

Publications Digest 2016

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publications in 2016.

BOOKS/REPORTS

Rethinking Perceptions

Agriculture, Water and Energy Scenario in South Asia

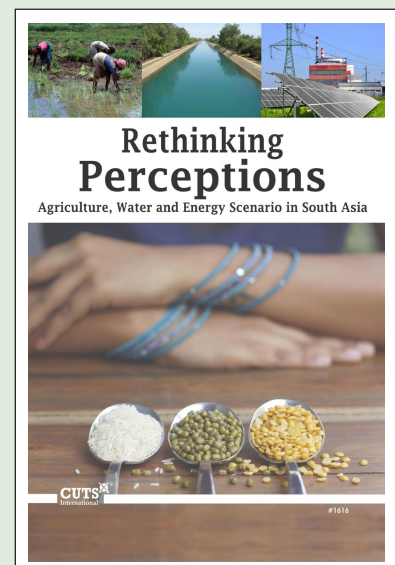
The Study points out the need for regional value chains in agriculture, resolution of upper and lower riparian conflict issues in trans-boundary water sharing and adoption of renewable energy models in South Asia. The report is based on a perception survey in the domains of agriculture, water and energy conducted by CUTS International and its country partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan under the Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio programme supported by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia.

It is based on a combination of household survey, key informant interviews and stakeholder discussions of close to 1000 respondents across the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins. It includes field insights from 24 locations in 11 sample sites across the countries, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

It also elaborates on policy recommendations for knowledge sharing of sustainable agricultural practices among South Asian countries. The field insights also indicated the importance of assimilating trans-boundary water aspects into national level discussions and supporting renewable energy and energy grid models among South Asian countries. The findings from the study also stressed on integrating women farmers in agriculture and water related policy decisions.

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

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

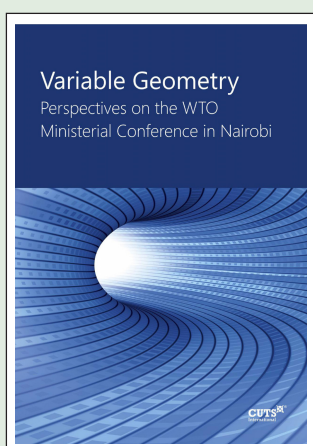
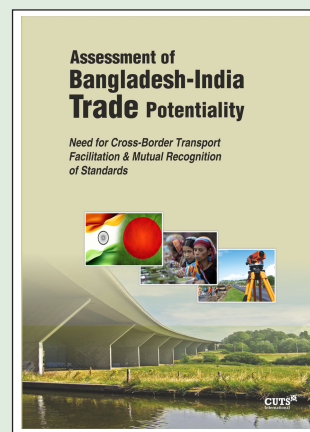


Assessment of Bangladesh-India Trade Potentiality Need for Cross-Border Transport Facilitation & Mutual Recognition of Standards

India and Bangladesh share cultural, historical and linguistic commonalities with each other, having been one country before 1947. Therefore and given the present era of growing competition, it is important for them to make collective efforts towards promoting greater economic integration by adopting a broader trade connectivity framework.

This Study has assessed what needs to be done for addressing transport-related infrastructural bottlenecks and for harmonising standard-related measures for the betterment of cross border trade.

www.cuts-citee.org/IBTA-II/pdf/Assessment_of_BangladeshIndia_Trade_Potentiality.pdf



Variable Geometry Perspectives on the WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi

Overall, the Nairobi Ministerial witnessed the continuation of the battle on various fronts of the international trading system. Importantly, it came to be about some emerging countries pushing against those who wish to concentrate on new issues and wanted them to commit to the Doha Round trade liberalisation agenda, particularly those areas that are so vital for the poorest and most vulnerable of our global community.

This collection of articles and analysis, in a sense, reflects on these contemporary as well as long standing debates surrounding the WTO, Doha Round, and the international trading system as a whole. While

work continues in Geneva, it is critical to reflect and understand where we came from and what challenges lie ahead of us. This compendium attempts to provide such a reflective source.

