

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

AUGUST 2020

VISION

Consumer Sovereignty

Established in 1984, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working on public interest issues. The following describes the Capabilities, which CUTS has developed over these 30+ years.

To enable consumers, particularly the poor and the marginalised to achieve their right to basic needs, sustainable development, and good governance through strong consumer movement

www.cuts-international.org

PROGRAMME AREAS

- Rules-based Trade
- Effective Regulation
- Good Governance

RESOURCES

- Approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of office space with the necessary equipment for efficient functioning and timely delivery
- About 100 staff with great diversity, experience, and dedication
- A well-developed and reader-friendly web site: www.cuts-international.org, and others in programme and resource centres
- In-house editorial and desktop publishing
- Affiliated to important national committees and several international organisations
- Distinguished fellows
- Excellent knowledge base and good leadership which inspire others towards the successful attainment of goals and objectives
- International Advisory Boards comprising members from diverse backgrounds
- A well maintained library-cum-documentation centre with more than 6,000 books and subscription of about 60 journals and e-newsletters in a month

ATTRIBUTES & VALUES

- Adopting a centrist approach through research and advocacy
- Ensuring outcomes, rather than just outputs
- Focus on areas (subject and geographical areas) where a vacuum and need exists
- Carved a niche for itself in research, advocacy and networking on several issues of public interest (modelled on an evidence-based advocacy and capacity building approach)
- Providing capacity-building support to various groups of stakeholders across Africa and Asia

OUTREACH

- Publishing a wide spectrum of material for information dissemination for semi-literates to professionals in a reader-friendly format ranging from a wall newspaper to research reports
- Each programme centre has a flagship product: a periodic newsletter covering relevant issues
- Created sustainable networks from villages in India to the state, national, regional and international levels

Empowering Consumers



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training

www.cuts-international.org/CART.htm

MISSION

To enable consumers, particularly the poor and the marginalised to achieve their right to basic needs, sustainable development, and good governance through strong consumer movement

RESOURCES

- A centre located in Jaipur having professional and result-oriented human resource trained in innovative tools and techniques
- Having vast and deep networking profile in Rajasthan, India and at the global level
- Wide outreach through its quality and informative publications

PROGRAMME AREAS

Consumer Empowerment

- Advocated for the enactment and strengthening of Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) of India, 1986 and drafted National Consumer Policy
- Published reports on 'State of Indian Consumer, 2012' and 'State of Consumer Safety in India, 2016'
- Financial Consumer Protection to bank depositors and other financial consumers in urban and rural areas
- Received the Rhoda Karparkin International Consumer Award 2013 for significant contributions to the welfare of consumers
- Elected to the Governing Council of Consumers International at Brazil on November 21, 2015
- Received India Power Award 2008 for its outstanding networking and various outreach activities towards consumer empowerment by the Council of Power Utilities, in association with KW conferences
- Sustainable consumption and lifestyles by way of promoting organic food and farming

Good Governance

- Improving the public expenditure outcomes, through community participation, using social accountability tools and cross-learning
- Promoting community monitoring of delivery of various services and working on urban governance through enhanced civil engagement
- Global Partner of 'Global Partnership for Social Accountability' of the World Bank

- Built a cadre of organisations equipped with adequate knowledge and capacity to utilise 'Right to Information' for reforming the processes of rural development schemes and ensuring transparency
- Intervened to improve the services of the Jaipur Municipal Corporation by emphasising the importance of local government and strengthening the roots of local self-governance. Recognising CUTS contribution in the area of urban governance, the Government of Rajasthan conferred Swachh Rajasthan Award, 2016 on CUTS
- Established a prominent position and wide visibility in the area of good governance and is in high demand to work as a resource agency in the South and Southeast Asia region and elsewhere
- Set up a virtual Procurement Observatory with the objective of helping the State Government of Rajasthan, India to enhance its Public Procurement practices and outcomes

