

**National Seminar**  
***Globalization and India: Voices from the Ground***  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 18-19 December 2006

---

**Objective**

*To deliberate and share experiences in generating awareness on the trade-development linkages in different parts of India exploring the successes and non-successes and what next to develop appropriate pro-poor policy responses.*

**Background**

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. The debate on linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction is not new. In fact trade economists see international trade as a measure for enhancing economic growth. Trade policy affects poverty through its effects on economic growth and equitable income distribution. A pro-poor growth policy has greater impact on reducing poverty, than growth per se.

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) and Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP). These projects broadly work towards articulating policy coherence between trade (including India's commitments to international agreements) and national development policies to reduce poverty.

The GRANITE project that was initiated in January 2005, is implemented in eight states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) working at the grassroots focussing on agriculture and handloom sectors 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,

The TDP is a four-year project spanning from January 2005 to December 2008. The project is being implemented in fifteen countries across South and South East Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa and Europe. Out of fifteen countries, thirteen are developing countries (Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia) and two are developed countries (The Netherlands and UK). The essence of TDP is to comprehend the linkages between trade and poverty reduction, and this is carried forward by looking in detail at two sectors of the countries involved, which are significant from the point of view of export earnings as well as employment generation. In India, the two sectors chosen are oilseeds and carpets, which are important from the point of view employment generation.

**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.

As Regards the TDP project, it looks into the impact of trade liberalisation in the two sectors of Oilseeds and the Carpet industry and the role that these sectors play in poverty reduction and employment generation. Although both share the commonality of labour intensive work, their differences manifest when Globalisation and International Trade affect them differently. Cheap palm oil imports from Malaysia, Thailand are posing a serious threat to the Indian oilseeds industry especially in the state of Rajasthan thereby endangering the livelihoods of the rural people. Exports of carpets bring in the valuable foreign exchange to our country. Despite the export prominence of this industry, the industry is unable to reach its full potential. Both the sectors provide employment to the rural unskilled people, thereby contributing in creating gainful employment and reducing poverty in the rural and semi-urban areas.

### **The Event**

The National Seminar on *Globalization and India: Voices from the Ground*, to be held on 18-19 December 2006 in Lucknow, is to take stock of the endeavours made by CUTS CITEE, as stated above. The following is a non-exhaustive list of issues/subjects to be discussed at this forum:

- An Overview of the GRANITE and TDP Projects – Experience from the ground
- Successes and Non-successes of Advocacy Practices – What Works and What doesn't Work
- What Next?

This forum will provide for detailed discussions on major policy issues that are creating opportunities and/or vice-versa for the poor to benefit from globalisation, including deliberations on safety nets in order to insulate the poor from adverse shocks. The Seminar is aimed to facilitate interaction between:

- Civil society organisations from different parts of India
- Government officials
- Media representatives
- Other stakeholders

### **Place:**

Taj Residency

Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

0522 2393939

[rajshree.nautiyal@tajhotels.com](mailto:rajshree.nautiyal@tajhotels.com)

The new Taj Reservations Toll Free Number is 1800 111 TAJ (1 800 111 825)

Mob: 9838500505

---

### **Organised by**



&



### **Supported by**



Royal  
Norwegian  
Embassy,  
New Delhi



*This is a generic list of guidelines that should be adhered to by the presenters. However, specific changes to this structure may be made depending on the contents of the paper and specific guidelines will be prepared. These guidelines will not apply to Inaugural Address, Keynote Address and Valedictory Address.*

#### **Guidelines for Preparing Presentations**

- Use PowerPoint
- A presentation should not contain more than 6 slides and should not be more than 20 minutes
- While making a presentation stipulated time frame should be adhered to
- The presentation should cover:
  - What will cover and what will not cover
  - Brief Overview
  - Impact of an initiative/practice (highlighting a few positive developments)
  - Limitations of an initiative/practice (highlighting critical limitations)
  - Any other issues to be highlighted
- Chairs will be briefed separately on “discussions”