

Publications Digest 2015

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publications in 2015.

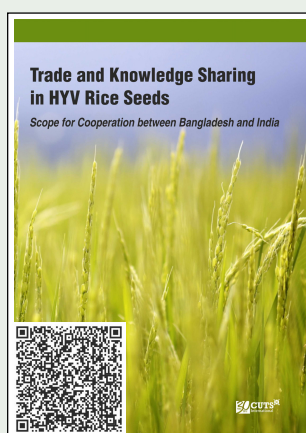
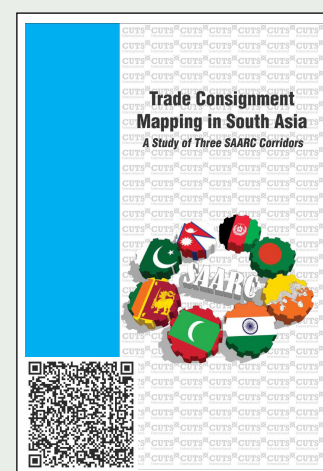
STUDIES

Trade Consignment Mapping in South Asia *A Study of Three SAARC Corridors*

Given the current state of trade facilitation in South Asia, the Study makes an attempt to investigate the specific set of issues that hinder the movement of goods across borders. The central focus of the study is on three major land routes of South Asia. They are: Islamabad-Lahore-Wagah/Attari-Ludhiana-Delhi, Kathmandu-Hetadua-Birgunj/Raxaul-Kolkata and Kathmandu-Kakarvitta/Panitanki-Phulbari/Banglabandha-Hatikumrul-Dhaka.

It analyses the current state of India's trade relations with other South Asian nations in view of the changing dynamics in the region; consists of a comprehensive analysis of perception surveys of various stakeholders and government agencies to understand key bottlenecks which affect the smooth movement of consignments from the point of origin to destinations on these routes and the amount of cost involved in each trade-related transaction; and delineates a specific set of recommendations for these three major land routes in order to improve regional connectivity.

www.cuts-citee.org/TCMSA/pdf/Report-Trade_Consignment_Mapping_in_South_Asia-A_Study_of_Three_SAARC_Corridors.pdf



Trade and Knowledge Sharing in HYV Rice Seeds *Scope for Cooperation between Bangladesh and India*

The Report shows, 'why cooperation in rice seeds between India and Bangladesh is conspicuous by its absence despite the fact that trade in other seeds is a recurring phenomenon'. It then goes on to show how the situation can be improved through bringing in some structural changes and promotion of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries.

The report reveals that potential routes to facilitate cooperation between the two countries are mutual recognition of released varieties by both the countries, harmonisation of laws, regulations and policies, joint development, trial and release of rice seed varieties and addressing issues relating to intellectual property rights.

www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Trade_and_Knowledge_Sharing_in_HYV_Rice_Seeds_Scope_for_Cooperation_between_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf

[Trade_and_Knowledge_Sharing_in_HYV_Rice_Seeds_Scope_for_Cooperation_between_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Trade_and_Knowledge_Sharing_in_HYV_Rice_Seeds_Scope_for_Cooperation_between_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf)

Mainstreaming Sustainable Development

A Quick Diagnostic of Key Challenges and Opportunities for Water, Energy & Food Security in South Asia

Water, energy and food are interlinked and highly interdependent. Choices made in one domain may have direct and indirect consequences on the other, positive or negative. Meeting the global developmental agenda and ensuring human wellbeing in the subcontinent requires addressing challenges around water, energy and food production. Addressing these challenges needs an understanding of the challenges as felt and perceived by the local stakeholders and their perspective on solutions.

This Diagnostic Study draws on a range of interviews with key stakeholders, discusses key challenges around water, energy and agriculture in the South Asian subcontinent. It identifies and analyses challenges in access to these resources in three river basins (viz. Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra) spread across five South Asian countries (viz. Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh). It also analyses the possible solutions to these challenges from the stakeholders' perspective.



www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/

[Mainstreaming_Sustainable_DevelopmentA_Quick_Diagnostic_of_Key_Challenges_and_Opportunities_for_Water_Energy_Food_Security_in_South_Asia.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Mainstreaming_Sustainable_DevelopmentA_Quick_Diagnostic_of_Key_Challenges_and_Opportunities_for_Water_Energy_Food_Security_in_South_Asia.pdf)



Mega Regional Trade Agreements and the Indian Economy

An Analysis of Potential Challenges and Opportunities

The Study assesses the potential impact of the three mega regional trade agreements (RTAs) on the Indian economy, with particular focus on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). In detailing the forecasted implications, it provides a series of recommendations as to how India should adapt its trade policy and strategy, efficiently embrace the opportunities arising from this new international trade regime and minimise the potential negative impacts.