Sustainable Development

- Value addition in government's programmes at state, regional and national level
- Sustainable mobility on research in the area of traffic calming with emphasis on the safety of vulnerable road users, including environmental and economic issues
- Awareness and action across states under the National Environment Awareness Campaign of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- Implementing Road Safety Advocacy for ensuring easy passage of the new Motor Vehicles Act in India
- Developed a document on Case Studies on Sustainable Consumption Cultures, Practices and Lifestyles in India

OUTREACH

Publications

- Gram Gadar (Village Revolution): a monthly wall newspaper and rural development communication initiative being published in Hindi since 1983
- Panchwa Stambh (5th Estate): a Hindi quarterly newsletter on issues of human development, governance, and public service delivery
- Catalyst: quarterly e-newsletter in English covering news and events on the ongoing interventions of CART
- GSK ALERT (Monthly): a monthly mouthpiece of Grahak Sahayta Kendra (GSK) covering details of consumer cases being handled by GSK every month
- Consumer Dialogue (once in four months): it covers all consumer protection activities of the Centre with some specific judgements, news, etc.
- Publishing newsletters (bi-lingual), briefing papers, articles, guides, training manuals, event reports, Information, Education and Communication and Behaviour Change Communication tools etc. for targeted groups

Networking

- Active networking with voluntary organisations from grassroots groups across Rajasthan
- Campaigning successfully on a wide spectrum of public interest issues

FUTURE PLANS

- Strengthening the work of consumer protection with a deep focus on financial consumer protection
- Engaging intensively in urban governance and sustainable livelihood sector in India
- Ensuring strong road safety law and rules about the Centre as well as states and thus ensuring effective road safety in the country
- Raising awareness on sustainable consumption and lifestyle by focussing on organic culture from rural to urban areas by way of applying Research, Advocacy, Networking and Capacity Building (RANC) tool to ensure safer, more sustainable food for all
- Giving the poorest consumers greater voice by way of promoting the use of safer and sustainable products among low-income consumers, and, in turn, enhance their health and well-being
- Intensive work on sustainable consumption and lifestyles in the country, thus ensuring SDG 12
- Capacity building programme on project planning, monitoring and evaluation for different project partners to improve the quality outcomes
- Awareness Campaign for Inculcating 'Hygienic and Safe Food Practices' among Common Consumers in Select Districts of Rajasthan'
- Public Expenditure Tracking of COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts of Health Services in the Select States in India
- Climate Action Sensitisation Programme in Rajasthan (CASPR)



MISSION

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

RESOURCES & PARTNERS

- Headquartered at Jaipur, India, with experienced research and programme staff from diverse backgrounds
- An international advisory board comprising of 11 members from diverse backgrounds
- A well-developed and reader-friendly web site: www.cuts-citee.org
- In-house editorial and desk-top publishing
- A vibrant network of CSOs and other stakeholders working on trade and development issues
- Close working relationship with several governments in Asia and Africa and Geneva on trade and trade-related developmental issues

PROGRAMME AREAS

WTO Issues & FTAs

- Conducting network-based research and advocacy for raising a range of civil society concerns, views and perspectives on the current round of multilateral trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Bali package, the Nairobi package, and the Post Nairobi work programme

Regional Integration in South Asia

- Working on various aspects of South-South economic and trade cooperation including multi-modal transport and transit connectivity in South and Southeast Asia, trade facilitation and regulatory harmonisation

Trade and Sustainable Development

- Implementing many network-based and outreach-oriented projects on linkages of trade with poverty, gender, environment especially climate change, food security, pro-poor growth, and local economy and livelihoods

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Accredited to many inter-governmental and multilateral bodies such as WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank and Asian Development Bank
- Serving on various trade and trade-related committees of the Government of India, including having represented WTO Director General's informal NGO Advisory Body and Stakeholders' Panel on the Future of Trade

IMPACT

- Developing capacities of state and non-state actors in the developing countries on issues relating to liberalisation and globalisation including the functioning of the multilateral trading system, environment, management of water resources, energy, and food security, transport and transit connectivity
- Helping them to learn from other's successful experiences, in the formation of institutions, generation of human capital and development of growth enabling and poverty alleviating infrastructure
- Influencing policies through evidence-based advocacy

