



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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



# Annual Report 2019

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Published by

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

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#2006





## Our Centres

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

Today, CUTS International, with a staff of around 150, operates out of:

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

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

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

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# Message



**Sudipto Mundle**

Distinguished Fellow,  
National Council of  
Applied Economic  
Research

New Delhi, India

Since its inception in 1983 CUTS has evolved into a remarkable institution with activities ranging from action research at the grassroots level in remote corners of Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, to reform of the rules of global trade at the World Trade Organisation. Its portfolio of operations includes action, research, evidence-based advice on policy and regulatory reforms to advocacy, networking and capacity building. It is also only India based civil society organisation I know of with a global footprint, its ongoing activities spanning four continents from Washington DC and Geneva to Nairobi, Lusaka, and Accra to Jaipur and Delhi to Hanoi.

The role played by CUTS has become particularly important in these challenging times when the world is reeling under the Coronavirus pandemic. At the grassroots level, CUTS teams are actively assisting local authorities in Chittorgarh through the distribution of personal protection equipment. At the global level, the pandemic has already disrupted global travel and trade, breaking global value chains and CUTS will play its role in the reform of the international trade architecture in the aftermath of this pandemic.

I am confident that CUTS will not only continue to play its multifaceted role for many years to come but also grow and further spread its wings. On the occasion of the release of its Annual Report for the year 2019, I would particularly like to express my appreciation of the contribution of CUTS Secretary General Shri Pradeep Mehta, who has nurtured this organisation from the very beginning, and his dedicated team of co-workers.



# From the Secretary General's Desk



**Pradeep S Mehta**

Secretary General

March 2020, Jaipur

## FOREWORD

The year 2019 was significant in the world's history in many ways.

The US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held at Washington DC in which both the countries agreed on addressing regional and global threats, combating terrorism, promoting transparency and sustainable infrastructure, etc.

Canada celebrated the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its competition law – the first of its kind in the world. The 6<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Canada, in 1889, enacted the first antitrust statute in the industrial world: An Act for the Prevention and Suppression of Combinations Formed in Restraint of Trade, better known as the Anti-Combines Act.

The President of Nigeria signed the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act into law. This welcome move marked the end of Nigeria's long journey to enact the competition legislation which lasted for over 18 years. It would be recalled that the first effort at building stakeholders-driven advocacy for competition law in Nigeria took place as part of a CUTS project implemented in Nigeria and six other West African States during 2008-2010.

At home in India, many events happened throughout the year. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award that focuses on the triple-bottom-line of 'People, Profit, and Planet'. He was selected for his outstanding leadership under which India has been identified as the Centre for Innovation and Value Added Manufacturing (through 'Make in India' initiative).

The government scrapped provisions under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to the state of Jammu & Kashmir in the Union of India. Jammu and Kashmir have become a Union Territory with a legislature, and Ladakh a separate Union Territory without a legislature.

The Supreme Court of India delivered the final verdict in the Ayodhya land dispute case. It ordered the disputed land (2.77 acres) to be handed over to a Central Government-created trust to build the Ram Janmabhoomi temple and provided an alternate five acres of land in another place to the Sunni Waqf Board to build a mosque.

As I reflect on the year 2019, I see both – accomplishments and milestones – that CUTS has achieved and our unfinished but continuing agenda. In both situations, I am convinced that more intensive and extensive work is to be done not only by CUTS but also by other

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

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

Union Women & Child Minister, and an old friend, Maneka Gandhi released a CUTS publication that captures success stories of women’s empowerment and child protection since its inception. Over the years, the CUTS Centre for Human Development at Chittorgarh has facilitated the formation of more than 1050 Self-Help Groups in several districts of southern Rajasthan, which are mostly managed by women. This critical mass has helped us in understanding our grassroot realities and they appreciate both national and international issues. The centre has also received a State Award for effective interventions in the area of disability.

One of CUTS studies generated evidence in support of policy advocacy on regulatory aspects of short-haul cross-border inland navigation and community-based river tourism in South Asia. Our recommendation for declaring the Sonamura-Daudkandi waterway stretch as Protocol Route was captured in the Joint Statement released during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India.

A video documentary ‘1,000 Kilometres of a Truck Driver,’ was showcased to facilitate the effective implementation of the Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA). An indirect impact of the exercise has been that the Government of Bhutan, who had earlier decided not to sign the BBIN MVA pact, is presently reconsidering its decision regarding BBIN MVA.

Our impact assessment study showcasing the adverse impact of restricting cross border data flow on consumer welfare was shared with Shashi Tharoor, MP.

Our intensive interaction with Parliamentarians led to the passage of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Of the six partners of the Global Road Safety Programme, which has been supporting our road safety programme in India, we

were considered the most active even in the national capital though we are situated in Jaipur.

Our flagship 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Competition, Regulation, and Development, organized in partnership with CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition, New Delhi resulted in the emergence of broad contours of an action agenda for stakeholders in developing countries to deal with the online economy.

On the basis of our sustained advocacy on trade, climate change and food security, the Kenyan government has supported the development of the cassava value chain in Kenya, considering the climate change impacts on agriculture based on our research.

Our study on informal food vendors in Zambia showed how a low-priced variety of products contributes towards consumer welfare.

Our centre at Geneva analysed developing countries’ experiences of e-commerce provisions in Regional Trade Agreements and their implementation, which will soon inform an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)-specific set of policy options.

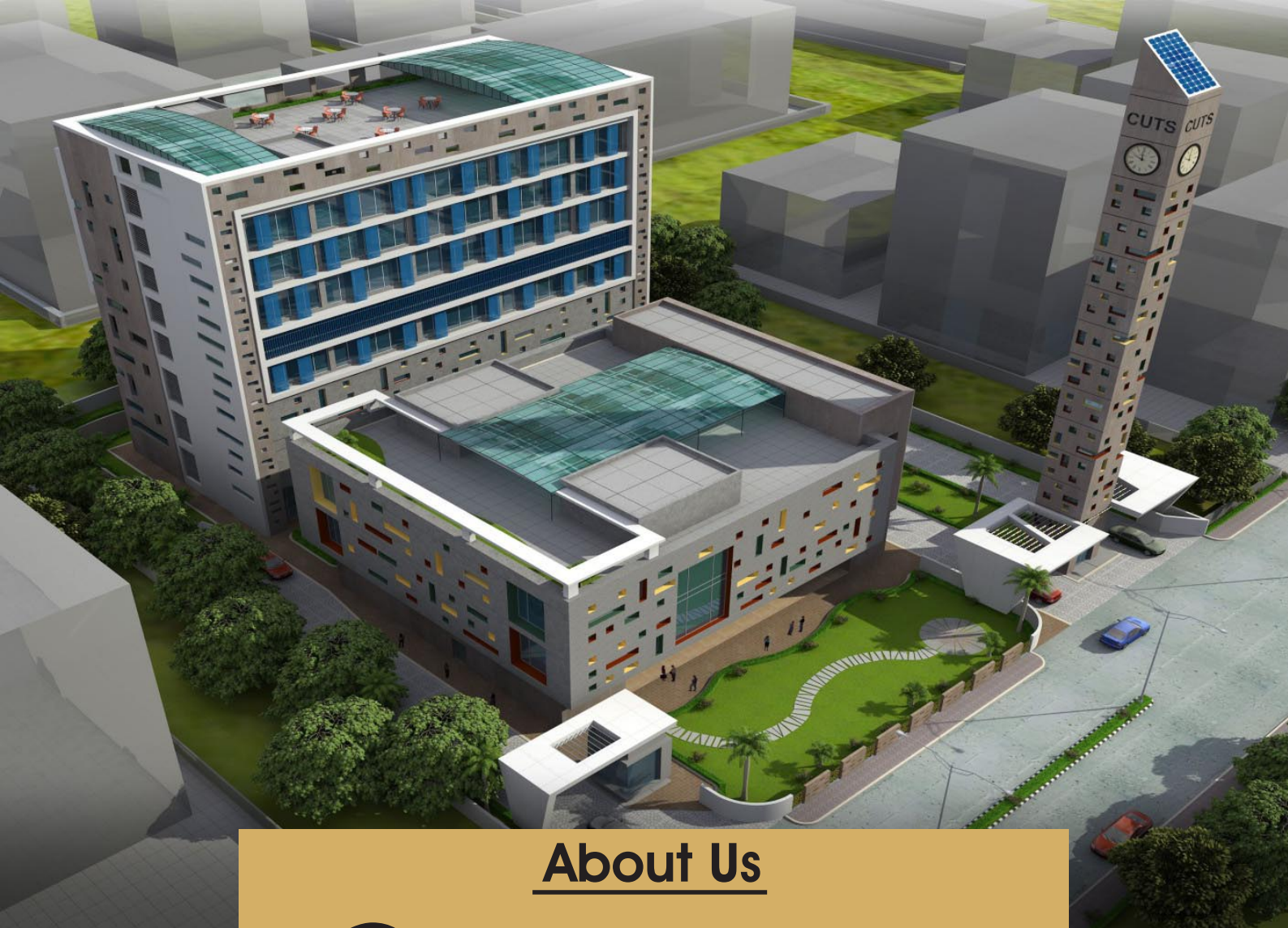
Our centre at Washington DC is advancing Indo-US cooperation on innovation to foster mutual prosperity.

