Cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh through inland waterways is governed by the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT). It defines selected routes for the movement of goods between the two places in one country and to a third country through the territory of the other.

The recent development of allowing the movement of shallow draft vessels and the declaration of new routes and Ports of Call, has opened avenues for short haul trade attracting local traders in the sub-region.

In this context, CUTS international with support from Oxfam under the programme “Transboundary Rivers of South Asia” (TROSA) is organising this meeting to promote cross-border trade of locally produced goods through inland waterways between the stretches of Karimganj-Ashuganj and Sonamura-Daudkandi using small mechanised boats.

It will bring together traders, business communities in adjoining areas of India and Bangladesh to discuss specific issues of their concerns while trading across border through waterways. It will also deliberate on existing non-tariff barriers (regulatory and infrastructure related) that hinder cross-border trade and explore how producers and traders in India and Bangladesh can benefit by addressing them in an incremental manner.