

CUTS Annual Report-2017

Inputs from CUTS CART

1. IMPACT

A. URBAN GOVERNANCE

1. Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform (RCMLP)

Support: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Period: April, 2016-April, 2017

The object is to create a platform of sharing and learning based approaches to enhance knowledge of mayors from various cities of Rajasthan by way of organizing Mayor's conferences, Knowledge Enhancement Workshops and Exposure Visits for Mayors and concerned persons of DLB office.

([http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Rajasthan_City_Mayors_Learning_Platform.htm))

After so much of efforts, finally a formal platform for City Mayors is created and well recognized by the Mayors of Rajasthan. All Mayors are taking part in the Mayors Conferences and other meetings and considering this is as an important event, which can really enhance knowledge on various topics. Mayors take it as the first ever chance to be at a non-government platform to interact with other city mayors in the State itself. One of the major outcome is that this intervention could enhance knowledge of elected representatives especially of Mayors through sharing of information with each other, which resulted into regular interaction with each other.

2. Setting up of Procurement Observatory in Rajasthan (ProOb II)

Support: Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Delhi

Theme: Setting up a Public Procurement Observatory in Rajasthan.

Period: 18th April, 2016-17th April, 2017

ProOb-2 aimed to improve the public procurement framework of the state by advocating for effective compliance of the RTTP Act, 2012 at all the procuring entities. Strategies, approaches and methodology of intervention and research were also the same as were in first phase. The key activities under the project were maintaining a web portal, reviewing the compliance level of RTTP Act and procurement practices, conducting research on ease of doing business in the selected departments and capturing feedback of common citizenries on procurement related issues and finally advocating with the government and concerned departments for improving the things at their level.

(<http://procurementobservatoryraj.in/index.html>)

3. Civil Society Organizations Capacity Building on Self-Governance (CiSCAG Project)

Support: US Embassy in India

Period: September, 2017-August, 2018

The project aims to build capacities of Civil Society Organisation on Self-Governance (CiSCAG Project) by way of organising workshops and bring together representatives from leading US and India think tanks, CSOs to share best practices for enhancing self-governance transparency.

<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/CISCAG/index.htm>

4. Study of Residential Rooftop Solar in Jaipur

Support: World Resources Institute, India

Period: November, 2017-January, 2018

The aim is to understand the consumer experience with rooftop solar, specifically, pain points for consumers, who have installed/wish to install rooftop solar in Jaipur.

The project helped in defining the strategies, methodology and indicators for observing the procurement process in the selected departments in Rajasthan by way of Procurement Tracking and Analysis of 8600 tenders related to works, goods and services. The findings were shared with the concerned officials of ADB and by way of organizing procurement, orientation and dissemination workshops/sessions for the stakeholders and ending up with advocacy workshop with all the government and non-government stakeholders.

This intervention will enhance the internal governance and transparency of organisations to run non-profit activities smoothly in the country for development.

The expected outcome is to increase prevalence of solar rooftops by working to reduce issues people face before, during and after its installation

B. CONSUMER PROTECTION

5. Pilot Project to Promote Organic Consumption in the State of Rajasthan, India (ProOrganic)

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Project Period: April, 2016-March, 2017 (*Bridge Year*)

The project aimed to promote organic consumption in the state of Rajasthan covering six major agriculture potential districts by awareness generation, sensitization, capacity building and advocacy activities. The target districts are Jaipur, Dausa, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh and Kota. There are total 51 blocks in these 6 selected districts having total 1757 panchayats. The activities implemented during the period in order to achieve the outcome of the project were orientations, capacity building of farmers and consumers through trainings and exposures, village level awareness programmes for enhancing the level of awareness of both consumers and farmers and the stakeholder's advocacy meeting in order to bring all the stakeholders at a common platform.

(<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic/index.html>)

6. Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic-II)

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Project Period: April, 2017-March, 2021

One of the basic idea of the project is to promote sustainable consumption and production, which are important aspects of sustainable regime. This is largely consistent with the environmental and social factors, and education and empowerment of consumers. In 'ProOrganic II' project, focus is on the aspect of sustainable food and farming, and to formulate an agenda to achieve it. This will be acquired through promoting organic production of farm products on one hand, and promoting organic consumption, on the other. Consequently, this would lead to sustainable development in agriculture and environmental sector, as a whole. The target group of the project comprises entire population of the covered 10 districts, 96 blocks and selected 192 gram panchayats in Rajasthan. (<http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/index.htm>)

The intervention has contributed towards making organic consumption a mass movement in the state of Rajasthan through more awareness to both consumers and producers. This has also helped in involving more stakeholders in the campaign to add value and accountability. The intervention has also contributed in developing more and more demand for organic food by consumers. As a result of sensitization, more farmers also are shifting to organic farming.

