

***National Seminar on Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, December 18-19, 2006***

Introduction

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CUTS CITEE), Jaipur (<http://www.cuts-citee.org/>) and Network of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (NEED), Lucknow, jointly organised a National Seminar on ‘*Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground*’ as part of the projects “Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and Economics, [GRANITE - (<http://www.granite.org.in/>)]” and “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction [TDP- (<http://www.cuts-citee.org/tdp.htm>)]” at the Taj Residency Hotel on December 18-19, 2006 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The GRANITE project essentially is about enhancing the economic literacy of the grassroots peoples, with the clear logic that enhanced economic literacy will help in advancing the goals of pro-poor development. This project aims to raise the awareness of globalisation with specific reference to World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues relating to Agriculture in India and some of its immediate neighbours. The TDP project focuses primarily on the issues facing the pro poor developmental goals of making trade and investment liberalisation work for the poor.

This seminar also played the dual role of serving as the second National Seminar of both, GRANITE and TDP projects.

Background

Programmes at the grassroots have proved to be useful and efficient for bringing about sustainable changes at the local level to support, in the longer run, national and international causes. With specific reference to globalisation, by raising awareness, linking local needs with national and international issues and building capacity, it aims to develop a better-informed constituency to better comprehend the impact of globalisation and international trade on people’s livelihoods. The debate on linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction is not new. In fact trade economists see international trade as a measure for enhancing economic growth. Trade policy affects poverty through its effects on economic growth and equitable income distribution. A pro-poor growth policy has greater impact on reducing poverty, than growth per se.

Objectives

The objective of the National Seminar was to:

- deliberate and share experiences in generating awareness on the trade-development linkages in different parts of India;
- to rediscover all kinds of research, discussions, experiments to create a sense of synergy for pro-poor growth;
- to find out the conditions necessary for mainstreaming international trade into a national development (poverty reduction) strategy, keeping in mind issues relating to policy coherence.
- exploring the successes and deferred successes; and
- developing appropriate pro-poor policy responses.

Participants

The National Seminar was attended by about 100 participants comprising government officials, farmers' group, women's group, media representatives besides GRANITE project partners from eight India states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Besides, the seminar was attended by development practitioners from The Netherlands, Norway and development experts from India such as Dr Rashmi Banga from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India, Jayati Srivastava from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

Monday, December 18, 2006

Inaugural

Balvinder Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Women and Child, Government of Uttar Pradesh inaugurated the seminar with a ceremonial auspicious lighting of the lamp. This was followed by an invocation song '*E Maalik Tere Bande Hum*' by women groups, Lucknow. After this, Anil Singh, Executive Director, NEED warmly welcomed to all the participants, especially the distinguished panel comprising of Balvinder Kumar, Maaïke de Loo, Programme Officer, South Asia Bureau, Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands, Inge Tveite, Counsellor Development, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, Dr Rashmi Banga, Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS CITEE. He outlined the primary objective of the seminar. Then, the Rural Women Group promoted by NEED enacted a realistic skit based on pro-poor trade and economics.

Addressing the participants, **Bipul Chatterjee**, first of all, thanked Royal Norwegian Embassy and Oxfam Novib for their support in implementing the GRANITE project successfully. He questioned how should one face the challenges of globalisation for pro-poor development and the role that civil society organisations (CSOs) play in bringing the voice of people from the ground to the relevant platform of policy makers and other stakeholders. In this regard, he outlined CUTS' role in networking and linking people from the grassroots with their concerns to the relevant stakeholders at the national and international level.

