

CUTS CITEE in Action

October-December 2016



Event

Food Security in India *The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade*

CUTS with its consortium partners, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), National Institute for Consumer Research (SIFO, Norway), and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) organised a workshop on 'Food Security in India: The Interaction of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade' at New Delhi on October 04, 2016. The project is supported by The Research Council of Norway and seeks to explore a model for analysing food security in India through the interactions of climate change, economics, politics and trade.

This workshop aimed to present and discuss key findings from four work packages under the project and opportunities/challenges of ensuring national food security by reviewing closely national policies influencing climate change, economics, politics and trade.

www.cuts-citee.org/FOODSEC/





Event

Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity

US Consulate General Kolkata, in partnership with CUTS, East-West Centre (EWC) & Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) hosted a conference entitled, 'Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity' at Kolkata on December 14-15, 2016.



The purpose of this event was to advance the strategic goal of expanding viable commercial links between India, the countries of South and Southeast Asia, and the US as a part of the US vision of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor (IPEC).

www.cuts-international.org/IACP/about_project.html

Border Haats and their Socio-Economic Impact

CUTS organised a consultation meeting on 'Border Haats and their Socio-Economic Impact' at Guwahati on October 26, 2016. The principle objective of this project is to understand and estimate the impact of border *haats* on poverty reduction through income and employment generation with specific emphasis on gender implications through a study of the four existing *haats* (two each in Tripura-Chittagong and Meghalaya-Rangpur/Sylhet) at the India-Bangladesh border.

The event shared its findings and policy recommendations that emerged from the study with relevant stakeholders (public and private sectors) with a view to come up with a forward looking policy and action agenda.





Event

Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water *Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins*

CUTS along with its partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal with support from The Asia Foundation, India is implementing the Project Launch Meeting on ‘Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins’ at Guwahati on October 24, 2016 with the aim ‘to contribute to improving institutions for inland waterways governance with particular emphasis on transport connectivity and livelihood in the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) region’.

The project will create an alternative policy discourse between policymakers, civil society, and communities for enabling reform measures and better governance of inland waterways; and share knowledge between governments and civil society on governance of inland waterways.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and validate activities, outputs and desired/expected outcomes of the project and explore possible collaborations with other partners of the Civil Society Fund (CSF) of the South Asia Water Governance Programme (SAWGP).

www.cuts-citee.org/IW



Participation

- Bipul Chatterjee participated in a meeting on ‘BBIN Roundtable on Trade and Transit’ organised by the Delhi Policy Group and The Asia Foundation at New Delhi on October 04-05, 2016. He was a discussant at the session on *Transit Connectivity*.
- Smriti Bahety attended BRICS Business Forum 2016 hosted by the Government of India with support from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Confederation of Indian Industry at New Delhi, on October 13, 2016 India.
- Kyle Cote participated in an ‘International Conference on TPP/RCEP, Medical Products and Food Safety’ in Taipei, Taiwan on November 10-11, 2016. It was organised by The Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan and Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan. He presented research findings and policy points focusing on India, RCEP and pharmaceuticals based on CUTS work from the project ‘External Preferential Trade Agreements and the Indian Economy: An Analysis of Impacts and Counter Measures.’ (EPTA) funded by DFID under its Knowledge Partnership Programme (through IPE Global, New Delhi).
- Susan Mathew participated in the ‘India and Sustainability Standards: International Dialogues & Conference (ISS 2016)’ at New Delhi on November 18, 2016. The conference revolves around UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – especially how the corporate sector is contributing/can contribute towards the achievement of some of these ambitious goals.
- Prashant Sharma participated in the Indo-Pak dialogue organised by Carnegie India at New Delhi on December 09, 2016.
- Susan Mathew participated in the ‘Annual Partner’s Meeting of the Civil Society Fund, South Asia Water Governance Programme’ at Kathmandu, on December 12-13, 2016.



Publications

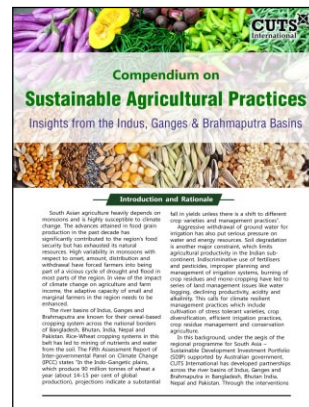
Compendium on Sustainable Agricultural Practices Insights from the Indus, Ganges & Brahmaputra basins

This compendium is a compilation of those practices, which are promoted and advocated by CUTS partners in their locality and can be scaled up and disseminated to a wider group of farmer communities in South Asia, taking into account the commonalities in cropping systems and agro-climatic zones in the region. This will also demand necessary support from state and national government in terms of policies and deeper engagement with CSOs to facilitate knowledge sharing.

More specifically these practices aim to:

- Imparting technical knowledge for better management of resources;
- Building adaptive capacity and resilience of small farmers against climate change;
- Enhancing productivity in marginal land and assure food security; and
- Sharing successful models of institutional frame work for enhancing skills.

www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/SDIP-Compendium_on_Agriculture.pdf



Significance of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic in Kolkata and other Urban Spaces of West Bengal

The threat of climate change has been a matter of concern, globally. India too has pledged voluntarily at Paris Climate Conference in 2015 (COP21), the 2015 Paris Climate Conference to reduce carbon emission intensity, create an additional carbon sink by increasing forest coverage and also to increase the share of renewable in the power mix. To meet up with the target set by the central nodal agency for Renewable Energy, several states have been adopting measures to increase the renewable energy proportion. Availability and affordability of land has been a major challenge in the state of West Bengal.

Given this background, this Briefing Paper has tried to analyse the significance of utilising the unused free rooftop spaces in Kolkata and other urban areas of West Bengal to implement grid-connected rooftop solar power plants.

www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Briefing-Paper-Significance_of_Grid_Connected_Rooftop_Solar_Photo_Voltaic_in_Kolkata.pdf

