

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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New Innovations Required for Sustainable Urban Governance

“All stakeholders need to work together to strengthen the urban governance in Rajasthan through research, capacity building of local bodies,” said Hridesh Kumar Sharma, IAS, Director cum Joint Secretary, Department of Local Self Government (LSG), Government of Rajasthan. He inaugurated the expert consultation organised by CUTS International on September 02, 2022, under a project entitled ‘Improving City Governance through Enhancing Knowledge of Urban Local Bodies in Rajasthan’ supported by the Australian High Commission under its Direct Aid Programme.

He further added inclusive and sustainable governance is the need of the hour, and LSG is working towards improving the performance of local bodies. Sharma highlighted that urban growth should be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable and appreciated CUTS’ work in urban governance.

George Cherian, Director, CUTS opined that Rajasthan’s urban population is around 1.70 crores, 24.9 per cent of the total population. In contrast, the rural population stands at 5.15 crore, 75.1 per cent of the total population. Such a rise in urban population implies increased demand for goods and services and the requirement of efficient systems for urban planning, management and governance. Therefore, addressing urban development and transformation, urban inequalities and bringing suitable reformation within the urban governance system to address these changes are India’s most important political and intellectual challenges.

Dachepally Sudhakar, a Former Executive Engineer of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, highlighted the best practices of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. He said there is a need for innovation in urban issues like municipal finance, urban public transportation, sanitation, and community participation.

Dharmendra Bhatnagar, Team Leader, Rajasthan Shahari Vikas Kendra, said resident welfare associations (RWAs) need to be strengthened like other metro cities. Political will is required to achieve sustainable urban governance.

BR Sharma, President Federation of RWAs, said LSG should include RWAs in every urban governance scheme and city planning. Seema Joshi, a Former Member of the Rajasthan State Child Protection Commission, highlighted that the city should be child friendly by incorporating ideas of the proper footpath, bicycle tracks, and space for recreation.

During the meeting, Himani Tiwari, City Managers’ Association, Rajasthan (CMAR), Department of Local Self Government, highlighted the government’s initiative and programme related to urban governance.

Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer CUTS, presented the organisation’s previous work on urban governance and explained the objective and activities of the project. He said CUTS would organise capacity-building programmes to improve urban governance in different parts of Rajasthan in identified areas. He shared key findings of the study done by CUTS for identifying the areas that required the capacity building of ULBs.

Amit Babu, Programme Associate, CUTS, proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting saw the participation of more than 35 senior officials of the LSG Department, experts in urban governance and RWAs.

During the occasion, an MoU was signed between the Department of LSG and CUTS International to build capacity building of ULBs.



Experts Demanded an Effective Mandatory Warning Label

Public health and consumer experts in Rajasthan unanimously demanded mandatory simplified front-of-the-pack labelling (FoPL) regulation to be notified by the Food Regulator at the earliest to address the rising Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country. Experts unanimously proposed this in a state-level consultation on 'Status of NCDs and Role of Front of the Pack Labelling' organised by CUTS in Jaipur to generate awareness on FoPL and its role in curbing NCDs among wider stakeholders.



Cherian said FoPL is a cost-effective messaging strategy to help consumers make informed, healthier food choices. It allows consumers to correctly, quickly, and easily identify products that contain unhealthy ingredients such as sugar, salt and fats. One of the primary reasons for increasing NCDs is poor dietary behaviour. Therefore, he stressed that the food regulator in India needs to move forward at a more rapid phase to choose an ideal label for packaged food products for consumers in India.

Sunil Sharma, IAS, Food Safety Commissioner, Directorate of Food Safety and Drug Control, Government of Rajasthan, stated that government officials and health department employees are still unaware of this critical issue of NCDs and FoPL. Sharma emphasised the need to spread awareness among all consumers and healthcare providers. He highlighted that consumers have a right to get accurate information about their products. Sharma agreed to the idea of a warning label for a country like India.

