

CUTS CITEE in Action

April-June 2011

Events

Assessing Consumer Behaviour on Energy Efficient Products in India

There is a growing realisation in India among policy makers, businesses, civil society organisations, and the public at large that the country would find it increasingly difficult to sustain its economic growth by using non-renewable sources of energy at the prevailing levels of energy efficiency. India's energy strategy, therefore, needs to have two basic ingredients:

- increasing reliance on renewable energy, and
- initiatives for enhancing energy efficiency at various levels.

The project will also provide a basis for designing future strategies by the relevant departments and ministries of the Government of India for enhancing the use of energy efficient products in India. The project is supported by ClimateWorks Foundation, US through Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi.

The launch meeting of the project was held in New Delhi, on April 12, 2011. The objective of the event was to promote energy conservation in India through greater use of energy efficient products.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/CONBEE



Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe and Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS

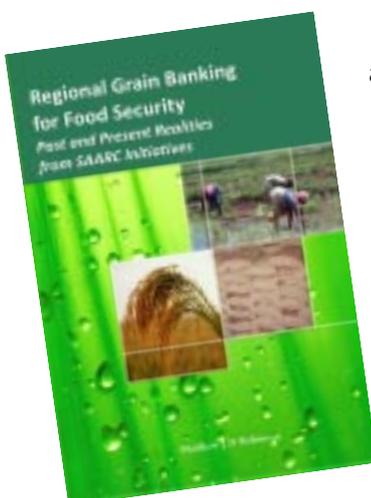
Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia

The Scoping Study on Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia is focused on farmers' perception toward climate change and its imminent impact on their livelihoods in general and food security in particular. As per the Climate Change Vulnerability Index of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, four South Asian countries are among the top ten in the world facing extreme vulnerability from climate change. They are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

This study covered four countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. CUTS International undertook this work in partnership with Afghan Development Agency, Practical Action-Bangladesh, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, India, and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan. It was supported by Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands. This project is being implemented with support from Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands.

A Regional Meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on June 27, 2011. The objective of this meeting was to present the results of our study on Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia and to discuss a future work programme on climate change-food security-trade linkages in South Asia.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/CCFS



Cost of Economic Non Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia

The COENCOSA project is conceived on the premise that economic non-cooperation among the South Asian countries has resulted in high costs to consumers, as can be gauged from formal trade between India and Pakistan which could have been 70 percent more than what it is today.

It aims to do rigorous political-economic analyses to understand the bottlenecks of regional trade integration in South Asia and its impact on consumer welfare. It will be done through a comprehensive meta-analysis of existing literature and a scientifically designed perception survey of key informants and stakeholders on intra-regional trade.

The project will help to generate better awareness amongst the trade policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders of the region on loss of consumer welfare as a result of regional economic non-cooperation. It is expected to generate some concrete policy actions for improving trade and investment relations in the region with an ultimate objective of enhancing consumer welfare.

Inception Meeting

The inception meeting was organised in Jaipur, on April 16, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and refine the theoretical foundations and methodology of meta-analysis, existing literature that are to be looked at, and also to discuss the questionnaire and methodology of the perception survey. Participants included experts from partner organisations, technical experts, CUTS representatives involved in this project, and representatives of The Asia Foundation.



L-R: Hasan M Mazumdar (The Asia Foundation, Bangladesh); Muhammad Faruk Khan (Commerce Minister, Bangladesh); Syed Munir Khasru (Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance, Bangladesh); Gowher Rizvi (Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh); and Rashid S Kaukab (CUTS International)

Project Review Meeting

A Project Review Meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on June 28, 2011. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the preliminary findings of literature review and data analyses as well as the methodology and questionnaire for primary survey of the project being implemented with support from The Asia Foundation.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA

A Study of Environmental Standards and their Trade Impacts

CUTS is implementing the project 'A Study of Environmental Standards and their Trade Impact: on Indian Textiles and Clothing Sector' (SESTI) which is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) through Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, India. The objective of the project is to promote dialogue on environmental standards and labels between producers in the South and consumers in the North.

The launch meeting of the project was held in Oslo, Norway on May 20, 2011 in collaboration with the project partner National Institute of Consumer Interests (SIFO). The meeting aims at developing an understanding of the issues that should be taken into consideration in the process of the project implementation.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/SESTI

Upcoming Events

Parliamentarians' Forum on Economic Policy Issues

CUTS is organising a meeting with Parliamentarians on trade-related infrastructure development in New Delhi, on August 18, 2011. The objective of the meeting is to facilitate informed discussions amongst Indian Parliamentarians from varied backgrounds on key economic issues.

Expected Outcome

- Sensitise and create better understanding among Parliamentarians on key economic issues.
- Ensure informed discussions among Parliamentarians on complex issues outside the more formal framework of the Parliament.
- Carry out research, writing and distribution of 'Issues for Parliamentarians' by CUTS.
- Help in inculcating better understanding and ensure consensus among Parliamentarians on certain contentious issues.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Backgrounder-PARFORE_Delhi.pdf

GRANITE Advocacy Meeting

CUTS is organising a final dissemination meeting of Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) Phase 2 project in New Delhi, on August 19, 2011. The objective of the meeting is to bring together diverse stakeholders ranging from government officials to representatives of export promotion councils, civil society organisations, business houses, academia and media to discuss findings by CUTS on Foreign Trade Policy of India and provide their views regarding the same. This feedback would be used to formulate recommendations which would then be submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/GRANITE-II/index-htm

New Project

Government Procurement – An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India

CUTS with the support from British High Commission, New Delhi is implementing a project entitled 'Government Procurement – An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India'. The project will integrate the stakeholders into the activity design which is expected to generate critical momentum for continuing efforts in support of accession process to the Agreement on Government Procurement on the project completion. Further, the importance and relevance of the subject has increased with a greater focus today on global good governance post financial crisis. Therefore, it is expected that the project outputs will continue to draw interest from all concerned stakeholders.

