on Cable TV, which was published in the form of a book called, "Consumer-friendly Cable-TV System".

On the advocacy front at home, I attended the pre-Budget Consultation Meeting for Economists with Finance Minister, P Chidambaram and made a presentation on, 'Curb Wastage to Contribute 8.9 percent to National Income' and suggested that if the government adopts a policy of conservation and productivity for growth and takes measures to curb wastage in the economy, about Rs 200,000 crore could be saved. Besides, we also suggested implementing Competition Act, 2000 effectively in order to ensure significant gains to the national income.

The year saw the announcement of ambitious Common Minimum Programme (CMP) and CUTS took the initiative, in association with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), New Delhi by organising a National Seminar, 'The Common Minimum Programme and its Prospects on Economic Reforms'. The objective was to discuss the issues relating to the economic substance, developmental aspects and stakeholders' participation.

State level

CUTS was invited by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje, to a pre-budget consultation where we suggested for taking steps for promoting the consumer movement in Rajasthan.

We advocated changes in the Rajasthan State Electricity Bill, 2004, for making it more consumer-friendly, especially for agricultural and rural consumers. The bill was, however, dropped.

Our consumer safety programme initiated a month-long awareness campaign on the road safety in Jaipur and sensitised vehicle drivers, rickshaw pullers and pedestrians.

Mass awareness campaigns to generate *vox populi* have been our predominant activities whereby we reach out to the grassroots, to those who have been denied, sidelined and cornered. Our Centre for Human Development (CHD) at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan implemented projects on women empowerment by creating self-help groups (SHGs) in the villages and on youth by generating awareness on HIV/AIDS. Our concern extended to child's welfare, as we organised a seminar on 'Advocacy & Networking for Child Rights' in Jaipur to kick-start the activities of 'Hamara Manch' (Our Forum) that would serve as forerunner to the project, *Hum Bhi Bachche Hain* (we, too, are children). This forthcoming project would focus on domestic child workers.

The World Bank (WB), in June 2004, under the Voice & Client Power programme (VCP), identified CUTS' intervention in the Power Sector in Rajasthan, known as 'CUTS-FES model', as a successful intervention to enhance the consumer voice. The WB through the project Global Stocktaking on Social Accountability Mechanisms for Asia and the Pacific identified CUTS interventions on 'Participatory Public Expenditure Tracking' as a successful case study on pro-poor spending in Rajasthan.

On the personal level, I was appointed as Honorary Senior Fellow in the Centre for Trade and Investment (CTI), Centre for Management Studies (CMS), in Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA), for a period of three years and I accepted the invitation of Competition Commission of India's (CCI) to be the member of their Advisory Committee on Regulation.

I do revere and value the support and assistance of all those institutions, groups and individuals who have contributed immensely in the making of CUTS, which is yet to reach its full potential and growth. It is my firm belief that we will continue to receive valuable suggestions and feedback in our future endeavours.

**Jaipur, India
August 2005**

**Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General**

About CUTS

CUTS was established in 1983 as a small group of concerned citizens. Since then it has been working towards bridging the gap between the concerns of people at the grassroots and international policy-making community. Today, it is the leading consumer organisation in India. It is now at the cutting edge of the consumer movement, not only in India but also throughout the world. CUTS focuses its programmes on the following five areas:

- Consumer Protection;
- International Trade & Development;
- Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation;
- Human Development; and
- Consumer Safety.

Historical Perspective

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

Objectives

- To initiate, undertake and aid directly or through its affiliated bodies, Schemes for the furtherance of consumer and public welfare, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.
- To promote, organise and assist measures for the availability of consumer commodities and services, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.
- To study consumer and public interest/welfare problems and evolve remedies including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.
- To publish studies, periodicals, reports and other literature relating to consumer commodities and services, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.
- To undertake, research and case studies in respect of consumer commodities, services and public interest/welfare, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.
- To advice and if necessary, assist governments and the concerned authorities in framing and enforcing laws to safeguard the interest of the consumer and citizen, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness empowerment and socio economic development.
- To disseminate knowledge and information and to educate the public regarding consumer and public interest/welfare problems and programmes on a scientific basis, including those relating to environment, health care, general awareness, empowerment and socio economic development.

Thank you very much for reserving so much time for your discussions with me. It was a great learning exercise for me. Thanks again and I am looking forward to meeting again next year.

*Coen Van Kessel
Novib
Netherlands*

Thank you for the good co-operation we enjoy with CUTS, and for the fruitful exchange of views and proposals at meeting.

*Vidan Hegenen,
Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs,
Norway*

It was a real pleasure receiving our friends from CUTS in Sao Paulo during UNCTAD XI. Now we are starting a very interesting joint project on IBSA strategies, a second of IBSA agricultural views, and I hope many others in the future. Thank you very much for your kindness and hope our co-operation will be very fruitful.

Marcos Jank,
The Brazilian Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE),
Sao Paulo, Brazil



S M Mathur
Secretary cum Treasurer



Rajeev D Mathur
Director



Vijay Ghoshal
Senior Accounts Officer



L N Sharma
Accounts Officer



Ruchi Sharma
Administrative Officer



Vinamrata Rathore
H R Assistant

Vision Statement

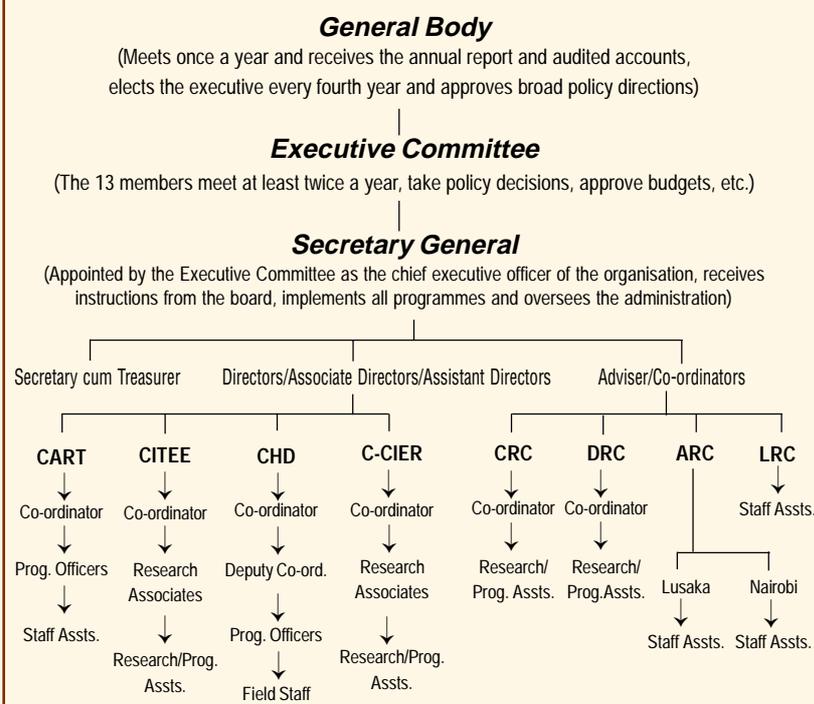
Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice and equality, within and across borders

Organisational Development

From a small voluntary group of concerned citizens operating out of a garage on a zero budget to an international NGO, the journey has been marked with healthy growth. The year 2004-05 was marked by some important organisational developments within the country and abroad. CUTS' centres are broadly divided into two distinct categories:

- Programme Centres; and
- Resource Centres.

Organisational Structure



Programme Centres

- CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE), Jaipur, India
- CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART), Jaipur, India
- CUTS Centre for Human Development (CHD), Chittorgarh, India
- CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CCIER), Jaipur, India

Resource Centres

- Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC), Calcutta, India. The centre also works on the programmatic area of Consumer Safety
- Africa Resource Centre (ARC), Lusaka, Zambia

- London Resource Centre (LRC), London, UK
- Delhi Resource Centre (DRC), New Delhi, India
- Nairobi Resource Centre (NRC), Nairobi, Kenya

Meeting of the General Body

The General Body Meeting was held on March 19, 2004, in which the Annual Report and audited accounts were presented.

Executive Committee Meeting

Meetings of the Executive Committee were held twice (in July 2004 and February 2005) where internal policy matters, development and budget were reviewed.

Human Resources

During this year, Bindiya Jain, B N Sharma, Shailly Gupta, Manish Agarwal, Rijit Sengupta, Mohd. Aslam Khan, Vikash Batham, Shweta Agarwal, Robin Mehra, Pramod Dev M., Sonali Singh, S K Soni, Ashutosh Soni, Simi T B, Shubhra Acharya, Swati Chadha, Punyarupa Bhadury, Chandan Mukherjee, Vinamrata Rathore joined CUTS at Jaipur.

Ruchi Sharma, Garima Shrivastava and Ritu Lodha re-joined CUTS' office at Jaipur. Nupur Anchlita started working as CUTS representative in Mumbai.

Debottam Chakraborty, Sumanta Biswas and Rupa Mazumdar joined our Calcutta Resource Centre. Vivek Khanna became a part of our Chittorgarh Centre and Mahesh Nailwal of our Delhi Resource Centre.

Signe Glahn, Gideon Rabinowitz joined London Resource Centre, Frywell Sabha Chirwa and Charles Katongola joined Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka during the year. Clement Victor Onyango and John Ochola became a part of Nairobi Resource Centre.

CUTS Web Site

CUTS has developed a comprehensive web site with an URL www.cuts-international.org. It has useful links and hyperlinks leading to its various Programme and Resource Centres that provide an insight into the individual sub-domains. Main page mirrors the broad outline about the organisation and its activities. In addition, it provides valuable information on the following areas:

- Projects and events;
- Media articles and press releases;
- Current initiatives; and
- Advocacy campaigns.

CUTS Library and Documentation Department

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

Anudeepa Nair
Personal Assistant



Nupur Anchlita
Representative in
Mumbai

Mukesh Tyagi
DTP Officer



Sweepthish Jayan
Assistant IT Officer

Mohd. Aslam Khan
Assistant IT Officer



**CUTS is just amazing
in its range of
activities and the
energy of its members
in a city like Jaipur.**
Partha Mukhopadhyay,
Vice President
IDFC, Jaipur

M Shamsur Rabb
Khan
Editor



Madhuri Vasnani
Publications Assistant



Lokpal Jangir
Assistant
Documentation Officer



Kirti Johari
Assistant Librarian/
Documentation



Mohd. Yaseen
Assistant Librarian/
Documentation

It was a great experience to see such a well-structured and maintained office with a large group of highly dedicated individuals. It has been a pleasure to work with Mehta and his team.

*Laveesh Bhandari,
Chief Economist
Indicus Analytics,
New Delhi*

The Library

CUTS library has an extensive collection of Books, Journals, Research Reports, Working Papers, Monographs, Briefing Papers and Pamphlets in the fields of economics, economic development, foreign direct investment (FDI), competition, poverty, industry, international trade, trade & development, trade & environment, energy, agriculture, law, consumerism etc. It subscribes 22 journals/magazines and more than 10 newspapers. It also contains wide collection of CDs/Audio-Video/Photographs

Information Unit

This unit has a database, which is a collection of international, national and grassroots-level organisation including inter-governmental organisations, governmental organisations and NGOs. It contains Postal Mailing Lists, Electronic List, Visiting Cards and Dispatching: Information Unit is responsible for providing mailing list/s to the dispatch section in Label Format.

Infrastructural Development

Considerable investments were made on information technology and office equipments. New books were added to the library. Number of computers increased from 45 to 68 and the existing computers were upgraded for compatibility. Heavy duty centralised printers were installed. Centralised Network & 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.

Capacity Building of the Staff

- R K Sharma of CUTS-CART attended a two-day consultation on 'to finalise a comprehensive bill for the workers in the unorganised sector' organised by National Centre for Labour, at New Delhi, India, on March 02-03, 2005.
- Nitya Nanda of CUTS-CCIER attended India Trade & Investment Forum 2005, at New Delhi, on March 09-11, 2005.
- Nilay Chandra of CUTS-CITEE attended Waste Management workshop organised by Chintan, at New Delhi, India, on March 28, 2005.
- Shashi Prabha of CUTS-CHD attended Indo US Exchange Programme organised by Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), at USA, from March 1-13, 2005. The involvement of children in the avenue of child rights advocacy through *Bal Panchayats* (a local self-governance body of children), an initiative of CHD was very much appreciated.
- Shailly Gupta attended a workshop on 'Case Writing' hosted by Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, on February 28 and March 01, 2005. The purpose of the workshop was pedagogy development in public policy and management.
- Deboshri Chatterjee attended a Reorientation training organised by Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), at New Delhi, India, on August 09-13, 2004.
- Some members of the staff attended Appreciative Enquiry workshop held at Jaipur, Rajasthan, on July 25, 2005.

Donor Agencies

CUTS maintains an interactive association with various donor agencies both at the national and international levels. The organisation receives funds from national as well international agencies to successfully implement various development projects and programmes. By flexible use of the funds, the organisation pursues and strengthens its various functional areas. During the period, the main funding agencies for the organisation have been categorised into two sources: the governmental sector donors and the non-governmental sector donors.

The government sector donors, which included: Department for International Development (DFID), UK; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), New Delhi; various Ministries, Government of India; Government of Rajasthan; Government of the Netherlands; Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Berne and New Delhi; Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation SIDA, Stockholm; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva; European Commission (EC); World Health Organisation (WHO), New Delhi; and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New Delhi.

The non-governmental sector donors included: Oxfam GB in India; Novib, The Netherlands; Save the Children, UK; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; Commonwealth Foundation, UK. As the best practice, CUTS has made consistent efforts to establish long-term working relationships with donors.

Major Highlights of the Year 2004-05

Striving towards new challenges and new thinking, CUTS focused its core functional areas during the year 2004-05. Some of the major activities are listed below:

Programmes & Events

2004	
April 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised a public lecture on 'WTO: Cancun and Beyond' at Jaipur, India
April 23-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched a project entitled, 'Advocacy & Capacity Building on Competition Policy & Law in the Mekong Region at Hanoi, Vietnam
October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised a seminar on 'Consumer Friendly Cable TV System' at the India International Centre, New Delhi under the project supported by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA), Government of India (GoI)
October 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised a peer review meeting, to conduct a survey on the status of implementation of certain laws related to the environment, such as Ecomark scheme, ozone depleting substances, lead acid batteries, fly ash and bio diversity law and rules commissioned by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), GoI.
November 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised the International Symposium on July Package, Trade Facilitation and Transparency in Government Procurement at Geneva, Switzerland
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched the <i>Panchayati Raj</i> Empowerment Programme being supported by SDC at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan
2005	
February 24-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched the GRANITE project, being supported by NOVIB (Oxfam, The Netherlands) and Norwegian Agency for Development & Cooperation (NORAD), at Jaipur, India
March 09-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations project at Colombo, Sri Lanka
March 18-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched a project 'Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction' at Jaipur, India supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoI, NOVIB and DFID, UK

Research & Publications

- In January 2005, project report entitled, 'Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India', was released by Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission in the presence of V K Dhall, Member, CCI Frederic Jenny, a Judge at the Commercial, Economic and Financial Law Chamber of the Supreme Court of France, at New Delhi, India
- In February 2005, published a study, 'Trade in Environmental Services: An Indian Perspective', commissioned by the MoEF, GoI and which discusses the opportunities for trade in environmental services and contains an in-depth analysis of the impact of liberalisation on the Indian environmental industry

- In April 2004, published an event report, 'From Cancun to Sao Paulo: The Role of Civil Society in the International Trading System'.
- In August 2004, published a monograph, 'WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: *Frequently Asked Questions*', which addresses some of basic questions and concerns relating to trade in textiles and clothing (T&C).
- Published a case study, 'Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Seed: A Case Study of the Himalayan Region in India', which was an outcome of an extensive survey carried out under the 'Farmers' Rights Project' in seven Garhwal districts of Uttaranchal.
- Two Research Reports under the International Working Group on the Doha Agenda (IWOOGDA) Project: *Trade Facilitation – Reducing the Transaction Cost or Burdening the Poor* and *Unpacking Transparency in Government Procurement* were published.
- In October 2004, a Trade Law Brief: *GSP Dispute: Winning the battle, losing the war* was published.
- A monograph, 'Experiences from a project on FDI policy, practices & perceptions in Bangladesh, Brazil, Hungary, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia OR, How To Implement A Multi-Country Project' was published.
- In April 2004, published a Briefing Paper, 'Farm Agenda at the WTO: *The key to move the Doha Round*'.