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

Non-Tariff Measures to Food Trade in India A Case Study of Selected Ports

This study on reducing non-tariff barriers to food trade seeks to identify product and port specific non-tariff measures (NTMs) to imports of selected agricultural, food and processed food items from a specific group of countries into India. The broad objective of conducting such a study is to provide policy makers, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders a practical set of recommendations to remove or harmonise identified NTMs at their respective levels.

Under this study, an assessment of food trade through six land and sea ports- Agartala, Attari, Chennai, Mumbai, Panitanki and Petrapole in India has been done. This is a joint publication of CUTS International, Centre for Policy Research and The Asia Foundation.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Non-Tariff_Measures_to_Food_Trade_in_India_A_Case_Study_of_Selected_Ports.pdf

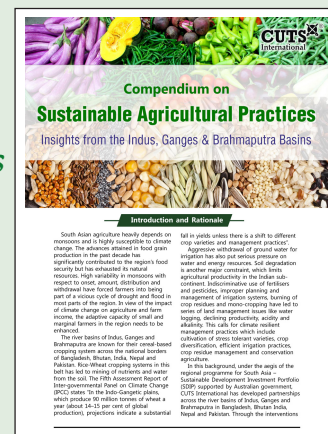


Compendium on Sustainable Agricultural Practices Insights from the Indus, Ganges & Brahmaputra Basins

This compendium is a compilation of those practices, which are promoted and advocated by CUTS partners in their locality and can be scaled up and disseminated to a wider group of farmer communities in South Asia, taking into account the commonalities in cropping systems and agro-climatic zones in the region. This will also demand necessary support from state and national government in terms of policies and deeper engagement with CSOs to facilitate knowledge sharing.

More specifically these practices aim to: Imparting technical knowledge for better management of resources; Building adaptive capacity and resilience of small farmers against climate change; Enhancing productivity in marginal land and assure food security; and Sharing successful models of institutional frame work for enhancing skills.

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

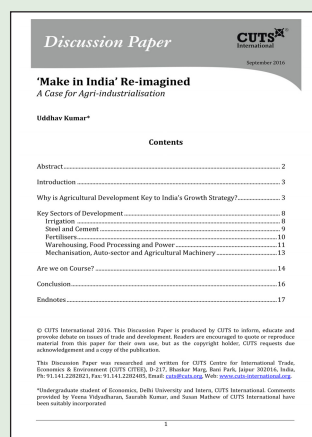


‘Make in India’ Re-imagined A Case for Agri-industrialisation

This paper views Industrialisation of India through a new approach: ‘Agri-industrialisation’. It builds on the analysis that the government should get serious about agriculture-centric industrialisation and reimagining the ‘Make in India’ initiative through the prism of rural India. It could help us unbind India from growth constraints and achieving high and sustainable development in both agriculture and industry.

This is bound to make a significant dent on absolute poverty and agrarian distress. They say good economics does not make good politics. This paper says clever politics can make excellent economics.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/A_Case_for_Agri-industrialisation.pdf

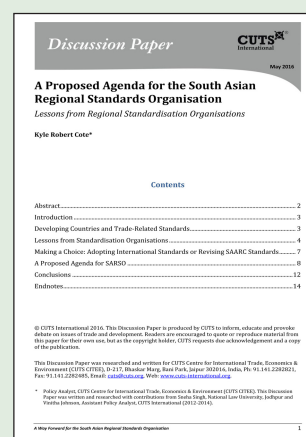


A Proposed Agenda for the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation Lessons from Regional Standardisation Organisations

With the establishment of the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) in 2011 as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) specialised body to deal with trade-related standards, there is significant potential for greater harmonisation of such standards to support trade growth in South Asia and globally for SAARC countries.

This Discussion Paper reviews specific examples of regional standardisation organisations from the Americas, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa to identify good practices. Also, considerations regarding adopting international standards or focusing on improving SAARC level standards are made. Suggestions for SARSO based on the experiences of other relevant organisations are thus provided as a potential agenda for South Asian countries to grow their economies and social wellbeing.

