

**Inception Workshop**  
**Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics**  
**GRANITE, Phase 2**  
**Jaipur, September 05, 2007**

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**Objective**

To have a thorough discussion on the issues and research methodology of the project “GRANITE Phase 2”, and also finalising the research issues, hypothesis and the methodologies of carrying out the new research work. Thus ensure the coordination and coherence of the second phase of activities, taking account of the priorities and circumstances of the participating states.

**Background**

The GRANITE project that was initiated in January 2005, is implemented in eight states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharastra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) working at the grassroots focussing on Agriculture and Textiles of India, given their significance in the generation of employment in India. The overall objective of the GRANITE project is to create long-term capacity of Indian CSOs and other targeted stakeholders to address complex issues of globalization and international trade to understand how they are in an increasingly open and evolving environment affecting different stakeholders.

Programmes at the grassroots have proved to be useful and efficient for bringing about sustainable changes at the local level to support, in the longer run, national and international causes. With specific reference to Globalization, by raising awareness, linking local needs with national and international issues and building capacity, it aims to develop a better-informed constituency to better comprehend the impact of globalization and international trade on people’s livelihoods.

Pursuant to its mandate on building consensus on issues affecting the livelihoods of the poor CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) is implementing various projects which include amongst others Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and Economics, (GRANITE) This projects broadly work towards articulating policy coherence between WTO guidelines and national development policies to reduce poverty levels, adopt distinct methodologies and focus areas.

**Context**

Amongst its many achievements, GRANITE is a significant step towards the mainstreaming trade into the process of development in India and vice-versa, i.e. to mainstream development into trade. In this regard, outreach meetings and other tools for sensitization and advocacy have proved very useful and successful to ascertain as well as challenge the prevalent perceptions about globalisation and related issues. In the first phase of the project it has been decided that instead of running after several issues the project should look in to specific issues in its second phase.

The outcomes of the project have considerably met the expectations of the project and some of them are as follows:

- Eight CSOs (the GRANITE partner) have demonstrated excellent capacity to be able to analyze, articulate and advocate on emerging and relevant issues with respect to globalization and international trade with specific emphasis on agriculture and textiles.

- With inputs from GRANITE partners, CUTS has advocated for pro-poor changes in the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2004-09 and many such changes have taken place.
- Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has formed the Inter-State Trade Council, which is in line with one of the advocacy goals of the GRANITE project, i.e. more involvement of State Governments in the process of trade policy-making.

### **The Event**

The state level Inception workshop to be held on 30th August 2007 in Jaipur, is to formally launch the GRANITE Phase 2 project in the state of Rajasthan. The following is the non-exhaustive list of issues to be discussed at the event.

- National Foreign Trade Policy; its objectives and implementation in the context of Rajasthan
- Need for CSOs to actively participate in the process of policy formulation and recommendation.
- The role of corporate in promoting exports in the employment intensive sectors of agriculture and handicraft sector.
- Role of CSOs, CBOs and local government in influencing the Policy preparation and implementation.
- Discussions on the methods of accomplishment of the objectives of the project in the state.

Also providing forum for detailed discussions on the analysis of the major policy issues that are deterring/promoting the growth of the “**agriculture**” and “**handloom**” sector in the state.

The Seminar is aimed to facilitate interaction between:

- GRANITE team
- CSOs / CBOs
- Government officials/Policy makers
- Farmers and Weavers
- Media representatives
- Academicians/Researchers
- Corporate
- Banking Institutions: NABARD, RBI, MFIs
- Other stakeholders

### **Place**

Jaipur, Rajasthan (Venue : HCP RIPA)

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**Norwegian Institute  
of International  
Affairs**

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