Dr Ashok Gupta, Professor and Head, J.K. Lone Hospital, Jaipur, highlighted that Rajasthan is in the red zone in NCD cases, and this is the right time to understand the real cause of diseases due to unhealthy diets. He claimed proper eating habits could reduce a large number of deaths.

Sanjay Pandey, National Consultant, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, underlined the importance of the warning label in India. He highlighted that the nonlinear nature of NCDs necessitates a multidimensional approach to addressing the issue. According to him, consumers are misinformed and confused by the health star rating.

Satyapal Singh, Programme Officer, CUTS, delivered a presentation on the status of the NCDs and the role of FoPL in Rajasthan and across the country.

The panellists in the technical session were: Dr Seema Mehta, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) Public Health Department; Dr R.N.Meena, State Nodal Officer, NCDs, Department of Health, Government of

Rajasthan; Vandana Vyas, Member In charge, Health & Nutrition Cell, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR); and Kanika Verma, Professor, Department of Nutrition, Rajasthan University, who shared their department-specific progress and programmes related to the NCDs.

In the closing session, Madhu Sudan Sharma, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS, summarised the deliberations and proposed a vote of thanks. About 50 participants attended.

The State level consultation in Kerala on 'Significance of FoPL in Addressing NCDs' was organised jointly by CUTS and National Resource Centre on NCDs and in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, on August 26, 2022.

Johnson Edayaranmula delivered the welcome address, and Cherian made the opening address. Lt. Col. L J John, Regional Director, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. Dr V Meenakshi, Additional Director of Health Services (Public Health), Government of Kerala and Saju V Itty, Executive Director of Kerala Voluntary Health Services, delivered special addresses.

In the technical session, Simi T.B. made the introductory presentation. The panellists were Bipin K Gopal, State Nodal Officer, NCD, Directorate of Health Services; Dr A.S. Pradeep Kumar, Former Additional Director of Health Services; Dr K R



Antony, Independent Monitor, National Health Mission and Dr V.R. Vasundhara, Medical Officer, Government Nature Cure Hospital, Varkala.

Dr Sreejith N. Kumar, Indian Medical Association (IMA) was the chief guest in the valedictory session and Dr Geomcy George summed up the deliberations. More than 50 participants, including 25 doctors, attended the consultation and agreed that a warning label is more effective.

CUTS on FSSAI Panel

Cherian has been re-nominated to the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) of the (FSSAI) for three years as a member from the consumer segment. This is the 3rd time CUTS is getting nominated to CAC of FSSAI. Cherian attended the meeting of CAC held in Kochi, Kerala, on August 23-24, 2022.

Advocating with Lawmakers to Support FoPL Regulation

Cherian and Madhu Sudan Sharma met with several Members of Parliament, N K Premachadran, Anto Antony, Amarendra Dhari Singh, Adoor Prakash, Ramya Haridas, Ram Gopal Yadav (Chairperson Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health), Jose K Mani and Rahul Kaswan on August 02-03, 2022, and discussed various issues regarding food safety.



CUTS mobilised three MPs from Kerala (Anto Antony, Jose K. Mani and N.K. Premachadran) for the felicitation, interaction cum dinner discussion organised by GHAI at New Delhi on August 03, 2022.

CCC National Convention-cum-AGM



The convention cum AGM was held at Shahid Smarak Bhawan, Raipur, in Chhattisgarh, on September 09, 2022. Delegates from 22 States attended the convention. Cherian and Deepak Saxena from CUTS participated. Amarjeet Bhagat, Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs, Chhattisgarh, was the Chief Guest.

Naveen Srivastava, President, Upbhokta Shiksha evam Suraksha Foundation, welcomed all the participants. P Ramarao, Chairperson, CCC, delivered the inaugural speech, followed by Ramji Bhai Mawani, Amrat Lal Sah, Abhishek Srivastava, Cherian, Liyakat Ali, P K Panda, Packialaxmi and Sharmila Ranade. Besides participants, Saxena, G S Panda, Rama Ben Mawani, Pramod Jhanwar, Sanjay Arya and a few other members also shared their thoughts.

