

CUTS Annual Report-2021

Inputs from CUTS CART

1. PROJECT and IMPACT

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| <p>1. Project: Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II) and Bridge Year Period: April, 2017-March, 2021 and April-December, 2021 (<i>Bridge Year</i>) Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)</p> | <p>Objective: To fill the identified gaps and sustain the acquired momentum to achieve expected outcomes of better ecosystem through promotion of organic consumption by way of developing a culture of sustainable development through sensitization, awareness generation and education on organic consumption and production. Similarly, in the bridge year, there were same set of activities within the newly defined areas.</p> <p>Impact: The project has helped in developing a culture of sustainable development through sensitisation awareness generation, and education on organic consumption and production. It has also been successful in generating awareness among consumers about organic products like benefits, availability etc. and building capacity of farmers to adopt organic farming. More than 250 farmers have shifted from chemical to conventional farming.</p> |
| <p>1.1 Green Action Week-Rajasthan Campaign, 2021 Period: September, 2020-November, 2021 Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)</p> | <p>Theme: 'Sharing Community' Objective: Campaign focuses on encouraging cultures of sharing and collaboration by discussing and implementing ways that can bring more equal and sustainable access to goods and services for the benefit of the people and the planet, through sharing and collaboration.</p> <p>Impact: The campaign of short duration has been able to generate a feeling of community sharing and the new approach of 'Best Out of Waste' has been a successful in terms of creating interest among community leaders.</p> |
| <p>2. Project: Global Green Action Week, India Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) Period: June, 2021-December, 2021</p> | <p>Theme: 'Sharing Community' Objective: To strengthen the role of CSOs for raising awareness on environmental issues and contribute to sustainable patterns of consumption amongst consumers, policy makers and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Impact: Campaign at various states increased the awareness about sustainable consumption among common consumers of targeted places. It also contributed to enhance demand of organic food, which is more environmentally friendly and has health benefits for consumers.</p> |

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| <p>3. Project: Advocacy for Scientific and Consumer Friendly FoPL for HFSS in All Foods in India.</p> <p>Support: Global Health Action Initiative (GHAI) and CTFK</p> <p>Period: June, 2021-May, 2022</p> | <p>Objective: To advocate for scientific and consumer friendly FoPLs in all packaged foods with food manufacturers/industry associations for soliciting support for the best practices for FoPL publicly.</p> <p>Impact: Government officials have been sensitised about the seriousness of the FoPLs from consumers' perspective.</p> |
| <p>4. Project: (ROSA III)</p> <p>Support: Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)</p> <p>Period: March, 2021-March, 2022</p> | <p>Objective: To support Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Govt. of India, State Governments and other concerned agencies for effective rulemaking to ensure smooth implementation of MVAA, 2019.</p> <p>Impact: Effective Motor Vehicle Act is in place. Effective rules are in place with increased effective enforcement of laws.</p> |
| <p>5. Project: Sustainable Consumption and Production in India (SDG 12)-A Consumer Perspective-State Level Dissemination and Consultation Meetings</p> <p>Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)</p> <p>Period: April, 2021-December, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: To disseminate the study on the understanding of concept of SCP beyond the SDG 12 and its current environment dimension from a consumer perspective at the state level, which will provide a platform for effective advocacy</p> <p>Impact: SCP will receive its due attention and importance amongst other SDGs through continuous advocacy efforts, especially after the National & State Consultations.</p> |
| <p>6. Project: Awareness Campaign for Inculcating Hygiene and Safe Food Practice</p> <p>Support: Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL)</p> <p>Period: June, 2021-September, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: To run a campaign on awareness for inculcating hygiene and safe food practices among stakeholders and target audience.</p> <p>Impact: The project activities have contributed in increasing awareness on the focussed issues.</p> |
| <p>7. Project: Capacity Building Programme on Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)</p> <p>Support: SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation)</p> <p>Period: April, 2020-February, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: To conduct capacity building programme on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) for CUTS team and other selected CSOs. It is mainly focusing on conducting capacity building programme PME for CUTS team and other selected CSOs with follow up activities.</p> <p>Impact: Enhanced capacity of selected CSOs on PME has created an impact and effect on project outcomes.</p> |
| <p>8. Project: Mayors Conference under Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform (RCMLP)</p> <p>Support: The Asia Foundation (TAF)</p> <p>Period: March, 2021-December, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: To create a platform on sharing and learning based approaches to enhance the knowledge of Mayors of various cities of Rajasthan, which will ensure enhanced coordination between urban bodies, better policies and practices and improved quality of urban services.</p> <p>Impact: Enhanced coordination between urban bodies, better policies and practices and improved quality of urban services is visible.</p> |

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| <p>9. Project: Administering Road Safety Advocacy Programmes in Rajasthan. Support: MoRTH, Govt. of India Period: February, 2021-November, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: Will ensure an increased awareness on Good Samaritan Guidelines among Stakeholders of Road Safety. Impact: Have been able to increase the awareness on Good Samaritan Guidelines.</p> |
| <p>10. Project: Rajasthan Public Procurement Assessment Support: Department of Finance and Strengthening Public Financial Management Project, Govt. of Rajasthan. Period: March, 2021-September, 2021</p> | <p>Objective: Aims to seek perception of stakeholders about changes in the RTPP Act and rules, which will improve the level of transparency, fairness and efficiency in public procurement in Rajasthan that will also strengthen the RTPP Act and SPPP in Rajasthan. Impact: The overall public perception is improved about public procurement in Rajasthan, which has strengthened to the RTPP Act and Rules and SPPP in Rajasthan.</p> |

2. HIGHLIGHTS/SPECIAL ENDEVOUR/EVENTS

2.1 Road Safety Advocacy ()

Kerala Specific Webinar on Road Safety on January 12, 2021

The road safety intervention collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 'Ensuring Renewed Focus of Government of Kerala on Road Safety in 2021: Opportunities and Challenges'. In the webinar highly rich discussion happened on proposed innovative initiatives in legislative changes, systemic changes, implementation of the laws effectively, several e governance initiatives, trauma care, engineering changes, road safety action plan and schemes and programs and others. K.R. Jyotilal, Principal Secretary, Transport, Kerala; Sibbu Kitty, Joint Transport Commissioner; T Elangovan, Former Executive Director, Kerala Road Safety Authority and Smt. B.G. Sreedevi, Former Director, NATPAC were the eminent speakers.