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

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

I am extremely grateful to all partner organisations, development partners, individuals and institutions, experts, media and academia, and government departments and private groups for their continued support. Equally important have been the efforts of my colleagues who collectively contributed towards making CUTS an internationally-recognised organisation and maintained our reputation of being an effective outcome-oriented organisation. I am sure that they will continue to work with us diligently in our future endeavours.





## About Us

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



Rules-based Trade

Effective Regulation



Good Governance



## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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

## OBJECTIVES

CUTS, as an advocacy and research organisation, aims to:

- initiate, undertake and aid directly or through its affiliated bodies, schemes for the furtherance of consumer and public welfare;
- promote, organise and assist measures for the availability of consumer commodities and services;
- study consumer and public interest/welfare problems and evolve remedies, including those relating to the environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;



## MISSION

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

- publish studies, periodicals, reports and other literature relating to consumer commodities and services;
- undertake, research and case studies in respect of consumer commodities and services public interest/welfare;
- advise and if necessary, assist government and the concerned authorities in framing and enforcing laws to safeguard the interests of the consumer and citizen; and
- disseminate knowledge and information and to educate the public regarding consumer and public interest/welfare problems and programmes on a scientific basis.



## VISION

### Consumer Sovereignty

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

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

## 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 is marked with healthy growth. The year 2019 was marked by important organisational developments within the country and abroad. CUTS' centres are broadly divided into two distinct categories:



### CENTRES

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

### AFFILIATED CENTRES

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

## MEETING OF THE GENERAL BODY

The General Body Meeting was held on March 23, 2019.

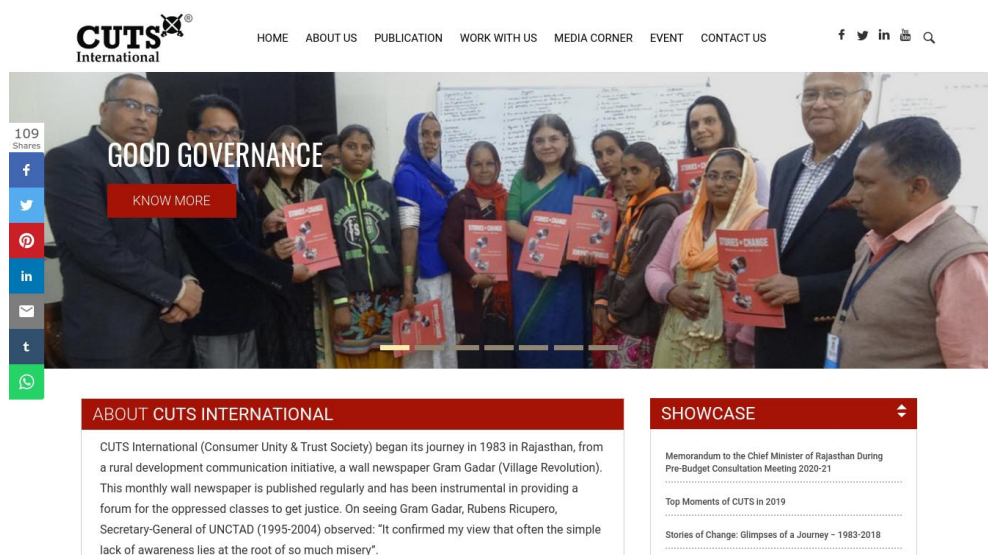
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting was held on September 23, 2019 where internal policy matters, progress made and budget were reviewed.

## CUTS WEBSITE

CUTS has developed a comprehensive website with a URL [www.cuts-international.org](http://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. The main page mirrors the broad outline of the organisation and its activities. Also, 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 play a vital role in supporting in-house research work by facilitating access to relevant information sources.

### 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 and development, trade and environment, energy, agriculture, law, consumerism, etc. It subscribes to 22 journals/magazines and more than 10 newspapers. It also contains wide collection of CDs/audio-videos/photographs.

## INFORMATION UNIT

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

## INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

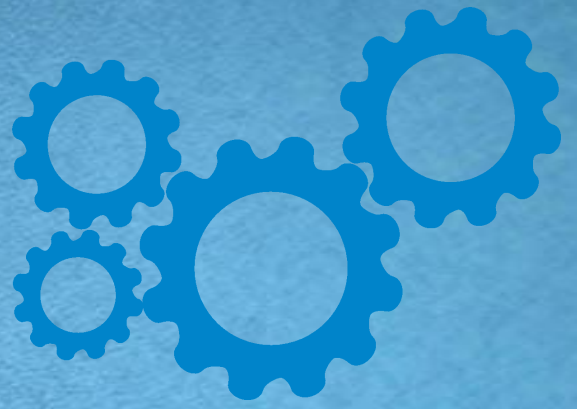
Considerable investments were made on information technology and office equipment. New books were added to the library. The number of computers increased from 45 to 68 and some of the existing computers were upgraded for compatibility. Heavy-duty centralised printers were installed. Centralised network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

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

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

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

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



# Rules-based Trade





## Promoting Trade and Tourism in Transboundary Waterways of Meghna Basin

With the support of Oxfam Cambodia, CUTS aims to create evidence on the economic, social and environmental implications of cross-border trade using mechanised boats in shorter transboundary stretches in Barak, Gomti and Haora rivers of Meghna basin. The project also looked into the impact of community-based river tourism in Gomti and Umngot rivers.



The study generated evidence in support of policy advocacy on regulatory aspects of short-haul cross-border inland navigation and community-based river tourism.

Our recommendation for declaring the Sonamura-Daudkandi waterway stretch as Protocol Route was captured in the Joint Statement released during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India.

