

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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Rajasthan to Introduce More Innovations to Ensure Road Safety

Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, Minister of Transport, Rajasthan expressed his deep sense of sorrow for each life being lost in road accidents in the State and was concerned about the increasing number of road accidents in the country. He stated that road safety is a shared responsibility that includes all the key stakeholders of the government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and common road users.



Shri Pratap Singh Khachariyawas
Hon'ble Transport Minister

He further said though there are five key risk factors in road safety, the lack of self-discipline among road users is also one of the major reasons for accidents in the country. He shared his experiences of meeting the road safety victims and knowing about the miseries and sufferings these crash survivors are facing in their daily lives.

He was speaking in the first-ever 'Dialogue with Transport Minister, Rajasthan on Road Safety' organised by CUTS on 'Effective Enforcement of Key Risk Factors: Opportunities and Challenges' on November 27, 2020, on a virtual platform.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International moderated the webinar and spoke about five key risk factors of road safety, such as high speed; drunk driving; failure to wear helmets and seat belts; child restraints; and not obeying road safety rules. More than 50 participants attended the webinar.

Marking the first anniversary of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019 another webinar entitled 'One year of MVA Act, 2019: Learning from Pandemic and Way Forward' was organised on October 06, 2020.

There is a strong need of having a road safety day in India to bring the focus of all stakeholders on the importance of road safety, said Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General CUTS International. He further said that though the attitude of drivers, in general, is changing a bit after the passage of the new act, due to the provision of hefty penalties, there has to be strict enforcement coupled with awareness and education to change the behaviours of common road users.

T Elangovan, Executive Director, Kerala Road Safety Authority, Government of said that Kerala has been able to reduce deaths and accidents on roads up to 30 percent. He further said that Kerala is far ahead of the rest of the states in the digital monitoring of traffic violations. He also shared the lessons learned related to the functioning of the Kerala Road Safety Authority.

Amrita Duhan, Superintendent of Police (Head Quarters), Rajasthan Police, Government of Rajasthan opined that the Rajasthan government has saved more than 1600 lives on roads in the first six months of 2020. She also spoke about the Golden Hour application, Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) support for data management and other digital initiatives for road safety.

More than 50 participants from across states, media representatives, government officials and civil society representatives participated in the webinar.

Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

A partner's orientation meeting under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in the State of Rajasthan' was organised on October 28, 2020. The main objective of this meeting was to get feedback from partners about the activities conducted and plan for phase 2022-2026.

A total of 71 *Gram Panchayat* level awareness campaigns were organised in all the project districts during October-December 2020. The main objective of these meetings was to create mass awareness among producers and consumers about the benefits of organic production as well as consumption.

About 50 block-level awareness campaigns were also held in the project districts to materialise the advocacy and policy-related issues and combine them for a particular district related to sustainable consumption.

Four farmer's training and exposure visits were organised in the project districts to build the capacity of farmers who are willing to shift towards organic farming. Other than these, two knowledge-sharing meetings on community-managed seed cells and one organic fair were also organised.



Raising Consumer Awareness on Environmental Issues

Green Action Week (GAW) India is a joint partnership between the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and CUTS International since 2017. The purpose of the intervention is to organise short-term campaign activities to raise consumer awareness on environmental issues in different parts of the country through partner CSOs.

This year the theme was 'Sharing Community'. 11 CSOs were selected to be part of the campaign in 2020. During GAW, which was from September 28-October 04, 2020 CSOs organised campaign activities on Sharing Community in their respective states.

In October-December 2020, the team visited Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Bhubaneswar, Berhampur (Odisha), Lucknow (UP) and Bengaluru. GAW India partners meet was organised at Jaipur on December 22, 2020, where all partner organisations shared their campaign experiences.

Partner organisations delivered presentations on the campaign activities, impact, challenges and the way forward. In an open discussion, participants shared their views about the theme and future strategies.



Visit to Ministries/FSSAI

Cheriyen and Madhu Sudan Sharma visited the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and met Arun Singhal, CEO, FSSAI; N Bhaskar and Sunil Bakshi, Advisers at FSSAI on October 14, 2020, and had detailed discussions on trans-fatty acids, front-of-package labels and other issues.