District Level Workshop in Bhilwara, Rajasthan on January 18, 2021

In collaboration with CUTS CHD, organised a district level road safety workshop in Bhilwara on January 18, 2021 on the occasion of start of the National Road Safety Month from January 18, 2021 to February 17, 2021. The workshop was an official part of the road safety calendar of the district road safety events of the month. In the workshop, district transport official & representatives, police officials, medical officials NGO representatives and around 60 participants took part in the workshop.

Karnataka Specific Webinar on Road Safety on March 3, 2021

In collaboration with Institute of Public Health (IPH), Bengaluru organized a half day webinar on 'Ensuring Renewed Focus of Government of Karnataka on Road Safety in 2021: Opportunities and Challenges' on March 3, 2021. Bhaskar Rao, I.P.S., ADGP- Police, Railways, Government of Karnataka; J. Gnanendra Kumar, Director, Road Safety Authority, Govt. of Karnataka; M. Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police -Traffic East Division, Government of Karnataka and Dr. G. Gururaj, Director, NIMHANS, Bengaluru talked in detail about accident and trauma care related aspects of Road Safety in Karnataka.

Ensuring Road Safety on the Streets through Speed Management: Webinar on May 20, 2021

UN Global Road Safety Week is celebrated every two years. The theme of this year's week is 'Streets for Life', which is based on the Stockholm Declaration of 2020, advocating for 30 km/h speed, where people and vehicles mix. Nalin Sinha, Country Representative, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), India; Bhargab Maitra, Professor, Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur; Gaurav Hariom Gupta, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India; T Elangovan, Executive Director, Kerala Road Safety Authority, Government of Kerala and Virendra Rathore, District Transport Officer Bhilwara, Rajasthan were the speakers.

Consultation on 2 Years of MVA Act, 2019: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward on September 7, 2021 at Jaipur, Rajasthan

On the occasion of completion of two years of Motor Vehicle Act, 2019, CART successfully organised a state level consultation on September 7, 2021. In the event, Hon'ble Shri Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, Transport Minister, Govt. of Rajasthan; Mahendra Soni, Transport Commissioner, Govt. of Rajasthan; Sushmit Biswas, ADG, Traffic, Rajasthan Police; Dr. Girdhar Goyal, Trauma Care Specialist, SMS Trauma Hospital, Jaipur and Ms. Nidhi Singh, Joint Transport Commissioner were the key speakers in the presence of around 40 NGO representatives.

Consultation on 2 years of MVA Act, 2019: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward on September 23, 2021 at Bengaluru, Karnataka

In continuation to Jaipur, CART in collaboration with Public Affairs Foundation (PAF), Bengaluru organized a consultation on September 23, 2021 at Bengaluru. N Shivakar, IPS, Transport Commissioner, Govt. of Karnataka; Dr. BR Ravikanthe Gowda, IPS, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic); R.P. Kulkarni, Chief Project Officer, PWD State Highways Karnataka; Dr. Gururaj, Former Director and Dean, NIMHAN Neuron Sciences, Bengaluru; Ravi Gadepalli, Consultant, World Bank; Srinivas Alavilli, Head Civic Jannagraha were the speakers on the occasion.

Consultation on 2 years of MVA Act, 2019: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward on November 18, 2021 at Mysuru, Karnataka

Similarly, another consultation with the enforcement officials was conducted in Mysuru on November 18, 2021 in collaboration with PAF. In the consultation Ajay Singh, former DGP, Karnataka and Joint Transport Commissioner, Mysuru was the main speaker along with Prof. Dr. Ashish Verma and Bharat Kumar from IIT Bombay. Dr. Annapoorna from PAF was also present.

Consultation on 2 years of MVA Act, 2019: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward on November 30, 2021 at Dholpur, Rajasthan

One more divisional level consultation was organised in Dholpur on November 30, 2021 in collaboration with local district partner 'Samajik Vikas Samiti'. In the consultation, representatives from DTO office, Traffic Police, NHAI, Block Pradhan and UTI Chairman were the main dignitaries on the dais.

Consultation on Generating Demand for Effective Implementation of MV Act, 2019 on December 15, 2021 at Mangaluru, Karnataka

A divisional level consultation was conducted in Mangaluru on December 15, 2021 in collaboration with PAF. Collector Dr K V Rajendra, IAS; Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner Akshay Sridhar, IAS; George Cheriyan, Director and PAF Executive Director Dr. Annapoorna Ravichandar spoke on the occasion.

2.2 Administering Road Safety Programmes in Rajasthan 'Focusing Rights and Responsibilities of Good Samaritan under M V Act, 2019'

With the support of MoRTH, Govt. of India, New Delhi, the first workshop on 'Issues on Good Samaritan Guidelines' was held in Ajmer on July 22, 2021. Indrajeet Singh, Joint Director, Medical and Health Department of Rajasthan was the chief guest. Besides, Arjun Singh Rathore, RTO, Ajmer; Virendra Singh, DTO, Bhilwara; Parth Sharma, S P Traffic, Ajmer and Shaitan Singh Rathore, a resident doctor in Trauma Care, JLN Hospital were the key speakers on the subject before an attendance of around 33 participants. Event was locally coordinated by Ajmer Jila Grameen Upbhokta Sansthan, Masuda, Ajmer.