Global Green Action Week, India

Marking the launch of GAW India 2022, Anmol Foundation, the local partner of Chhattisgarh in Raipur, organised a one-day meeting on September 08, 2022. Cherian delivered the opening address and Harbans Singh Miri, Joint Collector, was the chief guest of the programme.

Other speakers included Sanjeev Jain, Chief Engineer, CREDA Chhattisgarh as a technical expert and GK Das, Head of Department of Agro-Metrology from Indira Gandhi Agricultural University; Ajay Malu, Superintendent Engineer, Chhattisgarh State Environmental Protection Board; Director of Prerak Sansthan, Ram Gulam Sinha and Kuntal Mukherjee from Pradhan as speakers.

Around 54 participants, including government officials, NGOs and community representatives, participated in the workshop.



Green Action Week, Rajasthan Campaign, 2021

Green Action Week (GAW) Rajasthan was launched with a community-level introductory kitchen garden meeting at Gulab Vihar in Jaipur on September 19, 2022. Cherian, Nimisha Gaur and Rajdeep Pareek attended the meeting. The theme for this year's campaign is 'Sharing Community.' Kitchen garden kits (five vegetable and medicinal seeds, HDPE pots, and one piece of gardening equipment) were distributed to participants. Three more introductory meetings were organised at Jagannath puri extension, Hinglaj Nagar & Girdharipura, on September 20, 22 & 23, 2022, respectively.



Australian High Commission to India

Two officials from the Australian High Commission, New Delhi, Mish Khan, Second Secretary and Chair of the New Delhi Direct Aid Programme, and Pallavi Nayak, Senior Research Officer, visited CUTS' office in Jaipur and had discussions on the Urban Governance interventions. Himani Tiwari from the Department of LSG, GoR, also joined us in the discussions.



Identification of New Sustainable Practices



First Stakeholder Sensitisation Programme (SSP) was organised at Jodhpur under ProScop SCP Project on September 29, 2022. Jagdish Sharma, AEn, Rajasthan Pollution Control Board; Kamlesh, Professor, Jodhpur Engineering College; Pranita Sanwariya, AEn, Jodhpur Municipal Corporation; Dr. Seema Sisodia, Naturopathy Practitioner were the main speakers. Amar Deep Singh delivered opening remarks and spoke about SCP and Amit Babu presented the key findings of the consumer perception survey. Pratibha Jain summarised the discussion and proposed a vote of thanks. More than 45 participants, including consumers and CSOs, attended the programme.

Cherian elected as Vice Chairperson of the CCC of India

Cherian has been elected to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) of India during the election held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on September 09, 2022.

As per the CCC constitution, the election is held once in two years, and after becoming the Vice Chairperson, after two years, automatically becomes the Chairperson of CCC. Delegates from 22 different states in India attended the National Consumer Convention and the Annual General Body meeting of CCC and participated in the elections.

CCC is the Apex consumer body of all consumer organisations in India and the voice of consumers in India, established in 1993 to take up issues affecting consumers' interests in urban and rural areas of India. Consumer organisations from across the country are members of CCC.