OUTREACH

- CITEE in Action: a quarterly report of activities of the Centre
- Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) Dossier: a quarterly dossier covering PTAs that India has entered into or expected to enter in future and PTAs of other countries and those that can have implications for the Indian economy, in general, and trade, in particular
- M-Connect Newsletter: A quarterly newsletter capturing multi-modal connectivity initiatives and developments in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN)

FUTURE PLANS

- Cross-fertilisation of knowledge and experience on trade and trade-related development issues particularly to enhance South-South cooperation
- Regularly employ Track 2 dialogues for better regional integration in South Asia and also work towards enhancing the informed decision-making power
- Diversify into new emerging areas together with other centres under the ambit of multilateral trade negotiations
- Leverage increasing recognition of the role of trade in addressing developmental/environmental concerns
- Focus on the network- and fieldwork-based action research, evidence-based advocacy targeting policy, dynamic outreach to multiple stakeholder groups
- Strive for environmental sustainability

Making Competition Reforms Participatory



CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation

www.cuts-ccier.org

MISSION

Promoting fair markets to enhance consumer welfare and economic development

RESOURCES

- Headquartered at Jaipur with experienced research and programme staff
- Affiliated to various international/national organisations
- Guided by an international advisory board comprising 20 members from diverse backgrounds

PROGRAMME AREAS

Competition Policy & Law

- Advocacy campaign for the adoption of World Competition Day (WCD) on 5th December. 2019's theme was – Ensuring Effective Competition in an Increasingly Online World.
- Submitting regular recommendations and comments on themes involving competition/regulatory issues to the Competition Commission of India and other economic regulators or government agencies
- Developed a guidebook 'Framework for Competition Reforms' to highlight the need for pro-competitive reforms in key sectors in developing countries
- Developed Competition Impact Assessment Toolkit
- Empanelled by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to conduct competition assessments and market studies
- Biennial review of competition and regulation in select economic sectors in India and globally (ICRR). The theme for Competition and Regulation in India, 2019 was Digital Economy – Hitting the reset button on competition and regulatory governance.
- Involved in adopting and implementing competition regimes in developing and least developed countries

Economic Regulation

- Signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to work on e-commerce in the developing world.
- Established a Parliamentarians Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE) in India

- Research on Strengthening the Discourse on Economic Policy to Generate Good and Better Jobs in India
- Research on Regulatory Framework for Taxi Aggregators in India.
- A study on Economic Impact of Judicial Decisions
- Submitting comments to consultation/discussion papers released by various government departments/ministries or sector regulators such as telecom, power, and energy, digital payments, virtual currencies, mobility, etc.
- Increasing awareness/capacity of consumers to demand a regulatory and policy ecosystem to further clean energy sources

Investment Climate

- CUTS is a partner organisation in UNCTAD's e-Trade Initiative
- UNCTAD identified CUTS as a strategic partner on investment issues
- Assessing the impact of cross-border electricity trade and competitiveness among the states of India on ease of doing business and attracting investment

Consumer Protection

- Actively engaged in digital issues which impact consumers, such as privacy and data ownership
- Assessed the Quality of Service (QoS) for mobile internet services in India through a survey conducted in West Bengal, Rajasthan and National Capital Region. Launched an app, in partnership with IIT, Delhi in this regard
- Research on Consumer Broadband Labels to create a network of consumer groups and other stakeholders and increase their long-term capacity/awareness on broadband services and need for nutrition label to bring about policy and practice changes
- Undertook a project to link clean energy access at schools with quality education accessible to students
- Research on consumer perspectives on secured communication services and encryption