These recommendations include unilateral measures that India could carry out by changing its own domestic regulations and other bilateral, regional and multilateral measures that will include RTA members but also non-traditional markets which are also excluded from these mega RTAs.

www.cuts-citee.org/EPTAs/pdf/

[Mega_Regional_Trade_Agreements_and_the_Indian_EconomyAn_Analysis_of_Potential_Challenges_and_Opportunities.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/EPTAs/pdf/Mega_Regional_Trade_Agreements_and_the_Indian_EconomyAn_Analysis_of_Potential_Challenges_and_Opportunities.pdf)

Sustainable Development in South Asia

Need for Cooperation in Food-Water-Energy Security

The energy sector is already under stress from over-exploitation of natural resources and excessive dependence on energy extraction from fossil fuels. Many rural sub-regions are devoid of electricity, with an estimated 600 million people in South Asia completely lacking access to electricity or other commercial energy services.

This Discussion Paper explains the concept of sustainable development in the existing sectors of food, water and energy in South Asia, by highlighting the intimate level of inter-connectedness between these systems. It tries to highlight the pertinence of Regional Cooperation in these areas as one of the major solutions for resolving on-going disputes and misunderstandings that have been degrading the shared growth potentialities of the region.



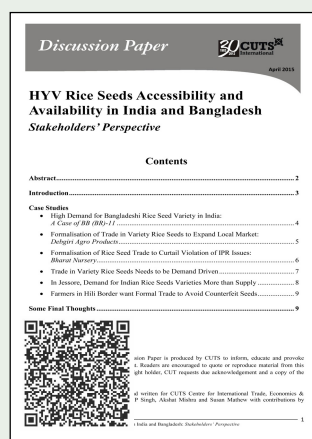
www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Sustainable_Development_in_South_Asia-Need_for_Cooperation_in_Food-Water-Energy_Security.pdf

Balancing Opposition and Economic Benefits in Privatisation Policy: An Analysis of Brazil, South Africa and India

Privatisation of state-owned corporations can benefit an economy in many cases. However, some segments of society lose from privatisation and it is generally an unpopular policy even among segments of society that are not directly affected. Successfully implementing privatisation requires overcoming these sources of opposition while not sacrificing the economic benefits of the policy.

This Discussion Paper analyses privatisation across Brazil, India and South Africa to understand how these countries implemented it and what measures were effective in overcoming opposition without sacrificing efficiency.

http://cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/pdf/Balancing_Opposition_and_Economic_Benefits_in_Privatisation_Policy.pdf



HYV Rice Seeds Accessibility and Availability in India and Bangladesh: Stakeholders' Perspective

This Discussion paper presents set of seven case studies (four from India, and three from Bangladesh) is premised on interactions of the project team with stakeholders engaged in rice seed supply chain in India and Bangladesh. It presents stakeholders perspectives on issues related to ensuring adequate availability and accessibility to variety rice seeds.

Therefore, there is urgent need for the governments of both countries to come forward and create a mechanism for formal knowledge sharing, trade and cooperation. It will benefit farmers, seed producers, seed dealers and traders.

www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/HYV_Rice_Seeds_Accessibility_and_Availability_in_India_and_Bangladesh.pdf

Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement: Unlocking the Potential for Vibrant Regional Road Freight Connectivity

On June 15, 2015, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (the BBIN group of countries) signed a sub-regional Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for facilitating easy cargo movement across their borders. It is expected to reduce trade transaction costs significantly and can be an effective tool to realise their trade and investment potentiality. The BBIN MVA has put in place a good framework for facilitating transit and transport within four countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.