This was followed by **Balvinder Kumar's** inaugural address, who welcomed the participants with a special greeting to women representatives from self help groups (SHGs), who came from various districts of Uttar Pradesh. While charting out India's economic growth path of the last 15 years, he pointed out the apprehensions in the initial reform years and how this changed after India joined World Trade Organisation (WTO). He said the recent higher economic growth rate shows the ready adaptability of the Indian economy, emphasising that economic growth is imperative, but it should be pursued with a human face so that the benefits of growth process would pass on to the poor and deprived masses. Kumar referred to the high rates of growth in the manufacturing and services sector, and juxtaposed it with the malnutrition levels among children and inadequate medical facilitated for the vast majority of population, especially in the rural areas. He stressed the need for restoring dignity of deprived people by enabling their participation in the economic activities. This can be facilitated by a change in policies that will be pro-poor and have a bottom-up approach. He emphasised the development of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (BIMARU) states, especially with regard to human development indices. India's economic growth process will

remain incomplete without adequate economic and human development of the BIMARU states, he added.

Dr Rashmi Banga, in her keynote address, made a presentation on globalisation and its effects on the poor. In the discourse on trade and its impact on poverty, she informed that there can be two aspects: one, how trade affects poverty; and the other, how the poor are affected by trade. The expected impact of globalisation on the poor is a creation of new employment opportunities; higher wages for the poor as demand for labour intensive products go up; resource allocation efficiencies; and higher productivity etc. She stressed that country experiences are different on trade, growth and poverty linkages. External factors such as stages of development of a country, timing, scale and sequencing of reforms, pre-existing domestic and international conditions also decide how openness of the economy affects poverty. Dr Rashmi outlined the significance of domestic policies, which play a complementary role with international trade dynamics in facilitating the benefits to percolate to the poor. She stated that measured liberalisation is required so that competitiveness in domestic sectors may not occur more quickly than industries' learning curves. She highlighted proactive role that the domestic government should play in developing safety nets and meeting adjustment costs. Dr Rashmi emphasised that the need of the hour is to identify sectors and sections affected and to develop strategies accordingly.

Inge Tveite remarked that the skit on pro-poor trade and economics showed that the voices from ground were powerful and committed to further their own development. He said that there has been a gradual change in development assistance from Norway, which is keen to work on development co-operation with institutional support rather than assistance co-operation for pro-poor development.

Renu Wadhwa, Adviser, Development Co-operation, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, in her remarks said that GRANITE project has had a major objective of linking grassroots people with stakeholders at international level. At the final stages of GRANITE, project partners should try to address the way forward for a pro-poor development.

Maaik de Loor, emphasised the importance of communication in implementing GRANITE project. Since the project deals with eight different Indian states with differences in regional features, establishing an effective communication is of prime importance for the success of the project. It is imperative for GRANITE partners to formulate ways to guarantee an informed trade policy body that is institutionalised both at the central and state level.

Session I: GRANITE: An Overview of Advocacy Practices

Chair: Bipul Chatterjee, Director, CUTS CITEE, Jaipur

Speaker: Dr Jayati Srivastava, Associate Professor, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi

Dr Jayati Srivastava made a presentation in this session. Starting with an explanation of Advocacy, she proceeded to focus on the study conducted by the researchers in four GRANITE states on the evaluation of advocacy practices to ascertain what advocacy tools are most efficient at the ground level *vis-à-vis* issues of globalisation and trade. This was a crucial and final part of the KIC-GRANITE initiative. Detailing the fieldwork conducted in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal by the individual researchers, including the methodology adopted by them, she elaborated the different advocacy tools used, including: Outreach Meetings; Workshops targeting state level officials; National

Advocacy Workshops; Media Workshops; National Seminars and Workshops; E-Group and E-list; and publications like GRANITE Newsletter, Briefing Papers, etc.

She explained that practice means an experience, a specific intervention strategy, activity or process of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change, and which includes policy advocacy, poverty eradication, agricultural technique, an educational method or international coalition building. She went on to elaborate that based on these criteria, good, bad and innovative practices were identified. Definitionally, she said, a good practice is a reasonable quantitative and qualitative evidence to show its effectiveness in achieving specific objective and has potential for replication. An innovative practice is characterised by inconclusive evidence of its effectiveness but it looks promising, while a bad practice is failure or negligible success, albeit learning from failure is indeed needed to achieve the desired objectives.