OUTREACH

Publications

- Spotlight: a monthly newsletter that provides a snap analysis on topical policy issues of general interest, to keep the readers informed and igniting conversation. It covers a wide and cross-cutting range of subjects including competition law and policy, economic regulation, data governance, future of jobs, energy, and urban mobility, among others.
- Competition Distortions Dossier: a quarterly dossier, which analysis policy issues which have an impact (positive/negative) on competition in India
- Future of Jobs in India Dossier: another quarterly dossier launched in October 2017, to highlight the challenges in jobless growth and imminent threat of increased automation and digitisation on job creation
- Analysis of Competition Cases in India: a quarterly publication which analyses major orders of the Competition Commission of India

- CCIER Activity Report: a quarterly report summarising major activities undertaken during the period. This document provides a quick overview of the various operations of the Centre and corresponding outputs/outcomes

FUTURE PLANS

- Deepen work on competition policy and economic development; business regulation/private sector development; job creation
- Strengthen work on issues about clean and renewable energy
- Strengthen work on issues on regulatory and competition impact assessment
- Strengthen work on issues of the digital economy
- Work for the agriculture market reforms at the state level

Strategic Interventions at the Grassroots

CUTS Centre for Human Development



www.cuts-international.org/CHD.htm

MISSION

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

RESOURCES

- A Centre working mainly in Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan at the grassroots level, with 28 experienced programme staff
- Having vast and direct intervention in over 1200 villages
- Affiliated to various state/district committees/organisations
- Developed a vibrant network of CSOs, stakeholders, and volunteers

PROGRAMME AREAS

Empowerment and Livelihood

- Community-based action projects to improve the status of women and enhance livelihood security in rural areas
- Ensuring socio-economic development and enabling environment for persons with disabilities
- Promoting and nurturing farmer producer organisations to increase their agriculture income and sensitisation to stakeholders for needful assistance
- Enhancing the financial protection of consumers through financial literacy initiatives

Good Governance

- Improving awareness among consumers and facilitating them through community participation and social accountability
- Promoting the use of safer and sustainable products among low-income consumers, and, in turn, improving their health and wellbeing
- Capacity building and improving the participation of consumers and consumer organisations in decision making regarding power sector issues

Environmental Education and Protection

- Developing Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption
- Promoting Environmental Awareness and value addition to the government's programme

Health and Sanitation

- Awareness on eye health care, cataract surgeries, training to health workers and linkage with local stakeholders
- Creating health awareness among mother, child, adolescent and differently-abled

Child Rights

- Reach out to every child in need of care and protection and provide advocacy service to inaccessible
- Strengthening child protection committees and building capacity of stakeholders towards preventing child labour and also monitoring child right issues
- Providing training building capacity quality education through solar energy access

OUTREACH

Publications

- Participation and Action towards Community Empowerment (PACE – a quarterly e-newsletter in English covering news and events on the ongoing interventions of CHD)

FUTURE PLANS

- Promote good governance with community participation
- Strengthen the Self Help Group (SHG) movement, promoting micro-credit for livelihood activities, creating federations
- Strong advocacy for child rights and the differently-abled
- Raise awareness on conserving natural resources, road safety and capacity building of electricity consumers
- Strengthen farmer producers with start agro-business, value addition, and market linkage
- Establish a Grassroots Resource Centre
- Expand Disabled People Organisation, build capacity and leverage with the government for welfare schemes
- Raising awareness and promoting eye care services with the active involvement of stakeholders
- Develop some model villages in organic farming, child labour free and quality education through solar energy access

Consumer Safety a Priority

CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre



www.cuts-international.org/cuts-crc.htm

MISSION

Promote economic equity and sustainable development within and across borders through evidence-based advocacy and consumer empowerment

RESOURCES

- The Centre has a dedicated team comprising of a mix of people from disciplines such as Economics, Development Studies, Energy Engineering, and Business Management
- Active networking with various stakeholders in East and North-East India and Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal

PROGRAMME AREAS

The Centre focusses on the following programme areas:

Regional Cooperation & Grassroots Economic Development

- Understanding major challenges and advocating for an inclusive policy to address challenges and facilitating effective implementation of the Motor Vehicles Agreement in and among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Myanmar
- Promoting river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh
- Expanding tradable benefits of trans-boundary water: promoting navigational usage of inland waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra basins
- 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
- Understanding the major challenges and advocate for an inclusive policy to facilitate connectivity in and among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) through multiple modes
- Promoting Consumer and producer Gains from Trade between Bangladesh and Tripura in Specific Agricultural commodities
- Facilitating Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade in select Agricultural Commodities, Identifying the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to Trade and preparing an NTB Removal Action Plan
- Organise dialogues among South and Southeast Asian countries in the Indo-Pacific region to identify areas and strategies to promote trade and prosperity among the countries.