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



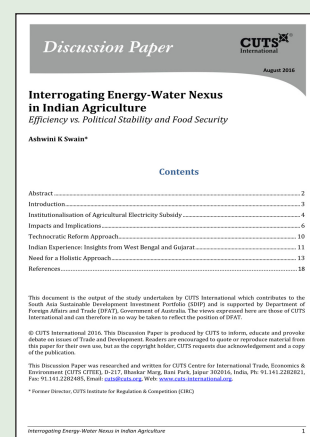
Interrogating Energy-Water Nexus in Indian Agriculture

Efficiency vs. Political Stability and Food Security

Agricultural electricity subsidy is a unique feature of the Indian electricity supply industry. Immediately after electricity was put under public control and the state governments received the authority to set electricity prices, electricity pricing emerged as a powerful political tool. Since 1990s, agricultural electricity pricing has been criticised as a populist paradox, contributing to various economic and environmental inefficiencies.

This paper argues that agricultural electricity subsidy in India is closely linked with food security, poverty alleviation, state finance, water scarcity and now increasingly with climate change. Drawing on state level experience, the paper suggests a holistic approach to reform electricity subsidy and water use inefficiency in agriculture.

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



Agricultural Value Chains in India

Prospects and Challenges

Growth and development of agricultural value chains for local and external markets can be considered as a powerful tool for poverty reduction and to fight against the challenge of food security in developing countries like India.

This paper assesses the current status of fruits and vegetables production and export from India along with its potential to external markets particularly to other South Asian countries. Besides, the paper also examines the overview of agriculture value chains (mainly of fruits and vegetables) in India. A comparative case analysis helps to better understand various processes adopted and initiatives of agri-business models in India.

Finally, the paper identifies major challenges related to the agriculture value chains and puts forward some of the key recommendations for the growth and development of agriculture value chains in India.

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

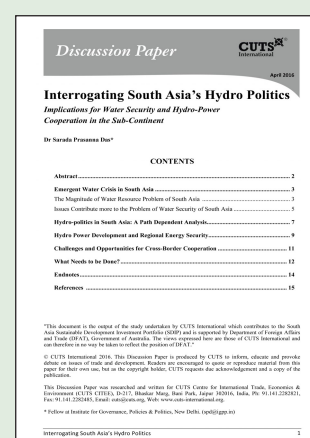
Interrogating South Asia's Hydro Politics

Implications for Water Security and Hydro-Power Cooperation in the Sub-Continent

With the largest population density and widespread poverty, South Asia is beginning to face a major water and energy crisis. It has been claimed that water is going to be one of the critical drivers of peace and stability in the subcontinent, in coming decades.

This Discussion Paper analyses the politics of regional water and energy security in South Asia, and discusses the challenges and opportunities for cross border cooperation. Building on the findings, it suggests a pathway for consolidating emergent cooperation between South Asian countries to achieve regional energy and water security.

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



Significance of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic in Kolkata and other Urban Spaces of West Bengal

The threat of climate change has been a matter of concern, globally. India too has pledged voluntarily at Paris Climate Conference in 2015 (COP21), the 2015 Paris Climate Conference to reduce carbon emission intensity, create an additional carbon sink by increasing forest coverage and also to increase the share of renewable in the power mix. To meet up with the target set by the central nodal agency for Renewable Energy, several states have been adopting measures to increase the renewable energy proportion. Availability and affordability of land has been a major challenge in the state of West Bengal.

Given this background, this Briefing Paper has tried to analyse the significance of utilising the unused free rooftop spaces in Kolkata and other urban areas of West Bengal to implement grid-connected rooftop solar power plants.

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



Connecting to Global Value Chains Trade and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Evidence has shown that in certain sectors, developing countries are actually more integrated into global value chains than developed countries. The garments and textile industry in Asia provides an unparalleled example. Unfortunately, however, developing countries tend to remain locked into relatively low value added activities.

This Briefing Paper looks at how developing countries can begin to increasingly participate in more remunerative links in value chains, and how this can tie in with the post-2015 development agenda by ensuring that the benefits of global value chains are more evenly spread both within and across countries.

