

# **CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment**

# About CUTS International

**CUTS International** (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar (Village Revolution).

## The Scrabble & Matchbox Story

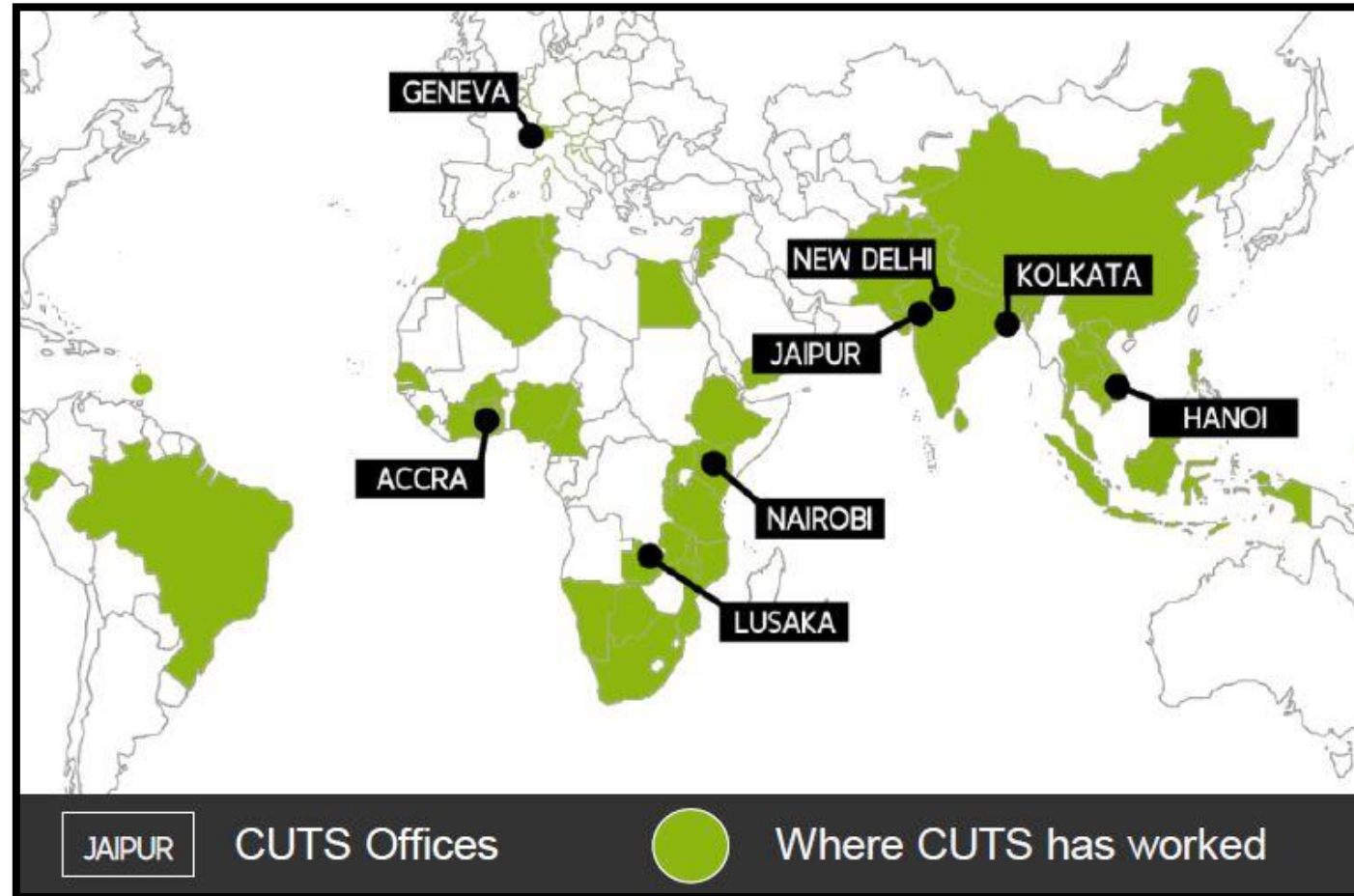
### CUTS Vision

“Consumer Sovereignty”

