

Documenting Advocacy Practices Involving Local Stakeholders with the Process of Trade and Globalisation in Four Indian States

Rajasthan State level Roundtable Meeting

November 18, 2006, Jaipur

Objective

To discuss the case studies on advocacy practices with local level stakeholders on issues relating to globalisation and trade in the state of Rajasthan.

Background

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) is implementing a project titled, "Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics" (GRANITE). It is implemented in eight states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Its aim is to build the capacity of local civil society organisations on issues relating to globalisation and WTO (with particular emphasis on agriculture and textiles, including handloom) and advocate with local stakeholders on globalisation and related issues.

The GRANITE project is supported by Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi and Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands. CUTS CITEE is implementing this project in partnership with state-based civil society organisations and as a mother unit.

The key to the success of the GRANITE project is advocacy by the GRANITE partners with local stakeholders in respective states. Such advocacy primarily uses specific tools such as outreach meetings, newsletters, representation to government officials, writing in the media and by involving local level policy-makers and other stakeholders in organising state-level workshops, media workshops, etc.

Under the aegis of Oxfam International's KIC initiative (Knowledge Infrastructure with and between Counterparts, which is an initiative of Oxfam International and steered by Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands), which is working towards its objective of bringing people with similar interests as regards globalisation and its impacts, case studies on the GRANITE experience will be done in four states where the GRANITE project is being implemented. These states are Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. They are chosen from four different parts of India – i.e. respectively from South, West, North and East. CUTS CITEE by involving individual researchers and in association with GRANITE partners will conduct these case studies on skills and tools for advocacy with local stakeholders.

Context

Given the above background, CUTS International in association with GRANITE partners has conducted case studies on skills and tools for advocacy with local stakeholders under the project titled '*Documenting advocacy practices involving local stakeholders with the process of trade and globalisation in four Indian States*'. This is in order to empower them on issues of globalisation and trade and also to assess the impact of such advocacy efforts. These case studies look at advocacy practices that work and don't work. It will document the process (how) to reach out to unorganised farmers on the one hand and local-level policy-makers on the other.

The Event

To involve representatives of research institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and academicians in a half-day conference. The meeting will deliberate on discussing the draft case study from Rajasthan for further refining it. The deliberations will be organised in a roundtable discussion format thereby taking diverse views on board.

Venue

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (C-CIER)
D-218, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India Ph: +91.141.2282821