## Enhancing Capacities of Women Traders in North East India

CUTS International, with the support of the Australian High Commission under its Direct Aid Program has undertaken the project entitled, 'Women Traders in the Borders of North-East India.' The project aims to facilitate awareness generation programmes among women stakeholders about the prospects of trade and build their capacity to participate largely in cross-border trade. It focusses on women entrepreneurs in five North-East states of India (Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh).

There would be increased awareness among women stakeholders on the procedures and processes involved in cross-border trade that would enable them to participate in trade operations.



## Gender Dimensions of Trade Facilitation Agreement

Pursuant to the WTO Ministerial Conference's decision in Buenos Aires to make collective efforts in curbing gender discrimination by emphasising building gender-inclusive trade and development policies, CUTS International has undertaken this project. With the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), CUTS, along with its country partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan & Nepal, aims to prepare cases in favour of gender-inclusive trade policies to enhance participation of women from the sub-region in trade and trade-related income-generating activities. The evidence will be collected from women-led/managed/owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the BBIN countries.

The project is expected to enhance awareness among women entrepreneurs (existing and potential) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) on possible Regional Value Chains and their importance in their socio-economic development in particular and of the entire sub-region in general. Evidence collected from BBIN countries would support the case for gender-responsive trade policies for women's economic empowerment in BBIN.

## Border Haats: New Dimensions in Cross-border Trade

CUTS International with the support of the DFID, UK is implementing a project entitled 'Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade'. The project aims at understanding the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh; and analysing its impact on gender and livelihood.

There would be greater awareness and consensus among stakeholders on the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh; and preliminary feasibility assessment in select locations where the establishment of border haat has been proposed.







A video documentary '1,000 Kilometres of a Truck Driver,' was showcased to facilitate the effective implementation of the BBIN MVA. An indirect impact of the exercise has been that the Government of Bhutan, who had earlier decided not to sign the BBIN MVA pact, is presently reconsidering its decision regarding BBIN MVA.

The study has been able to develop an integrated plan towards developing river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh through the Sunderbans. It helped to generate better understanding on Kolkata-Dhaka river route(s) and locations of tourism potential along the route; documented the policy, infrastructure, facilities and political-economy related challenges required to be addressed to promote tourism; helped in developing an overall understanding on the impact of river cruise tourism along the identified route on local livelihood.

## BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement Regains Momentum

The project is a comprehensive study to understand various macro and granular level challenges for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA). CUTS International has undertaken an extensive field study across eight corridors among these countries to understand the infrastructural and political economy challenges that can adversely affect the effective implementation of the MVA and identify probable policy interventions to overcome these challenges.

## Sojourns in the Sundarbans: An Exploratory Study of Community-Based Tourism between India and Bangladesh

CUTS with the support of The World Bank, New Delhi, conducted a study that identified and studied the possible and most feasible routes for promoting river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh via the Sundarbans. The study also identified locations of interest for tourism along and near the identified routes. These include a listing of all such places, seasons, activities, festivals, etc. that could be of interest to tourists.

## Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Kenya

CUTS Nairobi has been working through the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) to engage key players in the dairy industry to facilitate desired changes in the sector. The V4CP provided capacity strengthening for CUTS to mobilise a range of public, private and civil society actors that are committed to ensuring that food safety is taken more seriously. Together with dairy experts, CUTS carried out field reconnaissance visits to farmers' associations, milk collection centres, processing units, and other key links in the dairy value chain.



## Boosting Cassava Value Chain in Kenya

PR41 project, funded by US Agency for International Development through Africa Lead is themed 'Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme Process: The Case for Cassava Value Chain.' Its overall objective is to advance/incentivise private sector investment in agribusiness value chains. The project will comprise a research study as well as policy roundtable meetings in Nairobi and two counties engaged in cassava production.



Established a dynamic online platform:

[www.safefoodkenya.com](http://www.safefoodkenya.com) for information dissemination and discussions on Milk Safety in Kenya.

Establishment of consumer watch groups at the County level to advocate for consumer rights protection and to champion action by value chain actors to ensure the provision of safe food to the local communities.

The Kenyan government has supported the development of the cassava value chain in Kenya, considering the climate change impacts on agriculture based on our research.



## BUSAC Commissions CUTS to Conduct Study on AfCFTA

The BUSAC Fund has commissioned a study to assess the Ghanaian private sector readiness towards the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It is expected that the study will produce a diagnostic report which will help to develop practical steps in addressing the gaps and challenges identified by the private sector with regards to the AfCFTA. The study is being undertaken by CUTS Ghana. As part of the study, a reference group consisting of the private sector, trade associations, government, academia and other representatives of institutions relevant to the implementation of the AfCFTA have been constituted to guide the design and conduct of the study.

We and our partners influenced new industrial policies in Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. In particular, synergies were built between agro-processing development and climate change, trade and food security.

## PACT EAC2 Project leaves its pugmarks in East Africa's Industrial Policies

Successfully completed in September 2019, this four-year project brought together, informed, trained and moved to advocacy action hundreds of East Africans for more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing agro-processing in their region. Among other impacts, advocacy efforts under the project successfully influenced the development or revision of industrial policies in Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. It was undertaken with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



## E-Commerce and African Continental Integration

The second phase negotiations of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) are a unique opportunity to bring sustainable development into critical aspects of continental integration. This includes e-commerce which, if properly harnessed, can offer unprecedented opportunities for Africa and its people. With funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a CUTS project launched this year aims to ensure that African stakeholders, policy-makers and trade negotiators know suitable policy options in this regard. Among others, it will provide them with an AfCFTA-specific set of policy options and avenues for African continental integration to harness the sustainable development potential of e-commerce.



We analysed developing countries' experiences of e-commerce provisions in Regional Trade Agreements and their implementation, which will soon inform an AfCFTA-specific set of policy options.



## Keeping Pace with Trade Developments

For several years, this initiative has enabled LDC and Smaller Developing Country WTO delegates to better take advantage of international trade for their development. This year, the project focuses on supporting their informed participation in WTO negotiations in the run-up to the 12<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference, including regarding joint statements on e-commerce and gender, while strengthening the links of Geneva missions with their capitals and private sector on the ground. This initiative is undertaken with funding support from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



“

Geneva trade negotiators must ensure their engagement at the WTO is aligned with their regional priorities and the needs of their constituencies. In this regard, our regular regional forums continue to be a unique venue in Geneva for delegates from West Africa, East Africa, Middle East & North Africa (MENA), and South & Southeast Asia.

”

## Asian MSMEs Inform their Trade Negotiators' Geneva Work

This regular forum for WTO delegates from select South and Southeast Asian developing countries helps them better connect with their national Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). Undertaken with funding support from AustralianAid, it helps them not only to better leverage WTO regular work and negotiations, but also establish lasting links with private sector players who better understand WTO agreements and procedures, as well as their stakes therein.



“

South and Southeast Asian delegates are better able to leverage WTO regular work and negotiations, particularly in the run-up to the next ministerial conference, thanks to regular feedback from their private sector back home.

”

## Digital Commerce Online Course

Beneficiary requests for an encore of last year's online course on digital commerce led us and our partners to launch an updated course this year. Again, the course aimed to assist permanent missions and international organisations in Geneva to increase their knowledge and capacity to engage in multilateral digital commerce-related negotiations and discussions. It provided an interdisciplinary coverage of e-commerce, from both digital and trade perspectives, covering topics such as emerging online business models, e-payments, digital currencies, taxation, competition, data protection, cross-border data flows, data localisation, and trade negotiations. We delivered the course jointly with DiploFoundation, ITC and the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP).

