

## About CART

Established in 1983 as a small voluntary group of concerned citizens, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) expanded its activities and CUTS CART was set up in 1996 as a programme centre to pursue the cause of common consumers, initially being undertaken by CUTS as the mandate.

The programmes of the Centre are primarily aimed at generating awareness, creating a more responsible society and encouraging changes at the policy level by advocating with the government machinery and sensitising it to the issues of concern of the common man. The Centre has spearheaded several campaigns and pioneered consumer empowerment.

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### CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART)

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

## Rajasthan Moving towards Organic Way of Life

“Rajasthan enjoys traditional advantage to switch to organic farming as the present use of chemical fertilisers, especially in western Rajasthan is still 10kg/Ha as compared to 40kg/ha in India due to its default organic soil but there are challenges related to production, demand and certification which needs to be handled to switch to organic way of life. To feed the population of 1.25 crore without using chemical fertilisers and pesticides introduced during Green Revolution and shift back to organic produce is a huge challenge which needs to be addressed immediately” said Vikas Sitaramji Bhale, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan.



Bhale inaugurated the Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting under Green Action Week-2017 on the theme 'Safer, more Sustainable food for All' organised by CUTS. He further highlighted initiatives taken by the government in the form of *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana* (PKVY) in which 1150 clusters of 50 Ha each are selected to be converted into organic.

Sheetal Prasad Sharma, Director, State Institute of Agriculture Management shed light on the negative effects of extension of Green Revolution saying that country lacks in concrete research and development. He said varieties of seeds available in the market respond only to fertilisers thus making it difficult in switching to organic farming in India.

George Cherian, Director CUTS emphasised on expanding horizon of organic farming and advocated the use of sustainable consumption which includes improvement in the quality of life by using less natural resources, pollutants and waste and helping the next generation to lead a better life. He also stated that fertiliser consumption in India has witnessed a surge of nearly 25 times since mid-60s as compared to three-fold increase in food grain production over the same period. He said that recently CUTS has succeeded in developing 100 kitchen gardens in Jaipur city to lead a change in the society.

Nimisha Gaur, Programme Associate, CUTS presented activities, implementation and results of the campaign and also declared award for best kitchen gardens developed as a result of campaign activities.

The technical session was chaired by Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director, CUTS and the panellists were A K Gupta, Dean of SKN College of Agri Business Management, Jobner; B D Yadav, Associate Professor of Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura and Gajendra Sharma, ARO Pant Krishi Bhawan.

The event witnessed participation of more than 100 people. Speakers focussed on minimal usage of chemical fertilisers and harmful pesticides and best way to avail organic produce is by growing it in household kitchen gardens in urban areas.

### International Conference on Consumer Protection

Pradeep S Mehta and George Cherian attended the First International Consumer Protection Conference on Empowering Consumers in New Markets held at New Delhi on October 26-27, 2017. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Conference, which was attended by delegates from 19 countries



and participants from across India. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General, UNCTAD addressed the participants in the inaugural session. Mehta made a presentation in the session on 'Stakeholder Participation in Consumer Protection'.

### Submission on Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017

CUTS made a oral submission on Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 before the Parliamentary Select Committee at New Delhi on November 21, 2017. Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman, Select Committee provided a brief introduction of CUTS and its work on road safety. Cherian made the submission. More than 15-16 members were present on the occasion.

### Documenting Practices of Sustainable Culture and Lifestyles

As part of 'Documenting Practices of Sustainable Culture and Lifestyles in India', two case studies on Sustainable Urban Habitats were completed during the period. The first case study was on Indira Paryavaran Bhavan and second was on Headquarters of Development Alternatives. The team also visited Tomb of Ayesha Begum and Bada Imambara, in Lucknow and Deeg Palace, Bharatpur to understand some of the traditional features of these historical monuments and also visited Birkha Bawri in Jodhpur and Rangsutra in Bikaner.

The team also visited the Mud House of Architect Shankar in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and gathered information and documents. Akansha Choudhary, Madhu Sudan Sharma and George Cherian was involved in the documentation.

### Meeting of Council of Consumers International



George Cherian attended the meeting of the Council of Consumers International (CI) and Strategic Insight Workshops based on the new Strategic Development Plan of CI at London, UK on November 07-08, 2017.