Both visited the Department of Consumer Affairs on October 15, 2020, and met with Leena Nandan, Secretary, Consumer Affairs; Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary and Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary and updated them about CUTS activities and ongoing initiatives on consumer protection.

Also met with Priyank Bharati, Joint Secretary, (Road Safety) and Vivek Kishore, Director, Road Safety, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways to discuss a wide range of issues and emphasised the need for urgent notification of the rules related to standards of helmets.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The Meeting of the Think Tank Group on Sustainable Consumption was held on December 09-10, 2020. In addition to reviewing the decisions taken during the meeting on September 22, 2020, it discussed the design of the anthology and opportunities for advocacy on SDG12 during 2021, including the UN High-level Political Forum. Cheriyen attended the meeting.

Spotlighting Role of Human Rights' Defenders

CUTS organised a Manifestation on International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2020. 212 land and environmental defenders were killed in 2019 alone, a 30 percent rise from the 164 killed in 2018. Around 40 percent were indigenous people and traditional landowners. This is an alarming trend of shrinking civic space threatening our democratic values. The world needs to stand up for the rights of environmental defenders to defend our common future, that was the message of the manifestation to honour the world's environmental defenders by lighting a candle.



Commemoration of World Day of Remembrance

CUTS commemorated the World Day of Remembrance, 2020 on November 12, 2020. The team reached out to Khachariyawas, Ravi Jain, Transport Commissioner, Rajasthan and Anand Siddhu, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Jaipur on this occasion. The team prepared placards of key road safety messages and took photographs with all the mentioned dignitaries. All the dignitaries appreciated CUTS efforts being made for road safety victims in Rajasthan.



2020 Marks CI's 60th Anniversary

Consumers International (CI) organised various activities, talks by dignitaries and regional specific member calls, during the week of November 16-20, 2020 to commemorate the 60th anniversary. Cheriyan attended the Asia-Pacific Regional Members meeting and spoke about the new



challenges in the region. Aradhana Gupta attended a special address by Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as a young representative on November 20, 2020.

NATIONAL CONSUMER DAY, 2020

The theme of the National Consumer Day, 2020 is "New Features of the New Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and Emerging Challenges". To commemorate the occasion, CUTS is organising a series of talks on CUTS Adda (a YouTube channel) from December 24, 2020, to March 15, 2021, i.e. from National Consumer Day to World Consumer Rights Day.

In this series, the first interesting conversation was between Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International and Urvashi Dev (a senior journalist). The link to access the interview is <https://youtu.be/hLpTB2YrCaY>.

'CUTS Adda' is an outreach YouTube channel of CUTS International that intends to cater information and a fair perspective from experts on issues that are topical and important.



WEBINARS

- Deepak Saxena was one of the speakers in a webinar series on 'Grievance Redress Systems and Consumer Protection', held on October 01, 2020. It was also attended by Cheriyan, Amol Kulkarni, Satyapal Singh and Aradhana Gupta.
- Amar Deep Singh and Simi TB attended the '2020 Virtual Asia-Pacific Think Tank Summit' organised and hosted virtually by the Think Tanks and Civil Society Programme at the University of Pennsylvania with the theme 'A World Disrupted and Transformed' on October 13, 2020.
- Deepak Saxena and Aradhana Gupta attended a session on Consumer Outreach Activities of BIS, 'Role of Consumer Groups' hosted by the Bureau of Indian Standards on October 15, 2020.
- Cheriyan and Simi TB attended FSSAI World Food Day on October 16, 2020. The theme for 2020 was 'Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together'. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare presided over the event.
- Nimisha Gaur attended a webinar organised by Vishwa Yuva Kendra on 'FCRA Amendments 2020: Implications & Way Forward' on October 21, 2020.
- Cheriyan attended virtually 'Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices' held in Geneva during October 19-23, 2020.
- Amar Deep Singh attended the 7th International Conference on India Sustainability Standards organised by the Centre for Responsible Business on October 29, 2020. He spoke in a session on 'Sustainability Information to Empower Consumers'.
- Aradhana Gupta attended 'Training of Trainers for Member of NGOs/VCOs on Consumer Protection Act 2019 & Rules' organised by Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi on November 04-06, 2020.
- Satyapal Singh attended webinar series on 'Grievance Redress Systems and Consumer Protection in Finance' organised by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on November 05, 2020.
- Amar Deep Singh participated in an online workshop organised by Tobacco-Free World on November 11, 2020. He shared CUTS tobacco control interventions and engagement with government and NGOs in this area.
- Deepak Saxena attended a webinar on 'The New Consumer Protection Act' organised by Consumer Coordination Council, New Delhi in association with 'The Legal Interns', a legal firm on November 21, 2020.
- Simi TB attended a webinar on 'Is your organisation equipped to partner effectively for the SDGs?' organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, The Partnering Initiative and World Vision on December 10, 2020.
- Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal Singh attended the 5th Technical Webinar on an overview of trans fat, available replacement options and newer technologies for sweet and *namkeen* manufacturers organised by FSSAI on December 15, 2020.
- Amar Deep Singh and Satyapal Singh attended National Consumer Rights Day organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India on December 24, 2020.