Over 20 delegates, mainly from developing country WTO missions in Geneva, better understand technical and legal aspects of issues relevant to digital commerce. These include e-payments, cross-border data flows, data localisation, etc.





# Effective Regulation





## Economic Impact of Judicial Decisions

This study aims to undertake an objective assessment of unintended economic impact of relevant judicial decisions through rigorous evidence-based analysis.

There would be improved recognising of the economic impact of select SC and NGT decisions; Enhanced understanding of the methodology to identify and highlight the economic impact of judicial decisions; Initiation of a building of a narrative supporting better sensitivity of economic impacts of judgments by the judiciary; Will serve as useful training inputs for the training of judicial officers.



## Digital Trade and Data Localisation

The overall objective of the project is to understand the importance of digital exports for the Indian economy and the impact of data localisation barriers on digital services exports.

There would be a detailed and holistic understanding of the economic implications of proposed data localisation barriers on India's digital services exports.

## Power Sector Reforms in Rajasthan

The project is primarily focussed on enhancing consumer awareness for improvement of overall Standard of Performance in the electricity distribution sector in Rajasthan. The project is being supported by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. To achieve the desired goals, multi-stakeholder engagement with consumers, consumer organisations, distribution companies (DISCOMs) and Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) has been envisaged.



The project would result in the development of the mutually beneficial relationship between consumers, consumer organisations and electricity distribution companies; enhanced capacity of consumers on existing regulatory frameworks and procedure of grievance redress; and empowered consumers and consumer organisations with platforms to voice their issues, concerns, and opinion.

## Economic Policy to Generate Good Jobs in India

CUTS International in collaboration with Ford Foundation has launched a study to strengthen the discourse on economic policy that generates 'Good and Better Jobs' in India' and makes her growth job-intensive.

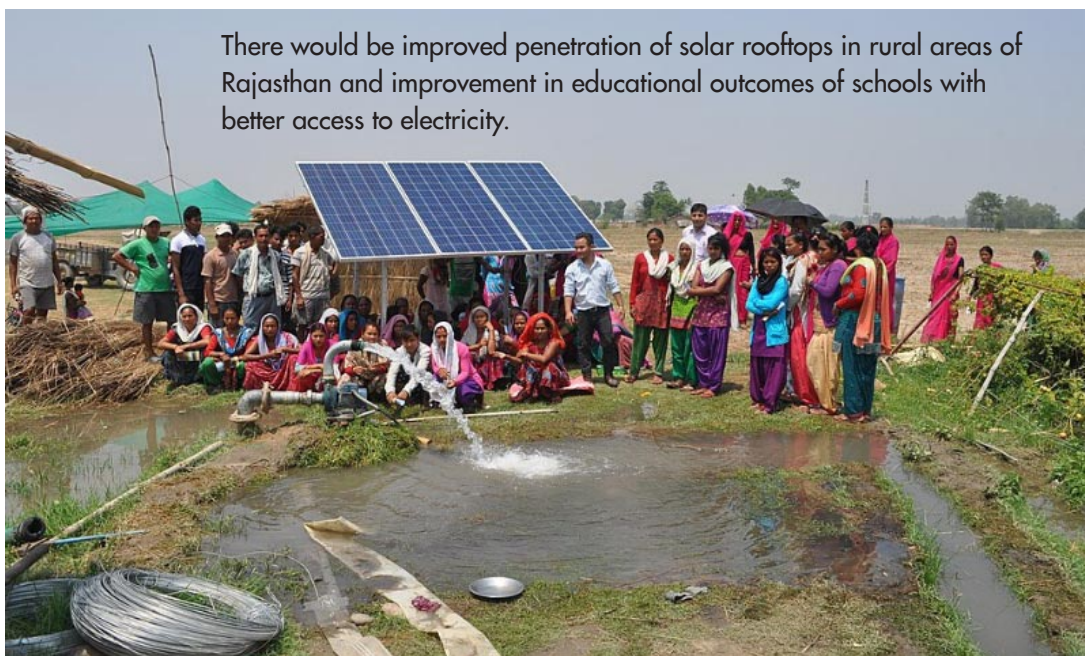
The outcome of the project would be knowledge generation through formulation of alternative, non-budgetary and non-legislative economic strategies based on evidence from the field that would facilitate growth of good and better jobs; better understanding for policy decisions amongst influencers on non-legislative and non-budgetary policy decisions leading to rapid and sustainable growth of good and better jobs; and strengthening communication strategies by enabling wider acceptance through a shared approach of communicating the need for and feasibility of strategies that facilitate job growth that can lead to good and better jobs.



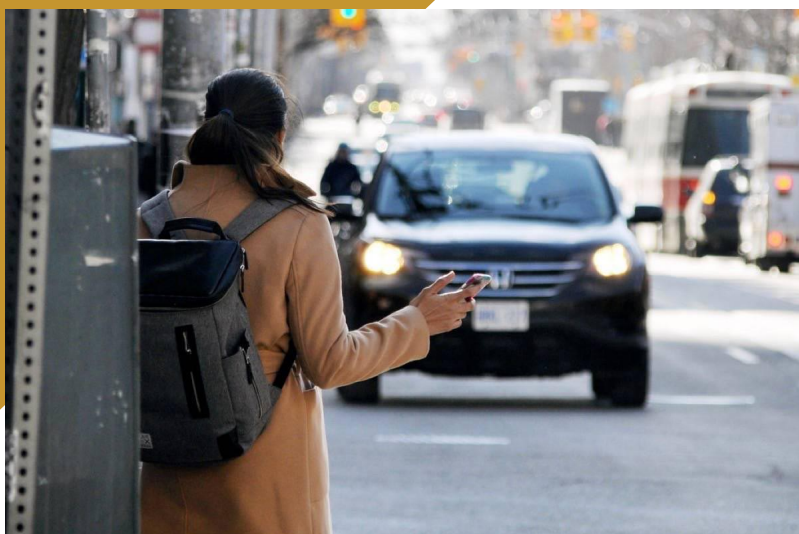
## Promoting Quality Education through Clean Energy Access

The objective of the project is an assessment for solar installment and baseline on quality education; preparation of training modules and capacity building of teachers; installation of solar rooftops and smartboards; and pedagogical training.

There would be improved penetration of solar rooftops in rural areas of Rajasthan and improvement in educational outcomes of schools with better access to electricity.







There would be an in-depth understanding of the changing dynamics of competition in the urban and semi-urban transport sector to help policymakers understand consumer's choices in a greater manner. It may also lead to the formulation of better regulations for new and traditional modes of transport.

## Competition Assessment in Ride Sharing Industry

The overarching objective is to conduct a detailed determination of relevant product and relevant geographic market and subsequently aims at ascertaining the level of competition in the urban and semi-urban transport industry with special focus on new modes of travel, such as app-based ride-sharing.

## Green Growth and Energy Transformation

To lay down a roadmap for low carbon mobility in Jaipur, this project involved the constructive amalgamation of technical aspects as well as the socio-political aspects of low carbon mobility, particularly through electric vehicles.

The outcome of the project was identifying relevant stakeholders and their role in strengthening the Electric Vehicle Integration Framework for Jaipur city. Also, building a narrative amongst a diverse group of stakeholders from national, state and city level jurisdictions.



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

In its third and final phase, the project aims to bust the myths around 5G and present its realities with the help of a consumer survey.