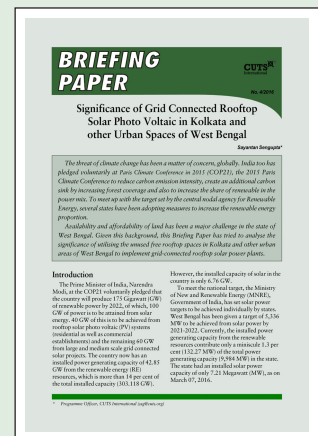
www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Connecting_to_Global_Value_Chains.pdf

The BRICS New Development Bank & Civil Society Imperatives

Often times infrastructural investments incur risks and threats that are not taken into consideration both in the planning and implementation phases of particularly large-scale infrastructure development. In light of this, various stakeholders have raised concerns over the lack of a clearly articulated broad-based platform for civil society to contribute to the decision-making processes of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) New Development Bank (NDB).

This Briefing Paper provides an overview of the newly established BRICS bank and gives broad recommendations on how the NDB may address issues related to increased civil society engagement in its operations.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper-The_BRICS_New_Development_Bank_&_Civil_Society_Imperatives.pdf



Pathways to Change in Agriculture, Water and Energy

CUTS International was part of the 'Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) in South Asia' programme from 2013-2016 funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Government, to address food, water, and energy security in South Asia. In this intervention, CUTS undertook extensive research and advocacy based on grassroots evidences in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan across the river basins of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra.

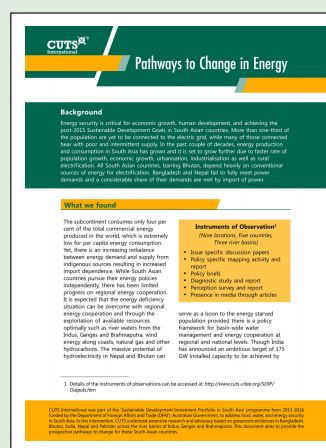
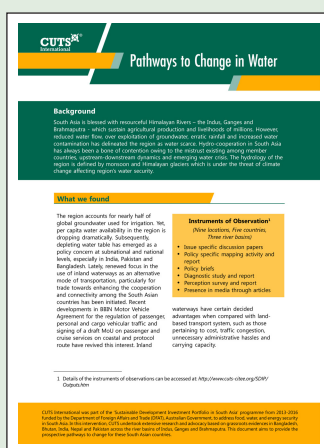
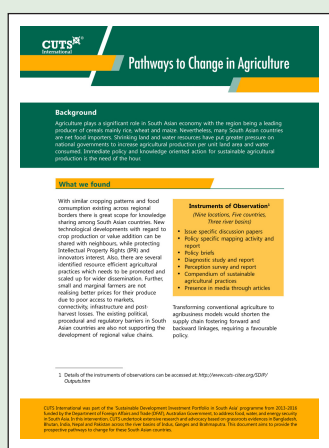
Based on this work, CUTS has designed numerous strategies and action points to continue its engagement in the fields of agriculture, water and energy in South Asia. These three documents aim to provide CUTS' pathways to change in South Asia.

These documents can be viewed at:

Agriculture - www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Pathways_to_Change_in_Agriculture.pdf

Water - www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Pathways_to_Change_in_Water.pdf

Energy - www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Pathways_to_Change_in_Energy.pdf



CASE STUDY

India's Access to the Pharmaceutical Market in Argentina

In today's global trading system, regulatory processes pose as much a challenge to accessing markets as tariff-related measures. Addressing some of these barriers is, therefore, Sometimes dependent on the ability of the embassies of a country to make use of both its soft skills and extensive networks to arrive at mutually beneficial solutions.

This Case Study illustrates how the Indian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, through its extensive political know-how and do-how, played a key role in the opening up of the Argentinian market to India's pharmaceutical products.



www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper-The_BRICS_New_Development_Bank_&_Civil_Society_Imperatives.pdf

Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio - Advocacy Briefs

SDIP is a portfolio investment approach which has been adopted by the DFAT, Government of Australia to address the issues of water, food and energy security in South Asia. Based on CUTS' involvement in SDIP, six Advocacy Briefs have been formulated to carry forward the discourse on food-water-energy security nexus in South Asia. They are based on grassroots insights and policy research at regional level.