She mentioned that success of individual advocacy practice is contingent on it meeting one, some or all of the following criteria:

- creating awareness amongst stakeholders about WTO, trade and globalisation;
- ascertaining their perceptions on livelihood concerns in the context of WTO and globalisation;
- influencing trade policy making both at the state and union level;
- ensuring positive intervention for people's livelihood in terms of generating alternative marketing avenues for farmers and textile workers; and
- capacity building of partner organisations and other CSOs.

Next, Dr Srivastava presented an overview of advocacy practices evaluation by listing the targeted stakeholders; purpose of advocacy; main tools for advocacy; and results of advocacy. In conclusion, she stated that different advocacy practices are effective on different stakeholders though outreach meetings turned out to be the most effective tool for awareness generation and ascertaining people's perceptions at the grassroots. Capacity building and training workshops are reasonably effective for media representatives and partner CSOs, including publications. For government officials and policy makers a multi-pronged approach including personal persuasion, capacity building and training workshop, specific publication, delegations, signature campaigns, etc., are useful advocacy tools though the overall success was limited. She stated that different approach and medium of communication are required for diverse stakeholders and contextual specificity is important. Besides, she added that access of public to trade policy-making is actively denied and collective effort rather than individual effort has been given utmost importance in making a meaningful intervention. Influence of CSOs in the policy-making domain can be more if they claim the space rather than being invited and then start claiming and creating that space. This should be a priority for advocacy in future, she concluded.

In the discussions that followed, **Dr Narasimha Reddy**, Centre for Handloom Information and Policy Advocacy (CHIP), Hyderabad, said that advocacy should not be seen as an end in itself but a medium and tool to raise the voice of the people from ground and take it to the policy level. Dr Srivastava agreed to this and substantiated by saying that advocacy is an efficient method and a step-wise continuous and ongoing process to voice the concerns of the grassroots stakeholders and take them to the policy-making bodies. Its coverage is broad and it is targeted towards policy level as well as grassroots settings. Dr Reddy mentioned that there should be learning as to which advocacy tool would be able to maximise the people's concern and would take it to the policy level.

Dr Sunil Ray, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur, added that advocacy is a process and we should not look at the end result at this point. The primary aim of the project is to generate a discourse. There is no single efficient advocacy tool that is absolutely relative in nature. He emphasised that there should be more and more dialogue with *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) and Trade Union leaders, which is missing now and can be put forward more strongly in future activities.

Dr Valter Angell, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, questioned why the political parties are not involved in this process, as these issues are quite political in nature. To this point, Dr Srivastava and Bipul Chatterjee responded by saying that political parties should be involved as they are the part of policy making process, but they also have certain limitations and that has to be kept in mind. This is a major learning from this phase of GRANITE project and in future political parties will be involved in much bigger way not only at national level but also at the grassroots level. This is also very essential as state governments will respond more to this kind of approach, and process of advocacy and sensitisation of the government official would be more effective.

Anil K Singh emphasised that an important concern is the involvement of women and to see the impact more from gender perspective and to focus how gender perspective can be looked into as a separate issue in the entire framework of GRANITE. He mentioned that a project has its own framework, i.e. its beginning and end but the organisation has its own value added vision, mission and objectives. He raised the question whether organisations involved have taken this project as organisational objective or this aspect has been taken care of. Dr Srivastava responded by emphasising that the gender and organisational aspect has been kept in mind during the implementation of this project in all the states.

Gitanjali Jena, Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), Bhubneshwar, agreed that there are different tools used for different stakeholders, and GRANITE project has different objectives to deal with different stakeholders. She also enquired if good, bad and innovative practices are linked with or related to the expected outcome of the project because it is quite challenging to evaluate the results as advocacy is ongoing and a long term process, and therefore how one assesses and comes to the conclusion of the good bad and innovative practices having its own potential. In response to this, Dr Srivastava said that there are a few practices, which have been successful in reaching out to the grassroots people, eliciting people's viewpoints and generating awareness like signature campaign works best with government officials while outreach meeting works best with grassroots audience to achieve the desired objectives. Yogesh Bandhu Arya from Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, cited that in Uttar Pradesh, cases of *Chikan* patenting, mango exports and brick kiln labourers, which were success stories that emerged at the outreach meetings.