The project started by identifying some myths around 5G and subsequently, they have been addressed in dedicated chapters. With the help of intensive literature review and a consumer survey on existing and evolving telecom services, the project report would attempt to inform the debate and discussion around 5G. Analysis of the survey data is underway. The project report will be suitably modified to incorporate the survey findings. The project is expected to reach completion by the end of December.

## Consumer Impact Assessment on Cross-Border Data Flow

Consumer Impact Assessment (CIA) has been recognised as an important scientific tool by many countries. It is instrumental in measuring and ensuring the success of proposed regulations. Being a consumer-facing organisation (and considering the previously conducted above-mentioned studies), CUTS is undertaking an evidence-based CIA, i.e. a cost benefit analysis, the primary objective of which is to 'map the interests of consumers concerning personal data localisation, and suggest the most optimal regulatory framework required to be put in place to ensure consumer welfare'.



Our impact assessment study showcasing the adverse impact of restricting cross border data flow on consumer welfare was shared with Shashi Tharoor, MP.

## Value of Shared Mobility

The objectives of the project are to establish the role of Intermediate Passenger Transport (IPT) in urban mobility in India meeting supply gap and last-mile connectivity; identify regulatory gaps in IPT governance; and an alternative policy and regulatory framework to prioritise IPT and its integration with the multimodal transport system.

There would be better recognition of the role of IPT and its benefits, and an alternate policy framework for the policymakers for the integration of IPT with planning and transport policies in India.

## Regional Security in the era of Digital Media

The US Consulate, Kolkata in association with CUTS and East-West Center organised a two-day workshop entitled "Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media" in American Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal, India for journalists and media professionals from the US, Kolkata, Northeast India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Created a cross-border network of journalists to counter fake news, misinformation and promote positive narratives through news involving cross border collaboration of journalists. This initiative has been envisaged to create peace, regional integration, and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.



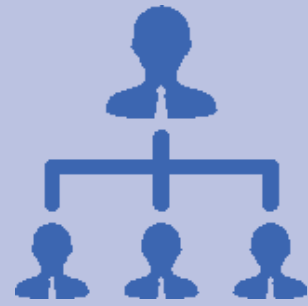




## The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy'

The objective of the initiative 'Strategic Partnership for Green and Inclusive Energy in Kenya' is to enhance demand and access to green energy adoption in Kenya. It is supported by HIVOS (East Africa).

Published a status report and policy brief for renewable energy in Bomet and Homabay counties; drafted the renewable energy policy for Bomet County; and working on the renewable energy strategic plan for two counties.



# Good Governance



## Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production

In 'ProOrganic II' project, the focus is on sustainable food and farming, and the formulation of an agenda to achieve it. This will be achieved through the promotion of organic production of farm products on one hand, and the promotion of organic consumption, on the other. Consequently, this would lead to sustainable development in the agricultural and environmental sectors.



*The third year of this project has been a success in terms of completion of the annual stakeholder's consultation; village level activities, farmer's training, and successful establishment of kitchen gardens and compost units in 20 schools in 10 districts*

## Sustainable Consumption and Production in India

The major objective of the proposed study is to frame the understanding of the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) beyond the SDG 12 and expand it beyond its current environment dimension. The concept shall be studied taking consideration of its presence in UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection under the Right to Healthy Environment, which goes beyond environmental protection and is driven by the views and rights of the consumers. At the same time, there is also a need to study, if the global goal of SDG 12 is making the desired progress in India.

SCP will receive its due attention and importance amongst other SDGs through continuous advocacy efforts

## Green Action Week Fund-India Campaign 2019

CUTS with the support of SSNC, Sweden has undertaken Green Action Week Fund-India Campaign 2019 to strengthen consumers with an active role of CSOs for raising awareness on environmental and other impacts of consumption and promote sharing community and sustainable patterns of consumption amongst consumers, policymakers and other key stakeholders.

*The Campaign at various states increased the awareness about sharing community and the sustainable pattern of consumption among common consumers of targeted places*







*Six E-waste collection bins have been installed at Jaipur, which can be used to deposit electronic as well as electrical waste items.*

## Green Action Week, Jaipur Campaign, 2019

The theme of GAW was the 'Sharing Community' for the year 2019. It aimed to facilitate awareness generation about sustainable consumption among consumers of Jaipur city of Rajasthan. The campaign was specifically targeted at women and youth. Various activities were held in Jaipur city with the rationale of influencing consumer behaviour in favour of sustainable consumption.

## Making Roads Safer for Road Users

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



Our intensive interaction with Parliamentarians led to the passage of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

## Mobilising Key Stakeholders for Eliminating Trans-fats from India

The objective is to empower the consumers to generate public demand to support 2 percentage limit of Trans Fatty Acids (TFAs) in oils, fats and all foods, and to support the efforts of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to strengthen TFA related provisions of various Food Safety and Standards regulations, earliest notification of the same and promoting effective implementation of the regulations.



This intervention is supporting the FSSAI's target of eliminating trans fat in India by the year 2022, a year ahead of the global target by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the complete elimination of trans fat.

## Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers

The objective of this intervention is to enhance the Financial Protection of Consumers in particular women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCPI). By building the capacities of rural consumers, especially women in terms of financial literacy, their financial inclusion is ensured and vulnerability overcome. All this contributes to their economic security.



*Through this intervention, the rural financial consumers, especially 3000 women were trained and made capable of making decisions on financial issues. 1800 trained women were linked with various financial institutions.*

## Depositor & Education Awareness Programme

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

*The project would generate mass awareness about safe and un-risky investments*

## Giving the Poorest Consumers Greater Voice

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



*Adequate demand is generated among the target low-income households for switching over to the use of improved cookstoves, clean energy and detergent powder for livelihood development and domestic use.*



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

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



Total of 474 cases in the year 2019 and 3571 cases have been successfully intervened under the project

## Changing Attitudes towards People with Disabilities

Social Inclusion project implemented with the support of Sightsavers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) primarily focuses on ensuring the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and developing the network of PwDs at the state as well as district, leading to social inclusion of all PwDs. The project also intends to engage visually impaired and other disabled people in mapping sustainable livelihood. It focuses on bringing about a change in outlook towards disabled people among all stakeholders including government thereby developing an enabling environment for disabled people to avail their rights.



State Award was given to the disabled for their excellent work in disability area; and in creating a barrier-free environment for PwDs in Chittorgarh at Jaipur by Bhanwar Lal Meghwal, Cabinet Minister, Rajasthan; Rajendra Singh Yadav, State Minister; and Akhil Arora, Principal Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan.

Women of the Future Award 2019 to Ania Prajapat, a 19-year old disabled, who worked for the social inclusion of PwDs.

Certificate of Appreciation by Sightsavvrs India for better serving PwDs.



## Advocating for Child Rights in Rajasthan

This project, undertaken with the support of Save the Children, aims to activate and strengthen Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees (PLPC) and develop the child protection workforce at the block and district level through competency-based training for a strong government system that will work towards preventing child labour, migration and monitor child right issues.

At least 30 percent of villages in two blocks of Banswara district of Rajasthan has been declared Child Labour Free.

## Farmer Producer Organisations

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

About 2000 small and marginal farmers in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara will get awareness about sustainable agricultural and agro-based products, value addition and sustainable agricultural management practices.

## Rural Eye Health Programme

The aim of the project, undertaken with the support of Sightsavers (Royal Commonwealth Society for Blind), was to raise awareness, facilitate access of patients to eye camps and hospitals, provide training to health workers, extend support to base hospitals in planning or conducting camps, establish linkages with local stakeholders, organise networks and follow-ups of eye patients.