Looking to the success of first phase, SSNC further agreed to provide to support for another four years to implement the second phase entitled 'Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic-II)' from April 01, 2017 to March 31, 2021 in 192 *gram panchayats* of 10 selected districts of Rajasthan (India).

7. Green Action Week Fund-India Campaign, 2017

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Project Period: June, 2017-February, 2018

The objective of this is to strengthen consumers by way of vibrant role of CSOs for raising awareness on environmental and other impacts of consumption and promote and contribute to sustainable patterns of consumption amongst consumers, policymakers and other key stakeholders.

([http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green Action Week Fund-India.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_Fund-India.htm))

8. Documenting Practices of Sustainable Culture and Lifestyles in India

Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)

Project Period: October, 2017-September, 2018

This intervention will help regaining and retaining traditional and cultural practices in relation to sustainable culture practiced in India since ages and establish a clear context of their use in urban modern day setting.

9. Strengthen Consumer Safety in India and to publish the 'State of Consumer Safety in India Report' (ConsumersUp-2)

Support: Department of Consumer Affairs of Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Project Period: October, 2015-March, 2017

The overall objective of the project is to enhance consumer safety in India and promotion of consumer interest contributing towards the national interest. Under the project, the main activity is to conduct comprehensive research on the state of consumers' safety in selected sectors and come up with a research report on the 'State of the Consumer Safety Report'.

<http://cuts-international.org/cart/consumersUp-2/>

10. Depositor & Education Awareness (DEA) Programme

Support: Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai

Project Period: April-May, 2017 (Extension of Phase I) and November, 2017-October, 2018 (Phase II)

Campaign at various states will increase awareness about sustainable consumption among common consumers of targeted places. It will also contribute to enhance demand of organic food.

Document of the project will be shared on global platform for wider outreach and dissemination, which will suggest the ways and ideas to the world to turn to a sustainable lifestyle

The project research report has been successfully completed, printed and unveiled by the Minister Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi at a function to commemorate World Consumer Rights Day, 2017. This report not only includes the safety aspects of several services for consumers but also includes input chapters written by eminent writers.

CUTS jointly with RBI has tried to ensure and able to produce a mass awareness with regard to safe and unriskey investments. Participants in all the workshops did take part with lot of enthusiasm and there was zeal

<p>The objective of the pilot programme is imparting education and awareness for the promotion of depositor's interest and to provide safe and secured deposit lessons to various depositors in five selected districts of Rajasthan. In addition, the programme also aimed to encourage public to have a bank account, discourage public from keeping money in illegal non-bank entities, demystify KYC requirements and provide information about customer rights as a depositor.</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Financial_Consumer_Protection.htm</p>	<p>and zest felt among them. The response from bankers at all the places was commendable.</p>
<p>11. Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCP) <u>Support:</u> Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India <u>Project Period:</u> May, 2017-April, 2019</p> <p>The objective of this intervention is to enhance Financial Protection of Consumers in Particular Women through Financial Literacy Initiatives (FCP) by way of building the capacities of rural consumers, especially women in terms of financial literacy there-by enhancing their financial inclusion and overcome vulnerability and ensure the economic security.</p>	<p>Through the intervention, it is envisaged that the rural financial consumers, especially women are trained and capable of making decisions on financial issues and identified community based facilitators to groom for taking the inclusion agenda ahead.</p>
<p>12. Giving the poorest consumers greater voice in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia (ProVoice) <u>Support:</u> Consumers International (CI) with the support from IKEA Foundation <u>Project Period:</u> April, 2017-March, 2018</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to promote use of safer and sustainable products among low income consumers and in turn improve their health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The project will help in contributing in behavioral change through activities to promote shift among targeted group consumers towards buying and using products that are safe for them and their environment.</p>