Advocacy & Networking

- As a part of its networking efforts to consolidate research and advocacy activities, CUTS entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC), Mumbai.
- During January 01 and February 02, 2005, organised a two-day international conference called, "Moving the Competition Policy Agenda in India", at New Delhi. The report entitled, 'Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India', was released on the occasion.
- On September 14-15, 2004, organised a National Seminar: The Common Minimum Programme and Its Prospects on Economic Reforms, at New Delhi, India.
- During February 10-25, 2005, a 16-day pre-election voter awareness campaign was launched in the villages of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara, Rajasthan, India.
- On June 28-29, 2004, organised a brainstorming meeting of the projects 'Achieving Better Market Access' (ABMA) and 'IWOOGDA-II' at Jaipur, India.
- Organised a workshop for suggested changes in the Rajasthan Electricity Bill 2004 for making it more consumer-friendly, particularly for agricultural and rural consumers.
- On August 17-19, 2004, organised a conference, titled 'WTO Post-Cancun Developments: Options for South Asia', in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- On September 22-23, 2004, organised a Regional Launch Meeting of 7-Up2 Project on 'Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia' at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- On November 03, 2004, organised a Symposium on the WTO's July Package at *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland,
- From December 15 to 2004 to January 15, 2005, organised a month-long ongoing campaign on 'Road Safety' at Jaipur, India.
- On December 11-13, 2004, organised the South Asian Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop on WTO, in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- On February 3, 2005, organised a seminar on 'Advocacy & Networking for Child Rights' in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India to kick-start the activities of 'Hamara Manch' (Our Forum) in Rajasthan, India.

Some Achievements

- Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International has been appointed as Honorary Senior Fellow in the CMS, in HCM-RIPA, for a period of three years.
- On June 14, 2004, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje Scindia, invited CUTS to a pre-budget consultation. CUTS participated in the consultation and made suggestions for taking proactive steps for promoting the consumer movement in the State, which will act as a catalyst for the overall development of its economy.
- The World Bank, in June 2004, under the Voice & Client Power Programme (VCP), identified CUTS intervention in the Power Sector, known as 'CUTS-FES model', as a successful intervention to enhance the consumer voice. The model was researched and documented for wider dissemination and replication. Dr Sachin Choudhary from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, engaged by the Bank, did the study and documentation. The report, which was finalised in February 2005, is now available for wider dissemination.
- Mehta has accepted CCI invitation to be a member of their Advisory Committee on Regulations, comprising of persons having an in-depth knowledge and special experience of competition law and issues, who can be consulted from time to time on Competition Policy issues.
- The World Bank, in July 2004, through the project Global Stocktaking on Social Accountability (SA) Mechanisms for Asia and the Pacific, identified CUTS interventions on 'Participatory Public Expenditure Tracking' as a successful case study on pro-poor spending.
- In September 2004, settlement of the claim of Rs 25, 000 of one Vikram Singh of Shapura, Bhilwara, Rajasthan, who died in a road accident, on the basis of a letter written to National Insurance Co. Ltd.
- In August 2004, a payment of file processing money of Rs 550 to one Ram Babu Sharma, who was denied housing loan from Citi Bank, Jaipur, and which was being held back by the bank.

Representations

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
June 05, 2004, New Delhi, India	Pre-budget Consultation Meeting for Economists with Finance Minister, P Chidambaram	Curb Wastage to Contribute 8.9 percent to National Income	• Pradeep S Mehta
June 23, 2004, New Delhi, India	11 th Session of UNCTAD	How can the international community could fight against poverty and enable the poor countries to reap the benefits of the international trading system	• Pradeep S Mehta
July 19-20, 2004, New Delhi, India	New Global Trade Paradigm jointly hosted by UNCTAD and the London School of Economics	A brainstorming to elicit views on what the content of the New Global Trade Paradigm ought to be	• Pradeep S Mehta • Bipul Chatterjee
October 04, 2004, Geneva, Switzerland	UNCTAD Hearing with Civil Society and Private Sector	Trade and development issues like trade liberalisation and participation of LDCs and Africa in international trade in pursuant to paragraph 177 of the Sao Paulo consensus	• Pranav Kumar
October 06-08, 2004, Hyderabad, India	Three-day regional seminar on Asia and Pacific Economics organised by the WTO Secretariat, Administrative Staff College of India, and the United Nations Economics and Social Commissions of Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)	Competition Policy, Development and Multilateral Trading System	• Manish Agarwal • Pradeep S Mehta
October 18-20, 2004, New Delhi, India	Three-day seminar organised by the Planning Commission of India and the School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi	WTO Negotiations: India's Post-Cancun Concern A presentation, 'Multilateral Competition Framework' by Mehta	• Pradeep S Mehta
November 08-10, 2004, Geneva, Switzerland	Inter-governmental Group of Exports (IGE) meeting	Bringing competition into regulated sectors; relationship between competition authorities and sectoral regulation; and abuse of dominance in regulated sectors	• Alice Pham
November 22-24, 2004, Penang, Malaysia	Conference organised by the UNDP	Trade: Contribution to Growth, Human Development & Poverty Reduction	• Bipul Chatterjee
February, 17-18, 2005, Paris, France	5 th Global Forum on Competition hosted by Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD)	Discussing the involvement of children in the avenue of child rights advocacy, including the role of <i>Bal Panchayats</i> in generating awareness by Indian NGOs	• Manish Agarwal
March 01-13, 2005, US	13-day programme organised by Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)	Capacity building and technical assistance	• Shashi Prabha
March 22, 2005, Zambia	A consultative meeting organised by the Organisation Development and Community Management Trust (ODCMT), Zambia	Launch of the Global Week of Action	• Vladimir Chilinya

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE)

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CUTS-CITEE) was established in 1996 in order to take forward the organisation's activities on trade and development. In the early 1990's when the Uruguay Round negotiations were at their peak, CUTS realised that there were no Southern CSOs actively working and following up on international trade issues and thus identified it as an area for diversification. The mission adopted by the Centre is:

"Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people."

CUTS-CITEE has been actively engaged in trade and development issues since its inception. The main objective of CUTS-CITEE is to enable and empower representatives of the civil society, from developing countries in particular, to articulate and advocate on the relevant issues at the appropriate fora and to create a questioning society through empowerment of civil society representatives thus ensuring transparency and accountability in the system. Simultaneously, CUTS-CITEE also tries to promote equity between and among the developed and developing countries through network-based research and advocacy on emerging and relevant issues. It is regarded as a key research and advocacy group working on issues of trade and development, which are of interest to developing countries. CITEE operates closely with other CUTS' Centres, in order to strengthen upward and downward linkages on critical trade and economic policy issues between policy-makers and civil society.

International Advisory Board

The Centre carries its activities under the guidance of an advisory board. The following is the list of the advisory board.

Chairman	T N Srinivasan, Samuel C Park Jr. Professor of Economics, Yale University, US
Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jagdish Bhagwati, Professor of Economics and Political Science, Columbia University, New York, US 2. Tariq Banuri, Senior Research Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Boston, US 3. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh 4. Phil Evans, Principal Policy Advisor, Consumer's Association, London, UK 5. Janice Goodson Foerde, Chairperson, KULU Women and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark 6. Mark Halle, European Representative & Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland 7. Trudi Hartzenberg, Director, Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC), Stellenbosch, South Africa 8. Caroline LeQuesne-Lucas, Member of European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Bipul Chatterjee
Executive Director



Pranav Kumar
Policy Analyst

Purnima Purohit
Programme Coordinator



S K Soni
Administrative Assistant

Simi T Balkrishnan
Research Assistant



Chandan Mukherjee
Research Assistant

Ritu Lodha
Research Assistant



- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Jasper A. Okelo, Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya 10. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, Centre for Development and Human Rights, New Delhi, India 11. Magda Shahin, Egyptian Ambassador to Greece, Athens, Greece 12. Dianna Tussie, Senior Research Fellow, Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Buenos Aires, Argentina 13. Ann Weston, Vice-President and Research Coordinator, The North-South Institute, Ottawa, Canada 14. L. Alan Winters, Research Director, World Bank, Washington DC, US 15. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, Jaipur, India |
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Functional Areas

- WTO Rules
- Bilateral/Regional Cooperation
- Trade & Social Issues
- Grassroots Issues
- Capacity Building

Projects and Programmes

- WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations (SAFIT)
- Trade Law
- South Asia Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues (SACSNITI)
- International Working Group on the Doha Development Agenda Phase-II (IWOOGDA)
- Achieving Better Market Access (ABMA)
- South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship (MGR)
- South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring IBSA Initiative (IBSA)
- Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia (RECSA)
- Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP)
- Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE)

WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations (SAFIT)

This one-year project aims to establish the linkages between the CSOs and research institutions, while conducting advocacy with the governments and the intergovernmental organisations. The project is being implemented in the five South Asian Countries, viz., India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, in a partnership mode, focusing on the five key elements of the 'July Framework' Agreement: Agriculture, Non-agriculture Market Access (NAMA), Development Dimension, Services and Trade Facilitation. While the four elements have annexes in the July Package; Development Dimension, which includes special and differential treatment (S&DT), is a cross cutting issue. The project is funded by the NOVIB. The project has the following objectives:

- to facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt on international trade and national development among five South Asian countries and to establish linkage between the CSOs and research institutions, in order to enhance the consultation process, while developing appropriate policy responses;
- to strengthen the capacity of the South Asian countries on new emerging issues;
- to establish a platform to facilitate in preparing a common position for South Asian countries during the Doha Round for the benefit of the poor, with a special focus on women, with inputs from the ground/grassroots;
- to engage with different stakeholders (NGOs, trade bodies, industry bodies, trade unions, WTO experts, women groups, etc) and present their concerns on each of the issues covered in the July Framework Agreement;
- to addressing the livelihood concerns, while developing negotiating positions, thus influencing the process of making the Doha Round of trade negotiations a truly development round; and
- to rectifying democratic deficits in economic governance in South Asian countries, so that the process of policy-making becomes more people-oriented, as opposed to current top-down approach.

Research & Publications

The research papers are under preparation. These research papers comprise literature review, quantitative and qualitative analysis based on secondary data and qualitative field research involving perception mapping of relevant stakeholders from business, government and civil society. Besides analysing the negotiating position of a country on each issue covered in the particular topic of the 'July Package' Agreement, the research will take into consideration the concerns and perceptions of the different stakeholders. The basic paper will be prepared through a combination of analytical and field research. The research papers are as under:

India – Trade in Services;

Bangladesh – Understanding the Key Issues of Development Dimension;

Pakistan – Non-Agriculture Market Access;

Sri Lanka – WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Trade Facilitation; and

Nepal – Agriculture.

Advocacy & Networking

The Centre, in association with Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka, and the SAWTEE, Nepal, organised the launch meeting of the project at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on March 09-10, 2005. The launch meeting discussed the five issues of the 'July Framework' and helped in cross-fertilisation of the experiences and lessons learnt on international trade and national development of South Asian countries. It also helped in establishing linkage between the CSOs and research institutions, in order to enhance the consultation process, while developing appropriate policy responses. Representatives from research institutions, governments, civil society, business, the academia and the media attended the event from five South Asian countries.



Jeyaraj Fernadopulle, Minister for Trade, Sri Lanka, lighting the lamp to launch the project, WTO-Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations' at Colombo on March 09, 2005

All five research papers will be collated, edited and published in the form of a book and will be released at the sixth WTO Ministerial (targeting trade negotiators) to be held in Hong Kong. This book will be extensively circulated

to the trade community at large (trade policy officials in national capitals, trade negotiators in Hong Kong, trade experts, research institutions, NGOs, trade unions, business bodies, the media, etc).

Through action research (civil society's involvement in the process of conducting research) an informal forum of state (trade policy officials and trade negotiators) trade unions, research institutions, WTO experts and business bodies) actors was being developed. This forum would help different actors to interact with each other on trade-related issues.

Trade Law

This is a significant programme area under 'WTO Rules', which focuses on international trade law, in general, including major bilateral or multilateral international trade agreements. It also pays attention to analysing disputes (with a developing country perspective) settled by the WTO dispute settlement body.

The objective of the programme is to integrate itself effectively into the international economy and thus realise the benefits of international trade, in an increasingly competitive trading environment governed by complex trade rules, and realise effective participation in the global economy, with the increasing technical sophistication of the rules-based trading system. Hence, expertise on trade law is indispensable for a country.

Research & Publications

Under the programme, Trade Law briefs were produced to inform, educate and provoke debate on issues of trade and development, especially legal issues within the WTO that need to be explored or addressed by undertaking substantive research. The law briefs analyse the verdict of the Appellate Body and also the possible impact of the dispute concerning livelihoods issues. During the period, a trade law brief, *GSP Dispute – Winning the battle, losing the war* was published, which is a study conducted to find out whether the decisions rendered by the Appellate Body in various cases, including the present case between India and EC, Shrimp-Turtle case, really favour developing countries or not.

In addition, the following Trade Law Briefs are in the pipeline:

- EC Sugar Dispute: One Last Stand for a Retiring Regime
- Brazil-US Upland Cotton Dispute: Is it the Beginning of the End for Agricultural Subsidies?
- US Steel-Safeguard Dispute: *Forged Protection brought to light*
- US Shrimp Dispute: Anti-dumping Gone to the Extreme

Moreover, a study was carried out of the cases that dealt with developing countries and have been decided by the WTO dispute settlement panel and advisory body, so as to find out the real jurisprudence behind it and the way in which the panel or the advisory body usually interpret a particular provision. The programme focused on the cases in which India has been a party and how much India has gained and how much it has lost, especially the benefits that accrued to India on the bases of such rulings.



South Asia Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues (SACSNITI)

The project aims to undertake comprehensive analysis of trade policy issues of interests to individual countries as well as for the South Asia region, to develop a facility that would provide a rapid regional response to important emerging issues on multilateral trading platform. The project was funded by the IDRC, Canada.

The objectives of the project are:

- to undertake comprehensive analysis of trade policy issues of interest to individual countries as well as for the South Asian region;
- to develop a facility that would provide a rapid regional response to important emerging issues on multilateral trading platform; and
- to create an information database on trade policy issues *vis-à-vis* WTO Members of the South Asian region.