A total of 453 eye surgeries was accomplished and training was provided to 650 Accredited Social Health Activists.

## Promoting Sustainable Diets in Zambia

The project seeks to address the informal food system which is best positioned to address growing urban food insecurity in Zambia, in general, and specifically Lusaka and Kitwe in particular. However, the sector faces significant challenges that constrain the effective provision of services to the growing urban spaces. Informal markets make food accessible to city residents, the majority of whom are poor. While the increase in the number of supermarkets and other retail outlets make food available, the majority of people living in Lusaka and Kitwe do not have access to these outlets.



*Our study on informal food vendors in Zambia showed how a low-priced variety of products contributes towards consumer welfare.*

## Implementation of Supreme Court Guidelines on Road Safety in West Bengal

CUTS International, in association with Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur (IIEST) conducted a study in West Bengal, with support from Global Road Safety Programme, to assess gaps in the existing Motor Vehicles Rules, State Road Safety Policy, road safety action plan and bring in new legislation to make the road safety framework more effective in the state.

Several gaps in the existing regulations at the state level have been identified and suggestions to plug them have been submitted to the State Government. Also, some recommendations for additional policies (viz. parking, non-motorized transport, pool cars and buses, etc.) to be put in place have also been forwarded to the Government of West Bengal for consideration.

## Petition on Consumer Protection Law

CUTS Accra is undertaking an initiative 'Petition on Consumer Protection Law' to be passed in Ghana. The goal of the e-petition is to fast track the passage of the Consumer Protection Law in Ghana through civil action and advocacy with 20,000 signatures.

At present, there are 2190 signatories.

**Sign the petition**

**Help Ghana Get Consumer Protection Law this year**

It takes less than a minute to sign the e-petition.  
Visit: [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)

An initiative between:  
**CPA** (Consumer Protection Agency) **CUTS** Ghana

Consumer Protection Agency & CUTS Ghana  
Contact Number: CPA (0265652251), CUTS (0243920926)  
[www.consumerprotectiongh.org](http://www.consumerprotectiongh.org), [www.cuts-accra.org](http://www.cuts-accra.org)

# Highlights

## Empowering Women and Securing Children's Future

"Child protection and women's empowerment are two major pillars of India's future development. We cannot simply ignore the valuable contribution that the one half of our humanity is making towards the growth and development of our country", said Maneka Gandhi, Women and Child Development Minister of India.

She was speaking on the occasion of the release of 'Stories of Change', which captures some glimpses of a journey by CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) of its grassroots interventions in several districts of southern Rajasthan over last 25 years. The occasion was graced by several female networkers, who are taking such messages forward to society at large. Over the years, CUTS has facilitated the formation of more than 1050 self-help groups in these districts, which are mostly managed by women.



## Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Connectivity and Trade Facilitation

CUTS International, along with the Asian Development Bank, organised a side event during 'Aid for Trade Global Review 2019' at Geneva on July 04, 2019.

Bipul Chatterjee moderated the session on 'Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN): Connectivity and Trade Facilitation'. This session deliberated on good policies and practices for sustained trade by

addressing issues related to women empowerment, youth, livelihood development, resilient infrastructure, digital connectivity, and skill development.





## World Consumer Rights Day, 2019

CUTS CART organised World Consumer Rights Day on the theme 'Trusted Smart Phones' on March 15, 2019. Bhavna Sharma, Senior Advisor, TRAI, Jaipur was the main speaker focusing on the role of the regulator, whereas, Abhishek Khandal from Vodafone-Idea Ltd. was the speaker on the technical aspect of the issue. There were around 35 participants. Before the event, a consumer perception survey was also conducted on the issue online among consumers and the results of which were disseminated during the event among participants.



## World Food Safety Day

CUTS Nairobi celebrated the first-ever World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, under the theme 'Food Safety, everyone's business' on June 07, 2019. The World Food Safety Day provides an opportunity to create awareness and ensure that Codex Standards give guidance towards safer food. The objective of the celebrations is to inspire actions for safer food and give producers, food transporters, processors, consumers, and the government a chance to focus on food safety.



## World Competition (Antitrust) Day 2019

As part of the activities marking World Competition (Antitrust) Day, CUTS with the support from the BUSAC Fund



had media and press encounter on the theme: 'Ensuring Competition in Increasingly Online World' on December 05, 2019.

The World Competition Day, which was also celebrated as part of the strategies adopted by CUTS Accra to implement the project entitled "Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime for Ghana (COMPAD) brought together 30 journalists to discuss the theme.

Importantly, Appiah Kusi Adomako urged the Government of Ghana to prioritise the passage of the Law next year. He also added that optimal regulations need to be put in place to ensure that the digital economy can contribute substantially to economic growth.

## Contributing to DigiTech Growth



CUTS International and CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) organised the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Competition, Regulation and Development on December 01-02, 2019 in New Delhi, India. The theme of the conference was "Making Competition and Regulatory Regimes Matter in Increasingly Online Developing World".

The objective of the conference was to discuss the current state of competition and regulation regimes

in developing economies, challenges posed and opportunities offered by the increasingly online developing world, and policy and implementation innovations required to make them matter for sustainable development.

The conference resulted in the emergence of broad contours of an action agenda for stakeholders in developing countries to deal with the online economy.

## CUTS Completes 10 Years in Geneva



CUTS Geneva celebrated its 10th Anniversary, and leaders from UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, OECD and EIF felicitated the Centre by their presence. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD said that CUTS joined UNCTAD's eTrade for All for it understood that the digital economy is becoming a new front for competition.

Frederic Jenny, Chairman, OECD Committee on Competition stated that CUTS has been hugely important in promoting reforms that have led to better competition, trade, and consumer protection. This was echoed by Arancha González, Executive Director of ITC, who praised the consistent far-sightedness of CUTS' founder.

Yonov Frederick Agah, Deputy Director-General of the WTO opined that CUTS has been of significant help to many developing country delegations in Geneva. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), highlighted the importance of CUTS' role in bridging the gaps between Geneva and capitals while helping developing countries and LDCs better take advantage of trade.

## Fostering Indo-US Innovation for Mutual Prosperity

CUTS Washington held two roundtables in Washington DC, the US and the other in New Delhi, India on October 30, 2019, and December 03, 2019, respectively. These roundtables were an attempt to develop a road map to foster mutual understanding about the role of innovation in major and strategic sectors as well as identify the pain points towards their uptake from policy and regulatory perspective. The sectors in focus included, but were not limited to, Defence & Aerospace, Energy and Data & Technology.