CART IN MEDIA

चंदलोड़ आदर्श विद्या मंदिर में जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

गौरव महिमा

चंदलोड़। ग्राम चंदलोड़ आदर्श विद्या मंदिर में जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित। कार्यक्रम में ग्रामीणों को जागरूकता प्रदान करने के लिए जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया।

जैविक खेती पर ब्लॉक स्तरीय जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया

बेकली। ग्राम चंदलोड़ आदर्श विद्या मंदिर में जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित। कार्यक्रम में ग्रामीणों को जागरूकता प्रदान करने के लिए जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया।

Sustainable consumption in South Asia: Making use of sustainable opportunities from the pandemic

More importantly, the South Asia region needs to realise that workers and farmers have a key role to play in promoting sustainable consumption as they are both the end consumers as well as the producers at the start of the supply chain, writes George Cheriyan & Simi T.B. for South Asia Monitor

By George Cheriyan & Simi T.B. | Dec 19, 2020

रासायनिक खेती से खराब हुई अन्न की गुणवत्ता: भगवान सिंह

संदेश न्यूज। कोटा।

रासायनिक खेती से खराब हुई अन्न की गुणवत्ता: भगवान सिंह। रासायनिक खेती से खराब हुई अन्न की गुणवत्ता: भगवान सिंह। रासायनिक खेती से खराब हुई अन्न की गुणवत्ता: भगवान सिंह।

जैविक खेती अपनाने से समृद्ध होगा किसान

जैविक प्रशिक्षण व भ्रमण कार्यक्रम संपन्न

जैविक खेती अपनाने से समृद्ध होगा किसान। जैविक प्रशिक्षण व भ्रमण कार्यक्रम संपन्न। जैविक खेती अपनाने से समृद्ध होगा किसान।

कार्यशाला में गिनाए जैविक खेती के फायदे

15.12.2020

कार्यशाला में गिनाए जैविक खेती के फायदे। 15.12.2020। कार्यशाला में गिनाए जैविक खेती के फायदे।

जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा दें किसान, आधुनिक तकनीक अपनाकर बढ़ाएं पैदावार: मल्होत्रा

गोमाणा में ब्लॉक स्तरीय जैविक खेती जागरूकता कार्यशाला का आयोजन

जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा दें किसान, आधुनिक तकनीक अपनाकर बढ़ाएं पैदावार: मल्होत्रा। गोमाणा में ब्लॉक स्तरीय जैविक खेती जागरूकता कार्यशाला का आयोजन।

खटवा में स्कूल की पथरीली भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाकर विकसित किया जैविक किचन गार्डन

जैविक खेती में योगदान देने वाले किसान सम्मानित, अब उपखंड के सभी स्कूलों में विकसित होंगे किचन गार्डन

खटवा में स्कूल की पथरीली भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाकर विकसित किया जैविक किचन गार्डन। जैविक खेती में योगदान देने वाले किसान सम्मानित, अब उपखंड के सभी स्कूलों में विकसित होंगे किचन गार्डन।

जैविक खेती से बढ़ती है भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति-पारीक

जैविक खेती से बढ़ती है भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति-पारीक। जैविक खेती से बढ़ती है भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति-पारीक।