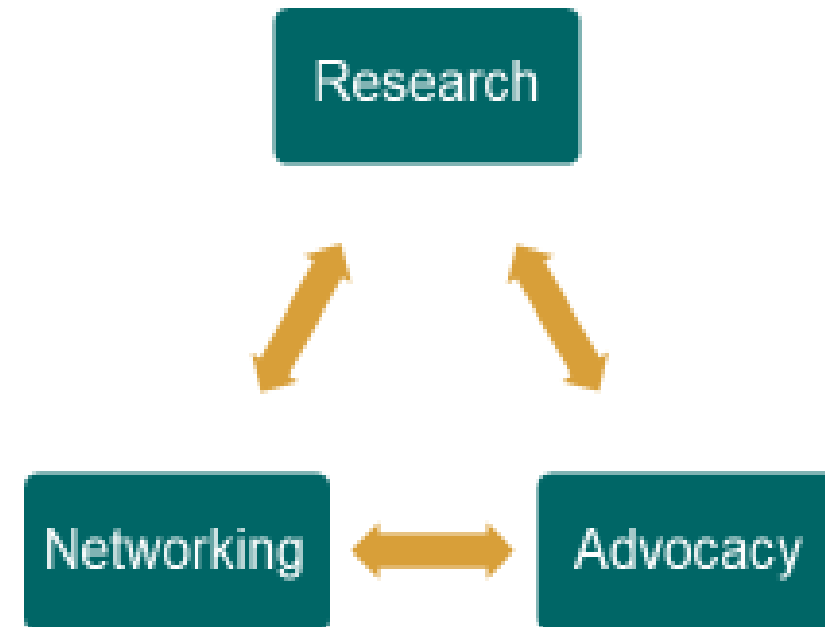
### CUTS Mission

“Consumer Sovereignty in the Framework of Social Justice, Economic Equality and Environmental Balance, Within and Across Borders”

# Geographic Outreach



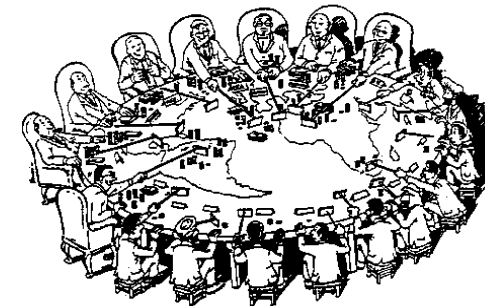
## Thematic areas



*"Consumer Sovereignty in the Framework of Social Justice, Economic Equality and Environmental Balance, Within and Across Borders"*

# About CITEE

- CUTS CITEE was established in 1996 with an aim to become the “global centre of excellence” for research and advocacy on multilateral trade, regional economic integration and sustainable development issues
- The Mission of CITEE is *“Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people*