The second such workshop was held in Kota on July 28, 2021. 43 people comprising NGOs, traffic police and medical and health attended. Rajendra Singh Kavia, DSP, Traffic; Dr Kulwant Gaur, Coordinator 108 Ambulance Service and Bhuvnesh Kumar, a lawyer was there as speakers. Oxford Shikshan Prashikshan Sansthan, Kota coordinated the event locally.

The third workshop in series was held in Udaipur on August 26, 2021. Dr Amanendra Sharma, HoD of Trauma ward of Maharana Bhopal Hospital; Bhaiya Lal, Deputy S P, Traffic; Prakash Singh Rathore, RTO and Narayan Choudhary, CEO of Aadhar Foundation were the key speakers. Ranveer Mehta, Coordinator, Red Cross Society, Udaipur also spoke during the event.

Fixing of Posters on Good Samaritans

The posters on Good Samaritan Guidelines and the Rights of Good Samaritans have been fixed in all the selected hospitals and dispensaries of the four districts Ajmer, Kota, Udaipur and Jaipur. In Jaipur, poster fixing in all the ten hospitals plus additional two more, thus completing and covering all the directions of Jaipur i.e., Kanota at Agra Road, Phulera at Jobner road, Chomu at Bikaner Road, Sanganer at Tonk road, Shahpura and Manoharpur on Delhi Road and rest all in Jaipur city including SMS, Jaipuria and Kanwatia.

State Level Workshop in Jaipur on 'Focusing Rights and Responsibilities of Good Samaritan under M V Act, 2019' on November 11, 2021 at Jaipur

The last activity under the project 'State Level Workshop on Good Samaritan' was organized on November 11, 2021 at Jaipur. The Chief Guest in the program was Biju George Joseph, ADG, Rajasthan Police, Department of Vigilance. Other guest speakers in the programme were Mahendra Soni, Transport Commissioner; Nidhi Singh, Joint Commissioner, Transport; Dr. Narottam Sharma, CMHO-I, Jaipur and George Cheriyan in the inaugural session. Dr. Giridhar Goyal, Trauma Care Expert in SMS Hospital, Jaipur; Dr. L N Pandey, State Nodal Officer, Road Safety in the Transport Department and Nidhi Singh were present in the technical session. The event witnessed a presence of 60 participants including reps. of many organisations working on road safety; District Transport Officer; Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) and Traffic Inspector, Road Safety.

2.3 Commemoration of World Day of Remembrance on November 21, 2021 at Jaipur

Madhu Sudan Sharma, Deepak Saxena, Amit Babu and Pratibha Jain CUTS CART commemorated the World Day of Remembrance of Road Accident Victims at the Central Park, Jaipur on November 21, 2021. A team of street players actively displayed a show on the theme of the day, which was 'safe speed in the streets'. Placards were also displayed on the occasion. A walkathon was organized with nearly 50 people being part of it directly. On the day, team reached out to officials at Transport, Traffic and Police department to take some pictures with relevant messages of WDoR and posted on social media pages of the project. Satyapal Singh participated in the Twitter Chat held on November 18, 2021 on the occasion of World Day of Remembrance organized by GHAI.

2.4 Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption & Lifestyle in the State of Rajasthan with a Special Focus on Organic Consumption and Production (ProOrganic II, 2020-21 and Bridge Year, 2021)

State Level Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting on March 15, 2021 (ProOrganic, 2020-21)

Under the SSNC supported ProOrganic, 2017-21 intervention, the last of the five year's project period's Annual State Level Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting was organised at Jaipur, which was clubbed with the observation of World Consumer Rights Day of 2021. During the inaugural session, George Cheriyan delivered the opening address on the theme of WCRD i.e. 'Tackling Plastic Pollution'. Dr. A. S. Baloda, Director, Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute; Dr. Shailendra Chauhan, AGM, NABARD; Jagdish Pareek, Padma Shree Awardee Organic Farmer and Dr. Deepika Saini, Quality Manager, Rajasthan Organic Certification Agency were the key speakers in the panel. A small exhibition of organic products from project districts was also showcased during the meeting.

Stakeholder's Consultation of Green Action Week, Rajasthan, 2021 on November 30, 2021

Green Action Week Stakeholders Consultation marking the conclusion of the campaign held in Jaipur on the theme 'Sharing Community' on November 30, 2021. Smt. Rama Chopra (Zila Pramukh, Jaipur) and Smt. Munesh Gurjar (Mayor, Jaipur) were the Chief Guests. Dr. V. K. Singhal (Chief Environment Engineer, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board) and Dr. Soumana Datta (Retd. Professor, Botany, Rajasthan University) spoke in the technical session. On the occasion, the best woman kitchen gardeners during the campaign were awarded with a token of appreciation and memento. In the meeting, more than 55 participants attended.

State Level Organic Fair on December 19, 2021 at Jaipur

The 'State Level Organic Fair' was organised at Pareek College, Bani Park on December 19, 2021. The ribbon was cut by Surendra Singh Awana, a progressive farmer to mark the formal inauguration of the fair. Approximately 25 stalls were set up by farmers of ten targeted districts under the project along with couple of local organic outlets. The stalls showcased various organic vegetables, starting from fruits to grains and to other eatable items both in the packed and loose form. The other highlight of the fair was a couple of more stalls of partners and community women leaders of GAW, Rajasthan, who had showcased their 'Best Out of Waste' products. There was a footfall of around 250 consumers, who not only looked curious in purchasing various organic products but also enjoyed some cultural activities by local artists, who were also part of the fair. Media too highlighted the success of the fair.

