

# Publications Digest 2018

*CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publications in 2018.*

## REPORTS

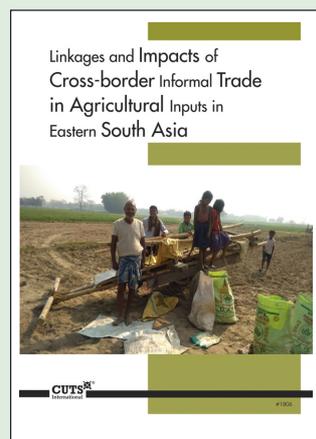
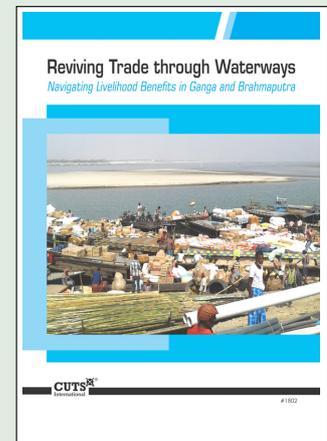
### Reviving Trade through Waterways

#### Navigating Livelihood Benefits in Ganga and Brahmaputra

The findings presented in this report have been compiled from country-specific diagnostic studies. It provides an overview of the institutional framework governing waterways, opportunities and challenges with respect to inland navigation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) countries as well as the stakeholder perceptions regarding environmental, livelihood and gender implications of developmental initiatives being undertaken in inland water transport sector.

It has come up with recommendations like developing an integrated strategy for closer cooperation within BBIN countries on cross-border navigational use of Inland Waterways (IWs), engaging local river dependent communities in river training, disaster management, freight handling and other services to supplement their livelihoods and developing ports with multimodal connectivity for seamless transportation.

[www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Reviving\\_Trade\\_through\\_Waterways\\_Navigating\\_Livelihood\\_Benefits\\_in\\_Ganga\\_and\\_Brahmaputra.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Reviving_Trade_through_Waterways_Navigating_Livelihood_Benefits_in_Ganga_and_Brahmaputra.pdf)



### Linkages and Impacts of Cross-border Informal Trade in Agricultural Inputs in Eastern South Asia

This study captures some of key factors which are responsible for informal trade between India-Bangladesh and India-Nepal. Some of the key factors found in this study are differences in quality, prices and productivity, due to which both farmers and traders are involved in informal trade.

It underscores the current state of such trade along the these border areas and has come up with a set of policy recommendations, such as reduction in tariffs on the part of Bangladesh and Nepal, harmonisation of standards and technical regulations, improvement in soft and hard infrastructure, addressing domestic policy distortion, development of border haats, and capacity building and knowledge sharing of border agencies to convert informal trade into formal channels.

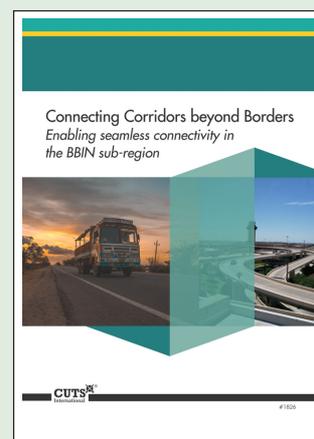
[www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Research\\_Report\\_on\\_Linkages\\_and\\_Impacts\\_of\\_Cross-border\\_Informal\\_Trade\\_in\\_Agricultural\\_Inputs\\_in\\_Eastern\\_South\\_Asia.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Research_Report_on_Linkages_and_Impacts_of_Cross-border_Informal_Trade_in_Agricultural_Inputs_in_Eastern_South_Asia.pdf)

## Connecting Corridors beyond Borders

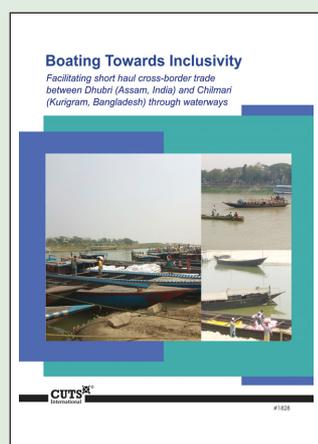
### *Enabling seamless connectivity in the BBIN sub-region*

Better connectivity among the nations reduces the hurdles in the movement of goods, services, investment and passengers. Initiatives like the BBIN MVA will ease trade for landlocked as well as for the other nations of this sub-region. But trade is not the only thing that is going to be positively affected by this MVA because there will be political and social benefits and costs too when this agreement comes into force.