P Srikant, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, opined that there is a need to institutionalise the coordination efforts with the government. He said that advocacy with illiterate farmers with published information could be a bad practice but with other stakeholders it is an innovative practice.

Milind Murugkar from *Samarthan*, Mumbai, talked about advocacy efforts done for effective functioning of the WTO Cell and Inter State Trade Council (ISTC) but enough substance was lacking to make any policy change that needs to be focused in future.

Divakar Babu from Consumer Guidance Society (CGS), Hyderabad, commented that this proved to be a very good exercise to introspect in terms of what has worked better and what not, and then plan the future course of action.

Dr Indranil Bose from St. Xaviers College, Kolkata, suggested that diversity factor should not be sidelined because a 'one-size-fits-all approach' will not be useful. Also, consequent follow up will be effective to gauge the success, and therefore, time frame should be focussed upon.

Bipul Chatterjee who chaired this session concluded by stressing the point that although it is generally agreed that one size does not fit all, some common minimum denominators have to be there in order to see the fruition of the policy initiatives.

II Session: An Overview on Trade-Poverty Linkages by looking at Oilseeds and Carpet Sector in India

Chair: Dr Sunil Ray, Senior Professor, IDS, Jaipur

Speakers: Dr N C Pahariya, Department of Economics, University of Rajasthan

Suprita Jayaram and Prashmita Ghosh, Programme Officers, CUTS CITEE

Post-lunch, the concluding session of the day focused on Impact Assessment of Post-Globalisation Scenario in Mustard Oilseed Sector of Rajasthan. Dr N C Pahariya, Reader-Department of Economics, Rajasthan University, highlighted *inter alia*, in his presentation, the following valuable points:

- Background of the Oilseed Sector;
- WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) – Implications on the Oilseeds Sector;
- Oilseeds and Edible Oil Scenario – India;
- Oilseeds and Edible Oil Scenario – Rajasthan;
- Field Survey Findings;
- Challenges Faced by the Sector; and
- Recommendations.

Dr Pahariya focused on how making changes to import substitution policy, and thereby placing upper bound level on tariff levels and allowing imports under Open General Licence (OGL) system helped in increasing share of bills for the import of edible oils. For example, in 2004-05 under import of agro products, share of edible oil increased by 50 percent. However, with the advent of AoA, and a simultaneous surge in import coupled with frequent tariff adjustments, India had to decrease import and thereby protect the domestic industry. In spite of India being the fourth largest producer of vegetable oil in the world, farmers continue to be ignorant about WTO. In fact, 60 percent of the small and marginal farmers continue to live below poverty line (BPL), and most of them are illiterate. Dr Pahariya strongly recommended policy reforms at the central and state level to establish policy framework for promoting private investment in transport, storage, etc., thereby focusing on promoting oil seeds production in the country. Furthermore, he iterated the necessity to take steps to make the producers competitive and address their livelihood concerns, and replace sales tax with excise duties, etc.

Carpet Industry of India – A Perception Survey, which was the second presentation of the session, was made by Suprita Jayaram, Programme Officer, CUTS CITEE. Her presentation highlighted:

- Overview of the industry;
- How the industry works;
- Carpet Export Promotion Council of India (CEPC);
- Employment scenario;
- Future employment and export target;
- Problems of the carpet industry;
- Recommendations from stakeholders; and
- Conclusion.

