

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

People Powered Sustainable Consumption

An International Conference on 'People Powered Sustainable Consumption' organised by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and IBON International jointly with Consumers International (CI) was held at Accra, Ghana on June 06, 2018. George Cheriyan and Aakansha Choudhary attended the conference.

CUTS International has been involved with Green Action Week since 2013 and coordinated the observation of Green Action Week-India in 12 states of India in 2017. The theme for 2017 was 'Safer and More Sustainable Food for All'.

The conference engaged participants in short evaluation on Green Action Week communication and capacity building and introduction to the new theme for 2018, i.e. 'Sharing Community'. Concerns and challenges in relation to the new theme were raised.

Cheriyan and Choudhary made a presentation on '*Sustainable Cultures, Practices and Lifestyles in India*' highlighting case studies from different states of India having the potential of replication at a wider level directly supporting the concept of Goal 12: Sustainable Consumption & Production along with other 16 goals of SDG. The project was supported by SSNC and CUTS was involved in it since October 2017.

The second presentation was delivered by IBON International members who are initiating a three-year research project on 'Rights-Based Sustainable Consumption & Production' with



the support of SSNC in three countries: Kenya, Indonesia and Philippines. Appiah Kusi Adomako along with Hillary and Juliet, two interns from CUTS Accra attended this conference.

In continuation to the conference, the second meeting of Think Tank on Sustainable Consumption was held at Accra on June 07-08, 2018, which was attended by Cheriyan and Choudhary. The first meeting was held in Brighton in June 2017. Cheriyan was part of Think Tank in 2017. The Think Tank acts as a forum for idea and policy development within the SSNC programme. It functions as a hub in which mutual knowledge of driving forces of sustainable consumption lifestyles and how best to interact to reach them, will be developed.

On request from SSNC, two interns from CUTS Accra made a brief presentation about Ghana, including its geographical and cultural aspects at the beginning. Cheriyan and Choudhary made a presentation on research work supported by SSNC on '*Sustainable Consumption Cultures, Practices and Lifestyles in India*' developed, designed, researched and being documented by CUTS.

IBON International also showcased their research design for the project 'Growing Green, Gaining Ground' and 'People Powered Sustainable Consumption and Production'. The participants provided their suggestions and comments to fine-tune the methodology and research approach and showed interest in giving their inputs as the research progresses in next three years.

Financial Consumer Protection

Two Annual Stakeholder's Consultation and Dissemination meetings were held in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara. The meeting in Chittorgarh was held on April 25, 2018. Around 104 participants attended the meeting. CP Joshi, Member of Parliament, Chittorgarh was present as chief guest and Dipendra Singh Rathore, Additional Chief Executive Officer, *Zilla Parishad*, Chittorgarh as special guest. Representatives from various blocks of Chittorgarh, Bank FLC and other stakeholders were also present.

The second Stakeholder's Consultation was organised in Bhilwara on April 27, 2018. Around 82 participants comprising various stakeholders from different blocks of Bhilwara district attended the consultation. Kalulal Gurjar, *Mukhya Sachetak*, Government of Rajasthan and Jayalaxmi Kannan, Under Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India attended the meeting as chief and special guest respectively. Two posters on Financial Consumer Protection were released on the occasion.



Advocating for Road Safety

George Cheriyan, Madhu Sudan Sharma and Jeetali Agnani attended the Global Road Safety Programme (GRSP) Partners meet organised by Parisar at Pune on April 17-19, 2018.



The event was dedicated to discuss the current and future activities of the project. Sharma gave the presentation about the work done by CUTS under the Road Safety Project: Phase II and the future planning under the project.

Sharma attended the Meeting of GRSP Partners with Kelly Larson, Executive Director, Bloomberg Philanthropies at New Delhi on June 18, 2018. Agnani attended the workshop organised by Consumer VOICE at New Delhi on June 19 in collaboration with other partners.

In the workshop, victims from New Delhi and other states shared their experiences. Abhay Damle, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and Sanjay Jaiswal, MP Lok Sabha were special guests in the workshop.

Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

CUTS is partnering with SSNC in promoting organic consumption in Rajasthan. During April-June 2018, after orientation of district and block partners, a total of 41 *gram panchayat* level awareness campaigns were organised in different villages of selected 10 districts under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan'.

The main objective of these campaigns was to create awareness among consumers as well as farmers about benefits of organic farming and way of sustainable lifestyle. Many farmers, including women participants, officers from Department of Agriculture, different stakeholders from NGOs participated. People were made aware through different modes, such as technical sessions, videos on organic farming, cultural activities etc.



Visit of Maria Klerfelt



Maria Klerfelt, Programme Manager, Climate Change visited CUTS Jaipur on May 18, 2018. Klerfelt along with George Cheriyan, Deepak Saxena and Rajdeep Pareek visited Saharia Organic Farm at Maheshpura village, near Chomu block of Jaipur. She also visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chomu and interacted with S S Rathore about the technologies for transfer to farmers. She attended a meeting with project team and interacted with them to know about activities completed in previous year and plan for the year 2018.

Making Food Systems More Sustainable



Consumers International jointly with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations organised a Global Project Meeting on 'Making Food Systems More Sustainable: Role of Consumer Organisations' at Accra, Ghana on June 04-05, 2018. Cheriyan attended the meeting and made a presentation on '*CUTS work on Food Safety & Sustainability*' which was well appreciated. The meeting was attended by more than 30 representatives from various countries, including CI President Bart Combée and staff, and coordinated by Anna Glayzer, Advocacy Officer, CI.

Awareness is MUST, to be a smart consumer

To promote healthy homes for children and their families CUTS is implementing a project 'Giving Poorer Consumers Greater Voice in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia' supported by CI and IKEA Foundation in two communities: Eral and Netawalgarh of Chittorgarh district.

During April-June 2018, Addendum to Agreement for three months was signed with CI by adding activities' plan of three months. The communication activities were broken down to engagement discussions for each month on consumer rights and responsibilities.

To share the baseline survey data and way forward in the project, a meeting with District Level Officers (DLOs) was organised at CUTS Centre for Human Development Office, where DLOs of concerned departments and representatives from both Eral and Netawalgarh communities participated. Indrani Thuraisingham from CI appreciated CUTS style of working and requested CUTS team to share their reports and formats with other partners of CI in this project.

Awareness activities on consumer rights and responsibilities with youth group, farmer groups, self-help group women, retailers, manufacturer and public relation officers were organised. Snakes and Ladders game on the same was also developed and played among women groups and children. Rally with school students was also organised during the period.



Connect Karo 2018

George Cheriyan attended the conference on Clean Energy@Connect Karo 2018 organised by World Resource Institute (WRI India) at New Delhi on April 05, 2018. Cheriyan was part of the discussion on 'Solar Rooftop in India: Addressing the Challenges faced by residential consumers'. He spoke from the consumer's perspective. Prior to the conference, CUTS partnered with WRI to conduct a survey on residential solar roof in Jaipur.



NEW PROJECT

Support Food Labelling Regulations and Elimination of Trans-Fats

CUTS signed the agreement with Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) to support strong and effective formulation of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018 and promote elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in India.