<p>C. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</p> <p>13. Road Safety Advocacy (ROSA)</p> <p><u>Support:</u> Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)</p> <p><u>Project Period:</u> October, 2016-September, 2017 (Phase I)</p> <p><u>Project Period:</u> November, 2017-October, 2019 (Phase II)</p> <p>The intervention aims to garner support from parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders for supporting smooth passage of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and post Act, enhancing Road Safety in India through advocacy for speedy rule making and effective implementation of Road Safety Laws in India clubbing it with road safety awareness activities.</p> <p>(http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/index.htm)</p>	<p>This particular intervention, has helped in bringing CUTS into the limelight of road safety work in the country. The intervention has helped CUTS is coming closer to public representatives and making submissions before Parliamentary Standing Committee through a Bill Blow on the Act. Through advocacy meetings at the national, regional and the divisional level, it has helped in imparting and generating awareness on new provisions in the proposed amendments in the Bill. The second phase involves activities in administering road safety activities as well.</p>
<p>14. Study of Institutional and Legislative Assessment for Road Safety in India</p> <p><u>Support:</u> WHO Country Office for India, through support from Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS 2015-2019)</p> <p><u>Period:</u> February-June, 2017</p> <p>The study aimed to be accomplished in two phases:</p> <p>Phase 2: Conduct an institutional assessment Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities of government institutions and organizations involved in road safety laws in India, both at the national, State and union territory level. 2. To identify the scope and limitations of States' and Union Territories' authority with regards to the adoption and implementation of road safety laws and regulations, within the context of national laws and regulations. <p>Phase 3: Conduct a legislative/regulatory assessment in (seven) select states and (three) union territories Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify state/union territory processes (both formal and informal) in adopting laws and regulation on road safety, specifically with regards to the implementation of the MVA amendment. 2. To conduct a comprehensive assessment of laws and regulation for the selected states and union territories leading to the development of recommendations for improvement. 	<p>The outcome of the study will help in developing recommendation for improvement for any gaps identified in the assessment in each of the selected States/Union territories, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specific legislative or regulatory text for improvement. b. The rationale for the recommendation.

2. HIGHLIGHTS/SPECIAL ENDEVOUR

Road Safety Week (RSW) in Rajasthan

To commemorate 28th RSW, CART organized six Nukkad Nataks at different location in Jaipur City on February 4-5, 2017, which was part of the Road Safety Week (January 30 to February 6, 2017) activities and supported by Dept. of Transport, GoR. Street plays performed was based on the script "*Farak Toh Padhta Hai Bhai*". Importance of road safety messages was delivered to the masses. Around two thousand people gathered during performing Nukkad Nataks. Spectators appreciated the efforts made by our team. Good Samaritan and Trauma Care guidelines of Supreme Court were part of the script of street plays and were shared with the audiences. DC & STS also attended the functions to formally launch the week held on January 30, 2017 and also the valedictory function held on February, 5, 2017.

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Dossier-Road_Safety.pdf

Submission Before Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC)

The report of the PSC on Transport, on the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016, was tabled in parliament on February 8, 2017. Almost all the suggestions in the submission made by CUTS before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on November 4, 2016 were incorporated in the report and CUTS name was mentioned in the report. CUTS was the only organization, which advocated for fixing accountability for flaws in road designs, resulting in frequent accidents. That point was also included in the final report of PSC. CUTS Bill Blow Up/submission was referred by the committee on several occasions.

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/pdf/CUTS-Memorandum_on_Motor_Vehicle_Amendment_Bill-2016.pdf

World Consumer Rights Day, 2017

World Consumer Rights Day, 2017 was commemorated on March 16, 2017 under the banner of GSK, Jaipur by way of organising an interface. This year's issue was 'Building a Digital World Consumers Can Trust'. The meeting was attended by Ms. Bhavna Sharma, Sr. Advisor, TRAI Regional Office of Jaipur. Other participants included reps from TSPs and CUTS' consumer protection team. Two Joint Advisors Manish Saxena and Manish Lodha were also present from TRAI. In all, there were around 25 participants.

(http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-World_Consumer_Rights_Day_March_16_2017.pdf)

Gram Gadar Awards for Journalism

Gram Gadar Award 2015 was given to Giriraj Sharma of Daily News of Jaipur during the occasion of Regional Advocacy Meeting under ROSA on March 30, 2017. The award was given by Shri B L Soni, ADG, Rajasthan Police for the best write up on '*Swatch Bharat Abhiyan*' for the year 2015 during Regional Advocacy Meeting under ROSA project at Jaipur. Similarly, for 2016, Chaitanya Kumar Meena of Dainik Bhaskar was conferred with the award for '*Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan*' by Prabhu Lal Meena, Minister for Agriculture of Govt. of Rajasthan on the occasion of the ProOrganic II launch held in Jaipur on June 22, 2017. This award is being given to rural based journalist for the best write ups during the period on a specific theme as decided by CUTS. The purpose is to promote the rural journalism.

