

# CUTS CRC Activity Report

October-December 2017

## ONGOING PROJECTS



### Green Growth & Energy Transformation

CUTS has entered into a contract with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) for one year to undertake a project titled 'Grow GET'. The project aims to create a platform for interaction and engagement between various stakeholders (policymakers, think tanks, subject experts, industry, media, academia, consumers, etc.) and create a knowledge base on issues pertaining to energy security and green growth in Indian context. The idea is to provide technically sound and politically viable policy recommendations.

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CCIER) and Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC) are to work on the project respectively in the states of Rajasthan and West Bengal. This project tenure is initially for one year but is now extended till October 2017. The project is presently in its second phase and the overall theme is "Solar for Education". The overall objective of this phase is to identify the key factors and policy recommendations that are essential for popularising solar among educational institutions. An informal multi-stakeholder platform called the Seed Community was formed with subject experts, and representatives from solar equipment manufacturers, solar project developers, media, and civil society organisations (CSOs).



### Advocacy & Networking

- CRC in collaboration with Earth Day Network organised a half-day stakeholder consultation entitled 'Forum for Awareness' with key policymakers, several educational institutions, solar project developers, financial institutions and media representatives in Kolkata on October 28, 2017 to share key findings of various stakeholder consultations organised under the project and deliberate on how the same could be translated into action. Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest and delivered a special address during the occasion. Many schools and educational institutions shared their valuable experiences of installation of grid connected rooftop solar photo voltaic.

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Also at Jaipur, Delhi and  
Chittorgarh (India); Lusaka  
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## Building Capacity of Grassroots Consumers on Energy Conservation

CUTS and West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC) are jointly implementing a project to build the capacity of the grassroots consumers and increase their awareness about the existing regulations of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission in the districts of Jalpaiguri and South 24 Parganas. This is aimed towards building the consumer capacity on their rights and responsibilities, educate the consumers about the frequently applicable and used parameters of the Standard of Performance (SoP) regulations of the commission, including the complaint mechanism, new connections, metering and other relevant issues. Focus will also be on building capacity of common consumers on energy conservation and renewable energy systems, especially rooftop solar systems.



### *Advocacy & Networking*

- A total of 203 meetings were conducted in two districts. Out of the total 203 meetings, 85 were conducted during October-December 2017.
- CRC has published a Quick Guide in local vernacular language for electricity consumers at the grassroots and distributed the same in each meeting.
- CRC is working on preparing a consolidated list of complaints received from consumers during the consumer interface meetings conducted so far. It will be submitted to WBERC to help them undertake informed interventions.

## Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water

CUTS along with its partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal with support from The Asia Foundation, India is implementing a project entitled, 'Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins.' The project will create an alternative policy discourse between policymakers, civil society, and communities for enabling reform measures and better governance of inland waterways; and share knowledge between governments and civil society on governance of inland waterways.

The launch meeting of the project was held at Guwahati on October 24, 2016 with the aim 'to contribute to improving institutions for inland waterways governance with particular emphasis on transport connectivity and livelihood in the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) region'. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and validate activities, outputs and desired/expected outcomes of the project and explore possible collaborations with other partners of the Civil Society Fund (CSF) of the South Asia Water Governance Programme (SAWGP).

### Advocacy & Networking

- CRC and CITEE jointly organised a Sub-regional Dialogue in Kolkata on October 26-27, 2017. Representatives from various stakeholder categories viz. key policymakers, regulators, exporters, importers, academia and subject experts participated. The purpose was also to present country diagnostic study from India and to have an expert level discussion on the findings. The deliberations will assist in enabling alternative and participatory policy discourse.

- Prithviraj Nath attended the DFID Consultation on the joint management of the international rivers in Asia in Kolkata on October 26, 2017.
- Bijaya Roy and Sayandeep Chattopadhyay attended the 'Young Thinkers' Conference- BBIN: Challenges and Opportunities' jointly organised by Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata and British Deputy High Commission in Kolkata on November 08, 2017,
- Arnab Ganguly attended a one-day seminar on 'India Act East Policy: Positioning West Bengal & North East as the Gateway to South East and East Asia' organised by Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata, in partnership with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kolkata on November 11, 2017.
- Arnab Ganguly and Rupamoy Bhattacharya attended a half day 'Kisan Mela' organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit along with KPMG in Kolkata on November 24, 2017.
- Sumanta Biswas attended BIS Regional Publicity Committee Meeting on November 30, 2017.
- Subhanil Banerjee attended the Interactive Session with Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC on December 01, 2017.

## ONGOING PROJECTS



## REPRESENTATION

