

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment

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

In 1983, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) was established as a consumer protection organisation (www.cuts-international.org). With its headquarters in Jaipur, India and five overseas centres: Geneva (Switzerland), Hanoi (Vietnam), Nairobi (Kenya), Lusaka (Zambia) and Accra (Ghana), the organisation has evolved as a policy action- and think-tank on cognate subjects of Trade, Regulations and Governance for pursuing its Vision: *Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice, economic equality and environmental necessity, within and across borders.*

In 1996, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (www.cuts-citee.org) was established as a programme centre of CUTS to focus its activities on understanding the issues and implications of an emerging international trade regime under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation and bilateral/regional free trade agreements.

GOALS

- Enable and empower representatives of the civil society and governments, from developing countries in particular, to articulate and advocate on relevant and contemporary issues of trade and development at appropriate fora
- Create a questioning society through empowerment of civil society representatives to promote transparency and accountability in the system of trade governance
- Promote equity between and among the developed and developing countries through well-argued policy research and advocacy on emerging and relevant issues of trade and development

OBJECTIVES

- Present an independent political economic viewpoint on trade and trade-related economic, social and environmental issues from the perspective of Southern countries
- Sensitise policymakers about trade and development issues confronted by the people at the grassroots
- Empower civil society and government representatives to understand issues of priority for better welfare of Southern countries
- Juxtapose counterfactuals in debates on trade and trade-related developmental issues on a scientific basis
- Strengthen the capacity of developing country representatives in international trade negotiations and implementation of trade agreements
- Raise awareness in developed countries on trade and trade-related developmental issues for a better understanding of concerns of Southern countries
- Assist representatives of inter-governmental/multilateral organisations to better understand trade and trade-related developmental issues from Southern perspectives

A Highly Respected and Internationally Recognised Outfit



Finding the balance between needs and challenges has always been key to the success of CUTS. Thanks to continuous high quality research and effective networking and advocacy, CUTS has grown. The WTO, too, has benefited from CUTS' knowledge of the trade challenges and limited capacity of developing countries.

Pascal Lamy
Director-General, WTO (2005-2013)

WTO Issues & Free Trade Agreements



- National Public Procurement Policy of India
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/NPPPI>
- Government Procurement - An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/GP>
- WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations
<http://www.cuts-international.org/safit.htm>
- Doha Round Impacts on India: A study in a sequential dynamic CGE framework
http://www.cuts-citee.org/Doha_Round_Impacts_on_India
- Strategic Review of WTO-provided Trade-Related Technical Assistance Activities
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/trta.htm>
- South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues
<http://cuts-international.org/sacsniti.htm>
- Assessment of a Potential CECA between India and BKRCU
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/BKRCU>
- Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment Study of EU-India FTA
<http://tsia.ecorys.com/india>



Regional Cooperation in South Asia

- Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/TTFA>
- Financial Intermediaries and Trade Facilitation in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/FITF>
- Trade Consignment Mapping for Better Regional Connectivity in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/TCMSA>
- Indo-Bangla Trade Assessment
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/IBTA-II>
- Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/tf.htm>
- Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA>
- Promoting Participatory Approaches for Removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II>
- South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/mgr.htm>
- South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring the IBSA Initiative
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/ibsa.htm>

Trade & Sustainable Development



- Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio: *Promoting water, food and energy security in South Asia*
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP>
- Development Dimensions of National Foreign Trade Policy of India
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/NFTP>
- Food Security in India: *The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics and Trade*
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/FOODSEC>
- Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade Between India and Bangladesh
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE>
- Climate Change & Food Security in South Asia
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/CCFS>
- A Study of Environmental Standards and their Trade Impact on Indian Textiles & Clothing Sector
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/SESTI>
- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/tdp>
- Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/mainstreaming/index.htm>
- Assessing Consumer Behaviour on Energy Efficient Products in India
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/CONBEE>

ADVOCACY

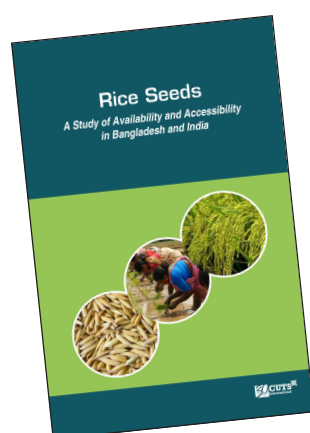


Government Procurement in India *A Tool for Good Governance & Global Integration*