Research & Publications

The research component of the project comprises a wide array of trade policy topics relevant to South Asia. The following fifteen research reports were published:

1. Negotiating the TRIPs Agreement: India's Experience and Some Domestic Policy Issues;
2. Market Access Implications of SPS and TBT: Bangladesh Perspective;
3. Approaches to Competition Policy in South Asian Countries;
4. TRIPs and Public Health: Ways Forward for South Asia;
5. Competitiveness of Service Sectors in South Asia: Role and Implications of GATS;
6. FDI in South Asia: Do Incentives Work? A Survey of the Literature
7. Demystifying Agriculture Market Access Formula – A Developing Country Perspective after Cancún Setback;
8. Dealing with Protectionist Standard Setting: Effectiveness of WTO Agreements on SPS and TBT;
9. The WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin – Implications for South Asia;
10. Protectionism and Trade Remedial Measures;
11. WTO Agriculture Negotiations and South Asian Countries;
12. Agreement on SAFTA: Is It win-win for all SAARC Countries?
13. Trade Facilitation for South Asia: The Need for Some Serious Scenario Planning;
14. Movement of Natural Persons: A Case Study of South Asian Countries; and
15. Enhancing Collective Export Competitiveness on Textiles & Clothing: A Study of Select South Asian Countries.

Advocacy & Networking

The project's final meeting, entitled 'WTO Post-Cancún Developments: Options for South Asia', was organised by the Centre, in association with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan, Oxfam GB in Pakistan and SAWTEE, Nepal, at Islamabad, Pakistan, on August 17-19, 2004.

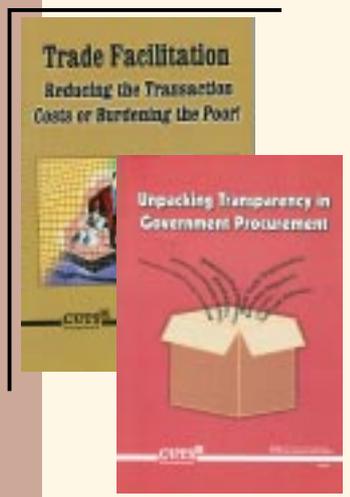


From L to R: Pradeep S Mehta, Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, S S Menon, Abid Suleri at the conference on 'WTO Post Cancun Developments: Opportunities for South Asia' at Islamabad, Pakistan

International Working Group on the Doha Development Agenda (IWOGDA) Phase-II

After the successful completion of the Phase-I in 2003, in which the implementation focus was on competition policy and investment, the Phase-II of the project dealt with trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement. It involved leading international experts, practitioners and other stakeholders in the areas proposed at Doha for future negotiations. The main objectives of the project were to:

- develop a knowledge base and understanding of the principles, modalities and implications of a potential agreement on the issues and assist countries, especially developing ones;
- evolve appropriate negotiating positions;
- build the capacity of negotiators and other stakeholders;
- feed WTO working groups with the views of experts, practitioners and other stakeholders; and
- sensitise industrialised countries, in general, to the concerns and feelings of developing countries.



Research & Publications

The research undertaken under the project culminated in the publishing of two books:

- Trade Facilitation: Reducing the Transaction Costs or Burdening the Poor!
- Unpacking Transparency in Government Procurement

Advocacy & Networking

The project's final meeting, entitled "July Package, Trade Facilitation (TF) and Transparency in Government Procurement", was organised by the Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 03, 2004. In the trade facilitation (TF) session, the scope and the definition of TF, technical assistance and capacity building in TF, specific GATT 1994 provisions and TF, dispute settlement issues and TF country case studies were discussed. While in the transparency in government procurement (TGP) session, the primary questions raised were whether TGP should be a policy priority for developing countries and whether a government procurement agreement (GPA) would contribute substantially to development. The session on the 'July Package' comprised of discussions on agriculture, NAMA, services and development issues.

Achieving Better Market Access

This project conducted research on WTO rules and related issues, to devise means for achieving better market access (ABMA) for developing countries.

Research & Publications

Under the project, following six Policy Briefs were published:

1. Farm Trade Liberalisation: The Challenges of Reducing Subsidies and Trade Barriers;
2. Trade in Services and Developing Countries;
3. Trade in Textiles and Clothing: Likely Problems in the New Regime;
4. Is Anti-dumping Causing More Harm than Good?
5. Multilateral Trading System: The Developmental Challenges; and
6. Enhancing South-South Cooperation on Trade: An Alternative to Northern Market.

Advocacy & Networking

The Centre, in association with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS) and the Evian Group, Switzerland, organised a seminar, entitled 'Symposium on WTO's July Framework Agreement', in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 03, 2004.

South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship (MGR)

The aim is to study how India and three countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), viz., Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, can foster economic cooperation, with Thailand as a facilitator or gateway. This project will look the demand and supply-side factors, which can enhance (or are hindering) trade and investment between India and select countries of the GMS. The project was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Berne, Switzerland. The objectives of the project are:

- to facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt on economic (trade and investment) cooperation between India and three GMS countries in order to develop appropriate policy responses;
- to strengthen the capacity of the GMS countries on exploring and articulating issues relating to South-South economic cooperation by providing necessary 'know-how' and 'do-how' to policy-makers, business community, civil society and other stakeholders;
- to facilitate the synergy between governments, CSOs and other stakeholders to learn from each other and strengthen their collective perspectives and positions on future economic cooperation scenarios between India and the GMS countries; and
- to prepare an advocacy document for public education on development-oriented South-South economic cooperation on learning from research and other activities and by taking into account the interests and priorities of trade and investment relationship between India and the GMS countries.

Under the project, future state of affairs is being explored, keeping in mind, the historical ties and geographical proximity between these countries and recent attempts to forge closer trade and investment cooperation.

Research & Publications

The core of the project is field research, i.e., to find out the perceptions on current and future trade and investment relationship between these countries from different stakeholders: policy-makers, business community, CSOs (through interviews, discussions, etc.). Before conducting the field research, a review and compilation of the current literature (political and economic aspects of cooperation, analytical literature and elements from the trade promotion projects) on trade and investment relationship between India and the GMS countries will be undertaken. The research carried out comprised of:

- **Background Paper:** The research on the project intends to bring about two Background Papers, one each on Cambodia and Lao PDR.
- **Perception Survey Report:** This is a field research report on each of the three countries, i.e., Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia.
- **Country Report:** This research report comprises of Background Paper and Perception Survey Report on each of the four project countries, i.e., Lao PDR, India, Vietnam and Cambodia.



- **Briefing Papers:** The briefing papers are intended to generate awareness among different stakeholders. Following are the topics for the briefing papers:
 - a) India, SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC – Commonalities, Differences and Future Cooperation;
 - b) Enterprise Development in the Mekong Sub-region: Its Transformation and Impact;
 - c) India-GMS Trade and Investment Corridor: Possible Role & Responsibility of Thailand;
 - d) Agriculture and Agro-industry in Cambodia;
 - e) Trade in Textiles & Clothing: Exploring Cooperation between ASEAN and SAARC.
- **Advocacy Document:** This is a detailed report on the project.



From L to R: Veena Jha, A N Ram, O H Quang and M Aggarwal at the Launch Meeting of South-South Economic Cooperation Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship' at New Delhi on October 08, 2004

Advocacy & Networking

- The Centre, in partnership with Research & Information System for Non-aligned & Other Developing Countries (RIS), organised a two-day Project Launch Meeting in New Delhi, on October 08, 2004. The meeting was attended by representatives from the academia, business chambers, government and intergovernmental organisations and civil society.
- The Centre organised an event, 'South-South Cooperation', at Centre William Rappard, Geneva, Switzerland, on May 26, 2004. The event discussed trade and economic policy in multilateral, regional and bilateral contexts, including capacity building and technical assistance.

South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring IBSA Initiative (IBSA)

The project aims at analysing the demand and supply-side factors, which can enhance (or are hindering at present) trade between India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) countries. The initiative has recognised that trade and investment advocacy can play a major role in achieving better economic and political results at the regional and international levels. Given the recent attempts to forge closer trade and economic cooperation, future trade scenarios are under exploration, by examining the present volume and composition of trade and factoring in the perceptions of stakeholders on trade and economic cooperation. The project was funded by SDC, Berne, Switzerland.

The objectives of the project are to:

- facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt on trade and economic cooperation between IBSA countries in order to develop appropriate policy responses;
- strengthen the capacity of the IBSA countries on issues of South-South cooperation;
- engage primary stakeholders, i.e. business representatives in exploring means to increase business and present their concerns on current trade and investment issues [which include non-tariff barriers (NTBs), investment barriers, tariffs and transaction costs];
- facilitate synergy between governments, CSOs and other stakeholders to learn from each other and strengthen their collective perspectives and positions on future trade scenarios between IBSA countries, in the framework of South-South trade cooperation; and

- prepare a policy handbook on development-oriented trade policy by taking into account the interests and priorities of trade and economic relationship amongst IBSA countries.

Research & Publications

The research component involved a survey to understand the business perceptions on trade and investment in IBSA countries, followed by a study of cross-cutting concerns, in the form of NTBs, freight costs, transaction costs, etc. Subsequently, a sector study was initiated, wherein an attempt was made to study the complementarities and the scope for cooperation within a particular sector.

The research component of the project entails a literature review, comprising geopolitical context, trade and investment relationship between the IBSA countries, the current state of the IBSA initiative and in the context of Southern African Customs Union (SACU)-Common Market for the Southern Cone (Mercosur), India-SACU and India-Mercosur initiatives on trade and investment cooperation and policy recommendations that exist in current literature. Followed by a fieldwork-based research, a country paper in each of the three countries would be prepared, which would be comprised of:

- **General Issues:** This chapter will attempt to get an insight into business perceptions within a country regarding conducting business with the other two. It also tries to understand whether businesses are aware of such initiatives or not.
- **Cross-cutting Issues:** This chapter will attempt to understand the key problems faced by businesses within the IBSA countries. These could be in the form of NTBs, higher transport costs or poor access to information.
- **Sector Study:** This chapter will try to understand how the IBSA countries can cooperate to compete in international markets. What sectoral complementarities do these countries share, what are the sub-sectors that they specialise in, what are the barriers they face in each of these markets and how they can move ahead in that sector. These are some of the important questions that will be addressed here.

Advocacy & Networking

- The Centre, in association with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), organised the Project Launch Meeting at Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 15-16, 2005. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Indian and Brazilian missions, as well as a number of businesses, the media and research organisations. It laid a fertile ground for engaging non-state actors (NSAs) in the IBSA initiative, a timely and much needed extension of ambitious co-operation process initiated by these countries.
- A network of policy makers, CSOs and other stakeholders will be developed, while implementing the project and will contribute to exchange of regular information on ground realities about trade and economic cooperation between the IBSA countries.

Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia (RECSA)

This project endeavours to assess the present status of this regional bloc and analyse the future prospects of Economic Cooperation in South Asia. The project makes an effort to bring together like-minded people and find out their opinion on South Asian Economic Trade. This will be carried out by organising a

series of meetings in major South Asian countries and gather people's opinion on how to enhance the regional cooperation within this region. The project is funded by FES, India.

The objectives of the project are:

- to assess the present achievements and analyse the future opportunities of economic cooperation in South Asia; and
- to facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt from economic cooperation between South Asian countries, in an effort to draw a road map for enhanced regional cooperation between the South Asian nations.

Advocacy & Networking

RECSA Forum: Under the project, the E-discussion group titled 'RECSA' would work as a loose network of policy makers, the business community, CSOs and other stakeholders, which will exchange regular information on ground realities about trade and investment cooperation between India and the GMS countries.

The project comprises a series of meetings in South Asian countries, in an effort to gather together country perspectives on the obstacles faced by the region, as a whole, in enhancing economic cooperation and strengthening the growth process.

Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP)

The Centre, along with partner institutions, is implementing this 4-year project in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. The project is being funded by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands & DFID, UK. It aims to manifest the policy relevance of international trade on poverty reduction and, thus, help in articulating policy coherence (in particular, between the international trading system and national development strategies). An overarching aim of the project is to bridge the link between Southern and Northern civil society and policy makers. The objective of the project is:

- to facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt from linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction in developing countries and aid the development of appropriate policy responses;
- to help strengthen the ability of developing countries, through provision of policy support and other know-how and do-how on trade and development issues, and defend their viewpoints and advocacy positions on issues of concern, prevailing and emerging in the international trading system and their relationship with development and poverty reduction;
- to facilitate a synergy between governments and CSOs (between and among the Northern and Southern stakeholders); to learn from each other and strengthen their collective perspectives and positions in the emerging debate on the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction; and
- to advocate development-oriented trade policies, based on the learning from research and other activities, by taking into account the interests and priorities (needs and aspirations) of the poor and marginalised sections of the society and an examination into the aspects of policy coherence.

Research & Publications

- Background reports by each of the 15 partner countries are under preparation. The purpose of these documents is to contextualise trade liberalisation in the respective countries and analyse its linkages with poverty.
- Studies exploring the stakeholder perceptions on TDP initiatives in Asia and Africa are being conducted. The purpose of the studies is to identify the gaps within the initiatives and explore the way forward to improve upon these.
- Stakeholder Perception Surveys in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa and Europe to get stakeholders' views and concerns about the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction will be conducted.



Advocacy & Networking

Under project activities capacity building workshops were organised and media campaigns were initiated.

- On March 18-19, 2005, the Centre organised a two-day project launch meeting at Jaipur, India. More than 60 participants, representing over 20 countries, participated in the deliberations, including representatives from 14 international project partners. Key issues and methodology were discussed for the implementation of the activities and the operational strategy note was finalised at the meeting.
- Briefing papers are being written on issues covering trade and trade agreements, aid, trade and linkages between poverty reduction and development, stakeholder perceptions on trade and poverty reduction initiatives, MDGs, particularly Goal 8. These will be used extensively for advocacy.
- National Dialogues are being held during the period i.e. March-December 2005, in all 15-partner countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa and Europe. The broad themes for all dialogues were trade and poverty reduction.



From L to R: Doan Hong Quang (Vietnam), Victoria Kisarale (Uganda) and Sue Mbaya (South Africa) at the Launch Meeting of 'Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction' at Jaipur on March 18-19, 2005

Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE)

This two-year project was launched on January 01, 2005, to be implemented in eight Indian States with selected CSOs working at the grassroots. The project lays emphasis on two sectors, viz., agriculture and textiles & clothing (T&C), as they are the keys to livelihood of a large section of the country's population. The overall objective of the project is to create long-term capacity of the grassroots CSOs and the local media, to address the complex issues of globalisation and the WTO and their relationship with economic development and governance in India. The project beneficiaries include grassroots CSOs, the local media and policy makers.

The partnering organisations in each of the eight states are the Consumers Guidance Society (CGS), Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh; the Consumer Rights, Education & Awareness Trust (CREAT), Bangalore, Karnataka; *Samarthan*, Mumbai, Maharashtra; the Centre for Youth & Social Development (CYSD), Bhubaneswar, Orissa; CUTS-CART, Jaipur, Rajasthan; the Citizen consumer & civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai, Tamil Nadu; the Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; and CUTS-CRC, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Research & Publications

The objective of undertaking field work as a part of the project is to analyse the perception of relevant stakeholders (farmers, weavers, artisans, government officials, local media, academia, research institutions) regarding the impact of globalisation (in particular, increasing openness where WTO is a key factor) on the sectors of agriculture and textiles in India. Thus, it will focus on these two sectors, agriculture and T&C, in two states (Rajasthan and West Bengal).

Field data will be analysed to produce a study document which will highlight the issues of globalisation and the WTO and their implications on the Indian economy and people's livelihoods. This will have a section on institutional arrangements required to be in place to face opportunities and challenges of globalisation (particularly in the WTO regime of international trading system) in a situation of policy ineffectiveness due to the underdeveloped structure of economic governance in India.