State Level Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting on December 20, 2021 (ProOrganic Bridge Year)

The bridge year, 2021 got concluded with the State Level Stakeholder's Consultation on December 20, 2021 at Jaipur. As usual, the objective of this annual stakeholder's consultation was to apprise the stakeholders about the activities accomplished during the year and discuss future course of action. Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Rajasthan State Seed & Organic Certification Agency, Jaipur; Dr. A S Baloda, Director of the Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute and Dr. Om Prakash, ex-Director of Jaipur Doordarshan were the key speakers in the consultation besides George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS. In the consultation, more than 50 participants comprising farmers, consumers and media from ten targeted districts of Rajasthan took part.

2.5 Partner's Meeting under Global Green Action Week, India on December 10, 2021

To evaluate the activities conducted by partners and to share experiences, a Partners' Meeting was organized at Jaipur, on December 10, 2021 under GAW India. All partners attended the meetings and shared their experiences. All 12 partners presented their activities through ppt followed by open discussion for its impact, effectiveness and outreach. On the occasion, **Human Rights Day** was also observed during the meeting as "Light for Defenders" manifestation.

2.6 Sustainable Consumption and Production in India (SDG 12)-A Consumer Perspective

A National Consultation on March 18, 2021 at New Delhi

A national level consultation on SDG12 for the purpose to disseminate the key findings of the research work done under the SDG-12 project was organised at New Delhi on March 18, 2021. Dr. Rene Van Berkel, UNIDO representative of the regional office in India was the chief guest of the. Archana Datta, SWITCH-Asia RPAC Coordinator for India UNEP delivered key note address whereas Dr. Joy Elamon, DG, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Kerala; S. Saroja, Director, CAG, Chennai and Shailly Kedia, Fellow, TERI also spoke in the inaugural session. In the technical session 'SCP: where India stands', Simi TB presented key findings of the study at national level. Panelist made comments on the study and shared their views on the subject. Panelist were Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Policy Advisor, GIZ India; Shailly Kedia, Fellow, TERI; Dr. Neetu Goradiya, Joint Director, State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh; Ashim Sanyal, COO, Consumer Voice, New Delhi. Session was chaired by Dr. Joy Elamon and George Cheriyan jointly. State level finding were presented by Amit Babu in the session 'SCP: Learning from the States' and panelist were Desh Raj, Research officer, Planning Department, Himachal Pradesh; Sreekumar Bhaskarn, Joint Director, CPMU, Govt. of Kerala; Purushottam Biyani, ex-Secretary, Dept. of LSG, Govt. of Rajasthan and Sanjay Sharma, Anmol Foundation, Chhattisgarh. Session was chaired by S. Saroja and Amar Deep Singh jointly. Consultation was attended by 33 participants from eight states.

State Level Dissemination Consultation on SDG-12 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on July 29, 2021

First State Level Consultation on SDG12 was organised in collaboration with Consumer Guild at Lucknow, UP on July 29, 2021. Anand Mishra, Director, Dept of Planning; Dr. SK Chauhan, Director, Dept. of Food Processing and A K Gupta, Add. Director, Regional Centre for Urban & Environment Studies, MoHUA were the main speakers in the inaugural session. In technical session, Dr. Bhanu, Secretary, PGVS; Dr. Bharat Raj Singh, Director General, School of Management Science; Mohit Singh, Officer, BIS; K D Singh, Secretary General, Society for Retired Forest Officers; Jitendra Singh, Project Officer, CEE and Dr. Manjul Mishra, Asst. Director, Department of Environment were the panelist.

State Level Dissemination Consultation on SDG-12 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on August 18, 2021

Second State Level Consultation on SDG12 organised CUTS in collaboration with Department of Planning, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and Plan Foundation at Shimla on August 18, 2021. While, Akshay Sood, Secretary, Department of Finance was the chief guest, Dr. Basu Sood, Advisor Planning spoke as a special guest. 15 departments including Environment, Urban Development, Tourism, Forest, Education, Medical and others shared their department specific

State Level Consultation on SDG-12 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on September 30, 2021

Third State Level Stakeholder Consultation on SDG12 organised in collaboration with State Planning Commission (SPC), Chhattisgarh and Anmol Foundation at Raipur on September 30, 2021. Ajay Singh, Vice Chairman, SPC was the chief guest of programme and delivered inaugural address. Dr. K. Subramanian, Member and Anup Kumar Srivastava, Member Secretary from SPC spoke as special guest. 12 departments including Environment, Urban Development, Industries, Tourism, Forest, Education, Medical and others shared their department specific progress and programmes related to the SDG12 in the panel discussion. Around 40 participants including government departments, organisations working on sustainable consumption and consumer protection from Chhattisgarh attended consultation.

State Level Consultation on SDG-12 at Jaipur, Rajasthan on October 27, 2021

Fourth State Level Stakeholder Consultation on SDG12 was organised by CUTS in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Government of India on October 27, 2021 at Jaipur. Sundar Narayan Mishra, Senior Consultant SDGs, NITI Aayog attended programme as a keynote speaker. Anand Mohan (IFS), Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Govt. of Rajasthan was the special guest. Dr. DK Gupta, Professor, SKN Agriculture University; Hitballabh Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Rural Development; Dr. Punita Singh, Joint Director, Dept. of Tourism and Shafaqat Hussain, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF talked about SDG12 and its progress in the context of Rajasthan in the panel discussion.