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/List_of_Gram_Gadar_Award_Winners-English.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Gram_Gadar_July2017.pdf

Final Mayors' Conference at Jaipur

Final Mayors' Conference under Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform (RCLMP) project was organised on April 10, 2017 at Jaipur. Mayor of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur and Bikaner participated in the conference. Justice VS Dave was guest of honour and talked about the cities governance and need

to community participation. Ramavtar Raghuvanshi, Former Director, All India Institute of Local Self was also present in the meeting to share his experience from finance commission. Chairpersons of Banswara, Nagaur and Bundi also participated and shared best practices in their respective cities. (http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Report_of_Mayors_Conference_held_in_Jaipur2017.pdf)

Dissemination cum Advocacy workshop on “Journey of Public Procurement in Rajasthan

Dissemination cum Advocacy workshop on “Journey of Public Procurement in Rajasthan: Current Status, Recent initiatives and Challenges” under the ProOb II Project was organised on April 11, 2017 in Jaipur. In the workshop, 54 procuring officers took part. Some of the important persons of the meeting were Sandeep Verma, Principal Secretary, PHED; Ashutosh Vajpai, Joint Secretary (EAD-FCC), Finance Department; Smt. Savita, Joint Secretary, Rural Development. (http://www.procurementobservatoryraj.in/pdf/Final_Dissemination_cum_Advocacy_Workshop_On_Journey_of_Public_Procurement_in_Rajasthan.pdf)

Oral Presentation of CUTS before the Select Committee on MVA Bill, 2017 at Indian Parliament

CUTS got an opportunity to present its suggestions/recommendations to the select Committee on MVA Bill, 2017 on November 21, 2017 at Parliament Annex Building in New Delhi. GC and MSS took part in the oral submissions. Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman of the select committee introduced in brief about CUTS and its work on road safety. GC presented the submissions in detail in front of the select committee in which around 15-16 members were present, out of 22 committee members which shows high attendance of the members. (http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event-CUTS-Submission_of_Oral_Evidence_to_PSC.pdf)

National Human Rights Based Approach Follow Up Workshop

Under ProOrganic II, as part of incorporating Human Rights Based Approach into CUTS management and programmes, SSNC has initiated an assessment of CUTS in the year 2015. For the assessment, external consulting agencies were hired to conduct two back to back workshops in 2016. The purpose of the assessment was to map the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) employed by CUTS in its work to strengthen accountability, transparency, active and meaningful participation, non-discrimination and the issue of empowerment for all its beneficiaries of the project. The aim was not only to assess the extent of changes produced by the project but also to identify contextual factors, opportunities for cross-linkages and enabling factors that can strengthen the integration of a HRBA and Gender Equity approach in subsequent programmes. In continuation, CUTS as part of its ProOrganic II Project has proposed organised a Follow-up Workshop on December 8, 2017 at Jaipur for the project partners and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of ProOrganic II project in their respective areas. Centre for Dalit Rights, a Jaipur based NGO facilitated the one-day training to all the partners.

(Report not yet prepared, hence no link. Will provide later)

• Benchmarking Survey on Factors Influencing Remittance Costs

CUTS CART did a research study titled, “Benchmarking Survey on Factors Influencing Remittance Costs” in partnership with Consumers International with the support of World Bank. The purpose of the study was to contribute to the reduction in remittance pricing by highlighting potential causes of high cost in five specific corridors viz. Saudi Arabia-India/Australia-India/US- India/UK-India/Germany- India. (http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Report_%20Remittance_Study_CUTS_International.pdf)

3. EVENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayors' Conferences under RCMLP A Mayor's conference was organized in Jaipur on April 10, 2017. • Exposure visit to Hyderabad on February 15-17, 2017 under RCMLP Exposure visit to Hyderabad City was organised for Mayors and Deputy Mayor of Rajasthan on February 15-17, 2017. • State Level Advocacy Meeting under ProOrganic II The purpose of the State Level Advocacy cum Dissemination Meeting held on 23rd February, 2017 was to present, discuss and evaluate the activities conducted during the extended year of the project in terms of both output and outcome. • State of Consumer Safety in India Report (SCSIR) Published and Launched under ConsumersUp II Project The state of consumer safety report, 2016 was published on March 15, 2017 in the World Consumer Rights day (WCRD) event held in New Delhi organized by Dept. of Consumer Affairs. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad jointly released the report. • Advocacy and Awareness under ROSA National Advocacy Meeting on Road Safety was organised on February 2, 2017 at New Delhi. Similarly, Regional Advocacy meetings of ROAD Safety was organized on March 30, 2017 at Jaipur; at Ahmedabad on May 26, 2017; at Thiruvananthapuram on July 14, 2017 and at Kolkata on August 30, 2017 respectively with local partners as coordinators. As part of advocacy down the line, Divisional Level Meetings were conducted at Chittorgarh on May 9, 2017; at Dholpur on June 27, 2017 and at Kota on July 19, 2017 respectively. The details of all these can be viewed through the links provided on right side. • Awareness through Poster Competition 	<p>http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/pdf/Report_of_Mayors_Conference_held_in_Jaipur2017.pdf</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Report-Final_Exposure_Visit_of_Hyderabad.pdf</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic/pdf/Event_Report_State_Level_Advocacy_Meeting_ProOrganic_2016-17.pdf</p> <p>http://cuts-international.org/CART/ConsumersUp-2/pdf/Report-State_of_Consumer_Safety_in_India_2016.pdf</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/pdf/Report-National_Advocacy_Meeting_on_Road_Safety.pdf (NAM at Delhi on February 2, 2017)</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/rosa/pdf/Event_Report-Regional_Advocacy_Meeting_Jaipur_on_30th_March2017.pdf (RAM at Jaipur on March 30, 2017)</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event_Report-Regional_Advocacy_Meeting_26-05-17.pdf (RAM at Ahmedabad on May 26, 2017)</p> <p>http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event_Report_RAM_TVM_14July17.pdf (RAM at Thiruvananthapuram on July 14, 2017)</p>
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As a part of the activities under Road Safety Advocacy (RoSA) and to generate the awareness among the children, inter-school poster competition was organised on the Road Safety on July 31, 2017. The winners were awarded during the Media Interface held at Jaipur on September 12, 2017. Similar competition was held at Chittorgarh on November 28, 2017 with good participation of local schools.

- Media Interface under ROSA

To further the advocacy campaign and with the purpose of involving media, two back to back interfaces were organised at Jaipur on September 12 and at Delhi on September 26, 2017.

- Organic Fair in Jaipur on 28 January, 2017

The program was organized by CUTS at Rotary Club, Jaipur. There were in all 19 stalls (6 retailer's outlets and 13 farmer producers. There were also cultural activities like Folk Dances with songs, *kacchi ghodi*, bamboo man to entertain the participants, who also displayed messages of organic farming and organic products for a safe life. In the evening, there was a technical session. Five similar fairs were organised in Pratapgarh, Kota, Chittorgarh, Dausa and Udaipur.

- ProOrganic team made a visit to Sikkim from March 20-23, 2017. The main purpose was to understand how Sikkim becomes 100% organic state and what strategy they adopted for this. Also to get exposure of various working patterns adopted by farmers of Sikkim, whose efforts made

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event_Report_RAM_August30-2017.pdf

(RAM at Kolkata on August 30, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Report-Divisional_Level_Advocacy_Meeting.pdf

(DAM at Chittorgarh on May 19, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event_Report_DAM_Dholpur_27June17.pdf (DAM at Dholpur on June 27, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Event_Report_DAM_Kota_July19_2017.pdf

(DAM at Kota on July 19, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Activity_Report_on_Inter-school_Poster_Competition_31July17.pdf

(Poster Competition at Jaipur on July 31, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Report-Media_Interaction_RoS_Jpr-Sept12-2017.pdf

(Media Interface at Jaipur on September 12, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/RoSA/pdf/Media_Interactions_on_Road_Safety_Sep26_2017.pdf

(Media Interface at Delhi on September 26, 2017)

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic/pdf/Synthesis_Report_of_Activity_Organic_Fairs.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic/pdf/Report-Expsoure_Visit_to_Sikkim.pdf

Sikkim, the first Indian state to be 100 percent organic state.

- Financial Consumer protection Project takes Off

To formally kick start the project, an inception meeting was organised at Chittorgarh on August 17. It was attended by more than 120 participants from all the blocks of Chittorgarh and selected block of Bhilwara district. Similarly, project launch meeting at Bhilwara was organised on September 6, 2017. The details are available at links.

- Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund Scheme of RBI

In the extended pilot phase, two back to back programmes, one in urban Dausa and second being rural Jaipur were organised. RBI extended the programme for the second phase, which got off wef November, 2017 for a period of one year. In November and December, 2017, total six programmes were conducted

- Project Launch_ProOrganic II

The formal launch meeting of the project ProOrganic II was organized on 22 June, 2017 at Jaipur. Prabhu Lal Saini (Minister, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry); Rao Rajendra Singh (Deputy Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and Vikas Sitaram Bhale, Commissioner Agriculture were the guests of the event.