This document will be used to conduct advocacy at different levels, in particular in the run-up to and during the WTO Ministerial meeting to be held in Hong Kong, in December 2005. Furthermore, they will be disseminated to developmental agencies working at the international level and, thus, act as a tool of information dissemination and will manifest the grassroots concerns from India at the international level. In the year 2004-2005, the following research activities were undertaken:

- Field research was initiated in selected districts of West Bengal. This was undertaken in Hoogly, Burdwan and the South 24 Parganas district for agriculture and in Kolkata, Howrah and the North 24 Parganas district for textiles.
- Field research will be undertaken in selected districts of Rajasthan, focusing on the sectors of agriculture and textiles. For agriculture, it will be undertaken in the districts of Chittorgarh, Bikaner, Dausa and Baran and for textiles in the districts of Bhilwara, Pali and Ajmer.



A view of the Launch Meeting-cum-Training Seminar under the GRANITE project at Jaipur on February 24-27, 2005

Advocacy & Networking

The advocacy activities under the project focus on two areas: policy and practice change by the formation of Inter State Trade Council (ISTC) and writing articles in the vernacular press. Other activities include fieldwork in Rajasthan and West Bengal; workshops targeting state level officials; media workshops to reach out to wider audiences; formation of e-groups and e-lists; and advocacy workshops at the state level for State Trade Policy Council (STPC) and at the national level for the National Trade Policy Council (NTPC).

- A launch meeting-cum-training seminar was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, during February 24-27, 2005, to mark the formal launch of the project.
- A quarterly newsletter titled 'Making Things Happen' will be brought out to target all the project-relevant stakeholders by ensuring wider outreach of project's objectives, activities, outcomes and periodic trade and non-trade issues.



Representations

During the period, the project staff attended various national and international events. The following is an indicative list:

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
June 13-18, 2004, Sao Paulo, Brazil	11 th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-XI)	Debate on linkages between trade and development	• Pradeep S Mehta, Pranav Kumar, Purnima Purohit and Sajeev Nair
July 26-31, 2004, London, UK	Civil Society Meeting on the 2004 Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	The multifaceted effect of various internal factors in developing countries	• Pradeep S Mehta and Aparna Shivpuri
October 04, 2004, Geneva, Switzerland	'UNCTAD Hearing with Civil Society and Private Sector'	Trade and development issues like trade liberalisation and participation of LDCs and Africa in international trade in pursuant to paragraph 177 of the Sao Paulo consensus	• Pranav Kumar
November 22-24, 2004, Penang, Malaysia	Conference on 'Trade: Contribution to Growth, Human Development & Poverty Reduction'	Better comprehension of UNDP's work on trade and human development was highlighted in the conference	• Bipul Chatterjee
November 26-28, 2004, Lausanne, Switzerland	The Evian Roundtable II on 'Multilateralism and its Options – A Multi-stakeholder Approach'	Bringing together a wide array of key stakeholders from different countries at different stages of economic development	• Pranav Kumar
January 17-18, 2005, Dhaka, Bangladesh	Oxfam International's regional consultation on agriculture and trade	Small scale agriculture in the era of globalisation	• Bipul Chatterjee
March 15, 2005, Chennai, India	First Meeting of the Expert Group (EG) on Interrelationship between Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) and the WTO	Formation of expert groups to use it as a resource base on issues arising from MEA-WTO interface	• Pramod Dev M

Future Plans

- Establish a network of Northern consumers and Southern producers, with the objective of enhancing better market of quality products from the South to the North;
- Establish a network of CSOs in India to work together on grassroots economic issues and their implications on livelihoods;
- Create a South Asian Forum on International Trade: a platform of CSOs, research institutions, government officials, business representatives and trade experts;
- Create Afro-Asian network of CSOs on International Trade: a voice of African and Asian CSOs on trade and development issues;
- Start a short-term course on WTO issues, targeting business professionals and civil society representatives;
- Start a long-term capacity building programme for trade (WTO) negotiators from developing countries;
- Create a database on micro-documentation of news items on trade, economics and environmental issues; and
- Expand networking with the Northern CSOs.

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (C-CIER)

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) was established in the beginning of 2003, as a programmatic centre to focus on the areas of competition policy and law, investment, economic regulation and consumer protection. The Centre has since been actively involved with initiatives in various parts of Africa and Asia. The mission of the Centre is:

"Promoting Fair Markets to Enhance Consumer Welfare and Economic Development."

International Advisory Board

The Centre carries its activities under the guidance of an advisory board. The following is the list of the advisory board.

Chairman	Frederic Jenny, a Judge at the Commercial, Economic and Financial Law Chamber of the Supreme Court of France (<i>Cour de Cassation</i>),
Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allan Asher, Chief Executive, Energywatch London, UK 2. Beatriz Boza, Former Chairperson, INDECOPI, Peru 3. Cezley Sampson, National Director, Energy Efficiency, Jamaica 4. Gesner Oliveira, Professor, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Brazil 5. Menzi Simelane, Commissioner, Competition Commission, South Africa 6. Dr Paul Cook, Centre Director, Centre on Regulation and Competition, University of Manchester, UK 7. Philippe Brusick, Chief, Competition and Consumer Policy Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNTCTAD) 8. R S Khemani, Adviser, Competition Policy, World Bank, USA 9. Robert D Anderson, Counsellor, WTO, Switzerland 10. S Chakravarthy, Former Member, MRTP Commission, India 11. S L Rao, Chairman, Institute for Social and Economic Change, India 12. Saman Kelegama, Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka 13. Scott Jacobs, Managing Director, Jacobs and Associates, US 14. Taimoon Stewart, Research Fellow University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Functional Areas

- Competition Policy and Law
- Sectoral Regulation
- Consumer Protection
- Investment and Corporate Issues
- Services

Nitya Nanda
Policy Analyst



Manish Agrawal
Policy Analyst

Rijit Sen Gupta
Programme Officer



Vinayak R Pandey
Assistant Policy Analyst

Alice Pham
Researcher



Vikash Batham
Assistant Programme Officer

Bindiya Jain
Assistant Programme Officer



Sheela Rai
Research Assistant

Swati Mathur
Research Assistant



Projects and Programmes

- Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia (7Up2 Project)
- Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India (FunComp Project)
- Competition Regimes in the World – A Civil Society Report (CiRComp Report)
- Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum (CDRF)
- Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7Up3 project)

Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia (7Up2 Project)

This is a two-year project, with the aim of accelerating the process of appropriate competition regimes in six countries in Asia: Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam in Southeast Asia; and Bangladesh, India and Nepal in South Asia. This research-based advocacy project was implemented in consonance with the '7Up approach', with the support from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Switzerland, the Swiss Competition Authority (COMCO) and the DFID, UK.

The '7Up approach' encompasses the process of implementing multi-country competition policy and law projects, in collaboration with select CSOs from the project countries. It focuses on the need for competition law and policy, shaping the competition regime to fit the needs of the economy, the international dimensions and the developing countries' experience.

Research & Publications

Preliminary Country Papers: These are brief research papers between 10-12 pages, covering the following headings:

- Country profile;
- Competition Evaluation and Environment;
- Competition Law, Institutions, Competencies & Anticompetitive Business Practices;
- Sectoral Regulation;
- Consumer Protection Policy; and
- The Future Scenario.

Draft Country Reports: These are detailed country reports with the following sub-headings:

- Recent Economic Performance;
- Economic Policies;
- Market Structure & Competition;
- Sectoral Policies;
- Consumer Protection;
- Anticompetitive Practices;
- Perspective on Competition Policy; and
- The Competition Law.

Further, the country reports also contain analysis from the outcomes of a perception survey exercise undertaken in these stakeholder groups (government and regulatory authorities; business community and consumer representatives)

to assess the level of understanding on competition policy, and to gauge the need for and benefits from a national competition legislation.

Draft Country Advocacy Documents: These are the summaries of the findings on the following topics:

- Competition scenarios in various sectors;
- Current legal and institutional framework;
- Stakeholder's perspective and law of awareness; and
- Agenda for Action, such as legal reform and competition enforcement, information cell and consumer awareness.

Draft Synthesis Report: This report contains an analysis and synthesis of the information gathered and research done during the implementation of the project. The main sources of information for this report are the individual country reports and the deliberations in the National Reference Group (NRG) meetings and the review meetings.



A view of the 7Up2 project Launch Meeting held at Hanoi, Vietnam

Advocacy & Networking

- The project launch meeting was organised at Hanoi, Vietnam, on April 23-24, 2004, to accelerate and consolidate the process of formal competition law and policy in three developing countries in the Mekong Basin region, viz. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Various research-based advocacy and capacity-building activities were proposed.
- The Centre, in association with the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Bangladesh, organised the Regional Launch Meeting of the project in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on September 22-23, 2004.
- The 1st NRG Meeting for Lao PDR was held in Vientiane, on February 22, 2005, to discuss the findings of the study on 'Competition Scenario in the Lao PDR', within the framework of the 7Up2 Project, jointly implemented in Lao PDR by the Centre and National Economic Research Institute (NERI).
- The 1st NRG Meeting for Vietnam was held at Hanoi, on March 04, 2005, by the country research partner institute, the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), in collaboration with the country advocacy partner, the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS), and the Vietnam Competition Administration Department (VCAD), the Ministry of Trade of Vietnam. About 78 local participants, in addition to representatives from country partner institutes (CIEM, VINASTAS), the Project Coordination and Management Unit (PCMU) and SECO – the project donor agency, attended the meeting.



From L to R: Pradeep S Mehta, Allaf Hossain Chowdhary, Farooq Subhan and Frank Maetsart at the Regional Launch Meeting held in Bangladesh on September 22-23, 2004



Le Xuan Ba, Vice President of Central Institute of Economic Management (CIEM) speaking at the 1st NRG meeting in Hanoi on March 04, 2005

Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India (FunComp Project)

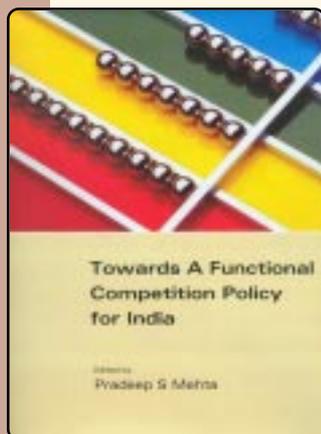
This project is the Indian component of the 7Up2 Project. The main objective of the competition policy and law is to preserve and promote competition as a means to ensure efficient allocation of resources in an economy, resulting in the best possible choice of quality, the lowest prices and adequate supplies to consumers. The overall objective of the Project is to assist the Indian Government in framing an 'implementable' competition policy, and to develop the understanding of other stakeholders on the need for this policy.

Research & Publications

The Research was undertaken in the project to delve into the systemic and sectoral dimensions of competition in the country and assist the Government of India with inputs to come up with a 'Competition Policy' that is 'implementable'. In pursuance of this, top experts of the country were engaged to develop an integrated report, entitled '*Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India*', to serve as a curtain raiser on the subject and identify the road map for future in-depth work on the issue.

A brief overview version of the report was released on January 31, 2005, during an international conference – 'Moving the Competition Policy Agenda in India' – held in New Delhi, before an august gathering of national and international experts and practitioners on competition and regulatory issues.

A detailed research report, '*Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India – An Overview*', was published, which was disseminated widely to act as an input for policy advocacy on the subject in the country. In addition, an 'advocacy document' would be published as a handbook showcasing the major findings from the project and tracing the path for future engagements. This document would be distributed in the country, to raise greater public awareness and understanding of competition among various stakeholder groups.



Advocacy & Networking

Several articles on issues pertaining to competition and regulatory regime in the country were published in various economic and popular *dailies* of the country.

- The Centre manages two electronic discussion groups: The *FunComp Forum* and *CompetitionOnlineForum (COLF)*. The first one is dedicated to topics of national dimensions on competition and sectoral regulation, while the second one deals with competition issues at the international level. In addition to stimulating discussions among and between members, these e-discussion groups also serve the purpose of sensitising members to the need for an effective competition and regulatory regime.
- The Centre had intervened in a case that challenged the appointment of retiring bureaucrats to head the CCI, the competition authority of the country responsible for enforcing the Indian Competition Act 2002. In January 2005, the Supreme Court of India, declined to pronounce on the constitutional validity of the Competition Act and allowed the Central Government to bring in amendments to the Act.
- A two-day review meeting was organised at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, on October 30-31, 2004 to discuss the individual chapters of the FunComp project report, through presentations by the contributors. Furthermore, the overall structure of the report was also finalised, following the discussions.
- In order to make various target stakeholders, such as policy makers, trade unions, CSOs, and the academia, aware of the key findings of the project and involve them in having a better understanding of the competition scenario in the country, the Centre organised several outreach meetings in

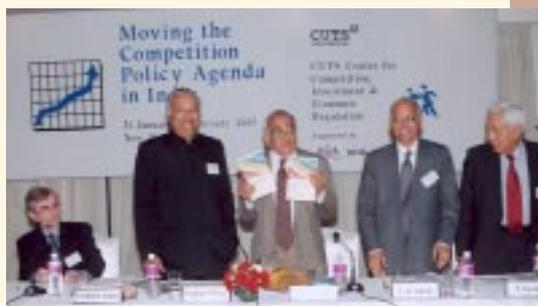


A view of two-day review meeting of the FunComp Project held at Jaipur on October 30-31, 2004

A two-day international conference on 'Moving the Competition Policy Agenda in India' was organised at New Delhi, during January 31 – February 1, 2005. About a hundred national and international experts and practitioners, working on competition policy issues in various parts of the world, attended. Besides commenting on the presentations made by the experts who were involved in the project, foreign experts also shared relevant experiences of other countries on competition issues raised with respect to India. This was the first time international conference was held where foreign experts were discussants, and not speakers.

the Indian cities of Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Lucknow and Jaipur, in partnership with local organisations.

- One of the key recommendations that emerged from the research undertaken in the *FunComp* project was to decentralise the process of competition administration, in order to take care of anticompetitive business practices at the local level. The Centre urged the Government of Rajasthan for the enactment of a State Competition and Regulation Act (SCoRA) in the State. Responding to this, the State Government constituted a 'Committee' to examine the proposal of establishing a State Competition and Regulation Agency for the service sector.



Prof Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission releasing the FunComp report at an International conference held at New Delhi during January 31 and February 01, 2005

Competition Regimes in the World – A Civil Society Report

This ambitious project aims at the compilation of country reports on the state of competition regimes around the world. This report has been developed through contributions from various acquaintances of CUTS, members of the International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition (INCSOC) network, experts, representatives from various CSOs working on economic policy issues, etc. It is expected that the report would cover around 130 odd countries and would be published in November 2005.

Research & Publications

This report would be a compilation that maps out competition regimes around the world from the civil society perspective. The country papers in this huge compilation will provide a glimpse of the competition scenario in the selected countries, and would serve as reference or resource material as well as the launching pad for taking up more analytical work in future. Thus, it would be useful for all groups of stakeholders including policy-makers, regulators, civil society members, academia and business representatives.

Advocacy & Networking

The Centre has planned to highlight the Competition Regimes report to world leaders, academicians, policy makers, NGOs and competition experts at various global forums. Also, it has been planned to use the network partners and institutions with which the Centre is affiliated. The INCSOC is a unique, one-of-its-kind network in the world that is dedicated exclusively to competition policy and law issues. The Centre acts as the secretariat for this virtual network, with more than 100 members representing research institutions, consumer organisations, competition authorities, parliamentarians and academicians from over 50 countries.