Energy and Sustainability

- Identifying strategies to promote green growth and creating a social coalition of key stakeholders (policymakers, think tanks, subject experts, industry, media, academia, consumers, etc.) who will advocate for greater uptake of the green growth agenda at the national and sub-national level
- Build long-term capacity of consumer groups to request demand-side management and renewable energy initiatives and understand, document and communicate their specific needs to relevant policymakers
- Collaborated with New Town Development Authority (NKDA) to promote solar technologies among the various category of end-users, including residential, commercial, institutional consumers and others in the NKDA area
- Addressing 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

Consumer Protection and Safety

Data security and e-commerce

- Create awareness among consumers about the importance of data protection and privacy & impact of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 (PDPB)
- Create awareness among Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) about cybersecurity threats and capacitate them with the tools and strategies to deal with cyber threats

Road Safety

- Assess the status of Road Safety across BBIN Corridors
- Assess gaps in the existing Motor Vehicles Rules, West Bengal's Road Safety Policy, Road Safety Action Plan and advocate for new legislation to make Road Safety Framework more effective in West Bengal

Others

- Create awareness among media practitioners about the threats of misinformation and fake news on domestic as well as cross-border publics, democracies, cross-border relation and build their capacity to discern and respond to deceptive, biased or false news
- Build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs working in the electricity sector to enable them to deal with the issues involved, take-up action research, share experiences, and carry out advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to effect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes
- Create awareness among electricity consumers in rural and urban areas about the grievance redressal procedure for electricity consumers and guide them to get their complaints registered in appropriate Forums
- Create awareness among electricity consumers about basic safety measures while handling electrical equipment
- Create a discourse among various stakeholders on why there is a need for introducing a label for broadband services and how the same could be done

OUTREACH

Publications

- Published several books, monographs, briefing papers, articles, and training manuals under different projects

FUTURE PLANS

- Work towards greater connectivity, regional economic cooperation, and integration in Eastern South Asia
- Promote sustainable development with an emphasis on energy security
- Build civil society capacity on regulatory and policy issues to enhance their participation in policymaking
- Strengthen work on consumer safety with a focus on consumer awareness and capacity building

Focusing on Trade & Sustainable Development

CUTS Accra

www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra

MISSION

Function as a Resource Centre for information on trade, regulation, and governance, competition law and policy with sustainable development being the cross-cutting thread, in the West African region

RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- A network of local and international experts
- Support of CUTS HQ and global offices on programmatic and developmental issues

PROGRAMME AREAS

Trade and Development

- Developed a strong working relationship with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. Currently, an MoU between the two is being signed
- Established a permanent resident representative in Abuja, Nigeria
- Signed an MoU with Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Signed an MoU with Ghana Standard Authority
- Strong footprint in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) process and support to CSOs working in this area
- Assessed Ghanaian Private Sector Readiness for AfCFTA Implementation
- Working with the World Bank Group on the West African Trade Facilitation Programme

Competition and Regulatory Policy

- Advocating for evolution and effective implementation of the national competition regime in Ghana
- Served as a knowledge resource to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on issues bordering on Competition Law and Policy
- Developing competencies of competition practitioners in the West Africa region

Consumer Protection and Law

- Advocating for a fully functional Consumer Policy and Law
- Developed a strong relationship with consumer protection regulatory bodies -- Bank of Ghana, National Communications Authority, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, among others
- Advocated for financial literacy and inclusion
- Improving health outcomes under the National Health Insurance Scheme to ensure that the system works for the people