Keeping this in mind, the present work has delved into a study of the hurdles that frustrate intraregional trade and the measures that need to be adopted to address them. This study has highlighted findings from the ground for policymakers in the concerned countries to take note of. It acquires added relevance at a time when the governments of the BBIN countries are poised to establish better connectivity in the region including multi-modal connectivity through many other initiatives, such as the India-Bangladesh Coastal Shipping Agreement.



[http://www.cuts-international.org/bbinmva/pdf/Report-Connecting\\_Corridors\\_beyond\\_Borders.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/bbinmva/pdf/Report-Connecting_Corridors_beyond_Borders.pdf)



## Boating Towards Inclusivity

### *Facilitating short haul cross-border trade between Dhubri (Assam, India) and Chilmari (Kurigram, Bangladesh) through waterways*

The study has explored the prospects of cross border trade using small mechanised boats between Dhubri (Assam, India) and Chilmari (Kurigram, Bangladesh). Both these locations have an under-developed socio-economic background with a considerable population living in numerous river islets (locally known as chars) that are prone to flood and erosion.

Therefore, this study relied on secondary and primary research and has identified tradable commodities, which are in demand on both sides of the border, and the existing regulatory challenges to permit the movement of small mechanised boats across border. While looking

at the trade prospects of the proposed movement of mechanised boats, it also explored its implications on local livelihoods. Being the last customs stations at the respective border of India and Bangladesh, Dhubri and Chilmari present an ideal case for the study to follow customs regulations.

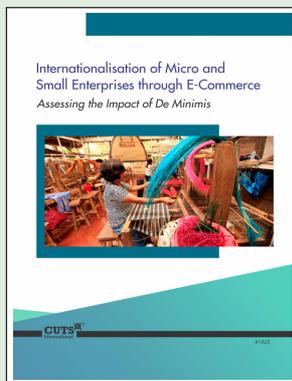
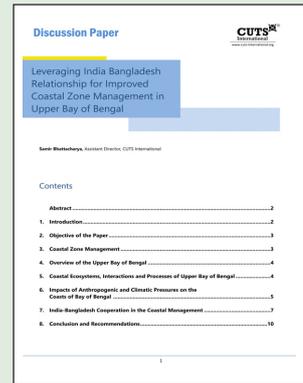
[http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Study\\_Report\\_Boating\\_towards\\_inclusivity.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Study_Report_Boating_towards_inclusivity.pdf)

## Leveraging India Bangladesh Relationship for Improved Coastal Zone Management in Upper Bay of Bengal

The aim of the paper is to diagnose the prospects of India Bangladesh cooperation in coastal zone planning and management of the Upper Bay of Bengal region and explore various areas where India and Bangladesh can tap their present relationship to jointly address the challenges, needs and possibilities. The paper details the present status of various components of coastal resources and their uses and the challenges.

Further by expounding different collaborative actions between two countries, the paper comes up with a set of recommendations.

[www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion\\_Paper\\_Leveraging\\_India\\_Bangladesh\\_Relationship\\_for\\_improved\\_Coastal\\_Zone\\_Management.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper_Leveraging_India_Bangladesh_Relationship_for_improved_Coastal_Zone_Management.pdf)



## 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](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-Internationalisation_of_Micro_and_Small_Enterprises_through_E-Commerce.pdf)

## E-commerce in the Context of Trade, Competition and Consumer Protection in India

E-Commerce, though relatively a new concept of doing business, has changed the way of doing business by a significant extent. It has become one of the major factors contributing to the globalisation of businesses. It has substantial impact on trade and consumer welfare at national, regional as well as at multilateral levels.

This paper aims at reviewing challenges and status in India *vis-a-vis* E-Commerce sector in the context of cross-border trade, consumer protection and competition issues. Further, some policy reforms have also been suggested in this regard which can be considered for the upcoming E-Commerce policy in India.

[http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion\\_Paper\\_E-Commerce\\_in\\_the\\_Context\\_of\\_Trade\\_Consumer\\_Protection\\_and\\_Competition\\_in\\_India.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper_E-Commerce_in_the_Context_of_Trade_Consumer_Protection_and_Competition_in_India.pdf)



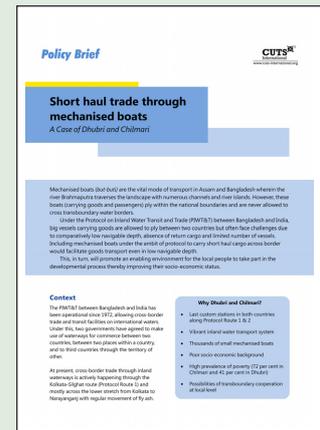
## Short haul trade through mechanised boats A Case of Dhubri and Chilmari

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.

This paper explores the prospects of cross-border trade in Dhubri and Chilmari via small mechanised boats and its possible effects on local livelihoods.