# Annexure I

## MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Sudipto Mundle**

President  
CUTS



**Asha Bhatnagar**

(Social Worker) Member



**Arun Maira**

President  
Emeritus



**V V Singh**

(Professor of Economics, Rajasthan  
University) Member



**Pradeep S Mehta**

Secretary General CUTS



**Kishore Rungta**

(MD, Man Structural Ltd.)  
Member



**Ajit Singh**

Secretary  
CUTS



**Shail Mayaram**

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



**Bipul Chatterjee**

Treasurer  
CUTS



**Rima Hooja**

(Archaeologist & Writer) Member



**Ganga R Singh**

(Director, READS) Member



# Annexure II

## MAJOR EVENTS

### Trade

- Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade  
*Agartala, Tripura, January 12, 2019*
- Stakeholder Consultation on the 'Implementation of the E-Voucher in 2018-19'  
*Lusaka, Zambia, February 06, 2019*
- World Consumer Rights Day 2018  
*Accra, Ghana, March 15, 2019*
- Roundtable Meeting on 'Future of Regional Connectivity in South Asia'  
*New Delhi, April 29, 2019*
- Women Traders in the Borders of North East India Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting  
*New Delhi, May 29, 2019*
- Aid for Trade Global Review 2019  
*Geneva, July 04, 2019*
- Roundtable Discussion on Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in the Bay of Bengal Region: Role of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement  
*New Delhi, August 13, 2019*
- Promoting Women Traders in North-East India: Roundtable Meeting to draft Action Agenda  
*Guwahati, August 28, 2019*
- Workshop for Media Practitioners and Journalists on 'Regional Security in the era of Digital Media'  
*Kolkata, West Bengal, August 29-30, 2019*
- Regional Policy Dialogue on Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in BBIN sub-region of the Indo-Pacific  
*Dhaka, September 04, 2019*
- Integrating the Voices of CSOs in EAC Intra-

Regional Trade and the AfCFTA  
Nairobi, Kenya, December 10, 2019

### Regulation

- Strengthening the Discourse on Economic Policy to Generate Good and Better Jobs in India  
*New Delhi, January 29, 2019*
- Round Table Discussion on Evolving Role of Online Intermediaries: Retaining Trust, Re-imagining Safety  
*New Delhi, February 12, 2019*
- Stakeholder Consultation on Draft E-commerce Policy  
*New Delhi, March 07, 2019*
- Workshop on Measuring the Impact of Data Localisation on Consumers  
*New Delhi, June 21, 2019*
- Consumer Awareness Workshop on Data Protection and Privacy & Impact of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018  
*Jaipur, July 18-19, 2019*
- Consumer Awareness Workshop on Data Protection and Privacy & Impact of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018  
*Kolkata, November 01, 2019*
- CBEC Launch Event  
*Jaipur, March 28, 2019*
- Exploring the transition to Electric Mobility in Jaipur City  
*Jaipur, May 25, 2019*
- Training Workshop for Civil Society Organizations and CONASC Partners in Rajasthan under the CBEC Project  
*Jaipur, June 07-08, 2019*

- Second Training of Trainers Workshop for CONASC Partners under the CBEC Project  
*Jaipur, August 22-23, 2019*
- Exploring the Transition to Electric Mobility in Jaipur City  
*Jaipur, August 28, 2019*
- Workshop on Investment Facilitation  
*Accra, Ghana, September 12, 2019*
- Low Carbon Mobility and EV Integration Framework for Jaipur City  
*Jaipur, October 31, 2019*
- 6th CUTS-CIRC Biennial Conference on Competition, Regulation and Development  
*New Delhi, December 01-02, 2019*
- Ensuring Effective Competition in an Increasingly Online World  
*Geneva, December 05, 2019*

## Governance

- State Level Stakeholder's Consultation  
*Jaipur, March 01, 2019*
- Rajasthan Road Safety Expert Group Discussion  
*Jaipur, March 25, 2019*
- Stakeholder Workshop on Legislative Gaps in Road Safety  
*Jaipur, May 21, 2019*
- District Level Workshops on Good Samaritan Guidelines  
*May 28-30, 2019*
- State Level Seminar on Good Samaritan Guidelines  
*Jaipur, July 02, 2019*
- Consultation meetings on the scope of improving the laws and policies on road safety in West Bengal  
*June 28, 2019, and August 07, 2019*
- National Conference on Road Safety  
*New Delhi, September 25, 2019*
- State Level Media Sensitisation Workshop  
*Jaipur, November 27, 2019*
- District Level Stakeholder's Consultation cum Dissemination Meetings  
*November 26-29, 2019*
- State Level Stakeholder's Consultation  
*Jaipur, December 20, 2019*
- Lights for Defenders campaign  
*Jaipur, December 10, 2019*
- National Girl Child Day  
*Chittorgarh and Bhilwara, January 24, 2019*
- Road Safety Week  
*Chittorgarh, January 30-February 06, 2019*
- International Women's Day  
*Chittorgarh, March 08, 2019*
- World Consumer Rights Day  
*Chittorgarh, March 15, 2019*
- Childline Se Dosti Week  
*Bhilwara, November 14-20, 2019*
- World Disability Day  
*Chittorgarh, December 3, 2019*
- National Consumer Day  
*Chittorgarh, December 24, 2019*
- Annual Stakeholder's Consultation-cum-Dissemination Meetings on Financial Consumer Protection  
*Bhilwara and Chittorgarh, November 26 & 29, 2019*
- Media Sensitisation workshops on promoting organic farming and consumption, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh in 2019

# Annexure III

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

### TRADE

#### Reports

- India-Bangladesh Agriculture Trade: *Demystifying Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products and their Linkages with Food Security and Livelihood*
- Bridging the East Trade and Transport Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Region
- *Bordering on Happiness: An Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Bangladesh-India Border Haats*
- Promoting Trade and Tourism in Trans-boundary Waterways of Meghna Basin
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement: Opportunities and Challenges
- Green Technologies, Intellectual Property Regime and Climate Change
- *Adaptation in Climate Talks: Developments since the Paris Agreement*
- Finance Commitments under the Paris Rulebook of UNFCCC: *Implications for Developing Countries and LDCs*
- Leveraging the WTO to Achieve SDGs: *Priority Goal Areas for Small Developing Countries and LDCs*
- Reforming the World Trade Organization: *Suggestions for an African Agenda*
- Support for post-graduation soft-landing of LDCs: *Implications in the context of the WTO*
- Synergising Trade and Climate Talks: *How Can the WTO and UNFCCC Learn From Each Other?*
- Evolution of Domestic Support in Agriculture
- Special and Differential Treatment in the Context of the Digital Era
- WTO Trade Policy Reviews of Major Economies: Implications and Lessons for Smaller Developing Countries and LDCs
- Data Flows, Data Localisation, Source Code: Issues, Regulations and Trade Agreements

- Investment Facilitation at the World Trade Organization: Progress and the Road Ahead
- Overcoming Gender Challenges in E-Commerce: What is being done to support women-owned MSMEs?
- Whitepaper on Enhancing MSME Participation in Trade: Considerations for the WTO Informal Work Programme for MSMEs
- Trade Policies in Eastern and Southern Africa: Springboard or Barrier to Women's Economic Development?

#### Discussion Papers

- Transforming Roles for Women Traders in Global Value Chains

#### Briefs

- Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Agriculture Trade
- India-Bangladesh Trade in Agriculture and their Linkages with Food Security and Farmers' Livelihood
- United we stand, divided we fall: Infrastructural Impediments to Better Connectivity in South Asia
- In search of harmony Strengthening Connectivity among the BBIN Countries
- A bridge across forever: Bridging Infrastructural Gaps in Bangladesh for Improved Regional Connectivity
- Where there is a will, there is a way: Overcoming Politico-Economic Obstacles in Bangladesh for Better Regional Connectivity
- The Good Earth Landlocked Bhutan: Identifies Infrastructural Obstacles to Improved Regional Connectivity
- United we stand, divided we fall: Infrastructural Impediments to Better Connectivity in South Asia