The objective is to evolve a model Government Procurement Policy of India taking into consideration its linkages with other major macroeconomic policies and to utilise the policy as a tool to promote socio-economic development objectives.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Government-Procurement-in-India_Domestic-Regulations-Trade-Prospects.pdf

http://www.cuts-citee.org/gp/pdf/WTO_Plurilateral_Agreement_on_Government_Procurement_Market_Access_Opportunities_Challenges_for_India.pdf



India-Bangladesh Rice Seeds Trade & Knowledge Sharing

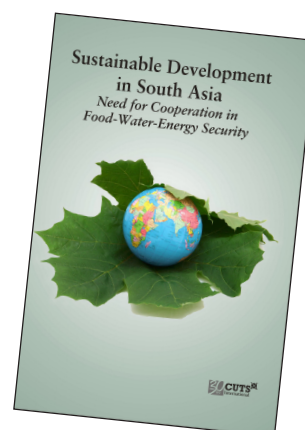
The objective is to develop an enabling environment to promote trade and knowledge-sharing on High Yielding Varieties rice seeds between India and Bangladesh.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Rice_Seeds-A_Study_of_Availability_and_Accessibility_in_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf

Food-Water-Energy Nexus in South Asia

The objective is to conduct policy research and advocacy to promote food, water and energy security in South Asia through a sustainable development approach focusing on regional cooperation in trans-boundary resource management and knowledge sharing.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Sustainable_Development_in_South_Asia-Need_for_Cooperation_in_Food_Water_Energy_Security.pdf

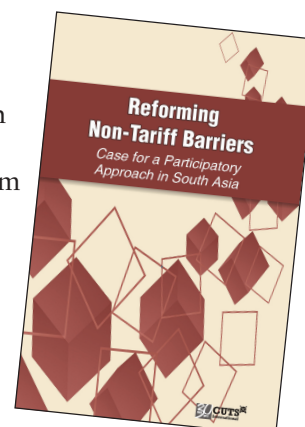


Regional Integration in South Asia

The objective is to analyse reasons for economic non-cooperation among South Asian countries, assess the costs thereof in terms of loss of consumer and producer welfares, and derive recommendations for minimising such welfare losses. One of the major outcomes is increased awareness about consumer and producer welfare gains from import promotion within South Asia amongst key stakeholder groups.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA/pdf/Consumers_and_Economic_Cooperation-Cost_of_Economic_Non-cooperation_to_Consumers_in_South_Asia.pdf

http://www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II/pdf/Reforming_Non-Tariff_Barriers_Case_for_a_Participatory_Approach_in_South_Asia.pdf



NETWORKING

- **CUTS Trade Forum** - It facilitates dynamic interaction among the global community of trade-related stakeholders on linkages between trade and development issues
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cuts-trade/forum>
- **CUTS South Asia E-Group** - It provides a platform to discuss, share views and opinion on contemporary issues on regional cooperation among relevant stakeholders of the region
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CUTS-SouthAsia/info>
- **Economiquity** - A Quarterly Newsletter which highlights important news and views on trade and economic issues from different parts of the world with a view to keep the trade and development community abreast of contemporary developments
<http://www.economiquity.org/>
- **Preferential Trade Agreements & India** - A Quarterly Dossier which analyses potential impacts on the Indian economy of those preferential trade agreements in which India is not a party
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/PTADossier.htm>

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **Economic Diplomacy Programme for Indian Government Officials**
A series of capacity building programmes on Economic Diplomacy are organised with the support from Department of Commerce, Government of India. The objective is to address the imperative of having trained officials involved in economic diplomacy activities.
http://www.cuts-citee.org/Economic_Diplomacy
- **BRICS Trade & Economics Research Network**
BRICS-TERN has been established as a platform of non-governmental groups from among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to assist the on-going cooperation between and among the BRICS countries with network-based policy research and advocacy on contemporary developmental issues.
<http://cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/Index.htm>
- **Mega Free Trade Agreements and the Indian Economy**
This study will analyse the impacts of three selected external trade agreements, i.e. Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, Trans-Atlantic Partnership Agreement and EU-ASEAN FTA on the Indian economy and use the same for informed policy decisions so that India becomes better prepared for facing the challenges of exogenous supply-demand shocks.
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/EPTAs>

PARTNERS



Government of India –
Department of Commerce;
Ministry of External Affairs;
Ministry of Environment &
Forests; Ministry of Textiles



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



The Asia Foundation



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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