Energy Sustainability

- Working on energy sector public budget expenditure to improve energy access

Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development

- Working with Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) to increase the quantity and quality of foreign direct investment for sustainable development in Ghana

Improved Health Care Systems in Ghana

- Working with Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Health Insurance Authority, all stakeholders and CSOs in the sector to advocate and ensure a functioning National Health Insurance Scheme that works for the people

OUTREACH

- Tradequity: quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa
- Accra Bi-Weekly News Bulletin on Trade and Economic Development

FUTURE PLANS

- Financial literacy and inclusion
- Agriculture and food security
- Cost of regional non-integration to consumers and producers
- Trade and climate change linkages
- Competition reforms in the PPP procurement process
- Cities Governance Initiative
- Road safety in Accra

Promoting South-South Cooperation

CUTS Lusaka

www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka

MISSION

Function as a regional (Southern African) centre of excellence for action (policy) research, advocacy, and networking on issues of trade and development, economic governance, and consumer welfare.

RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- A network of local and international experts

PROGRAMME AREAS

Trade and Development

- Research on the impact of subsidies in the agriculture sector
- Research, advocacy and capacity building of Southern African civil society organisations on trade-related issues
- Research and engagement with the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry on promoting public-private dialogue forums
- Research on Zambia's horticulture sector

Economic Governance

- Research and Advocacy on the Impact of Zambia's Growing Debt Burden
- Undertaking Research on the Implications of Debt on Zambian Households and the Individual Costs of Living
- Research on Zambia's Tax Policy
- Research on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19
- Research on Zambia's Debt Legislation
- Research on Zambia's Public Procurement Act

Consumer Welfare

- Development of a Food Policy Council with the Lusaka City Council
- Information Sensitisation on the Impact of COVID-19 on Informal Markets

OUTREACH

- Tradequity: a quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa

FUTURE PLANS

- Trade and agribusiness
- Effects of inflation on consumers with a particular focus on low-income earners
- Implications of tax policy on low-income consumers

Building Capacity of the East African CSOs

CUTS Nairobi

www.cuts-international.org/arc/nairobi

MISSION

Function as a resource, coordination as well as networking Centre to promote South-South cooperation for sustainable, people-centred economic and social development

RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- A network of local and international experts
- Support of CUTS HQ and global offices on programmatic and developmental issues

PROGRAMME AREAS

Trade and Development

- Mapping out the Institutional-Policy Environment and Issues Affecting Small-Scale Farmers and Options for Enhanced Productivity and Market Access Development
- Assessment of the Poverty Impact of Economic Integration in the East African Community (EAC)
- Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme Process
- Integrating the Voices of Civil Society Organisations in EAC Intra-Regional Trade and the African Continental Free Trade Area
- Using a political economy analysis approach to interrogate the underlying formal and informal rules, interests, politics, the decision-making spectrum toward the livestock sector and related markets in Kenya
- Promoting Climate-Aware, Food Security Enhancing and Trade Driven Agro-Processing in the EAC through policy interventions
- Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness in Kenya through Cassava Value Chain
- Filling gaps in coordinated policymaking and implementation among EAC member states on issues related to agriculture, climate change, food security and trade
- Capacity building of Eastern African civil society and government institutions on various perspectives on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations process
- Analysed the interplay of agro-processing with climate change, trade and food security in each EAC bloc which informed advocacy activities towards developing lasting policy solutions
- Contributed to trade reforms and their impact on food security in the EAC

Consumer Awareness and Education

- Consumer Rights Empowerment for socio-economic justice and good governance in Kenya
- Building capacity of consumers to drive demand for high standards of food safety in the supply chain - a functional and legitimate institution on food safety that will voice consumers' concerns
- Catalysing the realisation of people's energy needs through green and inclusive energy systems that create economic opportunities for women and men while mitigating climate change
- Promoting Transparency and Participation in Public Procurement at the Regional level through Empowered Civil Society Alliances
- Building consumer demand for milk safety and loss reduction in the dairy sector in Kenya
- Enhanced understanding among ESA civil society, government and business on competition concerns
- Contributed to the establishment of the Africa Competition Forum
- Empowered marginalised consumers to demand their rights and actively participate in ensuring good governance in the Kenyan service sectors
- Competition and economic regulation
- Building demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kenya