- Green Action Week, 2017-Jaipur

It is an annual civil society campaign for sustainable consumption being organised in 29 countries with involvement of 53 CSOs initiated by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). CUTS has succeeded in developing 100 kitchen gardens in Jaipur city. With the rationale of influencing consumer behaviour in favour of organic food, various activities in the form of 10 workshops with school children, 10 cottage meetings with women groups, 15 street plays along with signature campaign were held in various parts of Jaipur during July-September 2017. The theme for this year was Safer, more Sustainable Food for All..

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/FCP/pdf/Project_Inception_Meeting-Chittorgarh.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/FCP/pdf/Project_Inception_Meeting-Bhilwara.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/pdf/Event_Report-DEA_Programme_Pilot_Project-2017.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/ProOrganic-II/pdf/ProOrganic-II_Project_Launch_Event_Report_22june2017.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_2017-Organic_Food_and_Farming_for_All.htm

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Action Week, 2017-India <p>The GAW activities got extended in 12 states of India namely UP, Kerala, Assam, Uttarakhand, Orissa, MP, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. Each partner organization organised various activities in their respective state like rallies, workshops, meetings, competitions etc. for promoting organic consumption in the state. At the end, to share the learning among all GAW partners, a partner's meet was organised at Jaipur on November 20, 2017. Meeting was helpful in getting the insights of activities and to learn various innovative approaches adopted by partners. This evaluation exercise is supportive for next year campaign.</p>	<p>http://www.cuts-international.org/CART/Green_Action_Week_Fund-India.htm</p>
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4. PUBLICATIONS/OUTREACH

- Catalyst (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter*) _Third will be out in January 2018
- Gram Gadar (*Twelve issues of wall newspaper*)
- Paanchva Stambh (*three issues of quarterly newsletter in Hindi*) _ Third will be out in January 2018
- City Matters (*three issues of quarterly newsletter*) _ Third will be out in January 2018
- Consumer Dialogue (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter in English*) _ Third will be out in January 2018.
- GSK Alert (*twelve issues of e-newsletter*) _Twelfth will be out in January 2018.
- IEC material published and printed under ProOrganic and Green Action Week
- IEC material published under ROSA.
- Road Safety Dossier was revised and uploaded.
- A Position Paper on 'Seat Belt and Penalties under the MV Act and MVA Bill, 2017' was prepared under the ROSA project.

5. STAFF REPRESENTATION

- DC and STS participated in a half-day long Consultation on Government Financing of School Education in India organised by Prayatn Sanstha in association with Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability (CBGA) and Child Rights and You (CRY) on January 12, 2017 at Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur.
- DC and STS participated in a half-day long Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Converging Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (with marginalized community), organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) on January 30, 2017 at Jaipur.
- MSS represented CUTS in the 4th South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference held in Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka, from February 20 to 23, 2017.
- GC & STS attended a day long training programme on *Train the Trainer* Depositor Education and Awareness programme organised by RBI at College of Agriculture Banking (CAB) Pune on February 27, 2017.
- PSM, GC, MSS & Rahul Singh attended the World Consumer Rights Day event on March 15, 2017 in which State of Consumer Safety Report 2016 was also launched by Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, CR Chaudhary, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, Ravi Shankar Prasad, IT minister, Govt. of India.