The Centre engaged a number of members of this network for contributing papers on the prevailing status of competition from various countries for the *CiRComp Report*. It has also tried hard to garner support for organising the Third Annual Conference of INCSOC, which would offer a platform for the members to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest and jointly formulate plan for future actions.

Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum (CDRF)

CUTS has envisioned a long-term research programme on competition policy and regulatory regimes in the developing world, with a strategy to motivate researchers, in particular from the developing world, to undertake such research and participate in the accompanying symposia. Such focus and cogent research is absent currently, and is expected to assist developing countries to improve the implementation of their competition and regulatory regimes.

The project will be implemented through biennial research cycles comprising writing of research papers, publication of research volume and symposia. The research findings will be disseminated through a regular publication and biennial symposia.

Research & Publications

'Call for Papers' for the first forum, which is expected to be organised in the later half of 2006, have been widely circulated electronically. Researchers interested in sending papers can find out the selected topics and requirements at: www.cuts-international.org/cdrf.htm.

Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7Up3 Project)

CUTS '7Up Approach' – the model for implementing multi-country competition policy and law projects through a research-based advocacy process involving local CSOs from the beneficiary countries, has been appreciated in various quarters in the international community. This has motivated C-CIER to try and apply the 7Up model in other parts of the developing world. The 7Up3 project aims at developing the understanding of various stakeholder groups on competition in Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda and enabling them to intervene appropriately on competition and regulatory issues in their respective countries.

The main objective of the 7Up3 Project is to develop the capacity of national stakeholders, including the policy makers, regulators, CSOs, academicians and the media in each of the project countries, through a participatory process, to understand and appreciate the prevailing competition concerns from the national, regional and international perspectives and enable them to respond appropriately.

Research & Publications

In the Stage-1 of the project, research is being conducted. For this, leading research institutions in each of the project countries are involved in intensive research to evaluate the competition concerns facing the project countries, including their regional dimensions and implications. The research findings would subsequently be disseminated nationally (and in the region).

Advocacy & Networking

- The formal launch meeting of the project was held at Entebbe, Uganda, on March 22-23, 2005. In addition to the project partner organisations, development partners, practitioners and experts on competition and representatives from regional agencies attended the meeting.
- An electronic newsletter for 7Up3 Project is prepared and disseminated extensively in the region and at the international level. In addition to providing a brief account of the project progress, this bimonthly e-newsletter carries news on competition and regulatory issues from the project countries.



From L to R: Pradeep S Mehta, Lucian Cernat, UNCTAD, Switzerland, David Ong'olo, Spellman & Walker Co., Kenya at the 7Up3 project Launch Meeting at Entebbe, Uganda on March 22-23, 2005

Representations

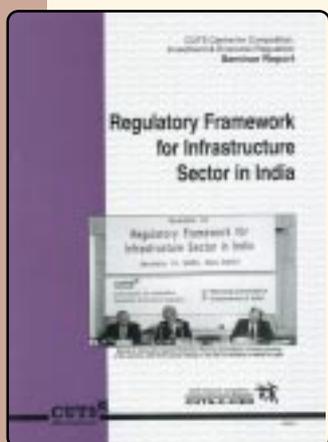
During the period, the project staff attended various national and international events. The following is an indicative list:

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
April 21-22, 2004, Seoul, South Korea	Third Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN)	Need for a global anti-trust policy, effective management of fair trade laws and setting up corporate regulatory systems in developing countries	• Pradeep S Mehta
September 07-09, 2004, Cape Town, South Africa	Conference organised by the School of Public Management and Planning, the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, in association with the Centre on Regulation and Competition of the University of Manchester, UK	Pro-poor Regulation and Competition: Issues, policies and practices	• Pradeep S Mehta
October 06-08, 2004, Hyderabad, India	Three-day regional seminar organised jointly by the WTO, UNESCAP and The Administrative Staff College of India	'Competition Policy, Development and the Multilateral Trading System'	• Pradeep S Mehta and Manish Agarwal
November 08-10, 2004, Geneva, Switzerland	UNCTAD Intergovernmental Panel of Experts (IGE)	Peer reviews on competition policy and law and work programme, including capacity building and technical assistance	• Alice Pham
December 06-07, 2004, New Delhi, India	Two-day regional conference organised by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), India	Infrastructural services	• Vinayak R Pandey
February 17-18, 2005, Paris, France	5 th OECD Global Forum on Competition	Competition issues in regulated sectors, including interface with competition authorities	• Manish Agarwal

Special Endeavours

Groundwork for Projects on Regulatory Issues

In order to facilitate the development of an appropriate regulatory framework, the Centre organised a one-day national seminar on 'Regulatory Framework for Infrastructure Sector at India', in collaboration with the Planning



Commission of India, at New Delhi, India, on January 14, 2005. In the seminar, different groups of stakeholders, which included Planning Commission members, regulators, policy makers, CSOs, academia and the media, participated. Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia Deputy Chairperson, Planning Commission, presented a strong case for having an independent economic regulator irrespective of the extent of competition in a market. Scott Jacobs, noted US-based expert on regulatory issues, shared his experiences from across several developing countries in Asia. A general consensus emerged that there was a need for a workable framework to enforce regulatory accountability in an institutionalised manner.

A Report on 'Regulatory Framework for Infrastructure Sector in India' was prepared, which carried the recommendations and discussions that took place during the seminar.

Future Plans

Preparatory Work for CIRC

Realising the need that exists in various parts of the developing world to strengthen capacities of specific target groups on the issue of competition policy, economic regulation and commercial diplomacy, CUTS International has conceptualised the establishment of the CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC).

CIRC would adopt a multi-stakeholder approach and target regulators, and their staff, government officials, civil society representatives, academicians, business, trade, media, trade unions, etc., from the developing world, in particular Africa and Asia. The Institute would offer both regular and customised training to meet the requirements of various stakeholders. The Institute plans to take off towards the end of 2005.

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART)

Since its inception in 1992, CUTS-CART has aimed at generating awareness, creating a more responsible society and has been encouraging changes at the policy level, by advocating with the government machinery and sensitising it to issues of concern to the common man. The Centre has spearheaded several campaigns and pioneered consumer empowerment. It has created and trained over 1200 activists and helped establish over 300 independent groups in Rajasthan and elsewhere. The mission of the Centre is:

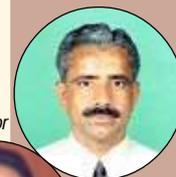
"To enable people, particularly the poor and the marginalised, to achieve their rights to basic needs and sustainable development, through a strong consumer movement."

Advisory Board

The Centre carries its activities under the guidance of an advisory board. The following is the list of the advisory board.

Members	
	1. Dr V S Vyas, Professor Emeritus & Chairman Governing Board Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur
	2. Dr C S Barla, Consulting Economist and Consultant for District Poverty Initiative Programme (DPIP), Jaipur,
	3. I C Srivastava, IAS (Retd.) & Chairman, Human Well Being Foundation
	4. Dr Maya Tandon, Chairperson, Dr M.N. Tandon Memorial Charitable Trust (Sahayata), Jaipur
	5. Dr Kumkum Srivastava, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), VIHAN, Jaipur
	6. Justice V S Dave, former Judge of Rajasthan High Court and ex-Chairman of Rajasthan Law Commission
	7. P N Bhandari, IAS (Retd.)
	8. Madhusudan D. Mistry, MP and Managing Director of Disha-Pathey, Ahmedabad
	9. Sharad Joshi, Social Activist and CEO of Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Jaipur
	10. Dr Anita Mathur, Chairperson of Astha, Udaipur
	11. Madhavi Joshi, Programme Co-ordinator, CEE, Ahmedabad
	12. Dr A J James, Environmental and Natural Resources Economist, Gurgaon (Haryana)

R K Sharma
Programme Coordinator



George Cheriyan
Assistant Director



Deepak Saxena
Programme Officer



Dharmendra
Chaturvedi
Programme
Assistant



K C Sharma
Assistant Researcher



B N Sharma
Assistant Editor



A K Thalia
Office Assistant

Functional Areas

- Consumer Education & Protection
- Investor Education & Protection
- Good Governance, which includes economic governance
- Accountability and Budget Analysis
- Regulatory Reforms (Power & Water);
- Women & Child Rights
- Road Safety
- Sustainable Development, which includes environment MDGs etc.

Projects

- Securities and Market Awareness Campaign (SMAC)
- Road Safety Programme
- Investor Education and Protection Programme
- Power Sector Reforms
- Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE)

Securities and Market Awareness Campaign (SMAC)

CUTS is a registered investor associate with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and also is registered with Ministry of Company Affairs (MoCA), Government of India under Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). SMAC is an advocacy-based project, aimed at generating awareness campaign among investors, especially the smaller ones, on safe investment in the stock market. Its objectives also include the development of investment culture in smaller towns and rural areas. It is being implemented with the support of SEBI.



From L to R: Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Deepak Saxena and Sushila Devi at a Meeting on Securities and Market Scam Awareness Campaign at Alwar, Rajasthan on May 22, 2004

Advocacy & Networking

Under the project, various campaigns and workshops were organised, with the support of local NGOs. These workshops and campaigns aimed at capacity building of small investors in small towns covering fundamentals of investment and risk management. Following are the implementation details:

- On May 22, 2004, a workshop was organised at Alwar in which securities experts, share brokers, insurance agents and bank officials participated.
- During September-October, 2004, workshops were organised in 10 towns of Rajasthan. These were Masuda (Ajmer), Gulabpura (Bhilwara), Itawa (Kota), Nagaur, Pali, Sri Ganganagar, Dausa, Phagi (Jaipur), Sardarshahar (Churu) and Jhunjhunu.



A view of the awareness campaign under the Road Safety Programme in Jaipur

Road Safety Awareness Programme

The project aimed to create awareness about road safety in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The project was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

Advocacy & Networking

Under the project, awareness programmes and campaigns were conducted at various traffic junctions and places in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The following activities were conducted from December 15, 2004

to January 15, 2005:

- Awareness camps were organised at the main Bus Stand and the Jaipur Railway Station, on January 04-05, 2005, for rickshaw pullers in which informative material, such as pamphlets, were distributed.
- Another camp was organised for taxi drivers, on January 08, 2005.
- A drawing and poster competition was organised on January 11, 2005, in which 150 children of different schools of Jaipur took part.
- The students of Bright Buds School, Jaipur, took out a rally on January 15, 2005. About 150 school children carried banners with a message, *Jeevan Ammulya Hai, Vaahan Chalane Mein Savdhani Bartein* (Life Is Precious, Be Careful while Driving) and raised slogans on road safety.
- Pamphlets on road safety issues were distributed during the road safety campaign among pedestrians and passers-by at important road junctions of the city.
- Under the campaign, road safety camps were organised for the drivers of road transport buses, auto rickshaws, cycle rickshaws and jeeps.
- On the occasion of World Health Day, a seminar, 'Road Safety Is no Accident', was organised on April 07, 2004, in collaboration with the M N Tandon Charitable Trust (Sahayta), Jaipur.



The Students of Bright Buds School, Jaipur took out a rally in the city to generate awareness on Road Safety on January 15, 2005



A view of pamphlets distribution on Road Safety Issues at Jaipur, Rajasthan during Road Safety Campaign

Investor Education and Protection

The Centre implemented this programme in six districts of Rajasthan: Jaipur, Bhilwara, Kota, Nagaur, Udaipur and Sikar. It primarily aimed at creating a network of investor protection organisations at the grassroots and also developing a culture of investment in the rural areas. This project was funded by the IEPF, Ministry of Company Affairs, Government of India (GoI).

Advocacy & Networking

- In March 2005, workshops and open discussions entitled 'Investor Education and Protection' were organised at Kota, Sikar, Jayal (Nagaur), Phagi (Jaipur), and Udaipur.



An open discussion is in progress on 'Investor Education and Protection' Workshop held in Jaipur

Power Sector Reforms

The major objective of the programme is to facilitate an active involvement of consumers in power sector reforms. Following are the objectives of this project:

- Improvement in power supplies and services in qualitative as well as quantitative terms.
- Increased use of alternative energy source such as renewable energy, etc.
- Community involvement and participation in power distribution, collection of dues, etc.
- Reduction in theft.
- Greater level of electrification, especially rural electrification, either through

grid or alternate energy sources.

- Involvement of people in the reform process is reflected in their involvement in the governance process also, leading to greater transparency and improvement in the functioning of the government machinery.
- Overall improvement in the power scenario is reflected, with improvements being initiated in other infrastructure and utility services too.

Research & Publications

The following are the regular publications of CUTS-CART, which are the main tools for information dissemination on various issues and for outreach activities:

Aapke Naam Chitti: A monthly newsletter in Hindi illuminating the activities of CUTS, achievements of allied organisations and other interesting news and also acts as a principal advocacy document for the Consumer Movement in Rajasthan.

Aadhar: A quarterly newsletter in Hindi, to increase the awareness among the citizens for their fundamental rights.

Paanchwan Stambh: A quarterly newsletter in Hindi, which sensitises the common citizen as well as the government officials and public servants regarding the plight of the poor. It is an endeavour to act as an interface between the disadvantaged, neglected citizens and the government.

In addition, the following articles were published in various eminent newspapers as per the following publications details:

- September 16, 2004 – The Threat to Ozone Layer Needs Serious Attention, in the *Hindustan Times*, Jaipur Live;
- October 21, 2004 – Securing Gender Justice, *OneWorldSouthAsia*;
- February 14, 2005 – Education Is the Key, in the *Hindustan Times*, Jaipur Live;
- February 25, 2005 – Education for Life, Through Life, Throughout Life, in *People's Reporter*; and
- March 21, 2005 – Sustaining Life on Earth, in the *Hindustan Times*, Jaipur Live.



Discussion in progress during a seminar on 'Rajasthan Electricity Bill, 2004', organised by CUTS International at Jaipur on July 22, 2004

Advocacy and Networking

- The Centre organised a workshop and suggested changes in the Rajasthan Electricity Bill 2004, for making it more consumer-friendly, particularly for agricultural and rural consumers. In the workshop, the Energy Minister of Rajasthan and the Chief Advisor of the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) participated.

GRANITE

This is a two-year project and was launched on January 01, 2005, in eight Indian states with selected CSOs working at the grassroots. The project lays emphasis on two sectors, viz., agriculture and T&C, as they are the keys to the livelihood of a large section of the country's population. The overall objective of the project is to create long-term capacity of the grassroots CSOs and the local media, to address the complex issues of globalisation and the WTO and their relationship with economic development and governance in India. The project beneficiaries include grassroots CSOs, the local media

and the policy makers. Being one of the partners in the project, CUTS-CART is fully responsible for implementing it in Rajasthan and co-ordinating it at the national level, in close collaboration with CUTS-CITEE.

