

CUTS CITEE in Action

July-September 2018



Events

Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agriculture

CUTS International with the support of US Agency for International Development (USAID) organised three stakeholder consultation workshops under the project entitled, 'Non-Tariffs Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products and their Linkages with Food Security and Livelihood' at Kolkata on June 19 & July 03, 2018; and at New Delhi on August 18, 2018 respectively.



The objectives of these workshops were to take valuable inputs from stakeholders on specific issues identified in the study: NTBs to agricultural trade between India and Bangladesh, bilateral trade and food security issues, and the impact of trade on livelihood of Indian farmers; and validate the findings of the study particularly related to the existence of barriers at the border at selected land custom stations (LCSs) between India and Bangladesh only.

www.cuts-citee.org/ntbagr/





Events

Thrust on Waterway Connectivity between Dhubri and Chilmari

'Allowing movement of cargo through small mechanised boats along India-Bangladesh protocol route will benefit local economy and create livelihoods', said Mohammad Abu Jafor Howlader, Director, Marine Safety Traffic Management Department, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Government of Bangladesh.

He was delivering the keynote address at the India-Bangladesh Dialogue on 'Prospects of cross-border trade via small mechanised boats between Dhubri (India) and Chilmari (Bangladesh)' at Guwahati on July 31, 2018. The dialogue was well-attended by government officials, civil society representatives, boat operators, exporters and traders from Dhubri, Guwahati, Chilmari, Dhaka and Kathmandu.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW>



Publications

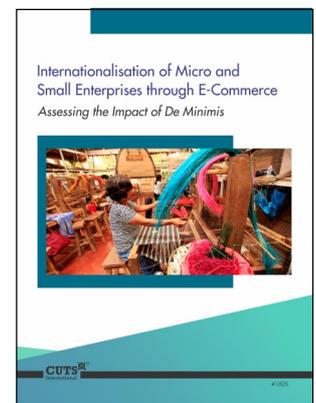
Report

Internationalisation of Micro and Small Enterprises through E-Commerce *Assessing the Impact of De Minimis*

The Study examines the role of e-commerce in internationalisation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) while focussing on the effect of de minimis threshold. It takes into account the qualitative and quantitative analysis of primary and secondary data respectively.

Primary data has been collected from three developing countries: India, Kenya and Vietnam and aims at identifying issues being faced by MSEs in trading cross-border through e-commerce. The secondary data analysis establishes a causal relationship between *de minimis* (threshold and scope) and exports of MSEs for a group of selected countries.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-Internationalisation_of_Micro_and_Small_Enterprises_through_E-Commerce.pdf



Briefs

Short haul trade through mechanised boats

A Case of Dhubri and Chilmari

Mechanised boats (boot or buti) are the vital mode of transport in Assam and Bangladesh wherein the river Brahmaputra traverses the landscape with numerous channels and river islands. However, these boats (carrying goods and passengers) ply within the national boundaries and are never allowed to cross transboundary water borders.

Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between Bangladesh and India, big vessels carrying goods are allowed to ply between two countries but often face challenges due to comparatively low navigable depth, absence of return cargo and limited number of vessels. Including mechanised boats under the ambit of protocol to carry short haul cargo across border would facilitate goods transport even in low navigable depth.

This, in turn, will promote an enabling environment for the local people to take part in the developmental process thereby improving their socio-economic status.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Short_haul_trade_through_mechanised_boats_A_case_of_Dhubri_and_Chilmari.pdf

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What Does It Cost to Trade Cross-Border?

How higher de minimis increases trade potential for micro & small enterprises through lower costs

CUTS has conducted a study exploring the challenges faced by MSEs in trading internationally and using e-platforms. Additionally, it investigates the impact of *de minimis* (refers to the minimum value of goods, below which no duties and taxes are collected and streamlined border clearance is provided) threshold/exemptions on exports of MSEs in selected countries and forecasts the increase in their exports if *de minimis* threshold is increased.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper-What_Does_It_Cost_to_Trade_Cross_Border.pdf

Civil society can play a crucial role in managing global affairs

The Asian Age, September 12, 2018

By Pradeep S Mehta and Samir Bhattacharya

In March 2019, Argentina will host the Second United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, marking the 40th anniversary of the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among developing countries. About 40 years ago, 138 countries came together to pledge their commitment for achieving national and collective self-reliance through what came to be known as Buenos Aires Plan. Increasingly South-South Cooperation is a happening thing, though not at the cost of South-North cooperation.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-civil-society-can-play-a-crucial-role-in-managing-global-affairs.htm>

Don't strangle Indian e-commerce

Mint, August 27, 2018

By Pradeep S Mehta

E-commerce in India is facing huge buoyancy, both in terms of the market and policy space. In terms of the market, the majority investment in Flipkart by US retail giant Walmart, and a substantial proposed investment by Alibaba in Reliance Retail recently made news. Some pundits say that some of these moves may result in market distortions. Apparently, vested interests are muddying the waters.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-Dont-strangle-Indian-ecommerce.htm>



Participation

- Sanjay Mangla participated in workshop of ERIA's Project 'Labour in East Asia' organised by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Jakarta during July 02-03, 2018. He presented the first draft of paper entitled 'Assessing the Impact of Labour Laws on Labour Productivity in India: *Comparison of Indian and ASEAN Labour Regimes.*'
- Saurabh Kumar participated in a seminar entitled 'Policy Dialogue on BIMSTEC Regional Integration' jointly organised by CUTS, International Institute for Trade and Development and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok on July 12-13, 2018. He delivered a presentation on '*Sustainable Development and Regional Security.*'
- Pradeep S Mehta and Sanjay Mangla attended the second meeting of the think tank on 'Drafting E-commerce Policy in India' organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India at New Delhi on July 30, 2018.
- Sanjay Mangla participated in a Round Table Conference on 'E-commerce Policy: A Game Changer' organised by the Confederation of All India Traders, at New Delhi on August 08, 2018.
- Mohini Ganguly participated in a workshop entitled 'The Eco Grants Orientation' at the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) run by PVR Nest, Plan India and Centre for Youth on August 28, 2018.