Suprita presented the issues encountered by the carpet industry explaining that although the CEPC is under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, it is established purposely to assist and advise the carpet exporters of the country. She argued that the need of the hour is to make it self-sufficient. She also spoke about how poverty and lack of educational opportunities have created the basis for child labour in carpet industry. She asked for the imperative of checking the rampant exploitation of children that made it an urgent priority on the list of CEPC and other NGOs to take measures for promoting innovative designs, involving media in marketing of designs, deciding upon the quality norms and self regulating initiatives for minimising exploitation of children, amongst other things.

Her presentation captured very succinctly the point that carpet industry has immense potential of generating rural employment and considerable export revenue for the country.

This was followed by the launching of the Campaign Kit for the dissemination of information on the TDP project. The launching of the Campaign Kit was done by Dr Pahariya and Prashmita Ghosh. Their presentations were along the lines of the following:

- About the Project;
- TDP Linkage;
- Why Campaign Kit;
- Indian Economic Performance;
- Agriculture Sector;
- Industrial Sector;
- Service Sector;
- Employment;
- Trade Openness for India;
- Poverty Figures; and
- Conclusion.

They presented an overview of how trade affects poverty, then economic growth, and finally income distribution. However, efforts are being made to look into various dimensions of the issue and making trade and investment liberalisation work for the poor. At the same time, there is a need to make efforts for looking into this holistically. The focal point of their presentations was post reforms economic performance. Besides, they laid stress was on the need of the hour which is to initiate a national advocacy campaign directed at stakeholders, who would provide information about TDP linkages and clarity of thought on trade liberalisation.

At the end of their respective presentations, feedback shared by participants emphasised the following points:

- India is slowly losing its market for carpet industry to China. The Chinese carpet industry is more focused on Quantity as against Indian carpet industry, which is more focused on Quality. This has made Chinese carpets more competitive, giving them a larger share in capturing the global market.
- Two major issues stumbled upon by the carpet industry including lack of basic education. Moreover, lack of basic facilities like low wage rate, technological advancement, credit availability, medical facilities etc., and involvement of child labour, is further hampering the growth of carpet industry in India.
- Although politically sensitive and given that the need of the hour is to think seriously in terms of diversifying from production of oil seeds and investing our resources in crops which will yield more profits, there is a need to strike the right balance between oil seed producer, processing industry and consumers.
- On crop diversification, suggestion was to try doing it during the period between winter and summer, and ensure that diversification does not have bad effects on one's health. With reference to oil seeds, it was suggested that there should be promotion of crops, which take care of consumer health too, e.g. mustard cropping is encouraged for its known health benefits.
- There is a need to think of strategies on how to get people out of agriculture and provide them employment in the manufacturing sector.
- Imports have a significant impact on exports as well. Taking this into account, there is a need to balance the trade policy between imports and exports, and accordingly incorporate changes in agriculture and industrial policies.
- Growth of agriculture can create new consumers. Moreover, its growth is pivotal for increasing manufacturing of agro-based products.
- There is a need to develop dimensions of service sector in India. Furthermore, it is also important to organise this sector.
- Keeping in mind the tribal population of the country, there is an urgent need to promote and trade non-timber forest produce. It has a significant bearing on tribal population.
- There is a need to encourage public investment in agriculture sector.
- It is important to have a proper legal framework, which will protect the rights of farmers.
- There is a need to mobilise, organise and unite farmers.
- If possible, there is a need to allocate resources to PRIs.
- Also, it is important to have value added processing of horticulture.

- It is important to look at National Biodiversity Strategy and Development Aid Policy derived by Dutch Government to get a clearer picture of policy coherence.

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

Session III: Evaluation of the GRANITE Project

Chair: Bharat Jairaj, Legal Coordinator, Citizen consumer and civic Action Group, Chennai

Speaker: S V Divvaakar, Managing Director, Ace Global Private Limited, New Delhi

S V Divvaakar made a lucid presentation on the evaluation of the GRANITE project, Phase-I. He pointed out that a brief evaluation of a long drawn project is always a precarious job. He outlined the overall objectives of the evaluation, which were to:

- assess the overall results and impact of the project at the national and the sub-national level; and
- provide input designs for Phase-II.

The methodology used by the evaluators was representative, as they thoroughly studied four states, namely Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and Maharashtra, in terms of the Evaluation Frame covering the essential elements of evaluation. The other four states under the GRANITE project, namely Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh were evaluated through the KIC initiative, however, the evaluators from Ace Global Pvt Ltd. were briefly in touch with these state partners as well to get useful feedback from them, through meetings and interviews with the State Reference Group members, media personnel, and CSOs. The scope of evaluation revolved around five classical elements, including: relevance; efficiency; results (looked at in terms of effectiveness and outcomes/impacts); and sustainability.

Divvaakar's presentation elaborated all the above-mentioned aspects for every state by emphatically stressing the relative strengths and weaknesses of every state. He highlighted the project activities, and threw light on the range of tools used, including:

- National Launch Seminars
- State Project Launch Meetings
- State Reference Groups
- Reachout Meetings
- Media Workshops
- State Level Workshops
- Advocacy Document
- Website

Amongst the tools he mentioned, he drew a distinction between those tools used at the field level and those used as information dissemination products. Stressing on the latter, Divvaakar pointed out the following documents:

- Briefing Papers
- Newsletters
- Research Document
- Advocacy Document

Next, he stressed on the gender dimension and informed that the project management team had at least one woman member in it, and special efforts were made to mobilise participation from women stakeholders in outreach meetings. He highlighted that the approach and methodology used in the GRANITE project was largely relevant. He stressed that scope of productivity is determined by efficiency. He spoke on how important it is to ascertain the impact of the project, including the time lag that may hinder the actual finding on the impact. However, the potential impact, which is equally significant, can be seen. On sustainability, Divvaakar laid stress on the aspect of consistency that was essential for any project to be sustainable. On relevance, he iterated that relevance is measured by judging how closely the project goals are aligned with the needs of the grassroots. The classical linkage between trade and economic development has been accepted, but the truth is that a large part of the populace has been neglected. Moreover, a large number of people land up only with quasi jobs. A key assumption that underlies the GRANITE project, like most other development projects, is that economic literacy will improve livelihood.

The key gains of the project that he highlighted were:

- Outreach meetings were acknowledged as an effective forum for grassroots stakeholders;
- Tangible and attributable benefits for stakeholders through increased awareness and understanding of trade issues;
- Increased reporting in local media on trade and WTO issues;
- Initiation of interface between grassroots stakeholders and policy makers;
- Enhanced capacities of state partners in understanding, analysis, articulating and advocacy on issues related to trade, globalisation/WTO issues; and
- Strengthening of network between the CSOs.

In conclusion, Divvaakar suggested the following recommendations:

- Amend the project emphasis to ‘trade markets and livelihoods’ which gives it a broader scope, including globalisation.
- Agriculture and textiles are large and complex sectors, not having similar pro-poor dimensions; hence it was recommended to narrow the focus of interventions on a few products common to the most states and a few cross cutting themes such as;
 - Market structures
 - Remunerative pricing
 - Producer empowerment
- Given that project partners do not have adequate level of expertise or skills in both sectors, which skews the thrust of actions across various states, the skills gap could be narrowed by inducting sector specialists to support implementation partners;
- To enhance capacities of the partners on focused training on sector specific trade and globalisation issues, it was recommended that specialist resource persons could be inducted to bridge the knowledge gaps between partners; and
- To improve the general efficiency of the project, the SMART approach was recommended. It essentially means:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attributable
- Realistic
- Time bound

Session IV: GRANITE Project: What Next?