This Discussion Paper analyses how the regulatory objectives of this MVA can be achieved. It provides roadmap on operational issues and solutions for cross-border movement of vehicles as well as customs procedures.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BBIN_Motor_Vehicles_AgreementUnlocking_the_Potential_for_Vibrant_Regional_Road_Freight_Connectivity.pdf

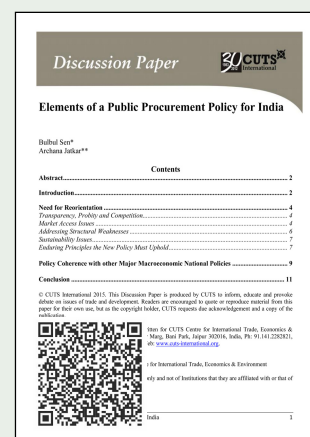


Elements of a Public Procurement Policy for India

There is neither a formal public procurement policy nor law in India. There is a pressing need for both, as rules without law lack enforceability and law without policy support suffers from a lack of coherent justification or rationale for the provisions made.

This Discussion Paper suggests elements of public procurement policy in India which would reflect the current needs of the nation by examining the subject under three main headings: i) reorientation needed in the policy and legislation to bring it in tune with current preoccupations of the government; ii) enduring principles which the new policy must continue to uphold; and iii) coherence which the public procurement policy must maintain with other major macro-level policies of the country.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Elements_of_a_Public_Procurement_Policy_for_India.pdf



Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Can Prospects Outweigh Problems?

The objective of regional cooperation is to enhance each member state's security, economic growth and cultural harmonisation. This new arrangement has resulted into tariff barriers, slow progress in intra-regional trade, continuous armed conflicts and negligible cross-cultural cooperation. But after the formation of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and dawning of the global financial crisis, and continuous onslaught of natural calamities of epic proportions, such as Tsunami and earthquakes in the region, there came a realisation on the part of the South Asian states that natural disasters and environmental problems like global warming, melting of glaciers

could not be tackled within the boundaries of a nation-states.

In light of above, this Discussion Paper analyses South Asian regionalism with its future prospects followed by its current issues and opportunities.

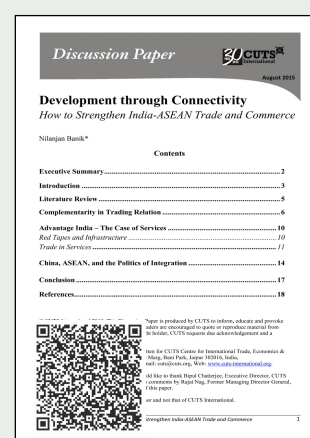
www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Regional_cooperation_in_South_Asia_Can_prospects_overweigh_problems.pdf

Development through Connectivity: How to Strengthen India-ASEAN Trade and Commerce

This Discussion Paper is about why India need to have a better trade relation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During 2008 and 2013, India's trade with ASEAN region has increased faster than two of its two largest trading partners, namely, European Union (EU) and the United States (US).

Evidence of cross-border investment and trading activities between ASEAN and Indian firms has been found. There exists complementarity in trading relations which have been documented in this paper.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Development_through_Connectivity-How_to_Strengthen_India-ASEAN_Trade-and_Commerce.pdf

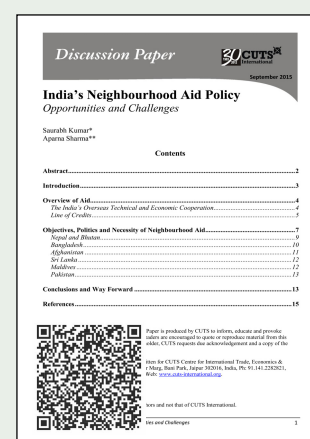


India's Neighbourhood Aid Policy Opportunities and Challenges

Over the past few decades, India's status has changed at the global level specifically because of its high economic growth, steady integration with the international economy, growth in business processing, induction of nuclear weapons and enhancement of national defence strategy. But the question occurs, what does it mean in terms of its foreign relations with its immediate neighbourhood?

In this context, this paper focuses on the India's role in the growth and development of its neighbourhood. It also analyses the misconceptions about India's aid policies and politics. Finally, the paper offers suggestions to address those misconceptions.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Indias_Neighbourhood_Aid_Policy-Opportunities_and_Challenges.pdf

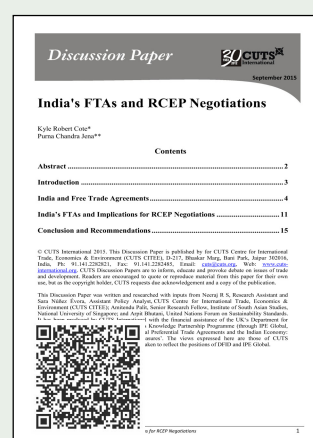


India's FTAs and RCEP Negotiations

As a party to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), India has the opportunity to develop its economy and gain greater access to markets through regional integration. India's experience in negotiating FTAs, especially with Asian countries, can be a valuable indicator of possible implications in the RCEP talks.

