

CUTS CRC Activity Report

October-December 2020

ONGOING PROJECTS



Border Haat and Their Socio-Economic Impact

CUTS International along with its partner Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh with support from Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK is implementing a project titled “Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross border trade.” This project aims at understanding the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh; and analysing its impact on gender and livelihood implications.

Under this project, a series of webinars were organised to explore various dimensions pertaining to Border Haats. Nine briefing papers and one discussion



paper were prepared and disseminated to highlight the role and benefits of border haats and recommend strategies in resuming border haats in the post COVID era, prospects of up-scaling border haats and using the Border Haat as a forum for cultural exchange, and the possibility of developing a cross-border retail zone in India-Bangladesh border.

As a part of the webinar series, on October 15, 2020 the first webinar was organised with a title “Opportunities and Challenges of Establishing of Border Haats along India’s and Bangladesh’s border with Myanmar”, the second webinar entitled “India-Bangladesh Border Haat: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”, organised on October 29, 2020 and the third titled “India-Bangladesh Border Haats Poised for a Growing Role”, was organised on November 12, 2020. Two more webinars will be organised shortly to disseminate the findings of the remaining briefing papers.

CUTS is preparing a video documentary under the project to capture the impact of COVID on different stakeholders, especially women. The video documentary would also depict how to enhance women’s participation at the border haats. Awareness generation programmes has been initiated under the project for creating awareness among different stakeholder groups and to increase women participation in the haats.

CUTS[®]
International

**CUTS Calcutta
Resource Centre**

99/5/9A, Dr. Amiyo Bose
Sarani, 3rd Floor
Bulgyunge Place
Kolkata 700019
Ph: +91.33.40683154
Telefax: +91.33.24604987
E-mail: calcutta@cuts.org
Website: www.cuts-international.org/CRC

Also at Jaipur, Delhi and Chittorgarh
(India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi
(Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi
(Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland);
and Washington DC (USA).



Understanding Technical, Economic and Political Economy Implications of Traffic Diversion from Roadways to Waterways

CUTS International with support from The World Bank is executing a project titled “Understanding Technical, Economic and Political Economy Implications of Traffic Diversion from Roadways to Waterways (ROWA-1): From Petrapole-Benapole Land Border Route to Tribeni-Kolkata/Haldia Port in India to Dhaka in Bangladesh via Mongla”.

Considering the fact that bulk of the trade between India and Bangladesh takes place through roadways, developing a water transport corridor as a viable alternative to roadways would essentially require exporters/importers to use the alternative mode for moving freight traffic. To divert some of that trade through the route of the waterway, it is essential to understand whether it will be economically and technically feasible.

As a part of project activity by consulting different stakeholders few of the commodities has been identified for which modal shift can be possible. CUTS is in continuous process to identify infrastructural, procedural and regulatory impediments for a modal shift. In this project study a comparative analysis is going on to look into the feasibility of waterways in different routes between India and Bangladesh trade.



Understanding Commercial, Strategic and Political Economy Implications of Traffic Diversion from Roadways to Waterways

CUTS International with support from The World Bank is executing a project titled “Understanding Commercial, Strategic and Political Economy Implications of Traffic Diversion from Roadways to Waterways: Sahibganj-Narayanganj (Bangladesh) and Sahibganj-Jogighopa (Assam)”.

The study is focusing on collecting and analysing relevant primary and secondary data to better understand the commercial, technical, strategic, economic and political economy implications of facilitating movement of freight traffic from Sahibganj (Jharkhand, Eastern India) to Narayanganj (Bangladesh) and from Sahibganj (Jharkhand, Eastern India) to Jogighopa (Assam, Northeast India) via Dhulian (West Bengal, India) – Rajshahi (West Bangladesh), which are on the Indo-Bangla protocol route.



Dhulian-Rajshahi-Dhulian, established network with the relevant stakeholders across the region to understand possibilities of a modal shift through specific inland waterway routes connecting India-Bangladesh-Nepal-Bhutan.

It also identified practical issues and impediments to the operationalisation of Dhulian-Rajshahi Indo-Bangladesh protocol route.

The study would highlight factors that can facilitate traffic diversion from the nearby land routes of Mahadipur–Sona Masjid, Hilli–Bangla Hilli and the Siliguri Corridor. The study identified potential alternative trade routes among BBIN countries using India-Bangladesh protocol route



Facilitating Multimodal Connectivity in BBIN Sub-region

CUTS International with support from FCDO of the UK Government 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.



Under the project field surveys have been conducted in few locations (viz. Petrapole ICP, Ranaghat, Gede, Haldia port, Kolkata Port, Kolaghat, Durgapur ICD and in and around Siliguri and select locations in Assam) for having a better understanding of multi-modal connectivity and the bottlenecks of those routes.

Cyber Safe East India – Workshops on Cyber Security for E-Businesses

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.

Under this project a Briefing Paper has been prepared by CUTS on “Cyber-security challenges for Indian MSMEs” to capacitate them. The paper has been prepared on field surveys and desk research. One webinar will be organised soon to disseminate the project findings.

Indian States with Highest Reported Cyber Crimes

