CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment
About CUTS International

CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar (Village Revolution).

The Scrabble & Matchbox Story

CUTS Vision
“Consumer Sovereignty”

CUTS Mission
Geographic Outreach
Thematic areas

- Rules Based Trade
- Effective Regulation
- Good Governance

About CITEE

• CUTS CITEE was established in 1996 with an aim to become the “global centre of excellence” for research and advocacy on multilateral trade, regional economic integration and sustainable development issues.

• The Mission of CITEE is “Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people.”
Goal of CITEE

• to enable and empower representatives of the civil society, to articulate and advocate the relevant issues at the appropriate forums

• to create inquisitive culture through empowerment of civil society representatives to ensure transparency and accountability in the system.

• to encourage equity between and among the developed and developing countries through network-based research and advocacy on emerging and prevalent issues.
Objectives

• present an independent political economic viewpoint on trade and trade-related economic, social and environmental issues from the perspective of Southern countries

• sensitise policy-makers about trade and development issues confronted by the people at the grassroots

• empower civil society and government representatives to understand issues of priority for better welfare of Southern countries

• juxtapose counterfactuals in debates on trade and trade related developmental issues on a scientific basis

• strengthen the capacity of developing country representatives in international trade negotiations and implementation of trade agreements

• raise awareness in developed countries on trade and trade-related developmental issues for a better understanding of the concerns of Southern countries
Modus operandi

- Provide **evidence based inputs** to trade negotiators and policy makers from developmental perspectives
- Exchanging regularly on programmes, activities and projects of mutual interest with a view to ensuring coordination, complementarity and **mutually supportive cooperation**, and where appropriate, joint action
- Developing **capacities of government officials, civil society** and like minded organizations on trade and trade-related developmental issues.
# Program areas

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<th>WTO Issues and Free Trade Agreements</th>
<th>Regional Integration in South Asia</th>
<th>Trade and Sustainable Development</th>
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| How multilateral agreements and negotiations are affecting the **poor consumers**  
Impact assessment on India with respect to third party free trade agreements where India is not a party | **Cost of economic non-cooperation to consumers** in South Asia,  
Non tariff barriers;  
Emerging issues related to regional economic cooperation/ **trade facilitation, connectivity** | ‘**Liberalisation with Safety Nets**’ inclusive growth; linkages between trade, poverty alleviation, standards (labour and environmental) and livelihoods  
Trade-related aspects of gender, environmental and other socio-economic indicators, trade and other public policy objectives |
What we do

- Applied/Action Research: To conduct research on specific issues and disseminate findings to a large audience, including policymakers and international communities.

- Advocacy: Influencing policy making at the national and regional level on issues relating to trade regulation and governance by doing evidence based advocacy to achieve more and better policy outcomes.

- Networking and Capacity building: To build capacity of NGOs, media and academia on issues relating to liberalisation and globalisation including the functioning of the multilateral trading system, environment, food security and economics.

- Awareness Generation: Informing, educating and provoking actions from relevant stakeholders through publications on various issues related to liberalisation, globalisation, multilateral trading system, regional cooperation, environment and economics.
How we do

Build synergy to bring about change
Do Reality Check to Assess Development Linkages of Trade
(Picture: Border Haat, Kalaichar, Meghalaya; Courtesy, CUTS CRC)
Engage With Community
Conceptualize, Organize and Facilitate Track- 1.5/ Track- 2 Dialogues for better Bilateral/ Regional Economic Cooperation
Conduct Stakeholder Consultations and Disseminate their Views on Macro Economic Governance
Outreach and Communication

E Forums
• CUTS Trade Forum
• CUTS South Asia E Group

Quarterly Newsletter
• Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements