



CUTS SDIP WORK PLAN (2014-2016)



CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society)

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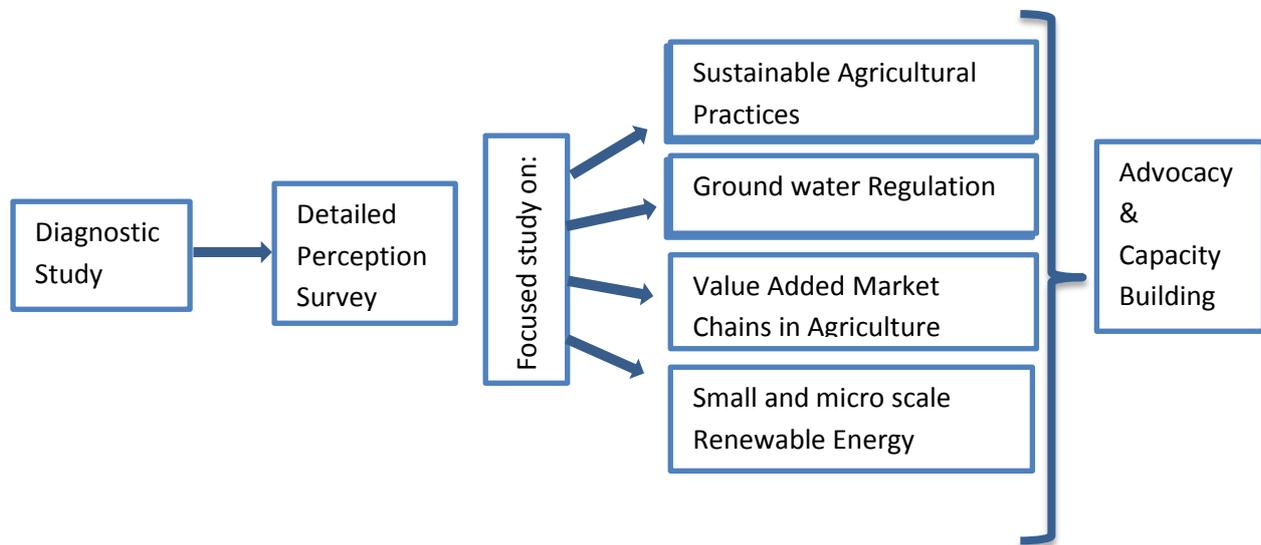
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After the inception workshop held at Canberra, CUTS redesigned its activity plan based on the identified pre-conditions and domains of change. CUTS role being policy advocacy through interlinking the activities of key players at various levels, it was imperative to strengthen its network across the three river basins. Hence we identified a total of nine strategic partners (four country and five Indian partners) across the basins.

The CUTS work plan for the first phase of SDIP will follow this pathway:



With the assistance from our partners, CUTS is conducting a quick diagnostic study across the basins including all the five countries where the project is being implemented. The objective of this study is to validate the findings of desk research with local perspectives, coin initial advocacy messages and to identify the entry points and prioritise CUTS interventions.

The diagnostic study helped CUTS in identifying the broad entry points to streamline its interventions in the SDIP focus areas. In light of the preliminary findings of the study, it was decided that CUTS will undertake some focused studies on the issues of Groundwater Regulation, Sustainable agricultural practices, Value added market chains in agriculture and Small and Micro Renewable Energy deployment

To build further upon the findings of Diagnostic study, a detailed Perception survey with a wider group of stakeholders will be conducted towards the beginning of 2015 with a sample size of 800 stakeholders including policymakers, practioners/implementers, national/local politicians, media, CSO, beneficiary households etc. The perception survey will try to explore the ideal conditions of transboundary cooperation (what it should be) and the low hanging areas of improvement (what it can be). The findings of the perception survey will be used to coin advocacy messages (at local, sub-regional and regional levels) that will be disseminated at a wider scale from August 2015 onwards.

CUTS will engage its strategic partners and use their networks to conduct this survey in the respective basins. The table below provides brief overview of different components and the activities to be undertaken by strategic partners of CUTS. Detailed Terms of Reference will be prepared for each component and will be shared with relevant Portfolio partners.

We aim to engage extensively with our strategic partners and portfolio partners, while implementing this work plan, which will be completed by end of Phase I of SDIP (30th June 2016). Through these

activities, CUTS aims to contribute to following domains of change, under the three different pillars, cross-cutting the three river basins (unless otherwise specified):

- i. Water
 - a. Policy and regulations: Enabling environment for IWRM
 - b. Civil Society Voice: Reform & standards for WRM
 - c. Regional Forum Dialogue: Joint Analysis of WRM
- ii. Energy
 - a. Enabling policy and regulatory environment: Improving energy access
 - b. Effective (business) models: Renewable energy deployment
 - c. Civil Society voice: Energy cooperation and technology sharing
 - d. Facilitate SAARC dynamics: Energy cooperation and technology sharing
- iii. Agriculture
 - a. Policy and Regulations: Enabling environment for sustainable agriculture
 - b. Market supply chain: Inputs and services
 - c. Civil Society voice: Reform & standards for agriculture sector
 - d. Collaborative structures: Farmers, service providers, agro-business, research (Brahmaputra basin)

All our activities, listed below, will have following special focuses, cross cutting all the thematic areas and all river basins:

- a) Highlight and reflect on gender dimension
- b) Promote CSO voice by engaging actively with CSOs based in the selected river basins
- c) Facilitate collaborative structures, by engaging with other relevant actors and agencies
- d) Promote regional dialogue with both state and non-state actors and agencies

SN	Timeline	Activity	Description	Responsibility	Comment
1	November 2014	Diagnostic Study	A quick diagnostic study is being undertaken, covering nine locations in the three river basins, with the objective to identify, understand and analyse the key issues/problems around sustainable practices and access to water, energy and food (agriculture). The study is building on existing literature/evidences and is complemented by a range of key informant interviews in the three basins, across five countries. The study will highlight the key issues of sustainability, within water, energy and agriculture sectors, in South Asia, in the context of climate change. The findings will contribute to suitable adoption of proposed SDGs in the South Asian countries.	AKS (with support from CUTS-SDIP team & strategic partners)	Fieldwork completed in all locations, except Pakistan. Analysis is under progress. The report/paper will be published by end of November 2014. The report/paper will be followed by a policy brief and few opinion pieces/articles. Efforts will be taken to publish articles in regional language in local newspapers with the help of our partners (Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi and Urdu).
2	Sept-Oct 2014	Policy Mapping	Over the two months, we aim to map the existing policies pertaining to the selected three sectors. The activity will cover all the five countries. However, in case of India, we will cover the states that fall in the terrain of selected three river basins.	RKJ (with support from CUTS-SDIP team)	The output of this activity will be an open online database of relevant policies. The database will also include a brief introduction to the policies. It can additionally look at how they are facilitating or hindering towards the SDGs and hence contribute to the gap analysis.
3	Nov-Dec 2014	Policy (GAP) Analysis	Following the previous activity, we aim to conduct a quick analysis of the policies to identify the policy gaps.	RKJ (with support from CUTS-SDIP team)	Output of the analysis will be published as a policy brief and few opinion pieces. The aim is to have at least one opinion piece on each of the country context.

4	Jan-Jun 2015	Perception Study	Building on the diagnostic study and policy analysis, the perception survey will map stakeholders' perception on pre-identified issues and their expected solutions. Based on stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions, the perception study will analyse what people think as key challenges in their region and what could be a solution and weigh that vis-à-vis the technical solutions being considered at the policy level. For this purpose, we hope to consult a larger sample of respondents- 100 respondents for each of the eight locations- and engage with some of the user groups.	CUTS-SDIP team (with support from strategic partners)	<i>A comprehensive report will be prepared and published followed by policy briefs and newspaper articles.</i>
5	Jan-Aug 2015	A Comparative Study of Groundwater Regulation in South Asia	Groundwater is a major source of drinking and irrigation in many parts of South Asia. Over extraction of this resource has jeopardised water access in the sub-continent, particularly in Indus basin. Especially in the changing climate context, while the surface water availability is becoming unreliable, groundwater will become crucial for survival. In this backdrop, the study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of groundwater regulations across five countries, to identify gaps and good practices, make recommendations for sustainable governance and use of the scarce resource. Though the	AKS (CIRC team)	<i>The output will be published as a report, followed by a policy brief and opinion pieces. Though the study is planned to cover all the countries the focus will be on the Indus basin.</i>

			study will cover all the three river basins, an emphasis will be given to Indus basin, where water table is going down at a fast speed and draw lessons for other basins.		
6	Jan-Aug 2015	Sustainable Agricultural Practices in South Asia	While the South Asian countries are yet to achieve food self-sufficiency, high rate of population growth and embryonic climate change effects have together stressed the agriculture sector in South Asia. There is a pressure on the sector to produce more with shrinking resource availability. In this context, the study aims to analyse existing practices and policies for the promotion of sustainable practices and value added market chains, draw lessons and make recommendations for scaling up.	VV (CITEE Team)	<i>The output will be a collection of case studies on good practices with respect to sustainable agriculture and value added market chains. An analysis of existing policies on sustainable agriculture at national/subnational level will be done across the basins. The case studies and policy analysis will serve as tool for capacity building and advocacy</i>
7	Jan-Dec 2015	Constraints in collaborative structures and input - output trade in Brahmaputra basin	In order to organize the farming community and link it with service providers and entrepreneurs to develop successful business models collaborative structures are essential. This will facilitate the private sectors to intervene in the scenario so that it is a win –win situation for all those in such models. To identify the constraints which restrict such collaborations, CUTS will organize stakeholder consultations in the region with the help of its partners.	CUTS-SDIP team (with support from strategic partners)	<i>Stakeholder consultations in the basins with the help of partners. Policy briefs, articles to be published. One regional dialogue for addressing issues of trade barrier.</i>

			The perception Survey will enable us to understand the barriers to development of cross-country trade and market chains for agriculture input and outputs and relevant sub-national, national and sub-regional policy reforms to remove such barriers.		
8	Jan- Dec 2015	Small Scale RE Deployment for Improvement of Energy Access	<p>Though energy access did not feature in the MDGs, it has been considered a crucial precondition for achievement of the goals. The proposed SDGs also have put equal emphasis on sustainable energy access. Considering South Asia houses the largest number of people without energy access, it is important to look into the topic. In that backdrop, the study will look into the potential and feasibility of small scale RE deployment (both off-grid and grid-interactive) in Eastern South Asia with focus on solar and small hydro. It will look into the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of configurations, their suitability to different local contexts and scope of knowledge exchange across border • Different business models across the region • Existing policy and regulatory structure for RE and how they impact (enabling or hindering) 	PN (CRC Team)	<p>The output will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report on small scale RE in Eastern South Asia - present status, successful models and scope for exchange across borders.</i> • <i>Case Studies on successful business models across the region.</i> • <i>Policy prescriptions for promotion of small RE in the region.</i>

			small scale RE deployment in the region		
9	Sept-Dec 2014	The Future of Hydro Power Cooperation in South Asia: A Political Analysis	<p>With the new government in India and its emphasis on regional energy cooperation, there seems to be a greater hope on some positive outcome. Many reports have highlighted the huge potential. While these reports look at the economics and infrastructure aspect only, there is a political history that may obstruct or facilitate the cooperation.</p> <p>Analysing the political history and political economy of past cooperation, the study will do a political analysis of the future of hydro power cooperation in Eastern South Asia and its implications for water-energy-food security.</p>	MAK (with support from CUTS-SDIP team & strategic partners)	<i>The output will be a discussion paper which will be published after the completion of the study.</i>
10	Jan-Jun 2016	Report on Sustainable Development in South Asia	Drawing on and consolidating all our work and our partners' work, we may consider coming out with a detail report on sustainable development in South Asia, to mark the closure of first phase of SDIP.	SDIP Team	
11	September 2014	Blog on Sustainable Development and an e-group	The e-group has already been launched. The blog will be launched very soon. The purpose is to disseminate our ongoing work on sustainable development and faceplate debate with other SDIP partners, our strategic partners and the wider policy community.	AKS & CUTS-SDIP Team (Contributions from strategic and portfolio partners)	www.cuts-sustainabledevelopment.net

12	<i>Through Out</i>	Local Advocacy	Activities to be planned		
13	<i>Through out</i>	Regional Advocacy	Active participation in annual Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organised by SDPI, a strategic partnering of CUTS-SDIP. Other activities to be planned.		
14	<i>Through Out</i>	Capacity Building	Supporting capacity building initiatives taken up by strategic partners, at local level. Other activities to be planned.		
Spillover Projects					
15	15-16 January 2015	Valuing Vital Resources: A Reform Approach for Pricing of Water, Energy and Food in India	In collaboration with Chatham House, we are going to conduct a policy dialogue on the topic engaging with key policy makers from relevant sectors. The objective is to sensitise the policy community on linkages between the three sectors and identify reform agenda for realistic valuation of these vital resources to ensure sustainable access to these resources.	AKS (CIRC)	<i>The output will be a policy paper and an op-ed. It may be taken up further for detail research.</i>
16		Cross-Border (India-Bangladesh, India-Nepal) Formal and Informal Trade in Agricultural Inputs and its Impact on Local Agriculture	A study being planned in collaboration with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.		
Other Discussion/Policy Paper Being Planned					
1	Value Chains in South Asian Agriculture				
2	Regional Cooperation Needs in the Context of Food-Water-Energy Security Objectives in South Asia				

3	Energy Security in South Asia				
CUTS-SDIP Strategic Partners' Activity					
Indus Basin		Ganges Basin		Brahmaputra Basin	
<p>Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk research on sustainability issues in water, energy & agriculture in the local area. • Outputs: One policy paper, policy briefs on each of the pillars, articles in local newspaper & SDTV talk show on each of the pillars • National seminar 	<p>South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE) Kathmandu, Nepal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two research projects: Vegetable & fruit trade; Chure destruction and water resources • Outputs: Two reports from the above study; two corresponding policy briefs; workshop for dissemination 	<p>Unnayan Shamannay Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: Sustainable agricultural practices, market supply chain, agricultural water needs in Brahmaputra basin; water management; off-grid power system, cross-border power deals. • Outputs: Policy briefs, advocacy workshop, engagement with policy makers, newspaper articles and journal articles.
<p>Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) Chandigarh, India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two level perception survey, one in the last quarter of 14 and another in last quarter of 15 • Policy briefs on each of the pillars, drawing insights from the perception survey • Two workshops for dissemination 	<p>Nand Educational Foundation for Rural Development (NEFORD) Lucknow, India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy research on groundwater scenario; climate change parameters and farmers perception; Scope of value addition and agricultural trade in UP • Corresponding training programmes • Advocacy 	<p>SNV-Bhutan Thimphu, Bhutan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building activities focusing on producer groups and female leadership, facilitate market linkages between Indian traders and Bhutanese producers, develop brand for Bhutanese vegetables for Indian market, facilitate trade facilitation through multi stakeholder platforms; study opportunities for biogas; strengthen water users' associations. • Advocacy workshops

					at district, national and regional level.
		IGS-Basix Patna, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research: Current scenario of water, energy and agriculture in the Ganges basin in Bihar. • Capacity building activity for CSOs, media and relevant communities. • Advocacy activity with relevant development agencies, and public agencies. • Various publications for communication 	RGVN Guwahati, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study water availability and management and productivity of flood resistant varieties paddy; promote ICT for communication with small and marginal farmers; pilot projects on sustainable agricultural practices and solar home lightings. • Seminars to disseminate findings and advocate
		Unnayan Shamannay Dhaka, Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: Sustainable agricultural practices, market supply chain; water management, Ganges treaty; off-grid power system, cross-border power deals. • Outputs: Policy briefs, advocacy workshop, engagement with policy makers, newspaper articles and journal articles. 		

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