### GSPA Global Partner's Forum

George Cherian attended the fourth Global Partners Forum of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GSPA) at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC on October 30-November 01, 2017. Cherian raised concern about '*Shirking Space for Civic Engagement*' in the plenary session on 'Open Governments and Social Accountability in the Changing Times'.



### Meeting of Road Safety Partners

George Cherian, Madhu Sudan Sharma and Jeetali Agnani participated in a two-day partners meeting at New Delhi on November 16-17, 2017. Taifur Rehman from Global Road Safety Partnership and Nalin Sinha from GHAI facilitated the meeting. All partner representatives shared on-going initiatives, future activities and strategies to be adopted to get the desired results of passage of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 as soon as possible.

### Safer, more Sustainable Food for All

The Green Action Week (GAW) Campaign on 'Safer, more Sustainable food for All' was done in 12 states, in addition to Rajasthan, under a new partnership with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. George Cherian and Amar Deep Singh attended events in few states.

Singh attended a seminar organised by *Jan Kalyan Parishad* at Raipur on October 06, 2017. Around 100 participants attended the event where various resource persons facilitated session.

Mount Valley Development organisation organised a seminar in Dehradun on October 16, 2017. Subodh Uniyal, Agriculture Minister, Government of Uttarakhand was the Chief Guest. More than 150 participants attended the programme.

Cherian participated in a stakeholder consultation meeting organised by Shohratgarh Environment Society at Sahbhagini Sikshan Sansthan, Lucknow on October 17, 2017.

To share learning's among all GAW partners, a partner's meet was organised at CUTS Conference Hall Jaipur on November 20, 2017, which was attended by 10 partner organisations out of 12.



## Depositor Education and Awareness

Six workshops under Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme were held at Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Gangapur city blocks of Sawai Madhopur, Lalsot block of



Dausa and Kotputli block of Jaipur respectively during October-December 2017. More than 550 participants attended workshops along with local bankers as resource persons.

## Financial Consumer Protection

Around 28 cluster-level meetings were held under the 'Financial Consumer Protection' project under the first and second rounds of training during August-December 2017. Total 18 cluster meetings (10 in Chittorgarh and 8 in Bhilwara)



are left out of the total 46 (24 in Bhilwara and 22 in Chittorgarh) to be completed in the first year. Thus so far, 16 cluster meetings were held in Bhilwara (12 in first round and 4 in second round) and 12 in Chittorgarh (10 in first round and 2 in second round) till December 2017.

## Greater Voice to Poor Consumers

The project 'Giving Poorer Consumers Greater Voice in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia' supported by CI and IKEA Foundation is implemented in Chittorgarh. During October-December 2017, baseline survey was conducted. CI shared three sets (water, air pollution and energy) of questionnaires for both Eral and Netawalgarh communities for the survey. Two round of surveyors training were held at Chittorgarh on December 11 & 19, 2017 to have a better understanding of questionnaires. The survey commenced in both Eral and Netawalgarh on December 24, 2017.

## Promoting Organic Consumption

Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II) is implemented in 10 districts of Rajasthan. During October-December 2017, village level awareness events were carried in targeted 10 districts with an aim of promoting organic production and consumption. Nearly 101 village level awareness camps were organised during the period. The meetings witnessed participation of more than 7500 farmers.



## Human Rights Based Approach

A follow-up workshop 'Human Rights Based Approach' was organised at CUTS Conference Hall on December 08, 2017. Centre for Dalit Rights team comprising Satish Kumar, Grijesh



Dinkar, Pooja and Chanda Lal jointly facilitated various sessions on Human Rights and Gender. PL Mimroth, Chief Patron, Centre for Dalit Rights was the Chief Guest in the valedictory session. More than 37 participants attended the workshop.

## Injury Surveillance and Road Safety Legislation in India

The World Health Organisation (WHO) organised a National Consultation on 'Injury Surveillance and Road Safety Legislation in India' at New Delhi on December 20, 2017. George Cherian and Madhu Sudan Sharma made presentation on the findings of Institutional and Legislative Assessment of Road Safety in four states (Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Telangana and Rajasthan) and two union territories (Puducherry and Delhi). WHO officials, especially Fikru Tullu, In-charge of Non Communicable Diseases Team in India and Gaurav Gupta, Senior Consultant, WHO and other participants appreciated CUTS' assessment report and key findings.



