

**State Level workshop on
Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics
(GRANITE) Phase II
Friday, October 23, 2009, 1100 – 1300 hrs
CUTS Conference Hall, Jaipur**

Background

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE), Jaipur with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi and Novib (Oxfam, The Netherlands) is implementing a three-year project titled, “Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) Phase II. Among others, one of the primary objectives of this project is to foster equality and accountability in economic governance system in India and ensuring better economic literacy to generate a more coherent civil society voice on economic governance in the country *vis-à-vis* effect of globalization on the livelihood of the poor, particularly marginalised and women. The project broadly aims towards articulating policy coherence between WTO guidelines and national development policies to reduce poverty levels and adopt distinct methodologies and focus areas.

The GRANITE Phase II was conceptualised on the basis of important lessons learnt from the implementation of first phase, which was implemented from 2005-07. The second phase spans for the three years i.e. from 2007-10. It 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, Horticulture and Textiles from India, given their significance in the generation of employment in India.

During the second phase an institutional analysis (a critique) on the process of preparation and implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2004-09 was done in the first year of the project i.e. from April 2007 to March 2008. While state government officials and business stakeholders were consulted for doing this analysis, civil society organisations and community-based organisations were extensively consulted in order to advocate for making the process of preparation and implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India more inclusive – in economic sense as well as in social and political terms.

In the second year (April 2008 to March 2009), project partners conducted Case Study on specific products in order to understand whether and how as a result of the implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2004-09 affected (or, not affected) export of that specific product.

Context

In Rajasthan CUTS CITEE conducted a Case Study on Gems and Jewellery sector. Primary focus of the case study was to find answer to the following questions:

- Whether as a result of NFTP, exports of specific products (Gem and Jewellery, *in case of Rajasthan*) have increased?

- What has been the impact of the increase (*or, no increase*) in Gem and Jewellery export on the various stakeholders in a Gem and Jewellery economy?
- What are the channels through which the benefits of the National Foreign Trade Policy percolate down to the grassroots?
- What can be done to better integrate International Trade and Human Development at the grassroots?

State Level Workshop for Phase II

The State Level Workshop for Phase II will be held on October 23, 2009 at CUTS Conference hall, Jaipur and will provide a platform to share our research findings as well as to take inputs from the esteemed invitees to make further improvements in our future course of action. Since the stakeholders will be in the best position to chalk out strategies which best suit local conditions their inputs will be invaluable for preparing the future roadmap of the project. The objective of state level workshop for Phase II is as follows:

- ❖ to present the research findings;
- ❖ share opinions for making the NFTP more pro poor;
- ❖ share views and opinions as to what could be done to increase exports of Gem and Jewellery from Rajasthan; and
- ❖ areas of further research