

CUTS CRC Activity Report

October 2012 - March 2013

ONGOING
PROJECTS

A Diagnostic Study to Build the Capacity/Awareness among CSOs to demand for Demand Side Management & Renewable Energy in India (DREC)

CUTS International with the support of Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) has been implementing abovementioned project for last two years in two states of India (Gujarat and West Bengal). The overall objective of the project is to increase long-term capacity/awareness of consumer groups to demand for demand side management (DSM) and renewable energy (RE) initiatives especially in the context of climate change, and also to understand, document and communicate their specific needs to the relevant policymakers. CRC is implementing activities under DREC Project in West Bengal. This project is extended for two more months. .

CRC has finished all earlier proposed activities in Dec.'12. And under the extended activities a survey of diesel operators was done in Sunderban, Hooghly and Mednipur to understand consumers' willingness to shift the RE base sources and possibilities.

Advocacy & Networking

A Dialogue Meeting on "Popularising Financial Schemes among CSOs for Greater Uptake of Renewable Energy" was organised at Kolkata, on February 28, 2013. S Padmanabhan, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development; Joy Chakravarty, Divisional Engineer, West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA); Sanjib Mishra, NABARD; and P S Mukherjee, Manager (Advance) North 24 Parganas, *Bongio Gramin Vikash Bank* were key speakers in the meeting.

Special Initiative

- Submission of Memorandum on West Bengal Renewable Energy Policy to West Bengal Electricity Regulation Commission
- CRC along with 15 district partners submitted their comments and suggestions on the draft regulations entitled "Draft West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions), Regulations, 2012" and "Draft West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recovery of Expenditure for Providing New Connections) Regulations, 2012". This was the third time CRC submitted their comments on draft regulations

Media Approach

CRC developed two articles under the DREC project – one in Bengali and the other in English. The Bengali article was published, though in a concise manner in *Aajkaal*, one of the leading Bengali news daily.



CUTS Calcutta
Resource Centre

3, Suren Tagore Road,
2nd Floor
Kolkata 700019
Ph: +91.33.24604985
Talefax: +91.33.24604987
E-mail: calcutta@cuts.org
Website: www.cuts-international.org/CRC



L to R: Keya Ghosh, Director, CUTS CRC, Joy Chakraborty, Divisional Engineer, WBREDA in the Dialogue Meeting

Business Regulation and Corporate Conduct (BRCC)

CUTS has been implementing this project with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) India, with the objective to assess the policy environment with respect to its ability to facilitate ease of conducting business and promoting corporate conduct in India. The initiative aims to raise awareness thereof, to promote entrepreneurship and sustainable business development in the country.

It was implemented by undertaking research to comprehend constraints in business regulation across select states of India and in such a prevailing environment, how best to motivate corporate entities to emerge as champions of responsible business conduct. The project is being implemented in four states of India, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal over the period from March 2011 to December 2012. The project goal was to stimulate better business to achieve sustainable development objectives in India.

The project learning and evidence will be utilised for larger sharing, capacity building and advocacy actions at national as well as state levels. The main objective will be to assess the policy environment with respect to its ability to facilitate business operations and promoting responsible corporate conduct in India with sectoral focus on Private Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.

Advocacy & Networking

A Capacity Building Workshop for Pharmaceutical firms was organised in Ahmedabad on April 04-05, 2013. Three pharmaceutical firms from West Bengal participated in the meeting.

National Competition Policy & Economic Growth in India (ComPEG)

A study has been undertaken entitled 'National Competition Policy & Economic Growth in India (ComPEG)' to take forward the agenda of National Competition Policy focusing on select sectors (Electricity, Pharmaceutical and Agriculture and Food Marketing). The study is being undertaken in two states, viz. West Bengal and Maharashtra. From the vast list of agricultural products, on the basis of their universal applicability, tomato sector has been selected for the research and survey.

Surveys were conducted in West Bengal (Nadia and Cooch Bihar) and Maharashtra.

Consumer Awareness Programme

CUTS and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS, Assam Branch) jointly organised different Awareness Generation Camps on different product standards and certifications of BIS like Hallmarking, ISI marking, Agmark etc. The entire programme was organised in two different districts of Assam such as Jorhat and Golaghat. Five programmes were organised during March 01-06, 2013.

Advocacy & Networking

Five different awareness programme in different places of Assam were held. 1st programme was organised at Jorhat Engineering College with Electrical Department in which 115 students and professors participated. There were several participations from Nikhil Assam Swarno Silpi Samity, Jewellery shop owners, college students, women, self-help groups, Local Media etc. in rest of the programmes.

Keya Ghosh delivered a presentation on 'General Overview of BIS Activity' in the 1st day of programme at Jorhat Engineering College and then Kandoi from BIS gave presentation on 'Technical Details of Different BIS Activity, Standards and Certifications'. From BIS P K Kandoi, Director, BIS, Assam also participated in all programmes as resource person. More than 400 participants attended the programmes.

CUTS-BIS
programme at
Jorhat Engineering
College in Assam



REPRESENTATIONS



- Keya Ghosh attended the media launch of the project "The Economics of a Low Carbon Kolkata" on November 29, 2012. The project is collaboration between Global Change Programme-Jadavpur University, Centre for Low Carbon Futures and the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata. This is the first Asian city to be included in the "Ten Climate Smart Cities" Programme of the Centre for Low Carbon Futures.
- Keya Ghosh attended the the National Seminar on "Food Safety-Role of Standards" organised by BIS at the Vigyan Bhavan at New Delhi on December 12, 2012.
- Prithviraj and Sumanta Biswas attended an event organised by the Department of Consumers Affairs, Government of West Bengal to observe the National Consumers Day at Kolkata on December 24, 2012.