These Advocacy Briefs are meant to inform, educate and present the advocacy strategies of CUTS on these subjects and provoke debates on specific issues. These are as follows:

1. Promoting Efficient Use of Resources through Regulations and Knowledge Sharing on Sustainable Agricultural Practices in South Asia

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

AdvocacyPromotingEfficientUseofResourcesthroughRegulationsandKnowledgeSharingonSustainableAgriculturalPracticesinSouthAsia.pdf

2. Enhancing Farm Incomes and Economic Growth in BBIN Countries through Better Linkages and Stronger Value Chains

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

AdvocacyEnhancingFarmIncomesandEconomicGrowthinBBINCountriesthroughBetterLinkagesandStrongerValueChains.pdf

3. Integrated Approach to Groundwater Regulation, Management and Conservation

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

AdvocacyIntegratedApproachtoGroundwaterRegulationManagementandConservation.pdf

4. Development of Inland Waterways for Trade and Transit in BBIN

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

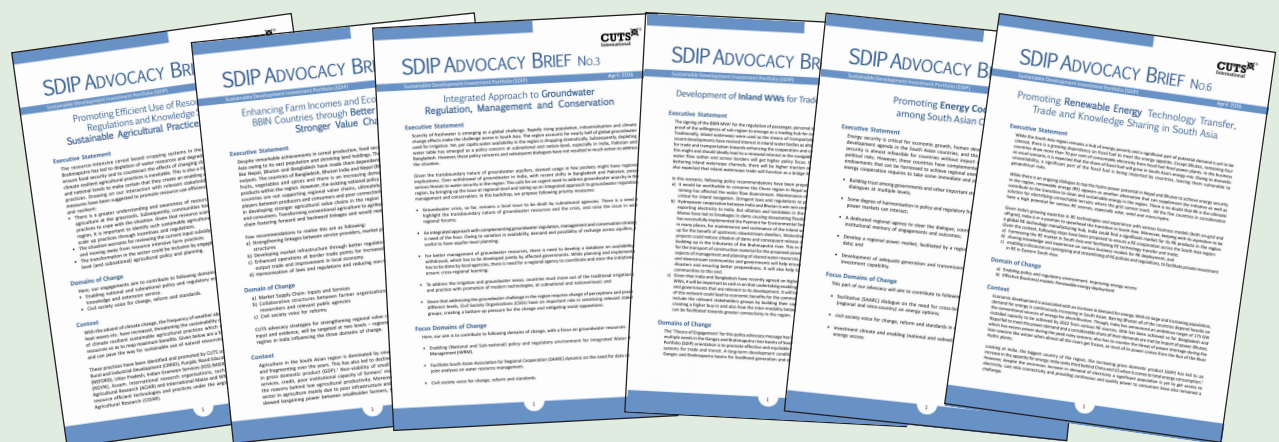
5. Promoting Energy Cooperation among South Asian Countries

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

6. Promoting Renewable Energy Technology Transfer, Trade and Knowledge Sharing in South Asia

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

AdvocacyPromotingRenewableEnergyTechnologyTransferTradeandKnowledgeSharinginSouthAsia.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 Development (BMZ), German Cooperation A



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

BRICS TERNewsletter



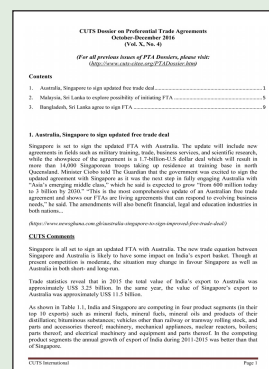
BRICS Trade & Economics Research Network (BRICSTERN) has been established as a platform of nongovernmental groups from among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Its purpose is to assist the on-going

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](http://www.cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/publications.htm)*

Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements

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



www.cuts-citee.org/PTADossier.htm

CUTS Trade Forum

‘CUTS-TradeForum’ 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’ 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

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