WEBINARS/MEETINGS/VISITS

- Simi TB and Amit Babu attended regional consultation on 'Strengthening Climate Resilient Low Carbon & Inclusive Growth in Asia' organised by Integrated Research and Action for Development, India, in collaboration with Asia Regional Office, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in New Delhi on July 04 2022. She also attended Financial Consumer Protection, including Financial Education and Literacy, at UNCTAD IGE, in Geneva on July 19, 2022.
- Amar Deep Singh attended a consultation organised by the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society jointly with Indian Network on Ethics & Climate Change on Locally Determined Choices for National Determined Contribution on August 09, 2022.
- Simi TB attended Fighting for Food Security: Lessons from Cross-Country Approaches, organised by Asian Development Bank on August 10, 2022.
- Simi TB attended a national webinar on 'Front of Package Labelling (FoPL) and Childhood Obesity' organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raebareli and AIIMS Rishikesh on August 30 2022.
- Dharmendra attended the fourth Manak Manthan Programme on IS 17505(Part 1): 2021 Fire Survival Cables at the Bureau of Indian Standards office on September 06, 2022.
- Rajdeep Pareek attended an exposure visit of 60 progressive farmers to Gagrani Farm under the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) project.
- Simi TB, Amar Deep Singh and Amit Babu attended a virtual Roundtable on Lifestyles and Sustainable Consumption in the Context of SDG 12 on September 23, 2022. Cherian, as one of the panellists, spoke on the theme from a consumer perspective.
- Cherian, as a panellist, spoke in a Virtual Roundtable on 'Lifestyles and Sustainable Consumption in the Context of SDG 12' organised by The Energy & Resources Institute on September 23, 2022. Simi TB, Amar Deep Singh and Amit Babu also attended the webinar.
- Simi TB attended a webinar on 'Climate Dialogue Series 2022 – India' organised by The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on September 26, 2022.
- Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended the State level Consultation to Combat Child Marriage at HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM RIPA), Jaipur, on September 28 2022.
- Nimisha Gaur attended a one-week online certificate course on 'E-Waste Management in India' organised by the Centre for Science and Environment during September 25-October 01, 2022.

जॉर्ज चेरियन भारत के उपभोक्ता समन्वय परिषद् (सी.सी.सी.) के उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में निर्वाचित

हिन्दुस्तान एक्सप्रेस



जयपुर। जयपुर रिझर्ट 'कट्स' इंटरनेशनल के निदेशक जॉर्ज चेरियन 9 सितंबर, 2022 को यहांपुर, छोटासाह में हुए चुनाव के दौरान भारत के उपभोक्ता समन्वय परिषद् (सी.सी.सी.) के उपाध्यक्ष पद के लिए चुने गये। सी.सी.सी. के सचिवालय के अनुसार, चुनाव दो साल में एक बार होता है और उपाध्यक्ष बनने के बाद, दो साल बाद वह रूप से सी.सी.सी. का अध्यक्ष बन जाता है। भारत के 22 विभिन्न राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों ने गांधीरूप उपभोक्ता सम्मेलन और सी.सी.सी. की वार्षिक आम सभा की बैठक में चुनावों में भाग लिया। सी.सी.सी. भारत के सभी सांघिक सम्बोधनों का अध्यक्ष बनने का संबोधन

Experts demand simplified FoPL regulation at the earliest

① August 31, 2022

TRENDING NOW

2 minute read

BUSINESS - LIFE STYLE - NATIONAL
George Cherian, Director, CUTS International nominated to the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) of Indian Food Authority (FSSAI)

© August 3, 2022 2:21 AM Read



5. 2022. George Cherian, Director of Jaipur based consumer advocacy group Consumer Unity & Trust Society

कट्स सोसाइटी द्वारा गैर संचारित रोगों से बचाव में फ्रट ऑफ पैक लेबलिंग पर परिचर्चा



महिलाओं को किचन गार्डन विकसित करने की प्रेरणा दी



हिन्दुस्तान एक्सप्रेस

जयपुर। कट्स इंटरनेशनल तथा हरदेव शिक्षण एवं जन कल्याण संस्थान द्वारा दिव्य ज्योति पब्लिक स्कूल, लक्ष्मी विहार कालोनी, माँधी

उआकर शुद्ध खानपान के दीकार्यक्रम प्रभारी धर्मेंद्र चतुरपा संस्था का परिचय देते हुए बताया कि यह संस्था गत 40 वर्षों से उपभोक्ताओं के अधिकारों के संरक्षण

FSSAI notifies CAC; members appointed for peri years

Tuesday, 09 August, 2022, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi

The FSSAI has notified the Central Advisory Committee along with its members. The members will be appointed for three years.

The committee includes two members each with specialised fields including food industry, agricultural bodies and food laboratories.

Members include Manoj Pareek, head, R&D

विशेषज्ञों द्वारा पैकेट बंद खाद्य पदार्थों पर अनिवार्य प्रभावी चेतावनी लेबल की मांग

प्रशासन सम्बन्धी

प्रशासन