State Level Consultation on SDG-12 at Thiruvananthapuram, Chhattisgarh on November 16, 2021

Fifth and the final State Level Stakeholder Consultation on SDG12 was organised in collaboration with Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), at Thiruvananthapuram on November 16, 2021. Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General, KILA welcomed the participants. In the technical session, Josephine J, Chief, Decentralised Planning Division, KSPB; S S Nagesh, Chief, Agriculture Division, KSPB and Sreekumar B, Director (i/c), PIEM Department were the speakers, who shared their thought on the SDG12. Around 30 participants including government departments, CSOs working on sustainable consumption Kerala attended consultation.

2.7 Advocacy for Scientific and Consumer Friendly FoPL for HFSS in All Foods in India

Webinar on 'FOPL: Why Health Star Rating Label is not Suitable in India' on September 14, 2021

FoPL team successfully organised the virtual webinar on September 14, 2021. The webinar was attended by around 60 delegates from across the country and abroad, including health experts, representatives from national and international organisations, industry representatives, various state Food Safety Commissionerate, AIIMS, Indian Medical Association, academic and research Institutions from more than 14 states. George Cheriyan made the opening address detailing the history of FoPL advocacy in India and the challenges in moving forward. Dr. Alexandra Jones, Research Fellow, Food Policy and Law, The George Institute for Global Health, Australia; Dr. Pankaj Bhardwaj, Vice Dean (Research), AIIMS Jodhpur; Saroja Sundaram, Executive Director, Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai; Amit Khurana, Director, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi were the key panelists, who spoke on the different elements of the FoPL and the panel discussions were moderated by George Cheriyan.

A Session on FoPL in National Convention in New Delhi on December 19, 2021

CUTS facilitated a technical session on Front of the Pack Labeling at National Consumer Convention, which was organized by Consumer Protection Association Agartala in collaboration with Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) of India at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi on December 19, 2021. Around 30 consumer organisations from 21 States attended the NCC. George Cheriyan took part in the session as Panelist. The session was moderated by Shri Laminarayan Patel, Odisha and Col. V.K Talwar, Ex. President Grahak Sahayata Gurugram both Members of Organising Committee, NCC-2021. George Cheriyan was the main presenter in the session. Sanjay Pandey, coordinator for India (FoPL), GHAI was also present during the session.

Promoting Healthy and Sustainable Diets in South Asia-A Pre-Summit on July 26-28, 2021

UNFSS pre-summit on 'A Consumer Advocacy Perspective on Healthy and Sustainable Diets in South Asia' was attended by both George Cheriyan and Simi TB. George was one of the panellists and spoke on topic 'Marketing and Advertisement'.

2.8 Mayors Conference Under Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform on November 26, 2021

Main activity of the project Mayors' Conference was organised in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Govt. of India on Nov. 26 in Jaipur. GC made opening remarks in the conference and ADS presented brief overview of CUTS study on Urban Governance in Rajasthan: Challenges and Opportunity. Document of the study was also released by the guest. Abhijeet Kumar, Mayor of Bharatpur; Manju Mehra, Mayor, Mayor of Kota (North); Puneet Karnawat, Deputy Mayor of Jaipur (Greater); Naveen Jain, Deputy Mayor of Ajmer and Manish Pareek, Former Dy Mayor Jaipur were the special guest in the conference. Virendra Singh Jadon, Chairperson-Rajakhera Municipality; Vimal Chandra, Chairman, Sawai Madhopur Municipality and five other chairpersons from JMC Greater were the representatives of ULBs. Dr. Debolina, Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA); Milind Mhaske, Director, Praja Foundation, Mumbai; and Dr. Himani Tiwari, CMAR, DLB Department were the speakers and made presentations on best practices as well as status of urban governance in Rajasthan. Apoorva Singh, The Asia Foundation also attended the programme.

2.9 PIL in National Green Tribunal, Bhopal on Making Jaipur, a Honk Free City

The petition on 'Banning Pressure Horns in Buses and Controlling on Honking' mainly in the city of Jaipur was submitted in NGT on October 19, 2021 and the same was finally accepted by the tribunal on October 29, 2021. Now the case has been listed for its first hearing on January 12, 2022 and the notices have been served to five concerned departments by NGT asking them to respond within a period of six weeks.

2.10 Capacity Building of CSOs on Project Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) on February 1-2, 2021

Capacity building workshop on PME supported by SSNC was organized on February 1-2, 2021 at Jaipur. Total 23 participants attended the training including 13 CUTS staff from CART, CCIER, CITEE, CHD and CRC and 10 other CSOs from various states. Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandhyopadhyay, Director, PRIA along with his colleague Yashvi Sharma, facilitated the training programme and delivered various sessions. Certificates were awarded to all participants at the end. In the closing session, feedback was provided by participants about the training and other arrangements.

2.11 World Environment Day on June 5, 2021

World Environment Day, 2021 was observed with a national level webinar on June 5, 2021. As speaker Sara Nilson, Programme Manager, SSNC talked on the global perspective of sustainable consumption. Bethan Laughlin, Sustainable Consumption Lead, Consumers International spoke about the ecosystem restoration and role of consumers. Dr. K. Anand, Co-founder of Junglescapes Charitable Trust presented national perspective of ecosystem restoration; Aman Singh, Founder Krapavis highlighted grassroot level intervention to address ecosystem degradation. Pradeep Mehta, Secretary General delivered opening remarks on the importance of ecosystem restoration in the context of pandemic. George Cheriyan, Director CUTS moderated the discussion and highlighted the relevance of the webinar topic and the gravity of the situation in our country. The virtual webinar was attended by almost 170 plus participants representing from 23 states and 11 different countries who are mostly experts working in the area related to environment and sustainable development issues, agriculture sector, government representatives, civil society organizations across the country and abroad.

2.12 Awareness Campaign for Inculcating Hygiene and Safe Food Practice

'Eat Right, Healthy and Safe Food' Among Consumers

CUTS launched a project on 'Safe Food Practices in Rajasthan' with a purpose to increase awareness among rural masses on hygienic and clean food. It also aims to promote food safety awareness building, protection from contamination, COVID 19 and healthy food practices among the community.

This HUL supported CUTS initiative will be instrumental in creating a model of 'Behaviour Change Communication' regarding good food hygiene, preventing food-borne illness, diarrhea and promoting a healthy lifestyle among communities in selected 12-gram panchayats in the targeted two districts of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara.

CUTS organised a Launch-cum-Training of Trainers (ToT) programme organised to kick start a three-month campaign at Chittorgarh on July 06, 2021. Under the intervention, 12 village level awareness meeting with women and adolescent girls, 4 block level awareness meeting with children and 12 chaupal meetings along with nukkad natak in each of the selected gram panchayats were organised. The campaign focused on the entire chain of food business operators, viz. retail food establishments, food service/delivery/takeaways, and food handlers like women who cook food at home, small street food in selected districts.

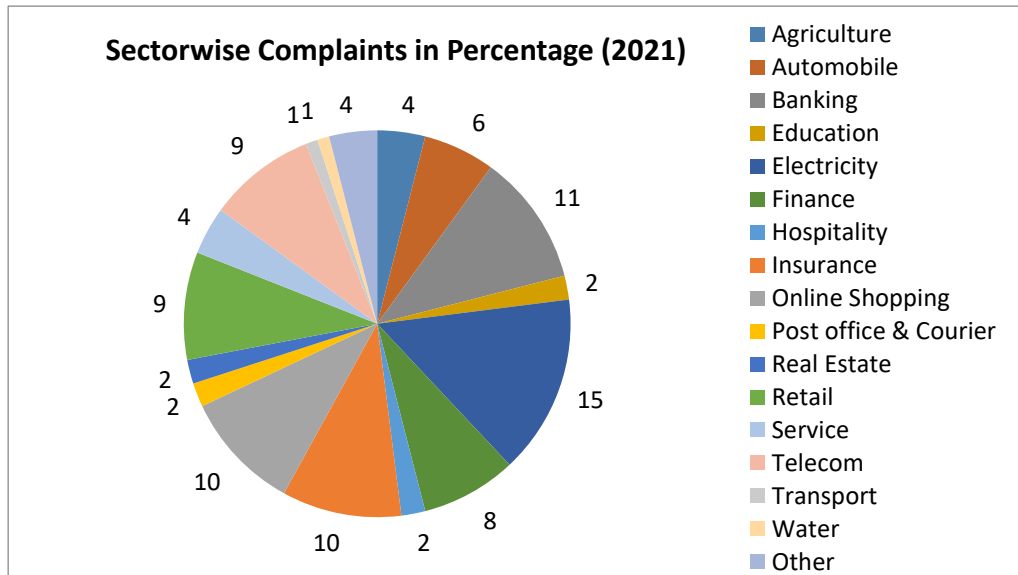
entertained a good number of complaints, the details of which are explained through graph and below, the sector wise figures.

2.13 E-Commerce Consumer Protection Rules Should Stick to Consumer-Facing Concerns

A CUTS Roundtable on Proposed Amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 on July 2, 2021 was organised. Moderating the session, Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS, set the tone by flagging how adding Platform-to-Business regulatory elements could disturb the simplicity of the consumer protection regime. Saroja S., Director of Chennai-based Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), instead wanted emphasis on "factors like sustainable consumption, packaging and carbon footprints, whilst building awareness about such green initiatives through consumer labelling." Surendra Kanstiya, former Chairman of Mumbai-based Consumer Guidance Society of India, highlighted that, "the proposed amendments are poorly drafted hence affecting user-readability and implementation." Ujjwal Kumar, Policy Analyst at CUTS International, was not satisfied with the rationale provided by the government for the proposed amendment within a year of the notification of the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020. According to him, mere 'receiving representations from aggrieved consumers, traders and associations complaining against widespread cheating and unfair trade practices being observed in the e-commerce ecosystem' are not enough to establish the need for the proposed amendments. It must be established that the present rules failed to deal with the alleged 'cheating' and 'unfair trade practices'. Gowree Gokhale, Partner, Nishith Desai Associates, explained how bringing elements to 'encourage free and fair competition in the market' into the proposed amendments goes beyond the mandate of its empowering provision in the parent Act (i.e. Section 94 of Consumer Protection Act, 2019). Vivan Sharan, Partner, Koan Advisory Group, while echoing sentiments of Gokhale, went a step further in identifying these proposed amendments as a "disguised industrial policy". He stated that, "if we need to create a space where local retailers can flourish, then the policy decision should leverage what the large enterprises have to offer, rather than chewing them away." George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International highlighting that the regulatory overlaps must be mitigated, and the focus should remain on 'consumers' in consumer protection legislations.

3. GRAHAK SAHAYTA KENDRA

In the year 2021, GSK entertained a good number of complaints, the details of which are explained through graph and below, the sector wise figures.



4. PUBLICATIONS/OUTREACH

- Catalyst (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter*) _Fourth will be out in January 2021.
- Gram Gadar (*Twelve issues of wall newspaper*)
- Paanchva Stambh (*three issues of quarterly newsletter in Hindi*) _ Fourth will be out in January 2021.
- City Matters (*three issues of quarterly newsletter*) _ Fourth will be out in January 2021
- Consumer Dialogue (*two issues of tri-annual e-newsletter in English*) _ Third will be out in January 2021.
- GSK Alert (*three issues of quarterly e-newsletter*) _Fourth will be out in January 2021.
- IEC material published and printed under ProOrganic and Green Action Week.
- A monograph of Endline Survey Report of the project 'Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption & Lifestyle in the State of Rajasthan with a Special Focus on Organic Consumption and Production' (<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/endline-survey-report-developing-a-culture-of-sustainable-consumption-and-lifestyle-in-rajasthan.pdf>)
- A Report of Sustainable Consumption and Production: A Consumer Perspective: An Overview (<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/research-report-sustainable-consumption-and-production-a-consumer-perspective-an-overview.pdf>)
- A Report on Urban Local Governance in Rajasthan: Challenges and Opportunities (<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/urban-local-governance-in-rajasthan-challenges-opportunities.pdf>)
- A Briefing Paper on Front of Package Labeling: All You Need to Know (<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/bp-front-of-package-labelling.pdf>)
- IEC on COVID-19 awareness activities and event reports of project activities.

5. OPEDS/ARTICLES

- An article co-authored by George Cheriyan and Simi TB titled 'Green Steps to Heal Earth Amid the Virus' got published in Deccan Herald on May 6, 2021.
- An article co-authored by George Cheriyan and Simi TB titled 'Streets for Life: Global Call to Reduce Speed' got published in Matters India on May 19, 2021.
- George Cheriyan and Simi TB wrote an op-ed on the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" for the Environment Day. The same was published in South Asia Monitor on June 5, 2021.
- George Cheriyan and Simi TB wrote an op-ed titled "Ensuring Safe Food for Better Tomorrow is Everyone's Business" which got published in both the Matters India and Policy Circle on June 7, 2021 on the occasion of World Food Safety Day.

- George Cheriyan and Simi TB wrote an op-ed titled “Front of Package Labelling: Time for Action” which got published in NuF Food Spectrum on June 22, 2021.
- George Cheriyan and Simi TB wrote an op-ed titled “Front-of-package Labelling: Why India Should Opt for Warning Labels” got published in Policy Circle on June 29, 2021.
- George Cheriyan along with Amit Babu wrote an article titled ‘Mandatory Hallmarking-Key to Ensuring Consumer Protection, but Challenges Remain’, which got published in Policy Circle on July 22, 2021.

6. STAFF REPRESENTATION/ORIENTATION

- George Cheriyan and Amar Deep Singh met Lt. Gen. Alok Kler, PVSM, VSM, General Officer-Commanding in Chief, South Western Command, Indian Army on January 11, 2021 to discuss the possibilities of collaboration for promoting cycle friendly cities and road safety.
- Amit Babu attended online COP organised by TRAI on January 12, 2021 to create awareness among Telecom Consumers and Stakeholders for Gujarat Service Area and also webinar on Data Privacy, Safety and Security organized by TRAI Bhopal on January 23, 2021.
- Amar Deep attended a Big Tobacco Tiny Targets: Study release by VHAI and Consumer Voice on January 12, 2021.
- Satya Pal Singh and Simi TB attended a 6th Technical Webinar on "Laboratory Assessment of Trans fats in Oils, Fats and Foods-Gaps and Plan of Action" on January 13, 2021.
- Simi attended a Technical Webinar a 7th Overview of trans fat, replacement options for partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (PHVOs) and reformulation of packaged foods on January 14, 2021 organised by FSSAI and Eat Right India Movement.
- Amit Babu attended a webinar on MoRTH Safer Roads/Black Spots Symposium on February 3, 2021, organized by MoRTH.
- Simi & Amar attended World Sustainable Development Summit, the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on 10-13 February 2021.
- George, Madhu Sudan Sharma, Satyapal and Amit attended webinar on road safety in Tamil Nadu organized by Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) on February 18, 2021.
- Simi attended a webinar on E-Waste Management in India: Challenges and Agenda, organised by Centre for Science and Environment on February 26, 2021.
- CUTS got an invite from WHO, New Delhi office on March 17, 2021 to capture CUTS' long experiences of working on the road safety in India and also its feedback related to national road safety nodal agency and its role in ensuring road safety in India. CUTS team (George, Madhu Sudan and Satyapal) and WHO team (Ravitej Prasad, Patanjali Dev Nayar and few other senior staff) joined the online meeting.
- George along with the Satyapal & Deepak Saxena attended the webinar on “front-of-pack labeling on packaged foods high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS)” hosted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on March 4, 2021, wherein GC was one of the key panelists.
- Deepak & Amit attended the online event “CSC Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Areas” on March 4, 2021 conducted by TRAI, Jaipur.
- George attended and participated in the webinar on “Commemorating World Consumer Rights Day 2021: Antibiotic Resistance and Consumers on March 15, 2021 organised by ReAct Asia-Pacific.
- George attended and participated in the 3rd meeting of FSSAI on FoPL held at FSSAI, Delhi on March 17, 2021.
- Amar attended webinar ‘Development sector: Adapting to the new ecosystem in the COVID-19 Era’ organized by UN Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI) on March 19, 2021.
- Rajdeep Pareek attended a webinar organized by Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology on April 16, 2021 on ‘Climate Resilient Agriculture for Food and Health Security’.
- Simi attended a “National Webinar: 28th Anniversary of 73rd Constitutional Amendment—The Path Ahead” organised by KILA, Kerala on April 24, 2021.