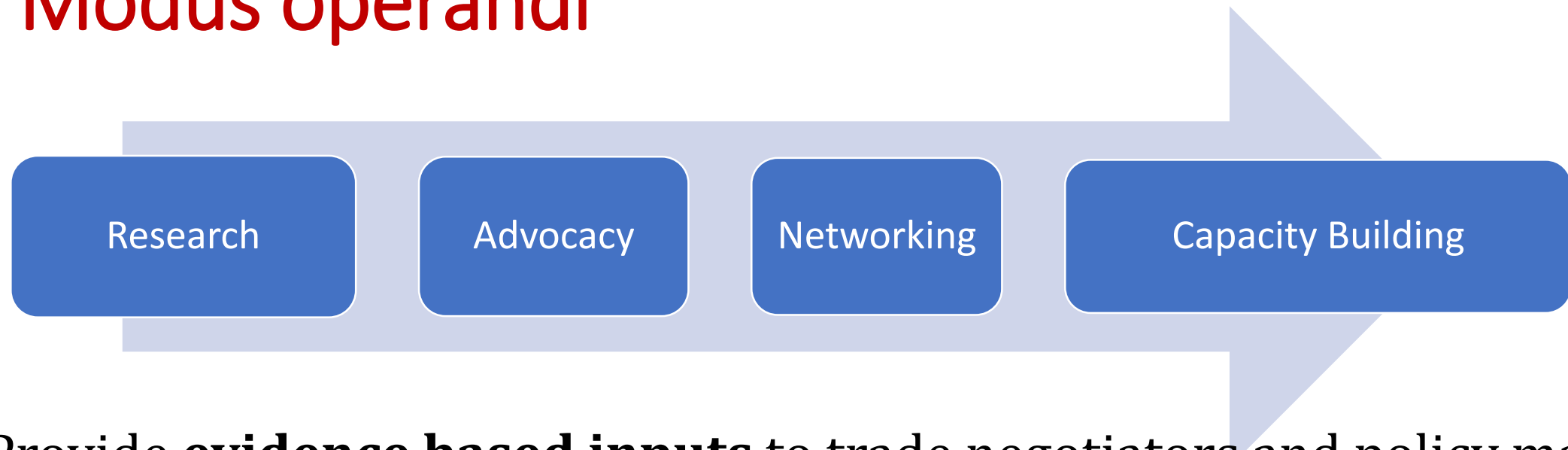
# Goal of CITEE

- to enable and empower representatives of the civil society, to articulate and advocate the relevant issues at the appropriate forums
- to create inquisitive culture through empowerment of civil society representatives to ensure transparency and accountability in the system.
- to encourage equity between and among the developed and developing countries through network-based research and advocacy on emerging and prevalent issues.

# Objectives

- present an independent political economic viewpoint on trade and trade-related economic, social and environmental issues from the perspective of Southern countries
- sensitise policy-makers 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 the concerns of Southern countries

# Modus operandi



- Provide **evidence based inputs** to trade negotiators and policy makers from developmental perspectives
- Exchanging regularly on programmes, activities and projects of mutual interest with a view to ensuring coordination, complementarity and **mutually supportive cooperation**, and where appropriate, joint action
- Developing **capacities of government officials, civil society** and like minded organizations on trade and trade-related developmental issues.



# Program areas

WTO Issues and Free Trade Agreements	Regional Integration in South Asia	Trade and Sustainable Development
<p>How multilateral agreements and negotiations are affecting the <b>poor consumers</b></p> <p>Impact assessment on India with respect to third party free trade agreements where India is not a party</p>	<p><b>Cost of economic non-cooperation to consumers</b> in South Asia, Non tariff barriers; Emerging issues related to regional economic cooperation/ <b>trade facilitation, connectivity</b></p>	<p><b>‘Liberalisation with Safety Nets’</b> inclusive growth; linkages between trade, poverty alleviation, standards (labour and environmental) and livelihoods</p> <p>Trade-related aspects of gender, environmental and other socio-economic indicators, trade and other public policy objectives</p>

# What we do

- Applied/Action Research: To conduct research on specific issues and disseminate findings to a large audience, including policymakers and international communities
- Advocacy: Influencing policy making at the national and regional level on Issues relating to trade regulation and governance by doing evidence based advocacy to achieve more and better policy outcomes.
- Networking and Capacity building: To build capacity of NGOs, media and academia on issues relating to liberalisation and globalisation including the functioning of the multilateral trading system, environment, food security and economics
- Awareness Generation: Informing, educating and provoking actions from relevant stakeholders through publications on various issues related to liberalisation, globalisation, multilateral trading system, regional cooperation, environment and economics

# How we do

Build synergy to bring about change



# **Do Reality Check to Assess Development Linkages of Trade**

(Picture: Border Haat, Kalaichar, Meghalaya; Courtesy, CUTS CRC)





## Engage With Community



## Conceptualize, Organize and Facilitate Track- 1.5/ Track- 2 Dialogues for better Bilateral/ Regional Economic Cooperation





## Conduct Stakeholder Consultations and Disseminate their Views on Macro Economic Governance



# Outreach and Communication

## **E Forums**

- CUTS Trade Forum
- CUTS South Asia E Group

## **Quarterly Newsletter**

- Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements