

CUTS INTERNATIONAL

A 30-year journey in trade policy research and advocacy

6th December, 2021

**SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)**

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION

- **Established in 1983 as a consumer protection organisation to advocate for consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice, economic equality and environmental balance, within and across borders**
- **Over the past 38 years, CUTS has undergone organic growth and an expansion of its agenda to include diverse areas related to good governance, effective regulation and rules-based trade**

OUR GLOBAL PRESENCE



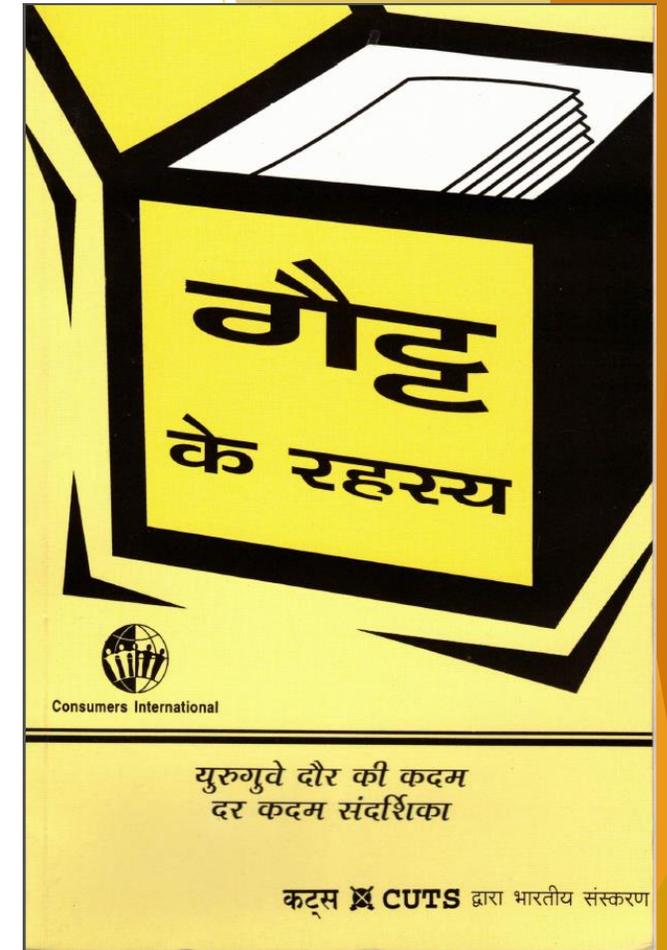
JAIPUR

CUTS Offices



Where CUTS has worked

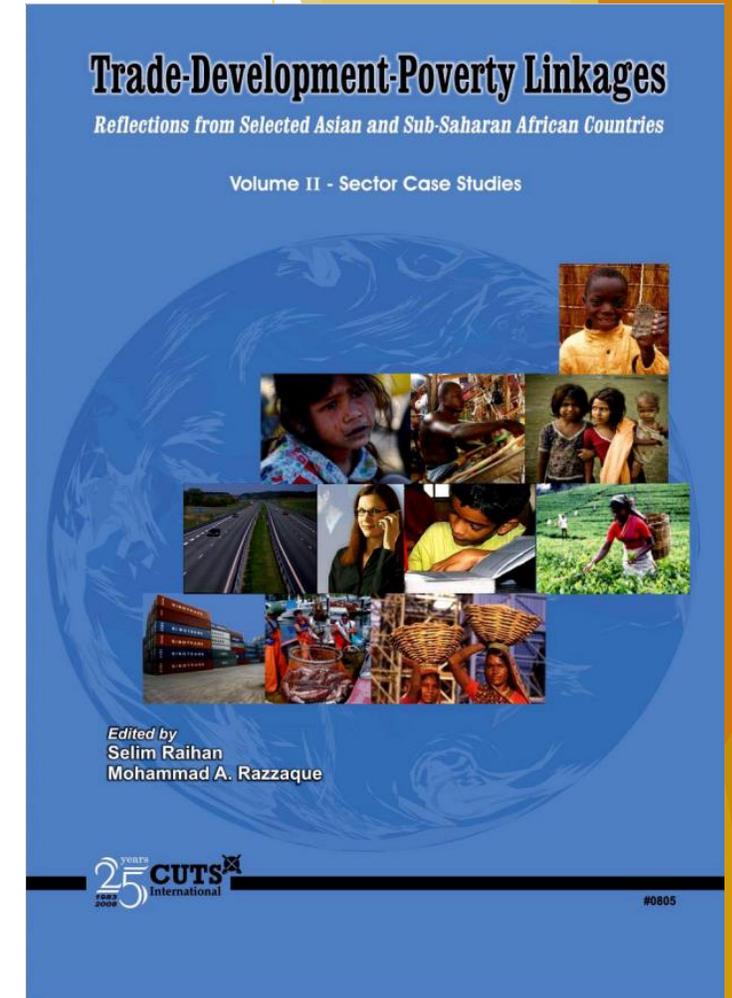
- **CUTS has been involved with trade and development issues since 1991, when negotiations under the Uruguay Round of the GATT were at their peak**
- **Over a span of three decades, CUTS has established itself as a pioneer in research and advocacy on global trade issues**
- **Hindi version of Unpacking the GATT displayed**



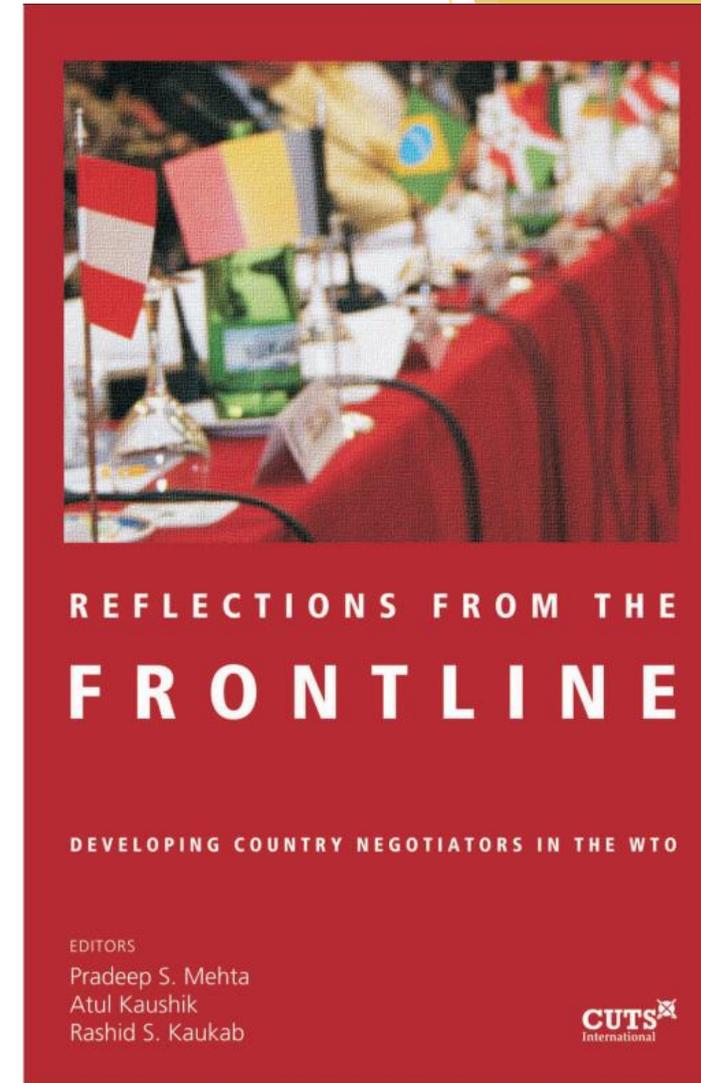
One of the earliest publications of CUTS, in 1994

OUR MAJOR MILESTONES

- **1995 - CUTS led the formation of a network of like-minded non government organisations in South Asia – South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE) - to undertake capacity building in the subcontinent for better understanding of trade and development linkages**

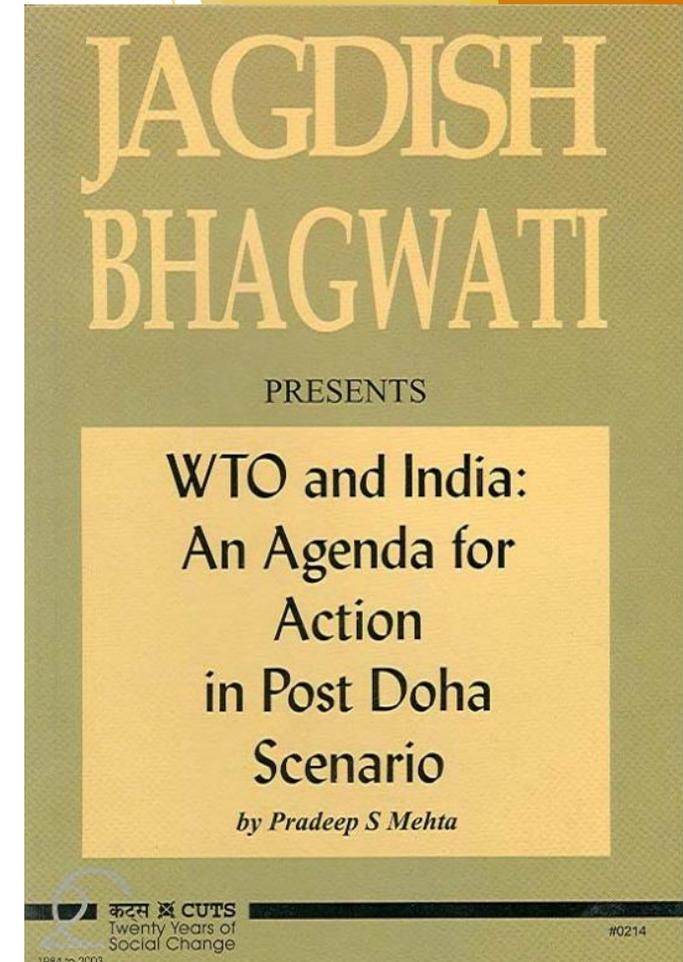


- **1996 - CUTS joined a group of international organisations to establish the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva**
- **1996 - CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) was established as a programme centre**
- **2008 - Establishment of CUTS International, Geneva**



OUR OBJECTIVES

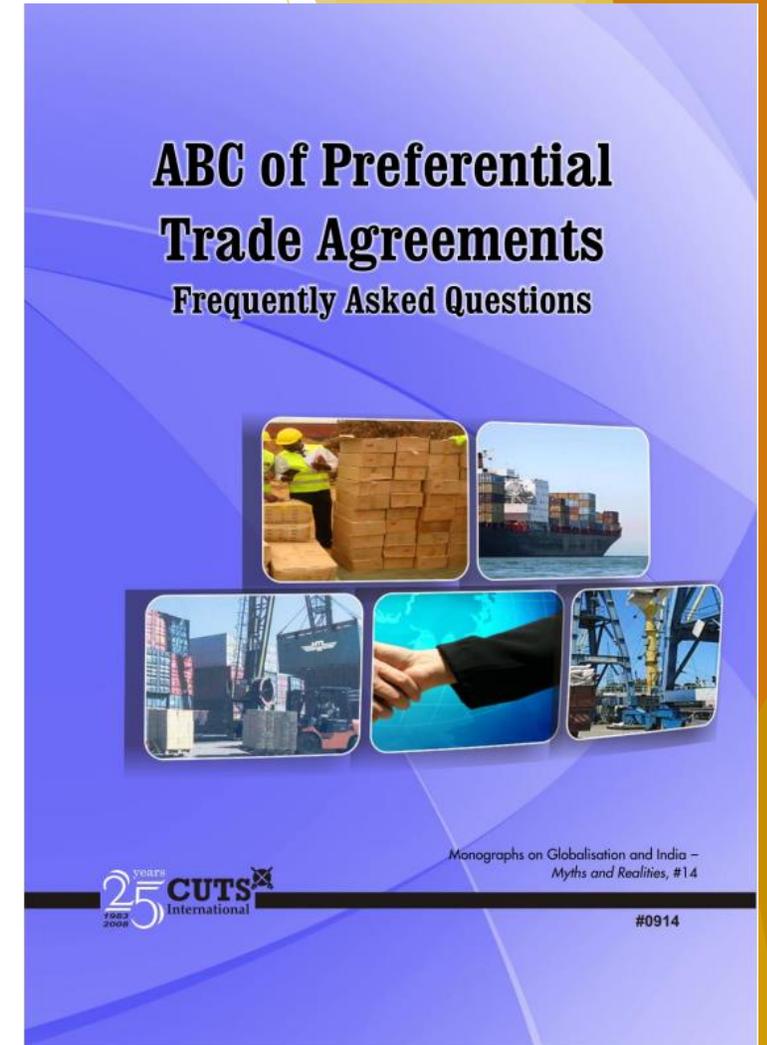
- **Empower developing country stakeholders to effectively articulate and advocate on relevant issues of trade and development**
- **Present an independent political economy view on trade and trade-related economic, social and environmental issues from a Southern perspective**



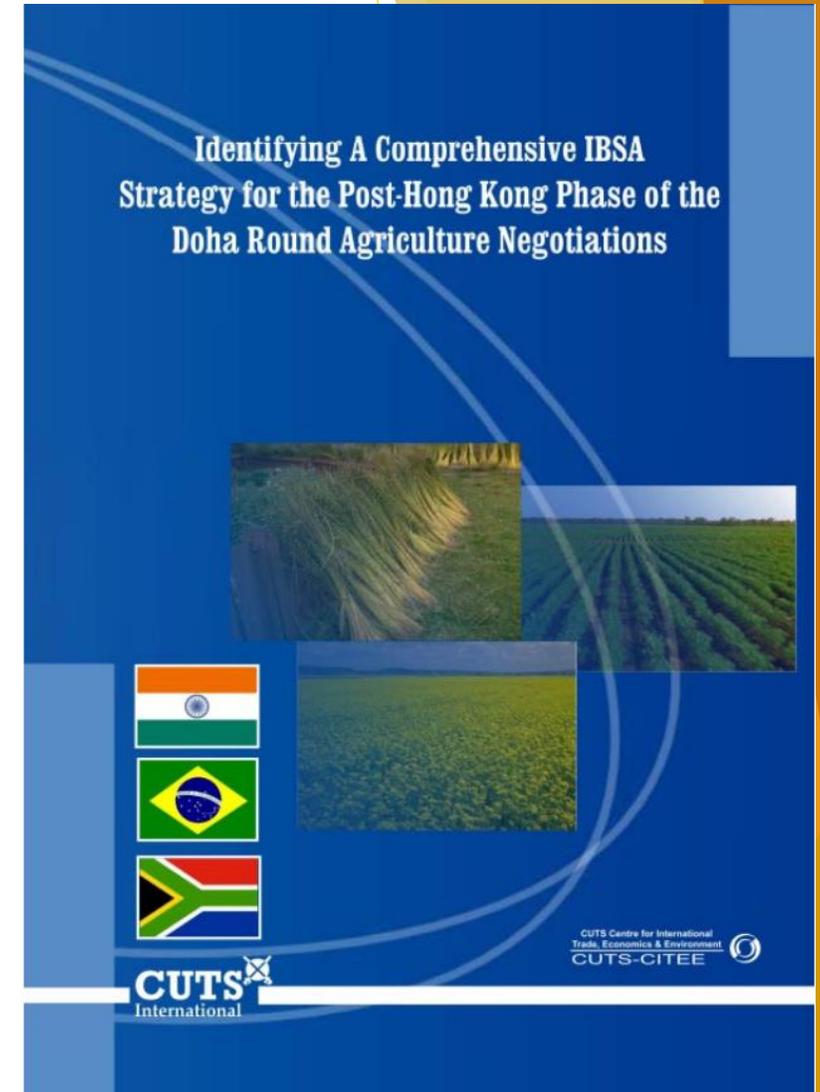
- **Sensitise policy-makers about trade and development issues confronted by the people at the grassroots and vice versa**
- **Strengthen the capacity of developing country representatives in international trade negotiations and implementation of trade agreements**
- **Raise awareness in developed countries, inter-governmental and multilateral organisations on trade and trade-related developmental issues, for a better appreciation of Southern concerns**

OUR METHODS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE

- **Method - Effective, action-oriented policy research and advocacy along with networking and capacity-building on emerging issues of trade and development**
- **Guiding Principle – “*Liberalisation Yes but with Safety Nets*”**

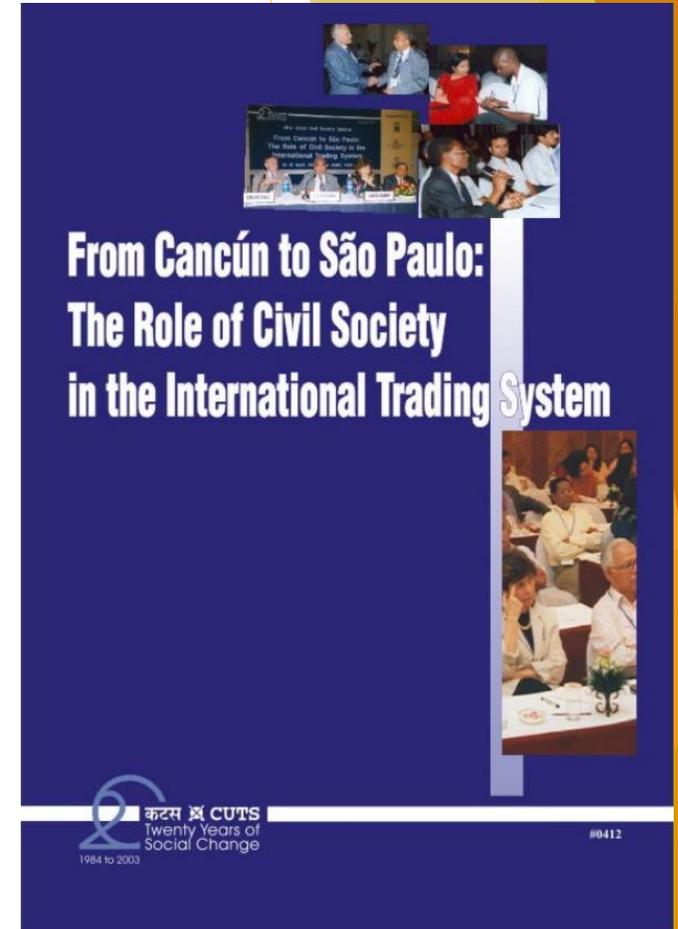


- **Transcend historical divides to seek diverse forms of engagement, including but not limited to:**
 - **South-South cooperation**
 - **South-North cooperation**
 - **Trilateral Development Cooperation among northern donors, southern implementers and beneficiaries in developing and least developed countries**



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Distinction of having served on various high-level trade and trade-related committees of the Governments of India, Kenya, Ghana and Zambia**
- **Represented at the WTO D-G's Informal NGO Advisory Board and High Level Stakeholders Panel on the Future of Trade**

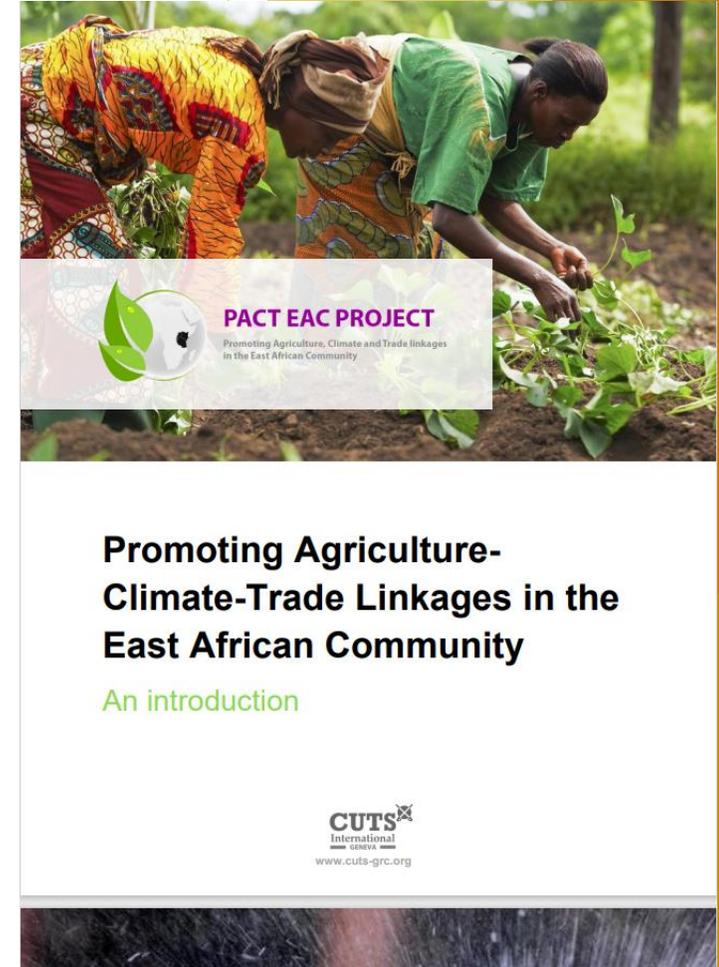


OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- **Government of India – Ministries of Commerce, External Affairs, Environment & Forests, Textiles, Consumer Affairs etc.**
- **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Berlin and their offices in Europe, Asia and Africa**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland**
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia**
- **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Organisation, (formerly DFID) UK**
- **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden**
- **British High Commission, New Delhi**
- **Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi**
- **Commonwealth Secretariat, London**
- **Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands**
- **Ford Foundation, USA**
- **The Asia Foundation, USA**
- **The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA**
- **The B&M Gates Foundation, USA**
- **ClimateWorks Foundation, USA**
- **TradeMark, East Africa**

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SWEDEN

- Extensive partnerships with SIDA and MFA on trade and other projects
- Project on *Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the Eastern African Community (PACT EAC)*, with the support of SIDA – two phases of four years each
- *The Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA)* - a five-year (2016-2021) regional programme supported by SIDA and jointly implemented by Oxfam and its partners in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Nepal



- **Projects to *Promote Organic Consumption in the State of Rajasthan; Green Action Week Fund-India Campaign; SDG12 India, Strengthening Consumers by Vibrant Role of CSOs for Raising Awareness on Environmental and Other Impacts of Consumption*, among others, in partnership with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) supported by SIDA.**
- ***Keeping pace with trade developments in Geneva* - this initiative, supported by MFA, Sweden, has enabled LDCs and Smaller Developing Country WTO delegates to take advantage of international trade for their development**
- ***Trade and Environment Linkages* – to understand development dimensions and impact of environmental standards on trade, with support from SIDA**

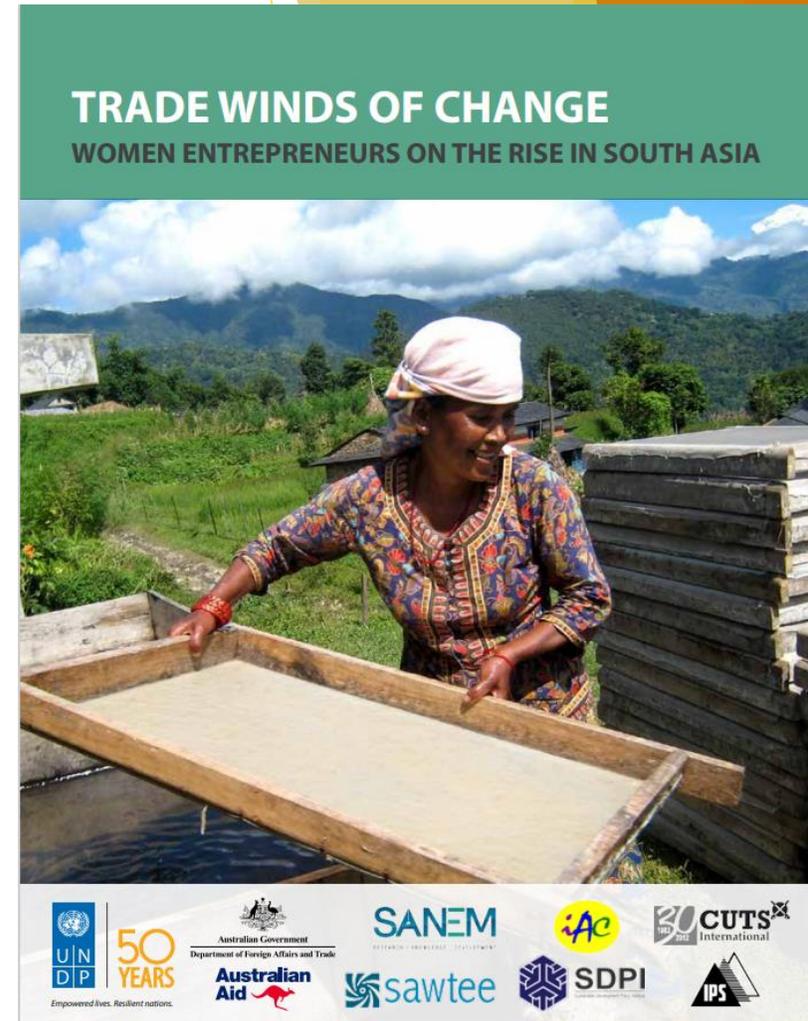
- ***An Organisational Assessment of CUTS CITEE*** was conducted by SPM Consultants in 2007, a Swedish consultancy appointed by SIDA
- Project titled ***'Traffic Calming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety In India'***, in partnership with the Department of Technology and Society, Lund University, Sweden and with the support of SIDA



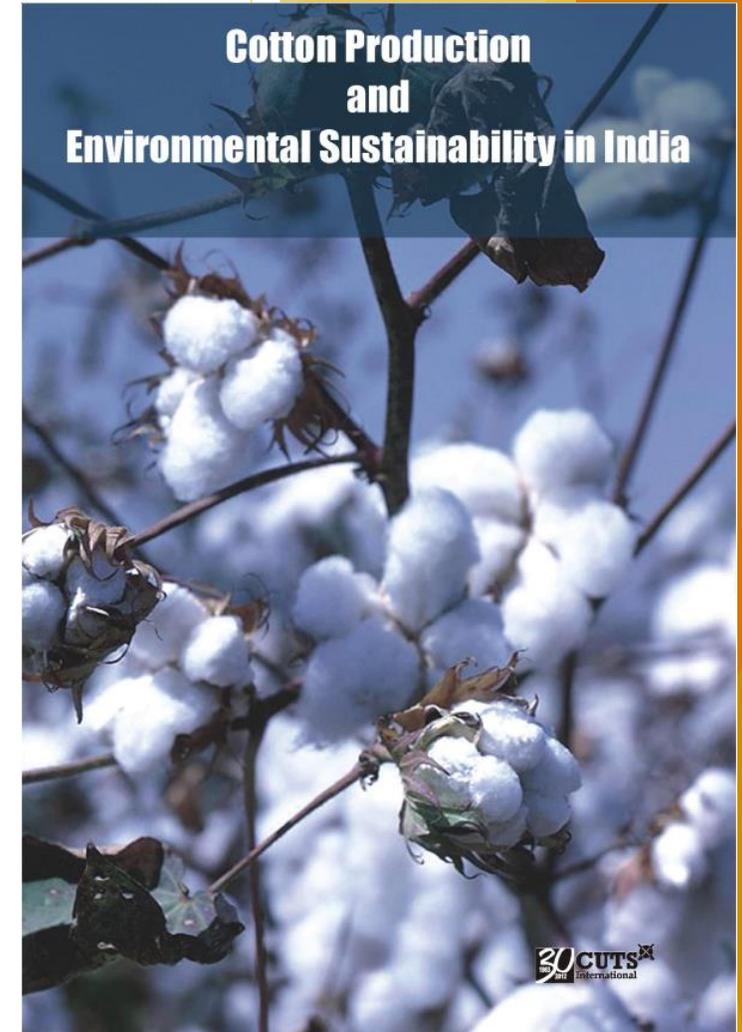
INDICATIVE LIST OF TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED PROJECTS

- **Trade Facilitation and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures: A Comparative Assessment of Policies and Practices [2021] [UN FAO]**
- **Capacity Building of Developing Countries on E-commerce, Investment Facilitation and MSME JSIs [2020-22] [TAF2,UK]**
- **Political Economy Dimensions of Multi-modal Connectivity for Enhancing Trade in the BBIN Sub-region [2020] [UKAID]**
- **Manuals on SPS Standards in the EU Market for Key Agricultural Exports by 8 African Countries [2019-20] [GIZ]**
- **Gender Dimensions of Trade Facilitation in the BBIN Sub-region [2019] [UKAID]**
- **Demystifying Non-Tariff Barriers to India-Bangladesh Trade in Agricultural Products and their Linkages with Food Security and Livelihood [2018] [US State Department]**

- **Mega Regional Trade Agreements and the Indian Economy [2015] [UKAID]**
- **Environmental Standards & Trade – A Study of Indian Textiles & Clothing Sector [2013] [MFA, Norway]**
- **Trade Consignment Mapping in South Asia: A Study of Three SAARC Corridors [2014] [Asia Foundation]**
- **Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia [2011] [Climate Works Foundation]**
- **South-South Economic Cooperation: Enhancing Greater Mekong Sub-Region-India Relationship [2007] [SDC, Switzerland]**



- **Strategic Review of WTO-Provided Trade-Related Technical Assistance Activities [2006] [WTO/MFA, Norway]**
- **WTO Doha Round and South Asia [2006] [Oxfam Novib]**
- **Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction [2005] [MINBUZA, The Netherlands and UKAID]**
- **Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics [2005] [Oxfam Novib]**
- **Improving Labour Standards through Development: A Positive Agenda [2004] [Ford Foundation]**



INDICATIVE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ON TRADE ISSUES

- **Reflections From the Frontline: Developing Country Negotiators in the WTO (2012) [*with the support of MFA, Sweden*]**
- **South-South Economic Cooperation: Enhancing GMS-India Relationship (2007)**
- **South-South Cooperation: Exploring IBSA Initiative (2006)**
- **Linkages between Environmental Standards and Poverty: A People-Centered Approach (2005)**
- **From Cancun to Sao Paulo: The Role of Civil Society in the International Trading System (2004)**
- **Improving Labour Standards through Development: A Positive Agenda (2004)**
- **WTO and India: An Agenda for Action in Post Doha Scenario (2002)**

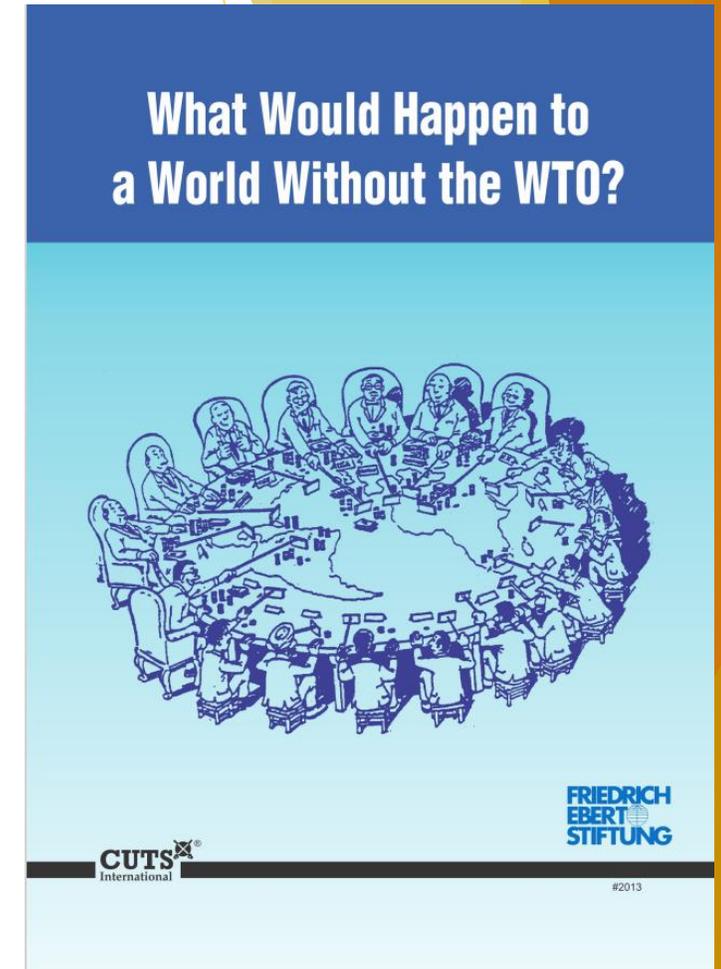
GOING FORWARD

Action-oriented Research and Advocacy to make:

- **Trade Possible**
- **Trade Happening**
- **Trade Benefits**

MAKING TRADE POSSIBLE

- **Advocating for comprehensive, forward-looking and equitable trade agreements in all their forms and variable geometries:**
 - **Revitalising multilateral trade negotiations and WTO reform**
 - **Expanding preferential trading arrangements**
 - **Promoting unilateral trade liberalisation efforts**