Representations

During the period, the project staff attended various national and international events. The following is an indicative list:

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
April 17, 2004, Jaipur, India	Meeting of the Advisory Group of Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC)	To study the Rajasthan State Budget and interact with the NGOs and Activists working in this field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K C Sharma
April 30, 2004, New Delhi, India	National Workshop organised by Consumer Coordination Council (CCC), New Delhi	Citizens and Consumers Perception and Expectation from Civil Services in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R K Sharma
August 27, 2004, Jaipur, India	One-day Seminar organised by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Rajasthan	Consumer Protection: Present Status and Possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepak Saxena • Dharmendra Chaturvedi
September 16, 2004, New Delhi, India	Workshop organised by the Ministry of Urban Development, Gol and the Water and Sanitation Programme, South Asia (WSP-SA)	Public-private Partnership in Urban Water and Sanitation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinayak R Pandey
September 27, 2004, Jaipur, India	State Level Consultation	Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G Cheriyan • R K Sharma • Deboshri Chatterjee
October 4-5, 2004, New Delhi, India	GTZ-DoCA Planning Workshop	Feasibility of a project on strengthening consumer protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradeep S Mehta • George Cheriyan • Deepak Saxena
October 5-7, 2004, New Delhi, India	Sub-regional (SAARC countries) workshop organised by CCCI in collaboration with Consumer International, VOICE, Gene Campaign, WHO	Nutrition, Food Safety and Bio-technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepak Saxena
October 7-8, 2004, New Delhi, India	Two-day Workshop organised by the WSP-SA and the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Gol	Benchmarking Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Utilities in South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R K Sharma • Vinayak R Pandey
November 4-5, 2004, New Delhi, India	Two-day National Convention	<i>Wada Na Todo Abhiyan</i> (Don't Break the Promise Campaign), a part of MDGs initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R K Sharma
November 17, 2004, New Delhi, India	Workshop organised by (IDS), UK and World Vision of India	Child's Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Cheriyan
November 20, 2004, Jaipur, India	Meeting organised by CECOEDCON and Jaipur and World Vision of India, New Delhi	Child Rights: Present Status and Future Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dharmendra Chaturvedi
December 1, 2004, Jaipur, India	Workshop organised by the Social Policy Research Institute, Jaipur	World AIDS Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dharmendra Chaturvedi

December 16-17, 2004, Bangalore, India	Seminar organised by the Centre for Public Policy, IIM, Bangalore	Reforming Governance: Perspective and Experiences	• Vinayak Pandey
December 21, 2004, Jaipur, India	Function organised by UNICEF India	Release of State of World's Children Report 2005	• R K Sharma
January 18-20, 2005, Ahmedabad, India	International Conference organised by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad	Education for Sustainable Future and South Asia Regional Consultation for SGP Partners on the theme, 'Local Initiative as Global Learning Opportunities'	• George Cheriyan
March 15, 2005, New Delhi, India	World Consumer Rights Day Celebrations organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Gol and the IIPA, Delhi University and the CCC	To consolidate consumer issues	• George Cheriyan
March 18, 2005, Jaipur, India	One-day workshop organised by the Forum for Creche & Child Care Services (FORCES) and the Department of Women and Child Development, Gol	<i>Balika Bodh Evom Bachav Abhiyan</i> (Knowledge about Girl Child and Safety Campaign) and the decreasing number of girl child and the problem of female foeticide	• K C Sharma
March 19, 2005, Jaipur, India	One-day workshop organised by Rajasthan Voluntary Health Association (RVHA) and United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA).	Reproductive Child Health	• K C Sharma

Special Endeavours

GTZ Appraisal Mission on Strengthening Consumer Protection in India

The Centre was part of the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Appraisal Mission, constituted under the general agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and India, to assess the feasibility of a project on strengthening consumer protection in India, during August 02-13, 2004. The other members of the mission were Anja Wucke, GTZ, Eschborn (Planning Officer/Team Leader) and Dr Frank Alleweldt, Civic Consulting, Berlin.

Advocacy and Networking for Child Rights

The Centre, jointly with 'Save the Children-UK', organised a seminar on 'Advocacy & Networking for Child Rights', in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, on February 03, 2005, to kick-start the activities of *Hamara Manch* (Our Forum) in the State of Rajasthan.



Alka Kala speaking on the occasion of one-day seminar on 'Advocacy & Networking for Child Rights' under *Hamara Manch* at Jaipur, on February 03, 2005.

The objectives of the seminar were to establish a linkage between '*Hamara Manch*' and other stakeholders like Government Departments, Donor agencies and NGOs working on Child issues in Rajasthan; advocate for the implementation of 'State Child Policy' in Rajasthan; develop strategies to establish linkage between Children's Groups and Government programmes; and explore the possibility of enhancing institutional partnership at macro-level.

Project on Food Security

The Centre participated in the United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland, research project on 'Food Security'. Under the project, the first international workshop was organised by the UNU-WIDER and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, at Jaipur, on March 04-06, 2005, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome. In the workshop, the Centre presented a research paper entitled '*Enforcing Right to Food in India: Bottlenecks in Delivering the Expected Outcomes*', which was short listed for presentation in the second workshop to be held in Helsinki, Finland, on October 12-14, 2005.

Formulating the National Consumer Policy

CUTS was a member of the committee constituted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, to formulate the National Consumer Policy in July 2004. Though the National Consumer Policy was formulated in 1988, the issue had been dormant.

CUTS advocated for making the National Consumer Policy statement work better that would help guide state government/departments in harmonisation of their work towards implementing measures relating to consumer rights (as mentioned in the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection, 1985: basic needs, safety, choice, information, consumer education, redressal, representation, and healthy environment). As a result, the committee recommended the reconstitution of Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC) and formation of State (Name of the state) Consumer Protection Council.

Future Plans

- Deepen work on good governance, particularly social audit; and
- Campaign on right to opportunities.

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CHD)

Under the policy of working at the grassroots, CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS-CHD) was established in 1991, in Senti village of Chittorgarh, for raising the living standards of the people, especially women, neglected, deprived and weaker sections of the society, and working as an innovative Centre. The mission of the Centre is:

"To be an innovative centre for strategic interventions to raise the living standards of people"

Advisory Board

The Centre carries its activities under the guidance of an advisory board. The following is the list of the advisory board.

Chairman	M L Mehta, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan
Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Usha Jumani, Jumani Foundation, Ahmedabad 2. Neelima Khaitan, Chief Executive, <i>Seva Mandir</i>, Udaipur 3. Indu Capoor, Director, CHETNA, Ahmedabad 4. B S Tanwar, Chief Engineer (Retd.), Haryana 5. B L Sisodia, Senior Advocate cum Social Worker, Chittorgarh 6. I M Sethiya, Senior Chartered Accountant, Chittorgarh 7. Dr Barun Kanjilal, Dean (Research), International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), Jaipur 8. M S Rathore, Researcher, IDS, Jaipur 9. Anil Kumar Singh, Chief Executive, NEED, Lucknow

Dhanna Singh Rawat
Centre Coordinator



Madan Giri
Goswami
Senior Field
Officer



Shashi Prabha
Programme Officer

Functional Areas

- Empowerment
- Natural Resource Management
- Reproduction and Child Health
- Good Governance

Projects and Programmes

- Rural Girl Child Empowerment Programme
- Women Self-help Groups (SHGs)
- Lok Jumbish
- Land and Water Management towards Biodiversity Conservation
- Chayan Youth Intervention Project
- *Panchayati Raj* Support and Mobilisation Programme (PRISMO)

Rural Girl Child Empowerment Project

This project is under the women empowerment initiative being supported by Save the Children, UK, and is being implemented in five *panchayat samitis* (village councils), in 45 villages. In the 45 villages of Girl Child Empowerment Programme, 45 *Bal Panchayats* (children's parliament) have been formed. It aims at raising voice against social inequality, gender discrimination and violence against the girl child, so as to protect child rights.

The objectives of the project are to:

- reduce violence against girls and women in the society, by forming a loose network of various stakeholders;
- simultaneously analyse the socio-economic causes and consequences of violence against women and girls and its impact on the society in the project area during the project period.

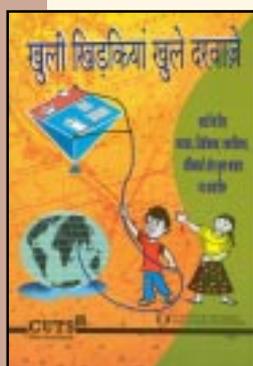


Research & Publications

All the project activities are covered in the newsletter, *Aage Badhno Hossi*, and *Gram Gadar*. A monograph, *Khululi Khidkiyan Khule Darwaze* throwing light on liberalisation and globalisation was published.

Advocacy & Networking

- For empowering *Bal Panchayats* and protection of children's rights, various activities were organised comprised of meetings of *Bal Panchayats*, *Bal Sabhas*, school gatherings, meetings of social justice and development *samitis*. For their capacity building, training and legal literacy camps were organised.
- Children's meetings were organised at the Centre, in cooperation with Save the Children, UK, on December 28-29, 2004. About 400 children from various *Bal Panchayats* from the districts of Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Ajmer and other organisations participated in this gathering.
- The preliminary meeting of *Hamara Manch* in which the institutes of Rajasthan working on child rights participated was organised at Jaipur, Rajasthan, in February 2005. In the meeting, 10 American institutes (which came to India under the Indo-US Exchange Programme) working on child rights also participated.



The concept of '*Hamara Manch*' came into prominence from these meetings. '*Hamara Manch*' is a forum of like-minded people's organisations including CSOs, NGOs and governmental agencies to advocate and to create capacity building on childcare. It aims to discuss the childcare issues on a wider spectrum involving larger participation.



Newly enrolled girl children with Rajeshwari Meena, the Pradhan under the campaign for promoting Enrollment of Girl Child in schools at Chittorgarh

CUTS is a member of the youth programme: Young Peoples Reproductive Sexual Health and Rights (YRSHR); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); and the World Women Summit Foundation (WWSF); and has also registered its presence in their address book. The following activities were carried out under the youth programme:

- Conducting surveys and campaigns for promoting enrolment of girl and boy children in schools by encouraging their parents. As an outcome of the campaigns, a total 316 children, including 184 girls and 132 boys, were enrolled in schools in rural areas.
- Intensive campaigns under the child programmes for discouraging female foeticide.
- Active support to various agencies of the government at Vitamin A and Pulse Polio campaigns.
- Organising the exposure visits for youth girls and boys.

- Generating awareness through campaigns in order to draw attention of service providing agencies towards assuring the basic amenities in the villages, for instance the safe drinking water.
- Conducting campaigns to discourage the usage of intoxicates, which is being consumed by the youth and causing adverse effects on their health.
- Sensitising society against the child marriage.

Women Self-help Groups

This project is being implemented in the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, with the support from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The objective of the project is to empower women from the poor and the marginalised sections of the society, so that they can achieve better status, get easy access to loans and savings for the future. The project aims to build about 200 Self-help Groups (SHGs). During the period, a total of 62 SHGs were formed, out of which accounts of 33 SHGs were opened in various banks.

Advocacy & Networking

- Under this programme, the Centre succeeded in establishing a network of over 500 people, including 90 women. 42 groups of the Chittorgarh district have been formed which carry out advocacy work on issues such as women empowerment, education, health and loans for seeds and fertilisers.
- Under the programme, SHGs were linked to banks to get the benefits from the Micro Credit Innovation Programme of NABARD, which encouraged the saving habits of the people, especially the women, who got associated with it for and raising their living standards in the *panchayat samitis* of Mandalgarh and Baneda in the Bhilwara district.

Lok Jumbish Project

The project, supported by the *Lok Jumbish* Parishad, Jaipur, aims at facilitating access to primary education for all children between five and 14 years of age; retaining all the children enrolled in schools; improving the quality of education and improving gender equity through education; making special efforts to link children belonging to disadvantaged communities with elementary education; and soliciting people's participation for universalisation of primary education.

Advocacy & Networking

- Under the project, *gram sahbhas* (village meetings) of educational committees for promoting child education were organised.
- For assessing the quality of education, samples were fixed, subject-wise written and oral tests were conducted, which was termed as 'Child Tracking Survey'.
- Educational workshops were organised for deprived children, especially girls and a surveillance committee was established in the village, *Bhimlod* of *Dhadesar panchayat samiti* for constructing primary school.



A *Gram Sabha* (Village Meeting) of Education Committees for promoting child education at Chittorgarh

- The implementation of the project helped in increasing the association of the community with schools and creating awareness for child education. About nine girls of *Upreda* village of the *Bhadesar panchayat samiti* started going to school.

Land and Water Management towards Biodiversity Conservation

This project is being implemented, with the support of Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Ahmedabad, in the village *Nimbaheda* of the Chittorgarh district. The objective of the project is to encourage appropriate biodiversity conservation practices by the community, through restoration of deteriorated traditional water bodies, revitalisation of degraded lands and protection of endangered species of trees.



Tree plantation is being done in Pemdiyakhera village

Advocacy & Networking

- Under the project, Community Meetings, formation of the forest conservation Committees, *rangoli* competition among the women on the theme of environment, poster-making, seminars on national environment conservation and competitions among children were organised.
- The advocacy campaign included celebrating the World Environment Day, the Biodiversity Conservation Day, the Forest Day and the World Water Conservation Day, etc.
- In the village Pemdiyakhera, tree plantation was also done and about 2000 trees were planted in the schools and two rivulets were repaired to conserve the traditional water resources.

Besides, the afforestation campaign helped in tree planting in 45 villages of the project area.

Research and Publications

- A monograph entitled, '*Jaiv Vividhta Sanrakshan ke Samvahak Guni*' and '*Alak Jaga Hai Gaon Gaon Mein*' also was published.
- A quarterly e-newsletter on the outcome of the project on 'Land and Water Management' leading towards Biodiversity Conservation was published.

Chayan Youth Intervention Project

This project is being implemented under the Reproduction and Child Health Programme. It focuses on sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV/AIDS prevention, increased knowledge about contraception and birth spacing, etc. The project was implemented with the support of CARE India.

Research & Publications

A preliminary survey and social mapping of the urban area of the Bhilwara district were carried out to create an understanding among various stakeholders, including youth towards creating awareness about HIV/AIDS so that an environment for making a healthy society could be realised.



Advocacy and Networking

Three activities were organised under the project: community-based; school-based; and health-based activities. The community-based activities included meetings of the community and the stakeholders and the selection of peer executives. Meetings and trainings were also organised. The school-based activities included selection of schools and nodal teachers and peer executives. The health-based facilities included orientation of private and government health services providers and establishing contact between the youth and the medical services. The other major advocacy and networking activities included the following:

- A meeting was organised on the Safe Motherhood Day, at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, on April 11, 2004. Around 50 SHGs were involved in providing information on reproduction and child health, including the evaluation of 69 *panchayats* for emergency and complicated childbirths, which was reported in local newspapers.
- Orientation of NCC CAMP was organised at Ajmer, Rajasthan, on July 18, 2004.
- Child Anti-violence Day was organised on the Child Rights Day, at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, on November 20, 2004.
- A rally was organised on the occasion of World AIDS Day at Bhilwara, Rajasthan, on December 01, 2004, in which women, including health workers, participated.
- A youth conference was organised on January 12, 2005.
- A cultural group programme was organised on March 10, 2005.



A woman is speaking at the meeting organised on the Safe Motherhood Day at Chittorgarh, on April 11, 2004

Panchayati Raj Support and Mobilisation Programme (PRISMO)

The initial phase of the project with the support of SDC is being implemented in nine *panchayats* of Chittorgarh, Bhadesar and Nimbahera blocks of Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan State. The project aimed towards the functioning of *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) in line with the 73rd Constitutional amendment and expectations and needs of the people.