This Discussion Paper provides an overview of select issues and concerns as well as India's overall record with FTAs that can guide India in its negotiations on RCEP to conclude a beneficial agreement. For India to gain the most for its economic and development needs as well as regional interest, it will need all the resources available to engage with the trade agreement's large and diverse negotiating membership.

www.cuts-citee.org/EPTAs/pdf/Indias_FTAs_and_RCEP_Negotiations.pdf



India's Approach towards Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Negotiations

Though India has been a strong supporter of World Trade Organisation (WTO) led multilateral trade liberalisation, even with its predecessor the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), it has also actively participated in numerous FTAs in the recent past.

Looking at India's engagement in FTAs and the multilateral framework, this Discussion Paper attempts to understand India's approach at the bilateral, regional, and multilateral-level in the context of potential effects produced by mega RTAs, specifically the TPP, TTIP, and EU-ASEAN FTA.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Indias_Approach_towards_Bilateral_Regional_and_Multilateral_Negotiations.pdf

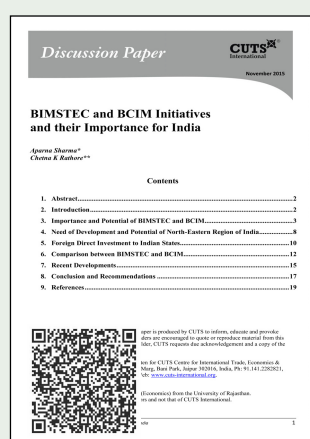
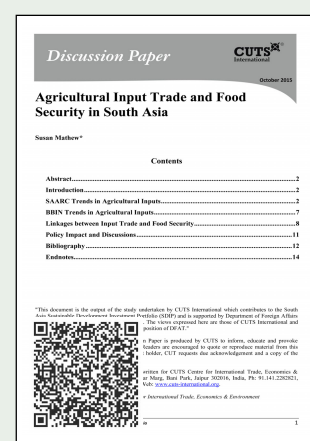


Agricultural Input Trade and Food Security in South Asia

Small landholdings in agriculture have been proven to be resource smart in using agricultural inputs efficiently. A comparative increase in farm productivity from majority of small farms reflects in the country trade also. This also affects the food security of the nation. This Discussion Paper tries to establish a link between the South Asian trade in agricultural inputs like cereal seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and machinery.

An analysis of the trade deficit and surplus in the country reveals that other than the obvious trade of cereal seeds, India has an upper hand in trade of many agricultural inputs considered in this study. South Asian countries could also benefit from cross country and bilateral trade of machinery and fertilisers. A deeper introspection reveals that the BBIN group of nations might benefit on a larger scale of food security from intra-regional trading of agricultural inputs.

www.cuts-citee.org/sdip/pdf/Agricultural_Input_Trade_and_Food_Security_in_South_Asia.pdf



BIMSTEC and BCIM Initiatives and their Importance for India

India used multilateralism as a primary tool to facilitate and improve its ties with the countries of South and South-East Asia and North-East Asia. India has tangled with two important sub-regional groupings to boost economic relationship with its neighbour countries. In 1997, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and in 1999, Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) sub-regional groups were formed including India as a member country.

Both the forums have their own importance in different aspects for India having a common aim of regional integration and trade facilitation.

This Paper is about the potential of these initiatives including analysis of trade relations between India and other countries and a comparative analysis between BIMSTEC and BCIM initiatives followed by conclusion and key recommendations.

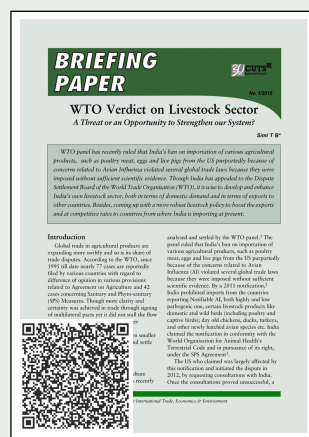
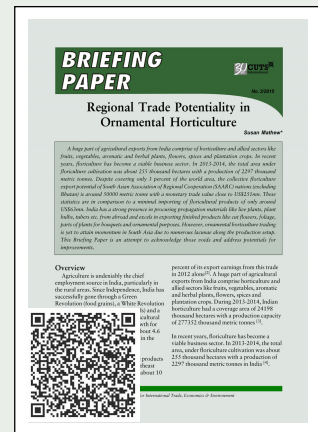
www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BIMSTEC_and_BCIM_Initiatives_and_their_Importance_for_India.pdf