- George Cheriyan, Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Rohit Singh met Mr R S Sharma, Chairman, TRAI at Trai Jaipur office on March 29, 2017, which was a curtesy meeting with all the CAGs of Rajasthan during Mr Sharma's visit to Jaipur.
- GC, MSS & JAG attended the workshop for GRSP partners in New Delhi, which was held at New Delhi on April 12-13, 2017. The workshop was conducted to talk about the success of the first phase of the project as the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2016 is passed in Lok Sabha.
- GC visited Washington DC from April 17-21, 2017 mainly to attend a workshop on ***'Digital Financial Services and Financial Inclusion'*** held on April 19, 2017, as a panelist, organized by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. GC also attended various meetings part of the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) in connection with World Bank/IMF spring meetings.
- DS participated in the 31st meeting of CCPC on April 17, 2017 held at New Delhi organised by Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs of Govt. of India.
- ADS represented CUTS in a consultation workshop organised by Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) and HCM RIPA on April 21, 2017.
- ADS along with STS represented CUTS in UN Road Safety Week at SMS Medical College, Jaipur on May 8, 2017.
- DC & JAG attended the outreach programme organised by TRAI Regional Office, Jaipur on May 17, 2017 at Tonk.
- GC attended meeting of the Think Tank Group set by SSNC on Sustainable Consumption and the International Conference on Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy, June 26-30, 2017 at Bristol, UK.
- ADS, DC & JAG attended a round table meeting at Secretariat organised by Dept. of Consumer Affairs, GoR on June 14, 2017 to discuss various local/state level consumer issues.
- ACH along with JAG attended the APP and portal launch event at the TRAI office, Jhalana Dungri, Jaipur on June 5, 2017.
- JAG attended the open house discussion conducted by BSNL at the BSNL Jhotwara office on July 21, 2017. The meeting was organized to take the complaints and suggestions from the customers.
- STS & ACH participated in a half-day long Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Converging Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (With Marginalized Community), organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) on July 13, 2017 at Jaipur.
- MSS represented CUTS and participated in the second Global Road Safety Leadership Course, held at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Campus at Baltimore in Maryland, USA, facilitated by Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP). The timeline of the course was from July 30, 2017 to August 11, 2017.
- GC and JAG attended GRSP Asia Grantee Workshop on August 20-21 in Manila, Philippines along with the organisations working in Asian Countries (India, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Philippines). GC also participated in The Asia Pacific Road Safety 2017 on August 22-23, 2017 at Manila. Both the back to back events were organised by Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) and International Road Assessment Programme (IRAP).
- DS attended an International Workshop on August 23, 2017 on Consumer Protection' organized jointly by IIM Kashipur and 'Shaping Tomorrow' with the support of Department of Consumer Affairs of Govt. of India.
- DS, DC, STS and ACH attended the "Train the Trainer" workshop conducted by Google in association with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government on "Consumer Go Safely Digital "on August 28, 2017 at Jaipur.
- RDP attended meeting on Consultation on Science, Technology and Innovations in Agriculture on September 1, 2017 at Jaipur organised by State Agriculture Department.

- RDP attended the meeting organized by Vaghdhara organization, Banswara at Jaipur on 'Inclusive, Secure and Sustainable Agriculture in Rajasthan' on 3-4, September 2017.
- ACH attended a half day long consultation meeting organised by Copenhagen Consensus Centre (CCC) in partnership with Tata Trusts, collaborating with CECOEDCON at Jaipur on September 20, 2017.
- ADS & ACH attended the roundtable organised by CUTS International in association with the U.S. Embassy on September 12, 2017 at the CART Conference Hall
- GC, DS, MSS & ACH from CART attended the half day long workshop conducted by Kyle in CART Conference Hall on October 6, 2017, who presented some of the important aspects of project monitoring, which can be useful for CUTS to institutionalize monitoring in its project.
- JAG, DS and DC attended the meeting organised by Bureau of Standards to observe World Standards Day 2017 at Jaipur on October 16, 2017.
- GC attended the meeting of fourth Global Partners Forum **of the** Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) at The World Bank, Washington DC on October 29-November 1, 2017, which takes place annually at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, and has become the pre-eminent global summit on social accountability for development.
- MSS along with DS, JAG, NGA, ACH, AKT participated in the event of World Day of Remembrance for Road Accident Victims event jointly organised by CUTS and Rajasthan Police headquarters and Traffic Police in November 19, 2017 at Jaipur.
- DS & STS attended a one and half day long High-Level Global Symposium on 'Implementing Effective Financial Literacy Policies in a Changing Financial Landscape' on November 8-9, 2017 at New Delhi.
- ADS attended a national workshop on CSOs capacity building by VANI at New Delhi on November 16, 2017.
- ACH attended the first edition of Smart Mobility Conference organised by FICCI on 20 November 2017 at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi.
- JAG attended the Consultation on Poverty Issues organised jointly by Tata Trust, India Consensus and ARAVALI on November 20, 2017 at Jaipur.
- ACH attended the seminar on November 24, 2017 organised by the AIMA with aim to inform MSMEs about financial assistance to gain ZED certification and to invite them to sign up for the ZED certification scheme that has been initiated by the Quality Council of India in 2016.
- GAM attended a Customer Outreach Programmes, which was organised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Regional Office, Jaipur at Kankroli, Rajsamand on November 23, 2017.
- DC attended Customer Outreach Programmes, which was organised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Regional Office, Jaipur at Hanumangarh Town on November 30, 2017.
- DS/RDP attended two-day workshop on December 5-6, 2017 on 'Organic Farming and Animal Husbandry' for 100 selected farmers of ProOrganic target area at Bikaner in collaboration with RAJUVAS (Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Science, Bikaner).
- MSS and KDS attended M L Mehta memorial oration on December 8, 2017 at Jaipur.
- GC attended a meeting on 'Investing in Collective Sustainability of the Voluntary Sector' organized by VANI in New Delhi on December 14, 2017.
- JAG attended a Workshop on 'Go Digital' on December 23, 2017 at PHD House, Jaipur organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- RDP attended 'Prakritik Khadyan Mela' organised by Jamna Lal Kani Ram Bajaj Trust in Sikar on December 29, 2017.
- GC/MSS attended a workshop 'Injury Surveillance and Road Safety Legislation in India' held in Delhi organised by WHO on December 20, 2017.
- DC, JAG, KDS and Parth, intern attended National Consumer Day event on December 22, 2017 organised by Department of Consumer Affairs of Govt. of Rajasthan.