Advocacy & Networking

- An inaugural meeting was organised on December 21, 2004, in which the process of selection and training of 52 facilitators was completed.
- Under the project, three villages of the Nimbaheda *panchayat samiti* were meticulously observed, after which, on the basis of the demand, an *anicut* (small dam) in the village *Jalia*, and watering-place for cattle in village *Peepalia* were constructed.
- To generate awareness among the voters in the villages of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara district, a 16-day pre-election voter awareness campaign was run by the Centre from January 10-25, 2005, just before the PRIs elections in the State. The campaign followed a diverse approach including activities ranging from meetings to street plays and puppet shows. A team of highly qualified animators was responsible for the success of the campaign.



DS Rawat, Amit Roy, G Cheriyan and Amarjeet Kaur at the inaugural meeting under PRISMO on December 21, 2004



People at the pre-election voter awareness campaign held during January 10-25, 2005

Representations

During the period, the project staff attended various national and international events. The following is the list:

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
May 26-28, 2004, Ahmedabad, India	Training programme under HELLO (Women Health and Rights Advocacy) organised by CHETNA	Strengthening civil society capacity to effectively advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), especially safe motherhood and young people's SRHR at the local, national and regional levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madan Giri Goswami
May 21-23, 2004,	National Consultation on "Young People Towards a Healthy Future" organised by Community Aid & Sponsorship Programme (CASP-PLAN) and Population foundation of India (PFI).	It aimed at sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV/AIDS prevention, increased knowledge and demand for contraception birth spacing etc and information about the social ills like child marriage, gender discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhanna Singh Rawat
June 14-15, 2004, Jodhpur, India	<i>Balika Manch</i> (Girl Child Platform) organised by School of Desert Science	Forming an alliance between NGOs and women organisations and individuals working with a special focus on 'women and girl child'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhanna Singh Rawat
October 2004, Gujarat, India	Management Appreciation Programme for Voluntary Organisations (VOLAG-MAP) organised by Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA)	To provide the participants an overview of various management functions required for the effective management of development organisations in an increasingly competitive and challenging global environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhanna Singh Rawat
February 25-26, 2005, New Delhi, India	Women Power Connect (WPC) Founding Convention (FC)	To empower the women from poor and the marginalised sections of the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhanna Singh Rawat
March 16-20, 2005, Jaipur, India	Disaster Management workshop' organised at HCM-RIPA	Community-based disaster management tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vivek Khanna
March 01-13, 2005, North America	13-day visit to US on Advocacy for Child Rights organised by Child Welfare League of America.	The involvement of children in the avenue of child rights advocacy through <i>Bal Panchayat</i> (a local self-governance body of children), an initiative of CHD was very much appreciated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shashi Prabha

Special Endeavour

In the public awareness-related activities, Combined Forums for Voluntary Institutions were formed. By means of these Combined Forums, big events like the Environment Day, World Consumer Rights Day, and the Women's Day were organised. Also, initiatives were taken to make seven villages as model villages by the Bhilwara Combined Efforts Forum.

The Centre endeavoured to create a wave of consumer awareness for good governance.

Future Plans

- Deepening the work on mobilisation of people for active participation in *Panchayati Raj*; and
- Strengthening the SHG movement to encompass micro-credit and consumer issues.

CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC)

CUTS-CRC became operational in 1987. Since 1991, it started working on a wide range of issues, such as trade, consumer protection, safety, etc. The Centre works both as a resource centre as well as a programme centre for Safety Watch. The mission of the Centre is:

"To work in association with other centres to ensure consumer sovereignty and economic equality within and across borders".

Functional Areas

- Consumer Safety
- Health
- Grassroots Economic Development

Projects and Programmes

- Safety Watch
- Medicine Pricing Project
- Rational Use of Drugs
- Farmers' Right to Livelihood
- GRANITE

Safety Watch

This programme area focuses on consumer safety with a mission to achieve the citizens' right to be protected against unsafe goods, services and technology. This project intends to achieve the following objectives:

- to inform and raise awareness of consumers about their safety-related rights, so that they might push for improved legislations;
- to enhance the adoption of national as well as international standards for the safety and quality of goods, services and technology; and
- to encourage and build capacity of consumer organisations by dissemination of information.

Research & Publications

The research work under the project covered three specific aspects of consumer safety:

- Consumers' ignorance;
- Non-availability of information; and
- Apathy of manufacturers, producers, traders, and regulators towards issues of safety related to products, services, health care, food and transport.

The result is the book "Is It Really Safe?" – the second in the series of publications *Caveat Emptor*. The book was highly appreciated and reviews were published in several popular *dailies* viz: *Deccan Herald*, *The Hindu*, *Business Standard* etc. The Centre also publishes the bi-monthly newsletter *Beware*, which covers information on safety issues.

Mita Dutta
Centre Coordinator



Dalia Dey
Programme Officer

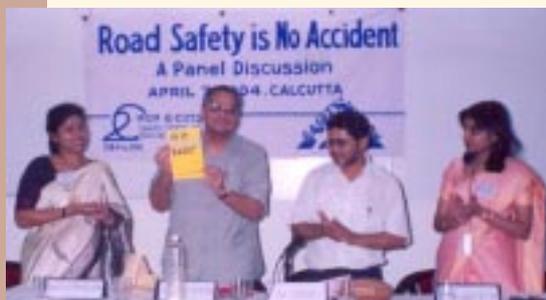
NK Sinha
Office Manager



Debottam
Chakraborty
Research
Assistant

Saumi Home Roy
Research Assistant





A view of panel discussion on 'Road Safety is No Accident' held at Kolkata on April 07, 2004

Outreach & Advocacy

- A panel discussion, 'Road Safety Is No Accident', was held at Kolkata, West Bengal, on April 07, 2004, to commemorate the World Health Day, which brought together representatives of consumer organisations, experts on road safety issues, common people, schools and the media, and discuss the road safety scenario in the country.

- A seminar was organised with support from the Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, at Kolkata, on June 21, 2004. Mehta made a presentation on a CUTS' study: 'State of the Indian Consumer', which addressed a set of guidelines given by the UN to assist governments world over to frame consumer policies against the ground realities. Soumi Home Roy of CUTS-CRC made a presentation on her book 'Is It Really Safe?'

- A press release on 'Kumbakonam Fire Tragedy' was released in July 2004, which got coverage in a number of newspapers like the *Hindu*, the *Asian Age*, the *Financial Express* and the *Udayavani* (Karnataka's Daily).

- A presentation was made by Soumi Home Roy on the right to safety at a meeting organised by *Binty*, a Delhi-based consumer organisation in New Delhi, on July 22, 2004.

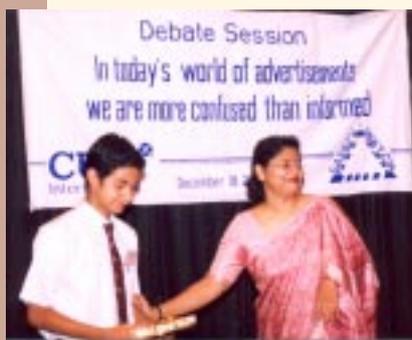
- CUTS-CRC issued a press release in October 2004, highlighting the fact that many joyrides operating in the city were violating all safety norms. The press release got coverage in *The Telegraph*, *Dainik Vishwamitra* in Kolkata.

- An interactive programme on 'Right to Safety – Students as Consumers' was organised at the Don Bosco School, Kolkata, West Bengal on December 18, 2004, with the aim of building awareness of 'Consumer Protection', in general, and 'Right to Safety', in particular, in young minds. Mita Dutta made a presentation on the subject. In addition, a debate was organised entitled 'In Today's World of Advertisements, We Are More Confused than Informed'.

- A press release on Chocolate Safety was issued, in December 2004, to bring about awareness amongst consumers of the different safety aspects of chocolate, so that people could make a choice based on the true state of affairs.

- A panel discussion on consumers' rights to fight against social crimes, such as adulteration, counterfeiting and spurious products, was organised to commemorate the World Consumers Rights Day at Kolkata, West Bengal on March 30, 2005, which falls on March 15, every year.

- A campaign was launched in March 2005, on Section 134 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which was amended in 1994, which deals with doctor/clinic's duty to provide immediate medical attention to the victims of road accidents, without fear of police harassment. One of the important target groups was film/serial producers and directors so that they could elucidate this point in their productions to help reach out to greater population.



Mita Dutta is giving away award on the occasion of Right to Safety-Students as Consumers at Kolkata

Medicine Pricing Project

Reflecting concerns with the impact of high and rising prices of medicines, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Health Action International (HAI) have jointly developed a methodology for simple and reliable measurement of the retail price of selected medicines. This has been published as a manual '**Medicine Prices – A New Approach to Measurement**'. This one-year project aims at assessing price and availability of few pre-selected essential medicines necessary for the consumers. The project was implemented in association with another West Bengal-based NGO, Community Development Medicinal Unit (CDMU).



A panel discussion on consumers rights to celebrate 'World Consumer Rights Day' was organised at Kolkata on March 30, 2005

Research & Publications

Under the project, a survey was conducted on the prices of medicine of 32 selected essential drugs in public and private outlets of different districts of West Bengal and the availability and affordability of such drugs was assessed. In addition, the project also tried to ascertain the procurement procedure of public outlets, where it was suspected that, while procuring drugs from the lowest bidder, the quality aspect was neglected. The survey was conducted in 70 public and private drug outlets in Kolkata and six districts of West Bengal.

Rational Use of Drugs

This project is being implemented in nine Indian States, to spread awareness on the rational use of drugs, and was funded by the WHO and the Drug Controller General (India) office. It aimed to highlight the issues that a patient, as a consumer, needs to be aware of rational drug use. As part of the project, a Patient Information Manual (PIM) would be prepared that will list the 'do's and don'ts' for a patient. With the help of the PIM and posters and the documentary short films prepared on the basis of PIM, Training of Trainer Workshops (in the cities) and Public Interfaces (at the district level) would be organised by the partner organisation in the nine States.



Participants at the training workshop on Medicine Prices and Affordability at Kolkata on September 4-6, 2004

During implementation of the project, the PIM was drafted and sent to experts for comments. A questionnaire survey was carried out for a sample size of four hundred and fifty and thirty-six group discussions were held to test the manual in the nine States.

Farmers' Right to Livelihood in the Hindukush Himalayan Region - Phase-I (FRP)

This is a research and advocacy project, which aims to study the impact of the WTO Agreements on farmers' right to livelihood in the Mountain Region (especially in the Himalayan region of India). SAWTEE, Nepal, is co-ordinating the project in five South Asian countries, viz., Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (in the Candy Hill Area), in association with its member organisations. The effort is being supported by Ford Foundation, New Delhi and Actionaid International. The objectives of the project are:



A view of various discussions held on Consumer Awareness in Rational Use of Drugs

- establishing a preliminary database on the products, biodiversity, indigenous medicines and indigenous arts, crafts and knowledge, which need to be protected against illegal patents;
- collecting empirical evidence on the good and bad practices and the course of action to be followed;
- ensuring farmers' rights to a range of mountain products and resources that may come under threat due to the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs);
- assessing the likely impact, possible opportunities and threats of liberalisation, structural adjustment and globalisation and recommend strategies to optimise gains and mitigate the adverse impact on mountain people and mountain resources; and
- assessing the impact of international, national and sub-national legislation, effectiveness of local institutions in empowering the people in customary and traditional regimes in mountain areas.

Research & Publications

Under the project, a research report, 'Database on Medicinal Plant' was prepared. The focus of the work was to document indigenous biodiversity and traditional knowledge with the help of local NGOs working at grassroots and create proper marketing facilities for Medicinal Plants in the central and northeastern Himalayan region.

Advocacy & Networking

- A dissemination workshop on 'Farmers' Rights and Livelihood of North Eastern Himalayan Farmers' was jointly organised by the Department of Economics, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, and the Centre, at Meghalaya, on July 07-08, 2004. Around 45 participants comprising various stakeholders including members of the academia from North Eastern Hill University, government officials, representatives of CUTS, NGO professionals, members of cooperatives and SHGs and the media actively took part in the workshop.

Farmers' Right to Livelihood in the Hindukush Himalayan Region - Phase-II (FRP)

The phase-II of the project was launched in July 2004 in five South Asian countries to protect farmers' rights on the genetic resources and their role in the decision-making process with support from Ford Foundation, New Delhi and Novib (Oxfam, The Netherlands).

From January 1, 2005, CUTS-CRC initiated a research study on the model of Farmers Rights to ABS of genetic resources and the status of PIC in the light of Indian legislations and international instruments.

The overall goals of the study is to:

- define 'consent' and from whom such consent is required;
- examine whether it should be taken from the community knowledge holder or the larger community;
- recommend the methodologies for this;
- know how to inform the entire community and not a portion thereof;
- recommend the best ways to ensure that a fully informed complete community has truly granted prior informed consent;
- examine ABS separately and jointly; and
- develop a model on the above measures being implemented in the country as well as country's obligation to the international instruments. The comparative analysis with the practices available in the rest of the world is to be done.

Research & Publications

A country paper was prepared and published on the issues of 'Benefit-sharing and Prior Information Consent'. It tried to capture the current status of the country with regard to the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) mechanism and the future roadmap of intervention policy.

One briefing paper is prepared on ABS to empower people on the issue.

GRANITE

The Centre is implementing, as project partner, a two-year project entitled GRANITE, in West Bengal. This project is being implemented in partnership with CSOs in eight Indian States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The project is supported by NORAD, through the Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, India, and Novib.

The project aims to gather people's perceptions about globalisation and WTO issues and their impacts on agriculture as well as T&C sectors.

Research & Publications

Under the project, the Centre initiated the fieldwork in various districts, such as Hooghly, Howrah, Nadia, Midnapore, Dinajpur, Burdawan, and Darjeeling etc., with the poor farmers and weavers, in consultation with local stakeholders, including the NGOs. The feedback of the stakeholders (NGOs, government officials, producers' bodies, etc.) on the impact of the recent policy changes (state, national and international) on the agriculture and T&C sectors was documented.

These field reports would be documented and presented during the WTO Ministerial conference to be held in Hong Kong, in December 2005.

Advocacy & Networking

- As the partner organisation, the nodal person and programme coordinator Mita Dutta and Dalia Dey participated in the Launch meeting and Training Programme held at Jaipur, Rajasthan during February 24-27, 2005.

Representations

During the period, the project staff attended various national and international events. Some of them are:

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
April 05, 2004, Kolkata, India	World Environment Day, organised by Southern Initiative and Kolkata Municipal Corporation	Awareness about Environment	• Dalia Dey
June 07, 2004, Kolkata, India	Meeting, Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal	How to Prevent the Consumer from Being Deceived by Unfair Trade Practices	• Dalia Dey
June 22, 2004, Kolkata, India	Seminar, Merchant Chambers of Commerce Kolkata	WTO July Package: what should be India's strategy	• Santanu Banerjee • Dalia Dey
August 14, 2004, Kolkata, India	Inaugural Ceremony of Consumer Study Diploma Course by Institute of Consumer Education & Fair Business Practices	Introduction of course on consumer education	• Dalia Dey
December 10, 2004, Islamabad, Pakistan	Conference, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan	Farmer's Rights	• Mita Dutta
March 07, 2005, Kolkata, India	Discussion on Seed Bill by Society for Environment and Development & Interdisciplinary Studies, Kolkata	Seed Bill	• Mita Dutta • Dalia Dey • Debottam Chakraborty
March 15, 2005, Kolkata, India	World Consumer Rights Day, Institute of Urban Management, Kolkata, in association with IIPA, Kolkata	General discussion about consumers' rights	• Sumanta Biswas

Future Plans

- Conduct an audit of safety-related policies of public utilities;
- Conduct a feasibility study of establishing the National Safety Commission of India, including drafting a National Consumer Safety Policy; and
- Generate better awareness among the consumers, at large, on safety-related issues.