Chair: Pankaj Agarwal, Director, Ace Global Private Limited, New Delhi

Speaker: Bipul Chatterjee, Director, CUTS CITEE, Jaipur

Bipul Chatterjee emphasised that GRANITE II should be characterised by synergy of the partners involved highlighting that the local partners should be made use of in a more scientific and meaningful manner. Cross-learning and cross fertilisation of ideas is what is required and hence, should be aimed at in the forthcoming phase. For instance, CYSD is capable of dealing with various agricultural and developmental issues at the micro level. The expertise of NEED can be used optimally by all partners to network with the media, given that the organisation is very competent in handling it. The major expertise of CAG, lies in mobilising the grassroots. He mentioned that the partners need to coordinate beyond the administrative network and should provide each other with content oriented coordination. At this, he laid accent on the fact that GRANITE Phase-II would assess the outcome of the project both qualitatively and quantitatively. Another point, which he focused upon, was the involvement of the local, state and national level politicians in GRANITE Phase-II. He also mentioned that trade policy should not be seen in isolation, but as an element of the whole context of people, market and their livelihoods. He suggested that certain structural changes must be made in the GRANITE project and recommended that instead of dealing with any sector as a whole, there is a need to focus on a specific aspect or issues within a sector. Further, he said that there is a need to identify and select issues in a manner, which is common to each state, yet be flexible in selecting issues.

The first and foremost task in Phase-II of the GRANITE project would be the selection of two issues, to be done in consultation with partners and the stakeholders. One, the functioning of the National Horticultural Mission, i.e. to see if poor farmers are benefiting from this mission or not. He recollected that in Phase-I of the GRANITE project, not much of a link was seen to be found in outcome of the meetings and the briefing papers that were brought out as advocacy tools. Thus, Phase-II would be a qualitative step forward that the finalisation of the briefing paper will depend not only on the comments received from partners but also on the issues raised in the outreach meetings.

Following the finalisation of draft briefing paper, he continued, it will be taken for advocacy at both state level and national level. In both the cases, it will be accomplished at the political level. Bipul mentioned that it is necessary to involve the politicians once their mandate on these issues is sought. This will further increase the viability of these issues and be easier to get the support and cooperation of the government officials.

Bipul elaborated that both at the state and national level, GRANITE's aim would be to delve deeper into research before advocating for any policy changes. He regretted that it is really unfortunate that we still live in a regime where policies are being adopted without much research inputs. He cited the example of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). In this case, the government of India is considering the consequences of SEZ only when there are voices being raised against it. Thus, there lies the necessity of research on the core economic issues. He suggested that for studying the micro level economic relationships, case study is the best method. He also cautioned that albeit these issues are mainly economic in nature, but they have a political connotation as well.

Hence, there is a need to look at political and economic nature of globalisation at the local level, i.e. relationship between the state and CSOs. Unless we look at the relationship between the state and the CSOs, we are not only going to miss out the political context, but we are also likely to miss out the linkages between trade, market and livelihood concerns of the people. This calls for an involvement of the political scientists and the sociologists in this project to look into the nature of political economy.

In conclusion Bipul highlighted the need to create a database along with the partner organisations in the GRANITE Phase-II. Reminding the participants that the duration of this project is three years and if the partners select a few villages in their respective states and maintain a database of these villages for three consecutive years, then it will be a help for us to understand better the impact of globalisation over a period of time.

A this stage, Dr Ray focused on how this would help in having a better understanding of the nature of political economy at the local, state and national level. He cautioned the participants that it should not go unnoticed that trade does not essentially mean international trade, it can be internal trade as well.

Anil Singh focused on the need for a deeper interaction with people at the grassroots level. He also regretted that while making the WTO Cell functional, efforts should be channelised to produce desired results.

Dr Indranil Bose commented that PRIs need to be involved in Phase-II of this project having cited that in Phase-I outreach meetings have proved to be the most successful advocacy tools in all states.

Dr Reddy commented that GRANITE Phase-I has overlooked issues like inclusive growth and public-private partnership (PPP). He also stressed on the need to go through the 11th Five Year Plan Approach Paper, as there are many issues in it, which can be addressed under the umbrella of the GRANITE project.

Milind Murugkar commented that issues need to be identified based on a common ideological framework. There is a need to have a framework clearly laid out, so that partners could reach out to the target group. He also regretted that due to lack of enriched document, issues like credit supply, public distribution system (PDS) cannot be addressed. He suggested that it would be really beneficial if we can take up and address such issues, which are of vital importance, under Phase-II of the GRANITE project.

