

CUTS Dossier on Agriculture, Climate Change and Food Security

Established in 1983, CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) is a global public policy think- and action-tank (www.cuts-international.org).

With its headquarters in Jaipur, India, it has six overseas centres, viz. Geneva, Washington DC, Accra, Nairobi, Lusaka, Hanoi. Over four decades, CUTS has diversified its areas of interventions within the broad thematic areas of Rules based Trade, Effective Regulation and Good Governance.

Since early 1990s, CUTS started working on trade and development issues including their linkages with climate change, gender equity and inclusion of marginalised communities, thus contributing to its larger Vision of Consumer Sovereignty.

The impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security, including in the context of their trade aspects, are multi-faceted. Other than affecting productivity, yields, availability of arable land and water, climate change also impacts food prices and trade patterns.

This Dossier captures some highlights of CUTS's work in the domain of agriculture, climate change and food security, and their linkages with trade.

1. Sustainable Consumption and Production in India: A Consumer Perspective ([SCP](#))

Duration: Phase I: 2017-2021; Phase II: 2022-2026

Client: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency through the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

The project aims to study and bring to light the plan and progress in promoting sustainable consumption and production in India and put in public domain how India should move ahead to achieve the goal. Our study looked at the scenario at the national level, including the role of eco labels, impact of the pandemic, etc. and in-depth research in five states, viz. Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh through one-to-one interviews, focus group discussions, qualitative analysis and documentation of successful case studies.

2. Promoting Agriculture, Climate Change and Trade Linkages in the East African Communities ([PACT-EAC](#))

Duration: Phase I: 2011-2015; Phase II: 2015-2019

Client: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

The objective of the project was to build capacities of East Africans for climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing policies, particularly focussing on agro-processing in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. It undertook a comprehensive and synergetic set of activities related to research and analysis, advocacy, networking, and training at the national, regional and multilateral levels. The project activities examined trade-climate change-food security linkages, identified gaps in policies, undertook advocacy to fill these gaps, and also built capacities of all the relevant stakeholders in trade and climate change negotiations as well as in designing and implementing holistic policies.

3. Demystifying Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products and their Linkages with Food Security and Livelihood

Duration: 2017-2018

Client: USAID India

The project aimed to identify non-tariff barriers faced by the Indian exporters and importers while importing and exporting agricultural commodities from Bangladesh through seven selected ports in Eastern India and its linkages to livelihood and food security of producers.

4. Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)

Duration: 2013-2016

Client: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

The goal of the programme was to address the issues of water, food and energy security in South Asia through better regional cooperation, policy reforms, technology transfer and capacity building targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls. As part of this, perception survey was conducted in the states of Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh in India along with parts of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan that came up with recommendations which were captured in the advocacy briefs.

5. Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics and Trade ([FOODSEC](#))

Duration: 2013-2016

Client: Norwegian Research Council and in partnership with SIFO, Norway

The project aimed to understand the mechanisms of food security, i.e. an institutional approach addressing how various kinds of food production and distribution institutions operate and interact to produce a combination of entitlements that can ensure household food security. CUTS conducted Key Informant Interviews with various stakeholders involved in food production and distribution systems in Bihar and Karnataka along with a household survey of female heads in urban and rural households in these states.

6. Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia

Duration: 2010-2011

Client: Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands

CUTS conducted a perception survey among small and marginal farmers to understand levels of their awareness on climate change and its impact upon their livelihoods. This study presents South Asian farmers' knowledge on climate change and their subsequent adaptation and mitigation strategies during climatic crises.

7. Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh

Duration: 2013-2015

Client: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The project aimed to assess the potential economic viability of trade in rice seeds between India and suggest policy changes to create an enabling environment for promoting seed trade and knowledge sharing of high yielding varieties of rice.

CUTS International

2022.09.23