CUTS Delhi Resource Centre (DRC)

CUTS Delhi Resource Centre (CUTS-DRC) was set up in August 2002, to act as the focal point for CUTS' advocacy, outreach and external relations with national institutions. The objective of the Centre is to showcase the work being done by the other Centres of CUTS.



Vijay Singh
Incharge

Functional Areas

- Parliamentary Advocacy
- Policy Advocacy and Networking
- Media Outreach

Parliamentary Advocacy

CUTS is a member on advisory bodies of various Central Ministries and advocates on issues raised through various Bills and Questions in the Parliament. To facilitate the Parliamentary advocacy, the Centre worked on:

- Informing and sensitising Member of Parliaments (MPs) for raising Parliamentary Questions on different topical socio-economic issues, including Bills to be put forth for a wider and well-informed discussion on the floor of the Parliament
- Providing a Bill Blow-up Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 and other details to more than 60 MPs during the year; and

Policy Advocacy & Networking

The Centre worked to speed-up the process of networking relationships with concerned institutions, Parliamentarians, Ministries and their departments, bureaucrats and media persons. For activating CUTS' response in Regulatory Reforms, Good Governance etc., the Centre identified strategic venues for successful event management, besides entertaining consumers seeking redressal. The advocacy of the Centre included:

- Providing information to CUTS programmatic centres on various CUTS projects;
- Maintaining working relationships with Delhi based Consumer organisations and CSOs, Developmental Organisations, premier Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Government Ministries and their various Departments;
- Building meaningful relationships with Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Finance (especially Department of Company Affairs [DCA] & Department of Economic Affairs [DEA]) Ministry of Consumer Affairs (especially Bureau of Indian Standard [BIS]), Ministry of Environment & Forest and Planning Commission; and
- Assisting other centres with visa and other strategic approvals/ clearances/ information, which are vital for execution/ operation of various projects through embassies / High Commissions and Govt. ministries.

Media Outreach

DRC has successfully organised participation and coverage of media both print as well as electronic for CUTS various events in 2004-05.

However, to ensure a more structured approach to make outreach to this important segment, DRC will strive hard to bridge the gap through daily collection and dissemination of news & related information on topical issues concerning consumers, economy & society to the CUTS friendly journalists who are often in need of such information for preparation various news stories, features and reports.

DRC will also concentrate in identifying slots like 'face-off' in *The Economic Times* in other print and electronic media for greater visibility of CUTS activities in media.

Overseas Resource Centres

CUTS AFRICA RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC)

CUTS-ARC, Lusaka, Zambia was inaugurated on February 20, 2001. The objective of the Centre is to promote civil society cooperation on trade and development and create long-term capacity of civil society representatives to address the issues of equity and accountability. CUTS-ARC, in addition to other activities, works as a resource, co-ordination and networking centre for various CUTS' projects in Africa.

Research & Publications

Fostering Equity and Accountability (FEATS) programme is being implemented in eastern and southern Africa. This is a long-term programme focusing on policy advocacy, training and capacity building, and networking on regional and international trade agreements. As part of the project, the Centre published policy briefs on various economic/trade issues. In addition, it has brought out a quarterly newsletter, 'Tradequity' which is circulated among the stakeholders in the region. It also produces a quarterly electronic newsletter, *CUTS-ARC Sounds* which is circulated between the partner and networking organisations. The content of the news bulletin comprises of activities of the centre and other relevant news items on trade, consumer protection and development.

Advocacy & Networking

The Centre has been involved in advocacy work on competition policy, consumer protection, development oriented foreign direct policy (FDI) policy, fair trade, poverty reduction, stakeholder involvement in decision-making process. It carried out advocacy work on international trade and development through publishing policy briefs, newsletters, press releases and organising workshops.

Special Endeavour

During, February 16-20, 2004, the Centre facilitated with the association of CUTS India, an exposure-cum-lobby visit of representatives from seven consumer organisations of Southern and Eastern African countries to Geneva as part of efforts in capacity building of the African consumer organisations in understanding and also influencing the policy decisions on trade at national and international level. The delegates participated in discussion sessions with experts of the WTO and half a day at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariats on various topics relevant to trade and development in southern Africa. As part of the hands on training on lobbying, the delegates interacted with the Ambassadors of Hungary and China to the WTO and trade negotiators of the UK and Canada. The delegates also took part in an international symposium on competition policy and pro-poor development organised by CUTS.

Sajeev K S Nair
Regional Director, Lusaka



Stella Chapo
Administrative Assistant,
Lusaka



CUTS LONDON RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC)

CUTS-LRC is a registered charity institution, which was set up in 2003, to provide a voice to Southern civil society in the North (among state as well as non-state actors) and through this, to bring Southern concerns to a wider international audience.

CUTS-LRC is governed by a Board of Seven Trustees, and employs a staff of five including the Centre Manager. Since its inception, LRC has worked with its partner organisations in India and Africa on a number of trade and development projects and continuously strengthened CUTS' profile through advocacy and campaigning activities in the UK and Europe.

Research & Publications

The Centre publishes a quarterly newsletter: Bridging the Gap and a series of policy briefs.

Advocacy & Networking

The African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Union (EU) are, currently, negotiating EPAs, which will govern EU-ACP trade relations after the Lome trade regime expires at the end of 2007. These new partnership agreements will probably require ACP countries to expose their economies to trade with the EU to a greater extent than ever before.

In response to the concerns expressed by CUTS' Africa Resource Centres in Kenya and Zambia about the development issues surrounding these negotiations, LRC took up research on them. This led to the publication of a policy brief entitled, 'EU-ACP EPA negotiations: Cotonou Undermined' stating CUTS' policy position on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations to date. A further policy brief analysing the extent of civil society participation in the consultation and negotiation of EPAs is currently being written.

This research, together with the insights LRC has gained from the ARC, has facilitated its involvement in the advocacy activities taking place at present in the UK in relation to concerns surrounding the EPA negotiations. LRC has carried out this advocacy work by linking up with a wide range of NGO networks, such as the UK Trade Network, the Trade Justice Movement and British Overseas NGOs for development (BOND) to support public awareness and lobbying work and a UK parliamentary inquiry into EPAs. In order to ensure that its advocacy and research work on EPAs truly reflects the concerns of civil society in Eastern and Southern Africa, LRC is working very closely with the ARC, which is coordinating a network of mobilising non-state actors to play a part in the EPA negotiations. Through research and fundraising, LRC is also working to support the capacity of the ARC to work on EPAs.



Tamara Lordkipanidze
*Centre Manager-cum
Secretary, London*



Signe Glahn
Administrative Assistant



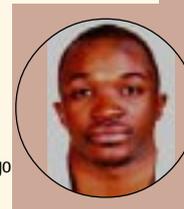
Gideon Rahowitz
Policy Analyst



Susanah Christie
Accounts Officer

CUTS NAIROBI RESOURCE CENTRE (NRC)

CUTS-NRC was registered in the year 2000, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Centre started its operations in August 2003. The setting up of this Centre was demand driven owing to the frequency at which many NGO's in Africa were approaching CUTS for provision of supporting areas of consumer protection, poverty reduction, development of trade and economic policy, training and advocacy.



Clement Victor Onyango
Incharge

Research & Publications

CUTS-NRC carried out research, which aimed to look into linkages between trade, development and poverty. The research drew from, among others, success stories of these linkages, for instance, from Vietnam.

Advocacy & Networking

The Centre carried out advocacy work on International trade where linkages between trade and poverty were discussed.

- NRC, in partnership with FES, Germany, organised a regional seminar on the theme 'Can Africa Trade Her Way out of Poverty' in Naivasha, Kenya, on October 25-27, 2004.
- CUTS-NRC collaborated with ARC-Zambia in enabling the latter to involve one consumer organisation in Kenya to assist in the production of a reader friendly research monographs on competition policy and consumer protection scenario in Kenya.
- In January 2005, NRC came up with an electronic newsletter entitled: Regional Co-operation & Development Monitor. The aim of this e-newsletter is to focus on regional issues of trade and economics around the eastern Africa region thus sensitising, enhancing capacity and providing the very needed resource to various stakeholders.
- CUTS-NRC is a NSA member/representative of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Kenya under the EU-funded Kenya-European Union Post Lome Trade Programme (KEPLOTRADE).

Selected CUTS' Publications

Event Report

- From Cancun to Sao Paulo: The Role of Civil Society in the International Trading System (#0412)

Research Report

- Demystifying Agriculture Market Access Formula: *A Developing Country Perspective After Cancun Setback* (#0417)
- Trade-Labour Debate: Path from Doha (#0410)
- Liberalising Trade in Environmental Goods and Services: In Search of 'Win-Win-Win' Outcomes (#0402)
- Capacity Building on Infrastructure Regulatory Issues – II Edition (#0404)
- Protectionism and Trade Remedial Measures (#0420)
- FDI in South Asia: Do Incentives Work? *A Survey of the Literature* (#0403)
- The WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin: Implications for South Asia (#0422)
- Trade Facilitation and South Asia: *The Need for Some Serious Scenario Planning* (#0425)
- WTO Agriculture Negotiations and South Asian Countries (#0423)
- Enhancing Collective Export Competitiveness on Textiles and Clothing: A Study of the Select South Asian Countries (#0428)
- Movement of Natural Persons and South Asian Countries (#0427)
- Eco-Labeling: Does (Should) One Size Fit All? (#0501)
- Trade in Environmental Services: An Indian Perspective

Research Project Reports

- Unpacking Transparency In Government Procurement (#0430)
- Trade Facilitation – Reducing the Transaction Cost or Burdening the Poor! (#0431)

Monographs

- ABC of TRIPs (#0407)
- FDI's Role in Development: *An Analysis of Investment Policy Regimes in Bangladesh, India, Hungary, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania and Brazil* (#0411)
- Trade Policy Making in India – *The reality below the water line* (#0415)
- ABC of GATS (#0416)
- Experiences from a project an FDI policy, practices & perceptions in Bangladesh, Brazil, Hungary, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia OR, How To Implement A Multi-Country Project (#0418)
- WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing – Frequently Asked Questions (#0419)
- Trade Remedial Measures (#0426)

Briefing Paper

- *Farm Agenda at the WTO: The key to move the Doha round (CITEE: No. 1/2004)*
- *“TRIPs-Plus”: Enhancing Right Holders’ Protection, Eroding TRIPs’ Flexibilities (CITEE: No. 2/2004)*
- *Global Partnership for Development — The Way Forward (CITEE: No. 3/2004)*
- *The End of WTO’s Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: Opportunity or Threat? (CITEE: No. 4/2004)*
- *Movement of Natural Persons and Regional Trade Agreements (CITEE: No. 5/2004)*

Bill Blow-up

- *Small Enterprises’ Development Bill – A Step in the Right Direction*
- *Patent (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004*

Trade Law Brief

- *GSP Dispute: Winning the battle, losing the war (Trade Law Brief No.1/2004)*

Advocacy Document

- *Improving Labour Standards Through Development: A Positive Agenda (#0429)*

Annual Accounts 2004-05

Management Report

The management of the CUTS International is responsible for preparing the financial statements, which are in accordance with the auditing standards generally applied in India. These are on a consistent manner and are never overstated or misstated for reasons varying from error to fraud. The financial statement includes amounts that are based on management's best estimates, accuracy and consistency.

The management of CUTS International has formulated and maintains a system of internal discipline by providing the integrity and reliability of the financial statements, the protection of assets from unauthorised use or misuse and prevention of fraudulent financial reporting.

In addition, management administers its responsibility by fostering ethical environment so that the organisation's affairs are carried out according to the highest standards of individual as well organisational regulation. This responsibility is reflected in the organisation's code of conduct, development of a systematic process in compliance with the policies, and open communication in resolving conflicts, if any.

GOYAL DINESH & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
C-97, JANPATH, LALKOTHI, JAIPUR – 302015
PHONE – 740583 : E MAIL – taxesindia@hotmail.com

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of **CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY, BHASKAR MARG, BANI PARK, JAIPUR** as at 31st March 2005 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said society.

We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the society so far as appears from our examinations of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our knowledge, and according to explanations 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-mentioned society as at 31 March, 2005 and
- (ii) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Excess of Expenditures over Income for the year ended on 31st March 2005.

For Goyal Dinesh & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Sd/

Place: Jaipur
Dated: 29 July 2005

Consumer Unity & Trust Society**Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2005**

<i>Figures as at 31.03.2004</i>	<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>Figures as at 31.03.2005</i>	<i>Figures as at 31.03.2004</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>Figures as at 31.03.2005</i>
2,589,895.50	Corpus Fund B/F	2,589,895.50	11,657,248.98	Fixed Assets	14,270,611.02
	For the year	<u>205,500.00</u>	2,795,395.50	(As per Schedule 'C')	
3,112,967.47	Capital Reserve B/F	3,112,967.47	1,565,354.13	Cash & Bank Balance	7,892,296.33
	For the year	172,260.00	3,285,227.47	(As per Schedule 'D')	
15,354,720.63	Grants-in-aid (As per Schedule 'A')	16,543,440.95	9,205,475.00	FDR A/C	3,872,798.61
200,000.00	Employee Welfare Fund	200,000.00	775,397.20	Loan , Advances & Deposits (As per Schedule 'E')	738,660.90
6,453,005.40	Depreciation Fund B/ For the year	<u>6,453,005.40</u>	8,089,068.32	5,275,229.10	Excess of expenses over incom B/F
768,115.41	Sundry Creditors (As per Schedule 'B')	2,469,520.67	5,275,229.10	For the year	<u>1,333,056.95</u>
28,478,704.41		33,382,652.91	28,478,704.41		33,382,652.91

For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Treasurer

Secretary

AUDITORS REPORT

In terms of our report of even data annexed here to

for **Goyal Dinesh & Associates**
Chartered Accountants

Jaipur

Dated:

Dinesh K. Goyal
(Partner)

Consumer Unity & Trust Society**Income & Expenditure A/C for the Year ended on 31st March, 2005**

<i>Figures for Previous Year</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Ann.</i>	<i>Figures for current year</i>	<i>Figures for Previous Year</i>	<i>Incomes</i>	<i>Ann.</i>	<i>Figures for current year</i>
7,906,973.00	Salary & Honorarium	'A'	9,250,123.00	35,730.38	Donations & Contributions		13,320.00
4,862,643.10	Office Costs	'B'	7,233,248.42	30,128.24	Sales of Publication		24,441.00
1,889,942.52	Training & Networking Seminar & Workshop	'C'	2,707,656.00	49,098,580.51	Grant in Aid	'G'	57,413,314.32
18,748,163.68	Research & Investigation	'D'	19,932,785.42	372,543.88	Interest received		263,954.97
13,857,419.06	Publication	'E'	14,658,622.48	271.00	Membership Fees		500.00
2,228,416.15	Depreciation	'F'	3,630,879.00	3829.00	Miscellaneous Income		790.00
1,352,968.96			1,636,062.92	1,305,443.46	Excess of Expenditure over Income		1,333,056.95
50,846,526.47			59,049,377.24	50,846,526.47			59,049,377.24

For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Treasurer

Secretary

AUDITORS REPORT

In terms of our report of even data annexed here to

for **Goyal Dinesh & Associates**
Chartered Accountants

Jaipur:

Dated:

Dinesh K. Goyal
Partner



Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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