Regional Integration

- Assessed the challenges in the implementation of the EAC competition policy and law in each of the EAC partner state
- Examined the lessons for poverty reduction to East African integration and how benefits from it could be maximised

OUTREACH

- Tradequity: quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa

FUTURE PLANS

- Integrating the Voices of Economic Justice Advocates in the EAC Economic Development Agenda through a Right-based Approach
- Food Nutrition and Security
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Financial literacy and inclusion
- Renewable energy policy and practice
- Trade facilitation reforms
- Cost of regional non-integration to consumers and producers
- Agriculture and food security
- Trade and climate change linkages
- Competition reforms and implications on consumers and producers (key sectors)

Credible Southern NGO Voice

CUTS Geneva

www.cuts-geneva.org

MISSION

To establish and promote a pro-trade pro-equity credible Southern NGO voice linked with the grassroots, and with a holistic multi-stakeholder approach in the policy-making circles working on trade and development-related issues in Geneva

RESOURCES & PARTNERS

- Robust financial management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems, with a track record of successfully handling multi-million US\$ projects
- Observer status to the WTO, UNCTAD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Excellent working relationships with the International Trade Centre (ITC), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UNEP, etc.
- Experienced staff including former government officials and WTO negotiators
- Strategic alliances and partnerships with like-minded organisations in over 50 countries, including African and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Ability to leverage CUTS centres on three continents, for fast and cost-efficient operations with access to an extensive network of partners and experts

PROGRAMME AREAS

Trading System

- The WTO rules-based multilateral trading system is facing formidable challenges. We strive to preserve a strong and functioning trading system, promoting balanced and fair rules for all to support sustainable development at the national, regional, and international levels.

Functioning Markets

- Inclusive and progressive structural transformation requires sound regulations and well-functioning markets. We help governments craft sound policy environments on trade, competition, investment, consumer protection, services, industrial and private sector development, technology and innovation, e-commerce, and more.

Environment

- Climate change is threatening sustainable development, particularly in countries with low capacity for resilience and policy adaptation. We strive for climate-resilient, sustainable economies, and livelihoods, through support for environmentally-sound policies and strategic use of global climate talks.

Food and Agriculture

- Despite its huge potential in many developing countries, the agriculture sector often falls short of securing food for all and faces multi-pronged challenges. Tackling these from domestic realities to global agricultural trade rules, our support aims to promote sustainable agricultural systems that ensure food security.

IMPACT & OUTREACH

- Broke Policy “Silos”: We inspired several national policies to draw synergies across trade, climate change, food security and agro-processing issues. This includes Kenya’s Environment and Trade Policies, Uganda’s Trade Sector Development Plan, and Rwanda’s Trade Policy Forum.
- Smarter Negotiations: Through using CUTS’ analysis, grassroots contacts and regular forums, developing country trade and climate negotiators are better able to advance their interests. For instance, we maintain regular forums for Geneva delegates from South and Southeast Asia, West Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Eastern and Southern Africa as well as for climate change negotiators from East African Community, to provide objective, evidence-based and demand-driven technical assistance. Such forums have been maintained under projects such as our “Keeping Pace with Trade Developments”, “Geneva Business and Trade Connection”, and “Trade and Convergence at the WTO” initiatives.
- People Ownership: We enabled more stakeholders to participate in several policy-making and implementation processes across Western, Southern, and Eastern Africa as well as South and Southeast Asia, where we established national and regional networks. Our Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS), Facilitating Equitable Agricultural Development (FEAD), Building and Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC), and Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) sPokes projects were stepping stones in this regard.
- Sustained Results: Our projects inspired a substantial number of locally-owned, spin-off initiatives. For instance, our PACT EAC (Promoting Agriculture-Climate-trade Linkages in the East African Community) projects alone were found to have triggered over 40 similar initiatives in East Africa.
- Outreach: Over 3’300 stakeholders around the world receive our research and advocacy communications regularly.