[http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Short\\_haul\\_trade\\_through\\_mechanised\\_boats\\_A\\_case\\_of\\_Dhubri\\_and\\_Chilmari.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/IW/pdf/Short_haul_trade_through_mechanised_boats_A_case_of_Dhubri_and_Chilmari.pdf)



## What Does It Cost to Trade Cross-Border? How higher de minimis increases trade potential for micro & small enterprises through lower costs

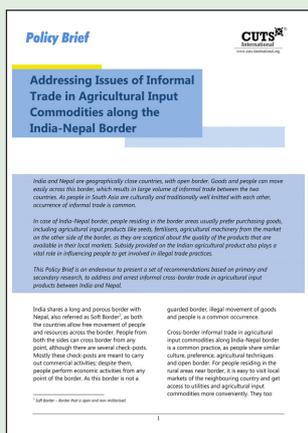
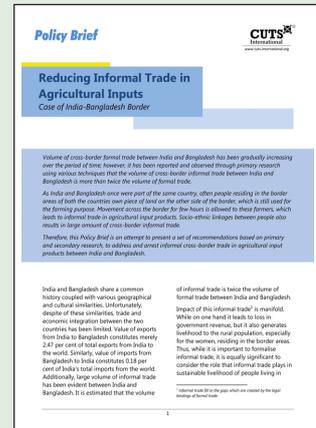
This paper explores the challenges faced by MSEs in trading internationally and using e-platforms. Additionally, it investigates the impact of *de minimis* (refers to the minimum value of goods, below which no duties and taxes are collected and streamlined border clearance is provided) threshold/ exemptions 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](http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper-What_Does_It_Cost_to_Trade_Cross_Border.pdf)

## Reducing Informal Trade in Agricultural Inputs Case of India-Bangladesh Border

As India and Bangladesh once were parts of the same country, often people residing in the border areas of both the countries own piece of land on the other side of the border, which is still used for the farming purpose. This Policy Brief is an attempt to present a set of recommendations based on primary and secondary research, to address and arrest informal cross-border trade in agricultural input products between India and Bangladesh.

[www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Policy\\_Brief-Addressing\\_Informal\\_Trade\\_between\\_India\\_and\\_Bangladesh.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Policy_Brief-Addressing_Informal_Trade_between_India_and_Bangladesh.pdf)



## Addressing Issues of Informal Trade in Agricultural Input Commodities along the India-Nepal Border

In case of India-Nepal border, people residing in the border areas usually prefer purchasing goods, including agricultural input products like seeds, fertilisers, agricultural machinery from the market on the other side of the border, as they are sceptical about the quality of the products that are available in their local markets. This Policy Brief is an endeavour to present a set of recommendations based on primary and secondary research, to address and arrest informal cross-border trade in agricultural input products between India and Nepal.

[www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Policy\\_Brief-Addressing\\_Issues\\_of\\_Informal\\_Trade\\_in\\_Agricultural\\_Input\\_Commodities\\_across\\_the\\_India-Nepal\\_Border.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/LITA/pdf/Policy_Brief-Addressing_Issues_of_Informal_Trade_in_Agricultural_Input_Commodities_across_the_India-Nepal_Border.pdf)

# Economiquity

This Quarterly Newsletter is the flagship product of the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment. It highlights important news and views on economic issues from different parts of the world with a view to keep the trade and development community abreast of the latest.

[www.economiquity.org/](http://www.economiquity.org/)



## Dossier on Preferential Trade Agreements

One of the most interesting trends in today's global trade is the emergence of bilateral and regional trade arrangements, collectively known as preferential trade agreements. This Quarterly Dossier does shallow analysis of potential impacts (on the Indian economy) of those shallow trade agreements of which India is not a party.

[www.cuts-citee.org/PTADossier.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/PTADossier.htm)

## CUTS CITEE in Action

This quarterly report summarises major activities undertaken by the Centre during the period. It provides a quick overview of various operations of the Centre and corresponding outputs.

[www.cuts-citee.org/CUTS\\_CITEE\\_in\\_Action.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/CUTS_CITEE_in_Action.htm)



### CUTS Trade Forum

'CUTS-TradeForum' is an e-platform to exchange views and opinions on contemporary issues of international trade, trade-related regulations and economic development. It helps its stakeholders to share information and participate in regular discussions and debates.

[www.groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/cuts-tradeforum](http://www.groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/cuts-tradeforum)

### CUTS South Asia E-Group

'CUTS South Asia E-Group' provides an e-platform to discuss, share views and opinions on trade and economics among relevant stakeholders from the South.

[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CUTS-SouthAsia/info](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CUTS-SouthAsia/info)