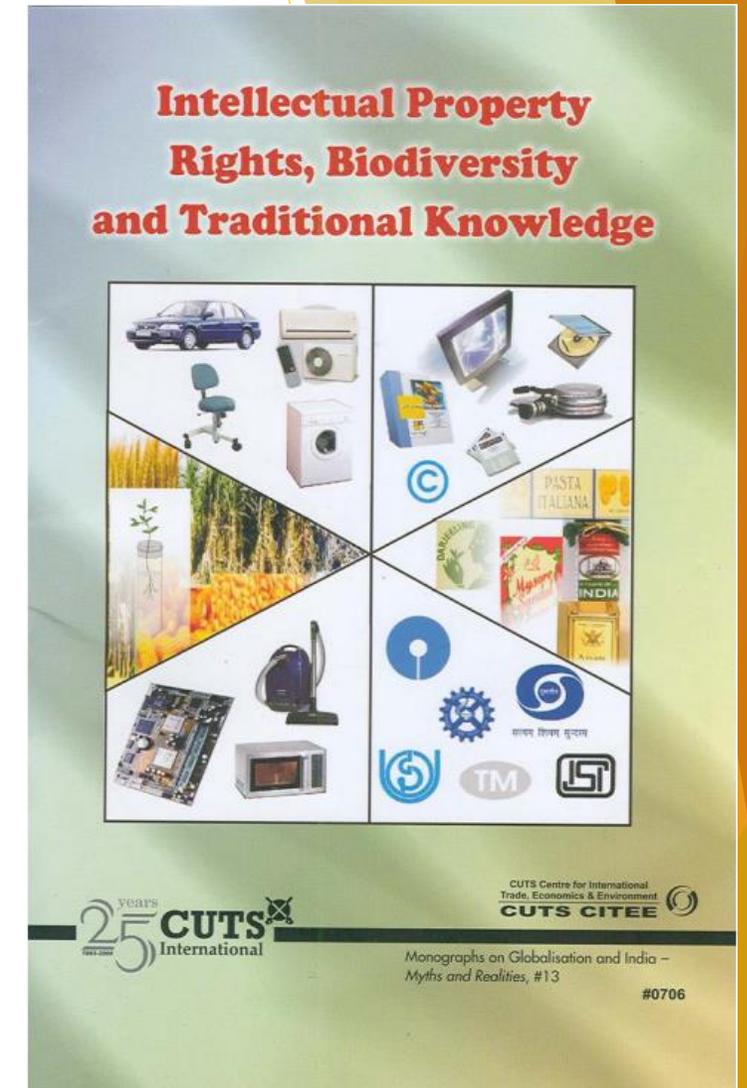


MAKING TRADE HAPPEN

- **Advocating for reduced trade barriers and greater trade facilitation in its broadest sense, including by:**
 - **Promoting regional and sub-regional connectivity initiatives for reducing time and cost of doing trade**
 - **Working on strategies for integration of trade facilitation mechanisms and harmonisation of standards including exploring alternative supply chains**



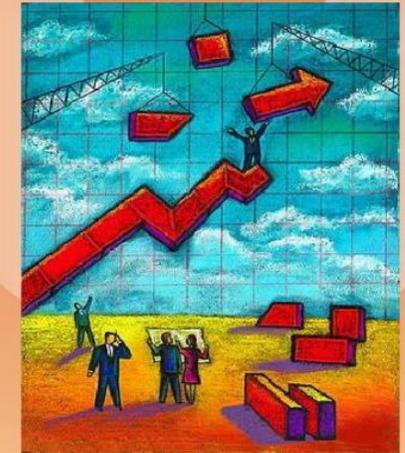
- **Advocating for an ecosystem-based approach which focuses on the interlinkages of trade, technology, and innovation**
- **Recognising the ever-increasing linkages between trade in goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights**



MAKING TRADE BENEFIT

- **Advocating for policies which focus on innovative trade adjustment mechanisms for better livelihoods through:**
 - **Welfare-enhancing safety nets for those adversely affected by trade liberalisation**
 - **Emerging and future skills needed to get the benefits of trade accessible to all**
 - **Addressing job losses – enhancing the role of trade in making the post-pandemic recovery more robust and resilient**

ABC of Aid for Trade



CUTS
International

CUTS Centre for International
Trade, Economics & Environment
CUTS CITEE

Monographs on Globalisation and India –
Myths and Realities, #12 # 0702

- **Empowering stakeholders - particularly women, MSMEs and other marginalised groups**
- **Promoting holistic approaches across policy areas such as trade, agriculture, climate change, competition and investment**
- **Harnessing the potential of digitalisation for sustainable growth and development**
- **Contributing to the achievement of SDGs**

CUTS
International

CUTS Advocacy Brief

October 2016

Food Security in India

The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Trade & Politics

Despite the significant achievements in economic growth and food grain production, India ranked 80th in the 2015 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report with a score of 29. Existing geographical and socio-economic variations have resulted in wide disparities in food production, distribution systems as well as the status of malnutrition among different states of India. The advent of climate change is also likely to threaten the cereal production systems in the country (IPCC, 2014).

The potential impacts of climate change on agriculture are multi-faceted, directly influencing productivity, yields and the availability of arable land and water, as well as food prices and trade patterns for staple and high-value products alike; creating a serious challenge for food security in the country. Thus there exists an intrinsic linkage among food production, distribution, public policy and trade which determines food security at the household level.

The price-income relationship for basic food commodities is fundamental for many vulnerable households, both for understanding everyday procurement of food and strategies of handling risk such as failure of harvest or external income. While settings throughout India are considerably varied, access and availability, either through local markets or the function of public programmes and social safety nets, is crucial for low-income household food security.

This document aims to consolidate the various dimensions of the food security scenario in India. An attempt has been made to identify distinct policy recommendations and change agents for the multiple dimensions. Acting as an interface for advocacy among relevant stakeholders, the document will focus on the next steps ahead pertaining to achieve concrete policy discourse for the Sustainable Development Goal No. 2 to 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture'.

Linking Climate Change to Food Security at Household Level

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THANK YOU

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