

CUTS CRC Activity Report

January-March 2020

ONGOING PROJECTS



Border Haats and their Socio-economic Impact

CUTS International with support from Department for International Development (DFID), UK is executing a project titled “**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, field surveys and focussed group discussion, with local communities especially women, were conducted in 32 locations (16 locations in India and their 16 mirror locations in Bangladesh) across India and Bangladesh. It covers locations where border haats are operational as well as those locations where border haats are expected to come up in the near future. Key findings from the survey will be captured in the research report to be developed under the project. Further, awareness generation meetings will be organised in each of these 32 locations in the near future.

A media article entitled **Shaking hands with neighbours: Border Haats between India and Bangladesh** has been published in North East Now on February 09, 2020 to create awareness on border haats among people.

The article can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/2waTMXS>.



FGD with SHG members at Mizoram

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(India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi
(Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi
(Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland);
and Washington DC (USA).

*Interviewing the
farmers in Assam*





Cyber Security for E-Business

CUTS International with the support from US Consulate, Kolkata is implementing the project entitled **Cyber Safe East India: Workshops on Cyber Security for E-Businesses**. The project aims to identify cyber-security needs of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) based on the understanding of their usage of digital technology; assess challenges faced by them; designing appropriate strategies to help them; capacitate them to effectively use cyber-security tools and showcase best practices so that they can safely navigate the cyber space. The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) is the knowledge partner of CUTS in this project.

Under this project to capacitate the MSMEs, three capacity building workshops will be organised in Guwahati, Patna and Ranchi. A scoping visit was conducted in Guwahati, Assam in February 2020 to identify the cyber-security needs of the MSMEs in Guwahati.



Scoping visit in Guwahati, Assam

Facilitating multi-modal connectivity in BBIN region

CUTS International with support from DFID, UK is executing a project entitled **Creating an Enabling and Inclusive Policy and Political Economy Discourse for Multi-Modal Connectivity in Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal region**. The objectives of the project are to address implementation challenges of BBIN-MVA; identify gaps in infrastructural and regulatory policies posing hurdles to multi-modal connectivity in this sub-region; and contribute towards formulation of an inclusive transport and transit protocols for an effective multi-modal connectivity in this sub-region through a participatory approach for enhanced growth in this sub-region.

A scoping visit was conducted in Nepal in February 2020 to understand different connectivity initiatives taken by Nepal to facilitate multi-modal connectivity with the neighbouring countries and discuss project objectives with relevant government and private stakeholders.



Empowering River Communities in India and Bangladesh along Meghna Basin

CUTS International with support from Oxfam Novib is implementing a project entitled **Trans- boundary Rivers of South Asia**. The project aims to explore the prospect of river-borne trade between India and Bangladesh to generate livelihood opportunities for the local communities along the Meghna basin.

Under this project CUTS conducted few meetings entitled '*Nodi Baithak*' in Silchar and Kamimganj in Assam, India and Chilmari and Rawmari in Kurigram, Bangladesh with the communities residing along the Meghna basin were conducted in March 2020 to understand the impact of these rivers in their lives; understand probable impact of river-borne trade on them and empower these communities to raise their issues in proper platform so that they can uphold their rights.



Discussion with the river communities in ' Nodi Baithak' in Silchar, Assam, India



- Arnab Ganguly attended the second edition of **India Economic Conclave-2020** organised by The Economic Affairs Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Kolkata on January 15, 2020. The aim was to deliberate on the current economic realities of India and reforms needed in various segments, such as manufacturing, agriculture, and services of the economy.
- Bijaya Roy attended the Economic Summit **Eastern Union: A Brave New World** organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CENERS-K at Rajarhat, Kolkata on January 22, 2020.
- Arnab Ganguly participated at the launch meeting of the **Uber MOVEMENT** platform organised by UBER at Kolkata on February 05, 2020. Uber MOVEMENT is a free public website that makes Uber's network data available to help governments and urban planners with travel time in various transport corridors. This tool addresses specific problems faced by urban planners, academics, traffic and transport authorities and the civic community. The meeting was to observe the official launch of the tool in Kolkata. With this, Kolkata became the fifth city to get data-driven insights from Uber's platform, after Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru.
- Sumanta Biswas participated in a meeting on **Strategies for accelerating Urban Electric Mobility: Exclusive Discussion on innovative policies, technologies, and applications** at Kolkata on February 07, 2020.