- MSS participated in a discussion on December 30, 2017 on 'Standardizing the Bid Documents and Making the Procurement Process More Transparent and Accountable', organised by the Finance Department of Govt. of Rajasthan at Jaipur.

6. VISITS

- Visit of Study Abroad Group from University of Florida, USA on July 24, 2017

A group of 15 students (all girls) +1 Professor visited CUTS as part of the study abroad group on 'NGOs & Development'. GC made a presentation on the topic "NGOs and Development" in Indian Context highlighting the history and work done by CUTS and the explaining the TWO INDIAS and the role of civil society for development of the nation.

- GRSP Team Visit to CUTS_6-7 July, 2017

Taifur Rahman, Lilia Gheorghiu and Nalin Sinha visited CUTS to review the progress of phase I of RoSA and to discuss and finalise the proposal in the Round 11. The National and Regional Advocacy Meetings organized by CUTS and the one to one meetings with the MPs. The financial review of the RoSA project was also done by Lilia on Day II and expressed satisfaction. GC, MSS and JAG were with the team for two days. On first day DS, ADS, DC, STS and ACH also were introduced to the team.

- Poonam Pandey, Advisor, Global Project, Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB), Deutsche esellschaft fürInternationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH visited CUTS office on October 25, 2017 and discussed with CART about the possibility of working jointly on biodiversity issues.

7. INTERNSHIP AT CART

- Shebin Saji from Manipal University, Jaipur from June 01-June 30, 2017
- Parth Sharma from Symbiosis Law School, Pune from November 27 to December 30, 2017

8. CART AT SOCIAL NETWORK

CART is managing four FB pages, one each for MyCity, Insight into Indian States (I3S), ProOb & CoPSA (Community of Practice on Social Accountability), GSK and three dedicated web portals for (ProOb), COPSA and I3S.

CART has Twitter account with link: <https://twitter.com/CUTSCART>

Besides, CART is also responsible for moderating two google groups:

CUTSConsumersUp: for Consumer Empowerment in India to take the issues of consumer protection forward.

CUTSGovForum: to discuss news and views on Governance issues and challenges in India.

9. CART IN ELECTRONIC and PRINT MEDIA

- JAG and DC appeared on Patrika TV for a discussion/talk on Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in light of E-Commerce on April 18, 2017. Current status and future of the consumer was also discussed. Clipping are available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5dYEI7Ilf4&feature=em-comments>
- ADS represented and took part in a Television interview by Patrika TV on July 4, 2017. Interview was based on the topic Urban Governance and Service Delivery by Municipalities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxsJu5CX28o>
- DS & RDP attended a talk at Patrika TV on July 25, 2017 on Prospects of Organic Farming. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wRVCEeChc3E&feature=youtu.be>
http://youtu.be/AxTNB2p_Jmw
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=x2Dd9-EZdDY&feature=youtu.be>

- GC and JAG have written an article on ‘Consumer Protection Bill 2015: Fails to define E-commerce and the liability of e-platforms’ posted in News Mobile, August 11, 2017
[http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/article-Fails to define E-commerce and the liability of e-platforms.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/article-Fails_to_define_E-commerce_and_the_liability_of_e-platforms.htm)

10. AFFILIATIONS

- Central Consumer Protection Council, Government of India.
- Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control, India.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as Customer Advocacy Group.
- Bureau of Indian Standards as recognised consumer organisation.
- Global Partner of Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA)
- Member of Roster of Experts and Roster of Practitioners of GPSA
- Member of Global Think Tank of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- Consumer Policy Advocacy Committee of BIS
- Reserve Bank of India as affiliated NGO.