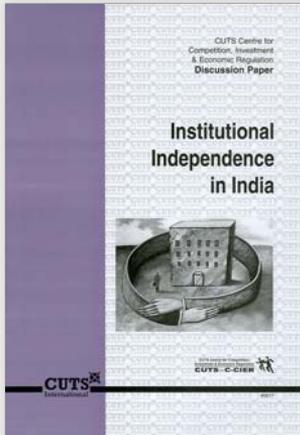


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## Institutional Independence in India

In India, several institutions have been mandated with institutional independence. Most of such institutions were established to perform the challenging task of maintaining a judicious balance between conflicting interests and overhauling the governance system, by enforcing accountability. The state has not been so successful in ensuring a right balance between these two.

In this discussion paper, a comprehensive analysis of institutional independence in India is carried out, which would help facilitate cross-disciplinary learning and identification of good and bad practices. Further, the functioning of various independent institutions – Tier one and Tier two – have been examined in detail.

The paper suggests that institutional independence should not be mistaken as an objective in itself; it should rather be seen as an important requisite for achieving desired effectiveness, economy, and efficiency in the system.

*Discussion Paper  
Suggested Contribution: Rs 100/US\$25*



**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

Nov. & Dec. 2006

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# Achieving the Goals of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

A Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) is an agreement between two or more countries to take certain steps to protect environment and conserve natural resources. Since India is signatory to a number of MEAs, this itself is an expression of India's commitment to address global environmental problems.

Yet, environmental degradation continues unabated, and there is widespread concern that MEAs have not lived up to the expectations because the goals are not sufficiently implemented, though fully compiled with or adequately enforced by all contracting Parties.

In India, enforcement of MEAs have always been in question since the government seldom possesses personnel with skills needed to enforce policy packages.

This Parliamentary Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE) paper discusses MEAs with special focus on India and outlines the various conventions and protocols. More importantly, it provides valuable inputs required for policy action and issues dimension for Members of Parliament (MPs).

*PAR-FORE Issue Note  
The same can be accessed at:  
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/PAR-FORE-4-2006.pdf>*



# Environmental Standards in Food Processing Industry: *Impact on South Asian Exports*

The Food Processing Industry (FPI) is one of the prime industries in India in terms of production, consumption, export and growth prospects. The sector is critical to India's development, for it establishes a vital linkage and synergy between the two pillars of the economy – Industry and Agriculture.

Meeting environmental and health safety standards demands acquisition of technology, heavy investment, training of personnel, and better management from the level of procurement of raw materials to packaging and selling. Thus, when compared to the developed countries, the overall preparedness of developing countries, particularly South Asian countries is low and inadequate.

However, while formulating such standards care should be taken to ensure that the conditions prevalent in both developed as well the developing countries are given their due importance. This briefing paper analyses the impact of environmental and health standards on the exports of developing countries.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP06-DI-5.pdf>*

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