- To be or not to be – that is the Question: Bhutan's Concerns with Political Economy Pertaining to Regional Connectivity
- For the greater common good: Addressing Infrastructural Inadequacies in India for Improved Regional Connectivity
- Love thy neighbour as thy self: India's Politico-Economic Dilemmas with Regional Connectivity
- One, two, buckle my shoe: *Plugging Infrastructural Lacunae in Nepal for Aiding Regional Connectivity*
- Regarding Improved Regional Connectivity, Charity begins at home: *Nepal's Politico-Economic Concerns*
- A bridge not too far: *Exploring Opportunities for Strengthening Regional Connectivity through Infrastructural Improvements in Myanmar*
- Seek and you shall find: *Dealing with Politico-Economic Hindrances in Myanmar for Buttressing Trade Connectivity*
- Reviving Riverine Livelihoods through Short-Haul Trade and Tourism
- Post-graduation of LDCs: *Implications in the context of the WTO*
- Achieving SDGs: *What is the Relevance of the WTO for Small Developing Countries and LDCs?*
- Competition Concerns in Cross-border E-commerce: *Implications for Developing Countries*
- Comprehensive Review of the East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff: *What are the Salient Issues?*
- Agro-processing: *Will Digitalisation makes it more Attractive to East African Youth?*
- Investment Facilitation: *What are the Issues at Play?*
- What can the WTO and UNFCCC Learn from Each Other?
- Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policies: *What Progress in Eastern and Southern Africa?*
- Transforming Gender Roles in Value Chains: *Towards More Sustainable Growth*
- Beyond Trade Rules: Enablers of Firms' Participation in Regional Agro-processing Value Chains
- Initiative to Enhance MSME Participation in International Trade: *Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of the WTO*
- Gender Challenges in E-commerce: *What is being done to Support women-owned MSMEs?*

## Notes

- Comment les services impactent-ils le développement de l'agriculture?
- Electronic Commerce Joint Statement: Issues in the Negotiations Phase
- Electronic Commerce Joint Statement: Issues in the Discussion Phase
- Beyond UNFCCC and Paris Agreement: Mapping Financial Support Available for Farmers and Agro-processors in Developing Countries
- Environment-related Standards in Maize Value Chains and their coherence to Existing Policy Frameworks in the East Africa Community
- The role of NDCs in fulfilling energy-related SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Challenges for Compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement
- Assessing Current Nutrient Use and Manure Management Approaches
- Response Measures Commitments in Climate Talks
- Export Challenges Faced by South and Southeast Asian e-Commerce Providers
- Agricultural products' exports: Sanitary & Phyto-sanitary barriers faced by exporters in
- Towards Effective Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Resolving Conflicts between TRIPS and CBD
- WTO Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs: A review of the implementation and outstanding issues
- Methods and Approaches for Assessing Adaptation, Adaptation Co-benefits and Resilience
- Investment Facilitation Joint Statement Meetings in the WTO (2018-2019)
- Issues discussed at the MSMEs Joint Statement Meetings: 2018-
- Assessing Climate Adaptation in Agriculture: Setting the EAC scene and remaining needs
- The WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce: 1998-2017
- Appellate Body Deadlock at the WTO: State of Play and Pragmatic Way Forward
- Challenges Faced by E-commerce Service Providers in South and Southeast Asia

- Taking Advantage of WTO Regular Work: Learning Lessons from Four Key WTO Bodies
- Agricultural products' exports: Sanitary & Phyto-sanitary barriers faced by exporters in EAC
- Possible Special and Differential Treatment Provisions in the Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at WTO
- Towards the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference: issues and expectations from Stakeholders in the East African Community
- E-commerce in the WTO Council for Trade in Services Regular Work
- Trade in Services: Issues of Interest to Developing Countries and LDCs in the Regular WTO Committee
- WTO Committee on Trade and Environment: Taking forward the Issues of Interest to Developing Countries and LDCs
- WTO Committee on Trade and Development: Taking forward the Issues of Interest to Developing Countries and LDCs
- Options for Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations
- Challenges faced by Women Exporters: Experience of MSMEs from Africa and
- Barriers for MSMEs to Export at Regional and International Level: Views of MSMEs from Africa and Asia

## REGULATION

### Case Study

- E-clinic Services in Rajasthan, India – A Case Study

### Bill Blow-up

- Draft Personal Data Protection Bill 2018

### Briefs

- ZESCO's Application for the Upward Adjustment of Residential Electricity Tariffs
- Savings, Jobs and Climate Resilience: *The Heightened Significance of E-voucher*
- The Poverty and Utility Revenue Trade-Offs of the Proposed Residential Electricity Tariffs Adjustments in Zambia: A Household Based Analysis

## GOVERNANCE

### Book

- Stories of Change: Glimpses of Journey 1983-2018

### Guideline Booklet

- Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee

### Briefs

- Understanding the Impact of Zambia's Growing Debt on Different Stakeholders
- The Effect of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 10 of 2019 on Public Financial Management and Debt Management

# Annexure IV

## AUDIT REPORT

### Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2019

				Amount 'in Rs.'	
Figures as at 31.03.2018	Liabilities	Figures as at 31.03.2019	Figures as at 31.03.2018	Assets	Figures as at 31.03.2019
56,142,926.68	Reserves & Funds (As Per Schedule"1")	56,233,019.15	45,792,342.12	Fixed Assets (As Per Schedule"5")	46,273,936.12
1,296,986.10	Secured Loans (As Per Schedule"2")	978,129.90	22,460,868.86	Cash & Bank (As Per Schedule"6")	36,622,761.42
941,167.80	Current Liabilities (As Per Schedule"3")	501,300.80	7,306,527.00	Advances & Deposits (As Per Schedule"7")	10,517,952.00
17,178,657.40	Grant In AID (As Per Schedule"4")	35,702,199.69			
<u>75,559,737.98</u>		<u>93,414,649.54</u>	<u>75,559,737.98</u>		<u>93,414,649.54</u>

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

Sch. "20"

### AUDITORS' REPORT



In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto

For Goyal Dinesh & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

  
Dinesh K Goyal  
Partner  
M N 072959



For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Secretary

Treasurer

Place: Jaipur

Date: **28 SEP 2019**

UDIN-19072959AAAAE16886



### Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur

Income & Expenditure account for the year ended on 31st March 2019

Amount 'in Rs'.

Previous year	Expenditure	Sch.	Current year	Previous year	Income	Sch.	Current year
28,683,464.22	To Awareness Camp/ Seminar/Workshop/ Conference	"8"	19,029,978.96	124,336,840.55	By Grant & Donation	"17"	129,667,810.03
55,935,707.87	To Research	"9"	73,116,907.64	2,619,041.68	By Interest Received	"18"	1,761,494.52
7,758,523.33	To Climate Change	"10"	4,079,038.00	173,873.00	By Miscellaneous Income	"19"	235,395.00
5,424,209.55	To Welfare/Empowerment of Women	"11"	2,733,680.29		By Excess of Expenditure over Income.		137,115.53
5,980,604.00	To Rural Development	"12"	3,133,973.62				
6,263,096.02	To Agriculture Activities	"13"	10,024,020.78				
2,216,204.40	To Socio-economic & other Welfare programme	"14"	2,589,362.00				
10,636,061.15	To Capacity Building	"15"	11,527,314.74				
1,438,970.00	To Welfare of Children	"16"	3,433,534.00				
2,398,623.40	To Office cost		2,134,005.05				
394,291.28	By Excess of Income over Expenditure.						
127,129,755.23			131,801,815.08	127,129,755.23			131,801,815.08

Significant Accounting Policies and notes on Accounts

Sch. "20"

#### AUDITORS' REPORT

In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto

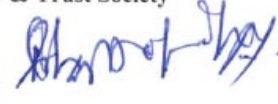
For Goyal Dinesh & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

  
Dinesh K Goyal  
Partner  
M N 72959



For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

  
Secretary

  
Treasurer

Place: Jaipur  
Dated

28 SEP 2019



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