



September-October 2007

EVENTS

Rajasthan State Level Inception Workshop under GRANITE Phase 2 Project

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) organised the Rajasthan level inception workshop under Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India in Trade and Economics (GRANITE) Phase-2 on September 05, 2007, which marked the beginning of this three-year project (2007-2010). The workshop witnessed multi stakeholder participation from farmer unions, weaver groups, institutions like National Institute Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur, Institute of Rural Management (IRM), Jaipur, banking and micro finance institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), SKS Micro Finance, ITC and other Community based organisations (CBOs).



The workshop provided a platform for discussion on export-oriented issues and the various provisions under National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP). The farmers were made aware of and sought clarifications on the trade, especially export related issues. A healthy discussion on the prospects and potential for the farmers to ensure better prices for their produce was a major highlight of the workshop. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-sep07.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Consultation Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in India

The National Consultation on Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in India, will be held on November 29, 2007 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The consultation is aimed to invite comments and inputs on the country background paper and two sectoral case studies prepared by CUTS CITEE. The following is the list of issues/subjects, which will be discussed in the consultation:

- Country Background Paper on 'Evolution of Services in India'
- Country Paper on 'Domestic Preparedness on Services in India'
- Two Sectoral Case Studies:
 - Wholesale Trade
 - Education

More on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-nov07.htm>

Roundtable on Trade and Poverty: Making the Integrated Framework a Tool for Poverty Reduction

CUTS London Resource Centre (CUTS LRC), organised an international Roundtable on Trade and Poverty: Making the integrated Framework a Tool for Poverty Reduction in Geneva, on October 18, 2007. The Roundtable brought together government and NGO representatives from a number of African and Asian countries, the Integrated Framework (IF) managing agencies, bilateral donors and European NGOs to discuss the challenges facing the IF process in better contributing to development and poverty reduction efforts. See more on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-IF-Workshop.pdf>

Presentation of the Study on Realising the Potential of India's Trade Integration

CUTS CITEE, in collaboration with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), organised a meeting to present the study on "Realising the Potential of India's Trade Integration, in New Delhi, on September 21, 2007. This study is the final report on the impact of India's trade on its economy and the economies of the OECD members.

The paper was presented by Przemyslaw Kowalski of OECD's trade directorate. Present in the meeting were around 35-40 participants mainly from research organisations, officials from trade department of various embassies, NGOs, and media.

Workshops under Gender and Trade

Workshops on "Gender and Trade: How to Engender the National Foreign Trade Policy of India" were held on October 03, 2007 in Kolkata and on October 29, 2007 in Bangalore respectively. These workshops looked at the NFTP of India, 2004-09 from a gender perspective in order to better understand the human development aspects of international trade. In the Kolkata workshop, S Nandwani, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Kolkata, Swapna Mukhopadhyay, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, were among the distinguished speakers. In Bangalore, Shahid Ahmed, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India, Sarojini Thakur, Acting Head of Gender Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, and others participated. Please see this link for more information: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/nationaldialogue/india07.pdf>



Inauguration of the workshop held at Lucknow

PUBLICATIONS

Mainstreaming Development in the WTO, Developing Countries in the Doha Round

This all important book by Faizel Ismail, an expert on World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues, describes the history behind conceptualisation of the development dimension in the WTO, including the role of developing countries in the Doha Development Round. Written with a first hand experience, the book is a gem so far the inside story of WTO issues are concerned and anyone who likes to have a conceptual clarity Doha Round negotiations must read this one. It can be found at: <http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/publications.htm>

Integrated Framework for Trade Related Assistance: What is its role in tackling poverty

This briefing paper by Gideon Rabinowitz, Campaign and Policy Officer, CUTS LRC, London, examines the supply-side constraints that are hampering the efforts of the poor countries to respond to new trading opportunities that are getting increased attention in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the WTO Aid for Trade agenda. Since the launch of Donor Funded Multi Agency Integrated Framework 1997, IF has faced a range of entrenched problems, including limited ownership by least developed countries (LDCs) and weak management. This policy brief looks into the neglect aspects and constraints in trade capacity building in the poor countries and analyses the IF process, including its weaknesses and ongoing reforms followed by specific recommendations. It can be found at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-DI-10.pdf>

South Asian Positions in the WTO Doha Round-In Search of a True Development Agenda Volume-2

The book is a well-researched collection of five broad issues on WTO Doha Round negotiation prepared by a group of civil society organisations (CSOs) from five countries of South Asia. Authored by experts in the field of trade and WTO issues, the five issues cover the major areas of interest for the developing countries, the book provides a better understanding on these five specific topics: Agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), Services, Preference Erosion and Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) Market Access. The core focus of the book is to provide state-of-the-art information on trade issues that are of vital importance within the South Asian region. The book would appeal to the policy makers and others interested stakeholders on the policy options in the South Asian region. See more on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BOOK01-07.pdf>

A Changing Global Order: Eastern African Perspective

This book has been developed as result of the workshop entitled 'A Changing Global Order-Eastern Africa's Roles and Interests' held in June 2007, at Navisha, Kenya. It aims to enable the stakeholders to carry the Naivasha debate forward their respective organisations and raise awareness and knowledge about the changes and challenges in the global arena. In the book, short excerpts of those far more comprehensive papers presented at the workshop have been re-arranged around six topical areas. While the contributions in this publication raise many questions, there are hardly any answers, which remain to be developed. And in this process, governments shall no longer be left alone. All actors of society are asked to contribute, in order to give Africa the strong voice it deserves in the global arena. See more on: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BOOK02-07.pdf>

PARTICIPATION

Pradeep S Mehta and Archana Jatkar attended the conference titled "Pathways to Legitimacy? The Future of Globalisation and Regional Governance" was held from September 17-19, 2007 at Warwick University, UK, to mark, and celebrate first decade of path-breaking work by the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR). The conference convened was a major international conference on building legitimate authority in global and regional governance in cooperation with GARNET, the EU-funded Network of Excellence on Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation: The Role of the EU.

Simi TB attended a Brainstorming Meeting on the Indian Ecomark on September 17, 2007 in New Delhi. The meeting was organised by Safety Action Group, New Delhi and GTZ, Germany. The meeting came up with various suggestions and recommendations to revive the ecomark scheme. The recommendations have been sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India for the perusal and action.

IN MEDIA

SEZs and rational expectations

Financial Express, September 11, 2007
By **Pradeep S Mehta**

SEZ Policy is to stay here for good. Of a recent research finding on SEZ across the country, it has been found that SEZ have impacted the surroundings profoundly. Apart from export and investment growth, it has brought a significant change in the mindsets of the people... <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-oct07.htm>

This article can also be viewed at: <http://www.financialexpress.com>

Exports, gender and poverty:

A critical dialogue

Daily Mirror, October 29, 2007
By **Muttukrishna Sarvananthan**

In the Sri Lankan economy garments and labour are the two largest sources of foreign exchange. There is an indication that there is a strong nexus between exports, gender and poverty in Sri Lanka, which is unambiguous... <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-oct07.htm>

India's no to draft duty-cut treaty

Business Standard, October 03, 2007
By **Rituparna Bhuyan**

The Doha Round negotiations may be delayed by two more years as 100 developing countries have not accepted the latest provision in the draft agreement on non-agricultural market access... <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-oct07.htm>