## REPRESENTATION IN MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ETC.

### World Standards Day

Deepak Saxena, Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Jeetali Agnani attended the meeting organised by Bureau of Standards to observe World Standards Day 2017 at Jaipur on October 17, 2017.

### Global Symposium on Financial Literacy

Deepak Saxena and Saytapal Singh attended a two-day High-Level Global Symposium on 'Implementing Effective Financial Literacy Policies in a Changing Financial Landscape' at New Delhi on November 08-09, 2017.

### Enhancing Capacity of CSOs

Amar Deep Singh attended a National Workshop on CSOs Capacity Building by Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) at New Delhi on November 16, 2017.

### Smart Mobility Conference

Akansha Choudhary attended the first edition of Smart Mobility Conference organised by FICCI at New Delhi on November 20, 2017.

### Consultation on Poverty Issues

Jeetali Agnani attended the Consultation on Poverty Issues organised jointly by Tata Trust, India Consensus and ARAVALI at Jaipur on November 20, 2017.

### Financial Support to MSMEs in ZED Certification Scheme

Akansha Choudhary attended the seminar on 'Financial Support to MSMEs in ZED Certification Scheme' organised by the All India Management Association on November 30, 2017.

### Telecom Customer Outreach Programme

Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended Customer Outreach Programme organised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Regional Office, at Jaipur on November 30, 2017.

### Organic Farming and Animal Husbandry

Deepak Saxena and Rajdeep Pareek attended a two-day workshop on 'Organic Farming and Animal Husbandry' in collaboration with Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Science, at Bikaner on December 05-06, 2017.

### M L Mehta Memorial Oration

Madhu Sudan Sharma and Kunwar Dheer Singh attended the ML Mehta Memorial Oration at Balwant Singh Mehta Auditorium, Jaipur on December 07, 2017.

### Investing in Collective Sustainability of the Voluntary Sector

George Cherian attended a National Consultation on 'Investing in Collective Sustainability of the Voluntary Sector' organised by VANI at New Delhi on December 14, 2017.

### State Legislative Frameworks on Public Procurement In India

Madhu Sudan Sharma participated in the conference on Public Procurement organised by the Institute of Procurement and Supply Chain Management at New Delhi December 14, 2017.

### National Consumer Day

Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Jeetali Agnani and Kunwar Dheer Singh attended the 'National Consumer Day' event organised by Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Rajasthan at Indra Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sansthan on December 22, 2017.

### Go Digital

Jeetali Agnani attended 'Go Digital' workshop, organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry at PHD House on December 23, 2017.

### Prakaritik Khadyan Mela

Rajdeep Pareek attended the 'Prakaritik Khadyan Mela' organised by Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj trust in Sikar on December 29, 2017.

### Discussion on Standard Bid Document

Madhu Sudan Sharma participated in discussions on Standardising the Bid Documents and making the procurement process more transparent and accountable, organised by the Department of Finance, Government of Rajasthan on December 30, 2017.



## CART IN MEDIA

**बैंकिंग ठगी से बचाव आवश्यक-कट्स**  
दिव्यांगों के लिए अब घर तक पहुंचेगा बैंक

**कुंदनपुर एवं कमोलर में जागरूकता कार्यक्रम**  
रासायनिक खेती से रीते जल के भंडार, किसान पारंपरिक खेती अपनाएं : विजय

**जैविक उत्पादों के प्रमाणीकरण का प्रशिक्षण**  
वेटरनरी विवि में दो दिवसीय कार्यक्रम

**जैविक खेती से केंसर रोकना संभव-राजदीप**  
जमाकर्ता शिक्षण संस्थान भदाना कंज्यपर यनिटी टर्सर केंटर सेंटर

**बैंकिंग सेवाओं का उठाएं लाभ**  
किसानों को जैविक खेती की ओर बढ़ने के लिए प्रोत्ताहित किया

इस ग्राम स्तरीय जागरूकता कार्यशाला का आयोजन डग ब्लॉक के क्यासरा व डोबरा ग्राम पंचायत में हुआ। नाथूराम चौधरी ने बताया इस परियोजना का मुख्य लक्ष्य व उद्देश्य पर्यावरणों के माध्यम से किया गया।

सत्र की अध्यक्षता करते हुए वेटरनरी कॉलेज के अधिष्ठाता प्रा. विमुन शर्मा ने कहा कि जैविक पशु उत्पादों की तकनीकों और