The long term objective of the project is to lead to more efficient government procurement system in India with greater transparency, efficiency and good governance for both domestic as well as foreign enterprises. It will cover three sectors – health (pharmaceuticals as well as medical equipments), information technology and IT-enabled services and railways and focus on opportunities and challenges of India's accession to WTO Agreement on Government Procurement. Among others, India's offensive and defensive interests in selected countries and sectors will be studied in terms of business opportunities and specific regulations *vis-à-vis* modes of supply in those markets and sectors.

The launch meeting of the project will be held in New Delhi on August 31, 2011.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-citee.org/GP

Participation

- **Suresh Prasad Singh** participated in the Second Phase of International Training Programme on Rules of Origin organised by Swedish National Board of Trade in Bandung, Indonesia, during May 02-06, 2011.
- **Bipul Chatterjee** participated in several meetings of the Planning Commission's Working Group on "Boosting Manufacturing Exports" during the 12th Plan, 2012-17.

Globalisation, Domestic Market Integration and the Regional Disparities of India

Along with China, India has experienced that fast growth and increased trade openness has been accompanied by growing regional disparities. This naturally raises the question whether regional inequality is caused by openness. Alternatively, growth may be uneven for other reasons so that trade is not a cause even if state-level trade openness and income levels may be correlated. This paper argues that for larger nations, the domestic inter-regional trade is important and India should have a trade policy that addresses domestic as well as international market integration.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper-Globalisation_Domestic_Market_Integration_and_the_Regional_Disparities_of_India.pdf

Trajectories of value chain governance and geographical indications: issues for upgrading handicraft goods in India

In this paper, a discussion of the Kota Doria value chain is given based on fieldwork conducted in April 2010. While Kota Doria has had a GI in place since 2005, it has not been successful in adding-value through its presence. A discussion of the governance of the Kota Doria value chain and lessons from successful GIs in Indian handicrafts is given that suggests an even stronger need for external support to organize these GIs appropriately.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper-Globalisation_Domestic_Market_Integration_and_the_Regional_Disparities_of_India.pdf

Tea Export and its Impact at the Grassroots

In light of India's Foreign Trade Policy (2009-14) this case study looks into the Tea economy of West Bengal (Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling), explores the export-oriented value chain in the sector and shows how various stakeholders are interrelated. The study investigates into whether export of Tea has increased (or not) after introduction of the Foreign Trade Policy of India; what has been the impact on various stakeholders; what are the bottlenecks for exporting Tea; and what could be the probable measures that will help in improving the export scenario.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper11-Tea_Export_and_its_impact_at_the_Grassroots.pdf

A Case Study on the Mango Economy of Malda

This case study looks into the Mango economy of Malda, explores the export-oriented value chain there and shows how various stakeholders are inter-related. The study investigates into what changes have transpired in the mango economy after implementation of India's Foreign Trade Policy (2004-09) which designated mango as a Focus product; how these changes have affected various stakeholders; and what needs to be done so that the benefits of export percolates down to grassroot stakeholders.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_paper11-A_Case_Study_on_the_Mango_Economy_of_Malda.pdf

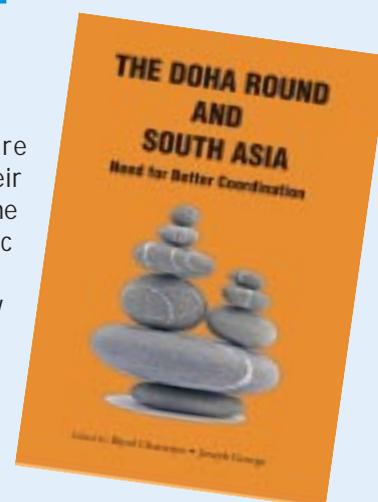
Forthcoming Publication

The Doha Round and South Asia: Need for Better Coordination

Over the last couple of decades or so, South Asian countries are experiencing significant changes in their trade and economic policies. Their participation in the Doha Development Round trade negotiations as Members of the World Trade Organisation presents a valuable opportunity to accelerate their economic progress by using trade as an engine of growth.

South Asian economies mostly face similar developmental challenges and yet many of them are at different levels of development. Given such similarities as well as differences, they have similar concerns in Doha Round negotiations and have conflicts of interests as well.

This book explores the commonalities and differences of South Asian countries' interests in some major areas of Doha Round negotiations. South Asian countries are urged to take their issue-specific positions forward by participating in the deliberations of various coalitions of WTO Members and to adopt a more coordinated approach to discuss those positions among themselves so that they have better understanding of each other's interests.



http://www.cuts-international.org/Book_THE_DOHA_ROUND_AND_SOUTH_ASIA.htm
CUTS International, 2011, M500/US\$25, ISBN: 978-81-8257-149-5