

CUTS CRC Activity Report

April-June 2019

ONGOING PROJECTS



New Dimensions of Border Haats in Cross-border Trade

CUTS International with support from Department for International Development (DFID), UK is implementing a project entitled 'Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade' which aims at understanding the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh; and analysing its impact on gender and livelihood.

Under this project, scoping visits were conducted during February-May 2019, in both India and Bangladesh to narrow down the locations to be surveyed and finalise survey questions. Additionally, it was instrumental in mapping relevant stakeholders and creating a network for the key study. Locations for the scoping visit were identified on the basis of anecdotal evidences drawn from CUTS' previous work in this region as well insights from the members of the Project Advisory Committee. The visit was conducted in three locations in India as well as their mirror locations in Bangladesh.

Three locations are as follows:

- One location where border haat is operational: **Balat, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, India-Lauwaghar, Dalora, Sunamgang District, Bangladesh**
- One location where setting up of a border haat has already been approved but which is yet to be operational: **Mouza: Marachere, North Sonarai, Kamalpur, Dhalai District, Tripura, India-Kamalganj, Moulvibazar District, Sylhet, Bangladesh**
- One location where setting up of a border haat has been proposed (State Government of India, Mizoram) but has not been approved officially: **Nunsury II, Lunglei District, Mizoram, India- Thegamukh, Barkal Upazila of Rangamati district, Chittagong division, Bangladesh.**



Focussed Group Discussion with Farmers in Kamalpur, Tripura, India

Based on these visits, a report was prepared, questionnaires and survey locations were finalised.

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and Washington DC (USA).



BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement Regains Momentum

CUTS International implemented a project entitled 'Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement: Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN sub-region' with support from US State Department. The aim of the study was to facilitate trade and transit among four countries by enabling the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBI MVA).

An extensive field study was conducted across eight corridors among these countries to understand the infrastructural and political economy challenges that can adversely affect the effective implementation of the MVA. Following that, National Policy Dialogues were organised in Bhutan, Thimpu on April 04; in Bangladesh, Dhaka on April 07; and in Nepal Kathmandu on April 09, 2019 respectively to deliberate on the research findings, articulate specific solutions and probable policy interventions to overcome identified challenges.

Another dialogue will be organised in India in August 2019. These dialogues received participation from government officials and private stakeholders.



National Policy Dialogue at Thimphu, Bhutan



National Advocacy Meeting at Dhaka, Bangladesh



Call for Passage of Road Safety Bill

CUTS International, in association with Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur (IEST) is conducting a study in West Bengal, with support from Global Road Safety Programme to assess gaps in the existing Motor Vehicles Rules, State Road Safety Policy, Road Safety Action Plan and bring in new legislations to make the road safety framework more effective in the state.

As a preliminary step towards achieving the objectives of the project, IEST conducted a quick review of activities in West Bengal related to the present status of road safety law enforcement and identified key stakeholders. In order to discuss the findings of the quick review with key subject experts; gather more information; and identify key gaps in the state law and policy, a key stakeholder meeting was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal by CUTS and IEST on June 28, 2019.



- Sumanta Biswas attended a conference entitled 'Towards an Assertive Policy on India's External Democracy Support' organised by Observer Research Foundation in association with Asia Democracy Network on May 06, 2019.
- Arnab Ganguly attended a one-day course on 'Research and Innovations in Traffic Safety Engineering' organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology Shibpur, West Bengal on June 17, 2019.
- Arnab Ganguly attended a lunch invitation from Australian Consulate on the eve of inaugural of Australian Consulate in Kolkata on April 25, 2019.