- Simi & Satyapal attended a webinar on “Road Safety Challenges in India and Preparation of an Action Plan” organised by International Road Federation–India Chapter on May 18, 2021.
- George, Deepak & Simi attended a webinar on Future of “Strong Nutrition Profile Modelling (NPM)” for Healthy Food System in India to prevent NCD Burden, organised by Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi) Pediatric and Adolescent Nutrition Society (PAN) -IAP Nutrition Chapter and Epidemiology Foundation of India (EFI) on June 4, 2021.
- A webinar was organised on June 13, 2021 jointly by CUTS and Jeevan Ashram Sansthan under its Naubat Baja Missed Call Radio. Main speakers in the webinar were Dr. Attar Singh Meena, Deputy Director Agriculture; Shailendra Chauhan, AGM, NABARD; Dr. Deepika Saini, Quality Manager, RSOCA; O.P. Pareek, Progressive Farmer from Dausa and Babu Khan, Progressive Farmer from Jodhpur.
- Deepak and Amit attended an online meeting on ‘Hallmarking’ on June 22, 2021 organised by BIS, New Delhi.
- Pratibha Jain attended a webinar on ‘Food Safety and Hygiene in Food Industry-Role of Indian Standards’ on July 22, 2021.
- Simi attended Southern Region Event - Awareness Campaign on Single Use Plastics-2021 organised by FICCI on July 27, 2021.
- Deepak attended an online training course on ‘**Traffic Impact Assessment**’ from August 1-14, 2021 organised by Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.
- Amar attended webinar of Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture series organised by TERI on August 24, 2021. Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change; and Minister for Labour & Employment delivered the inaugural address.
- George attended a Consultative Meeting organised by ReAct titled ‘Building Back Better’ and made a presentation on ‘*changing consumer perspectives after Covid19 and how it can possibly affect the AMR domain*’ on August 25, 2021.
- Simi attended a webinar on Food Systems Dialogue: National Strategy and Action Plan for ‘No Food Waste’ organised by CII on September 8, 2021.
- Amar & Nimisha Sharma attended CI Member Connect call on September 15, 2021 on Green Action Week, 2021.
- Deepak attended a virtual meeting on ‘Strategy for 5G and 5Gi for Department of Telecom on October 22, 2021 organised by CMAI Association of India. He also attended e-Consumer Education Workshop (e-CEW) on October 28, 2021 organised by BSNL. Deepak & Amit attended a special lecture on ‘AI (Artificial Intelligence) and ML (Machine Learning): An Introduction’ by Prof. Dr. Priyadarshi Patni, Director, Faculty of Computer Science, L M College of Science & Technology, Jodhpur as part of COP session on October 29, 2021 organised by TRAI.
- Simi attended a Global Webinar: Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information in E-Commerce (Asia) organised by One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme on November 22, 2021.
- Simi and Pratibha attended a national webinar organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Mangalagiri and All India Institute of Medical Sciences on theme "Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases through Front of Package Labelling on November 24, 2021.
- Deepak attended an online panel discussion on 'ISI Standards in Toys and Footwear' organised by Patrika TV on December 2, 2021.
- Deepak attended a meeting called by Food and Consumer Affairs Department of Govt. of Rajasthan on Legal Metrology under their ongoing '*shudh ke liye yudh abhiyan*' as one of the speakers on December 10, 2021.
- Deepak Saxena along with Pradeep Mehta, attended National Consumer Day ceremony on December 24, 2021 organized by Department of Food and Consumer Affairs of Govt. of Rajasthan. Minister, Pratap Singh Khachariyawas; Secretary, Naveen Jain; Banwari Lal Sharma, President State Consumer Rederssal Commission, Rajasthan were the key speakers along with PSM as a speaker on ‘E-Commerce’.

- Dharmendra Chaturvedi & Amit attended National Level Programme of National Consumer Day on December 24, 2021 organised by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India.
- Simi attended a National Webinar “Front of package labeling (FOPL): A Way forward to address NCDs” jointly organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Gorakhpur & All India Institute of Medical Sciences Rishikesh on December 27, 2021.
- Madhu Sudan represented CUTS and participated in the two-day regional meeting of NHAI, Odisha and parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture held at Puri, Odisha on December 29-30, 2021.
- George met with Hon'ble Governor of Kerala His Excellency Shri Arif Mohammad Khan on December 30, 2021, who released CUTS publication "Sustainable Consumption and Production: A Consumer Perspective" and SSNC publication 'Anthology of Sustainable Consumption' at Raj Bhavan, Kerala.

7. CART at SOCIAL NETWORK

- CART is managing four FB pages, one each for MyCity, Insight into Indian States (I3S), ProOb, ProOrganic & 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> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cutsintcart>
- Besides, CART is also responsible for moderating three 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.
CUTSRoadSafety: to discuss and disseminate relevant issues on road safety.

8. INTERNSHIP AT CART

Anand Moga of School of Law, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar (Orissa) did his online internship from June 15 to July 15, 2021.

9. GRAM GADAR AWARD

Gram Gadar Award for Rural Journalism

On the occasion of State Level Workshop in Jaipur on November 11, 2021, the annual ‘**Gram Gadar Award for Promoting Rural Journalism**’ was also given to Piyush Sharma of Haldhar Times for his award winning write ups and articles on ‘Increasing Unemployment During Pandemic Time’.

10. AFFILIATIONS

- Central Consumer Protection Council, Government of India (CCPC).
 - Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control, India.
 - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as Customer Advocacy Group (TRAI-CAG).
 - 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 on Sustainable Consumption of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).
 - Reserve Bank of India as affiliated NGO.
 - Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as consumer organisation.
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