FUTURE PLANS

- Helping developing countries devise appropriate trade policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis, minimising disruption on meeting SDGs and alleviating poverty
- Enabling developing countries to keep pace with trade-related developments, including towards the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. The focus will be on both traditional WTO topics and newer initiatives on issues such as e-commerce, gender, MSMEs, and investment facilitation.
- Improving developing country stakeholders' capacity for value-added trade, including in the face of climate change. Support areas range from meeting SPS requirements and quality standards to coherent approaches to tackling climate change at UNFCCC and domestically.
- Promoting inclusiveness in the formulation and implementation of trade, climate change, investment, competition, environment, agriculture and food security, and other related policies.

Buttressing US-India Relations

CUTS Washington DC

www.cuts-wdc.org

MISSION

Deeply rooted on the ground and strongly networked with governments and inter-governmental organisations, CUTS International, through its 6th overseas Centre in Washington DC (CUTS WDC) proposes to address bilateral and multilateral trade and economic matters of strategic importance to India and the US in the broader Indo-Pacific context.

PROGRAMME AREAS

Trade

- Road to US-India Free Trade Area (FTA), comparative and contemporary research leading to a future Indo-US free trade and investment agreement. Address tariff, non-tariff, non-scientific, technical barriers to trade, standards, and movement of labour. Issues surrounding Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), e-commerce, services, dispute settlement, agriculture trade, etc., will be analysed in a standalone as well as collaborative fashion.

Strategic Issues

- Innovation, digital infrastructure, high technology trade across defence, homeland security and IT, etc. Identify challenges and business opportunities while working on strengthening bilateral engagement. America First and Make in India to be promoted as complementary concepts for improved bilateral economic relations.

Energy

- Plug into the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP). Identify opportunities to clean coal technologies, conventional and renewable energy, power, and gas distribution infrastructure, among others. Address policy and regulatory barriers, investment concerns and suggest relevant policy solutions based on evidence and stakeholder consultations.

METHODOLOGY AND KEY FUNCTIONS

The Centre produces policy notes, occasional news wraps, and briefing papers and has rolled out a dynamic programme of round tables and events to ensure strategic outreach through social media, articles, blogs, webinars, podcasts, etc. The target audience of the Centre are policymakers in governments, global trade bodies, inter-governmental organisations, business representatives, think-tanks, civil society, and the informed public in both the countries, the Quad and other countries inside and outside (yet invested) in the Indo-Pacific region.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE PLANS

The possible revenue streams that would help sustain the activities of the Centre would be:

- Consultancy and Advisory work
- Research and Project Grants
- Founders Circle (<http://www.cuts-wdc.org/founderscircle/>)

The possible sources would be US Foundations, US Govt Agencies, Indian diaspora and US and Indian businesses, etc. The Centre is currently under incorporation and the plan of a full-fledged operations team is something that CUTS intend to take up, eventually.

Also, the Centre proposes to play two broad roles as explained below:

- **Resource Centre**: act as a 'Resource Centre' for American trade and investment policy community for:
 - Providing critical analysis on relevant policy issues, as per the programme areas, that are important for strengthening Indo-US bilateral, regional and multilateral relations
 - Provide useful information, data, resource materials on trade and investment matters
 - Liaise and link up with relevant actors within government, the business community, and civil society/academia for work on trade and investment issues
- **Voice of the South, from the South**: act as a 'Voice of the South, from the South' and present evidence, data and information that would be relevant for:
 - various organs of UN organisations, like UNDP, UNIDO
 - relevant platforms and divisions in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund
 - institutions and entities that can engage with actors in US foreign policymaking - especially in developing countries of Africa and Asia
 - foster South-South and North-South Cooperation



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