

**Workshop on
Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics,
Politics & Trade**

**Venue: Committee Room 1, NASC Complex, Pusa, Delhi
Tuesday, 04th October 2016**

Background Note

Objectives

- To present and discuss the key findings from the four work packages under the project
- To discuss opportunities and challenges of ensuring national food security by reviewing closely the national policies influencing climate change, economics, politics and trade

Climate change threatens the food production systems and livelihoods of significant proportion of the population in India. The potential impacts of climate change on agriculture are multi-faceted, directly influencing productivity, yields and the availability of arable land and water, as well as food prices and trade patterns for staple and high-value products alike. The potential effect on food security, where a number of Indian States already face shortages in production under climatic conditions, is likely to be exacerbated by climate change directly or indirectly.

To study this scenario, a project titled ‘Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade (FOODSEC)’ was carried out with the support of Research Council of Norway. This workshop is being organized jointly by CUTS International, Jaipur and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) under the FOODSEC project. The project aims to understand the mechanisms causing food insecurity, i.e. how various kinds of food production, distribution institutions, and public programmes operate and interact to produce a combination of entitlements that can ensure food security among poor households. Apart from CUTS and IFPRI, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway is also a partner in this project, which is coordinated by Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo and Akershus University College for Applied Sciences, Norway.

The project has four work packages (WP) led by its four partners to explore a model for analyzing household food security in India through the interactions of climate change, economics, politics and trade. The study has focused in particular on two Indian states, Bihar and Karnataka.

- WP1 conducted by IFPRI is a macro-level analysis highlighting potentially vulnerable areas associated with climate change through models that link climate impacts with agricultural production zones.

- WP2 done by NUPI is a meso-level analysis of the economic geography and logistics of food trade, and how this might change under different scenarios; including “inland” trade between Indian states as well as international trade.
- WP3 undertaken by SIFO with CUTS’s support is an assessment of the implications of changes in food politics, production and trade on local community and household food security and vulnerability.
- WP4 done by CUTS includes an advocacy module that bridges the three research themes to disseminate broader policy findings to a range of stakeholders and decision makers, sensitizing them to the interface between climate change, agricultural production and distribution systems, and the implications for poor households.

This workshop intends to share the outputs of each WP by respective partner with a wider audience of policy makers, academia, Civil Society Organizations and to facilitate an informed discussion on how the project findings can be taken forward into policy recommendations. The focus of this dialogue will be to align ground realities on the nexus between food security, climate change, economics, politics and trade.