Regional Trade Potentiality in Ornamental Horticulture

A huge part of agricultural exports from India comprise of horticulture and allied sectors like fruits, vegetables, aromatic and herbal plants, flowers, spices and plantation crops. In recent years, floriculture has become a viable business sector. India has a strong presence in procuring propagation materials like live plants, plant bulbs, tubers etc. from abroad and excels in exporting finished products like cut flowers, foliage, parts of plants for bouquets and ornamental purposes.

However, ornamental horticulture trading is yet to attain momentum in South Asia due to numerous lacunae along the production setup. This Briefing Paper is an attempt to acknowledge those voids and address potentials for improvements.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Regional_Trade_Potentiality_in_Ornamental_Horticulture.pdf



WTO Verdict on Livestock Sector A Threat or an Opportunity to Strengthen our System?

WTO panel has recently ruled that India's ban on importation of various agricultural products, such as poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from the US purportedly because of concerns related to Avian Influenza violated several global trade laws because they were imposed without sufficient scientific evidence.

Though India has appealed to the Dispute Settlement Board of the WTO, it is wise to develop and enhance India's own livestock sector, both in terms of domestic demand and in terms of exports to other countries. Besides, coming up with a more robust livestock policy to boost the exports and at competitive rates to countries from where India is importing at present.

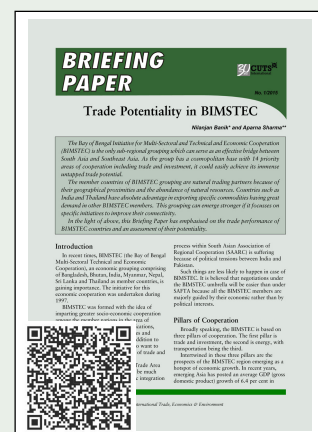
www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper15-WTO_Verdict_on_Livestock_SectorA_Threat_or_an_Opportunity_to_Strengthen_our_System.pdf

Trade Potentiality in BIMSTEC

The member countries of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping are natural trading partners because of their geographical proximities and the abundance of natural resources. Countries such as India and Thailand have absolute advantage in exporting specific commodities having great demand in other BIMSTEC members.

This grouping can emerge stronger if it focusses on specific initiatives to improve their connectivity. In the light of above, this Briefing Paper has emphasised on the trade performance of BIMSTEC countries and an assessment of their potentiality.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper15-Trade_Potentiality_in_BIMSTEC.pdf



Economiquity



This Quarterly Newsletter is the flagship product of the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment. It highlights important news and views on economic issues from different parts of the

world with a view to keep the trade and development community abreast of the latest.

www.economiquity.org/

Trade Buzz

Trade Buzz is a quarterly e-newsletter of the SAARC Trade Promotion Network Secretariat and jointly produced with CUTS International. SAARC TPN is a network on business associations of South Asian countries. It is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Trade_Buzz-Sep-Nov2014.pdf



BRICS TERN Newsletter



BRICS Trade & Economics Research Network (BRICSTERN) has been established as a platform of non-governmental groups from among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Its purpose is to assist the

on-going cooperation between and among the BRICS countries with network-based policy research and advocacy on contemporary developmental issues.

www.cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/publications.htm

Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements & India

One of the most interesting trends in today's global trade is the emergence of bilateral and regional trade arrangements, collectively known as preferential trade agreements. This Quarterly Dossier does shallow analysis of potential impacts (on the Indian economy) of those preferential trade agreements of which India is not a party.

www.cuts-citee.org/PTADossier.htm



CUTS Trade Forum

'CUTS-TradeForum', with 17,000 subscribers, is an e-platform to exchange views and opinions on contemporary issues of international trade, trade-related regulations and economic development. It helps its stakeholders to share information and participate in regular discussions and debates.

www.groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/cuts-tradeforum

CUTS South Asia E-Group

'CUTS South Asia E-Group', having 6,000 subscribers, provides an e-platform to discuss, share views and opinions on trade and economics among relevant stakeholders from the South.

www.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CUTS-SouthAsia/info