Anupam Paul, Agricultural Training Officer from West Bengal reacted to Milind's comment on the dearth of enriched documents. He mentioned that there are many organisations that are working on these issues and the printed version is available with the respective organisation, for example, *Navodhanya*.

Geetanjali Jena, CYSD, Bhubaneswar, mentioned that throwing up issues at forum like this should also be accompanied by the kind of changes we need to bring in. She stressed that specification of issues and changes are necessary both for state and national level advocacy. She also highlighted the need to address cross-cutting national issues, but at the same time should keep in mind that these issues must have implications for the state as well. Bharat Jairaj of CAG agreed to what Jena said.

Bipul suggested that the crux of GRANITE Phase-II would be research-based advocacy. He also mentioned that there is a need to strike a proper balance between local and national issues. The linkage between two kinds of issues is very necessary.

GRANITE Phase-II would not only deal with fair trade, but the impact of trade on consumer's health also needs to be addressed. He opined that CUTS is in favour of liberalisation but with safety nets ready to deal with its ill effects. He elaborated that time and again, it has been proved that liberalisation is not bad, and the countries, which did not liberalise, had to face misery. So, what we need to do is to link our every activity with their possible impact on the people. This people centric approach should be the benchmark while selecting issues.

Bipul agreed to the fact that the CSOs are not much involved in economic policy making in India, but still whatever space they have, they have to utilise it to the optimum. He also highlighted the need to have a training programme on economic governance at the local level. He pointed out that in developing the models of growth GRANITE could take the help of institutes like NUPI.

He wrapped up the discussion by stating that linkage between the vision and mission of different organisations is of utmost importance. How to dovetail this project with the overall philosophy of the organisation is main challenge thrown to the GRANITE partners via this project.

Pankaj Agarwal who was chairing this session, appreciated the discussions, and concluded by mentioning that the importance of incorporation of issues like gender sensitivity and engagement with the media for making GRANITE Phase-II is even more inclusive.

Valedictory Address

Valter Angell, Senior Researcher, NUPI, Norway

While delivering the valedictory address, Valter Angell, senior researcher NUPI, stressed the history of Globalisation, with a focus on Trade. He presented a lucid picture of the political economy of Globalisation in Norway reiterating the generally believed economic theory that liberalisation is beneficial for a nation because the gains for consumers is greater than the loss for producers. Drawing a clear picture of how international trade progressed from 1940s to 1980s, Valter threw light on the introduction of the WTO, which came about as a consequence of the Uruguay Round. With an introduction of the WTO and consequently the Doha Round, Valter drew a connection between the discussions that were exchanged at the seminar with the current scenario. He said that despite the North knowing about the benefits of international trade it still maintained high tariffs on international imports, and this had direct consequences on the developing countries such as India. He said that today the real dynamism in international trade is to be found in the developing world, where China, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand – all posted double digit growth in exports.

Quoting Pascal Lamy who mentioned that G-90, G-33 and G-20 illustrate that this is an organisation in which all members can not only state their case, but can achieve meaningful objectives on their path towards development. He concluded with a set of insightful questions on what could be the possible future scenario in Asia, and which questions be useful to brainstorm in such fora. With the G-90 and G-20 standing together, there is an implication of rising multilateralism and/or regionalism. He left the audience with a question on whether the turn of events as regards international trade is going to benefit all countries or not.

Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

Bipul Chatterjee, Director, CUTS CITEE & Anil Singh, Executive Director, NEED

Reiterating the basic thrust of the seminar, Bipul stressed that networking and capacity building of partners would be the cornerstone of Phase-II of the GRANITE project, which would be inclined towards pro-poor growth. Bipul Chatterjee and Anil Singh thanked all the participants for their cooperation, active participation and insightful comments, which added immensely to the success of the seminar.