

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.

INSIDE

- Projects and Programmes
- Representations
- Visits
- CART in Media



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Women Must Play a Pivotal Role in Generating Awareness of Sharing

“Women must come forward because they are the only ones who can transform and reinvoke the spirit of sharing while raising awareness in the society,” said Munesh Gurjar, Mayor of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Heritage). She delivered the inaugural address at the State Level Stakeholders Consultation organised by CUTS International under ‘Green Action Week Rajasthan’. Gurjar also said that through the ‘Wealth out of Waste’ training, women had made such commendable products from waste.

George Cherian, Director of CUTS International, stated that the organisation runs this campaign in 14 different states of India and Rajasthan to promote sustainable consumption. He stated that the focus of this year’s campaign is to support a ban on single-use plastics, which will come into effect in July 2022.

From 1950 to 2015, approximately 8.3 billion metric tonnes of plastic were produced globally. Of this, 80 percent — 6.3 billion metric tonnes — was accounted for as plastic waste; 9 percent was recycled, and 79 percent went to landfills. If current trends continue, by 2050, there will be 12 billion metric tonnes of plastic in landfills.

The Central Pollution Control Board Report (2019-20) stated that 3.5 million metric tonnes of plastic waste are generated in India annually. It is expected to double in capacity by 2040. Citing reuse and recycling, he called upon to abandon the linear economy approach and adopt a circular economy.

KC Meena, Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board, said that consumerism is increasing and needs to be reduced. Meena emphasised on adopting the culture of cycling. He said that by adopting a lifestyle of simple living and high thinking, the use of natural resources could be limited. He also appreciated the use of cycle campaigns in cities, which addresses sustainable mobility.

Regional Officer of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Vijay Sharma, said that in 2011, an Act was brought to ban plastic. He emphasised on recycling the e-waste properly and said that Indore is the only city in the country which is best in terms of cleanliness. Under the e-Waste Collection Act 2022, dismantling recycler agencies have been set up in Rajasthan. For this, it is vital to bring behavioural change and awareness among the common man.

Citing several examples of community sharing, Nimali Singh, Syndicate Member and Professor in the Department of Home Science, University of Rajasthan, said that even today, there is a tendency to share goods and services in villages. She explained the activities through which this feeling can be increased in urban areas.

At the beginning of the programme, Deepak Saxena, Associate Director, CUTS welcomed the participants and said that ‘Green Action Week’ is organised every year in the first week of October. This international-level campaign is organised globally in collaboration with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) Sweden.

Nimisha Sharma, Programme Officer presented the activities under the campaign. She said that women from four communities participated enthusiastically in training for ‘Wealth out of Waste,’ developing kitchen gardens etc. The programme also organised an exhibition of the products made during the training by women. Prizes were given to the best-performing participants.

Rajdeep Pareek, Programme Officer, proposed a vote of thanks. In addition to the representatives of various institutions, more than 55 participants participated.



National Consumers Day

Deepak Saxena, Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Intern Varsha Yadav attended an event organised by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare jointly with Bhawani Niketan PG College. Rajendra Agrawal, District Commission Judge of Tonk, was the chief guest.

Around 60 students, college staff, *shikshaan samiti* members, and Agmark department staff were present. An exhibition was also arranged at the spot, with stalls from various companies selling agricultural products, as well as a stall from Agmark, which featured equipment for testing their products.

Satyapal Singh attended another event organised by the Department of Food and Consumers Affairs, Government of Rajasthan, at HCM-RIPA, Jaipur. The theme of this programme was 'Effective Disposal of Cases in Consumer Commissions.' Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs was the chief guest.



World Conference on Injury Prevention & Safety

Cherian participated in the 14th World Conference on Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion (Safety 2022), in Adelaide, Australia, from November 27-30, 2022. The conference was hosted by the Public Health Association of Australia and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation, and other key national and international organisations.

Safety 2022 aimed to bring together the global injury prevention community to continue the successful world conferences highlighting the vital research, work and advocacy in injury prevention and safety promotion. Cheriyan made presentation on 'Convergent efforts for managing key risk factors, hold a key in injury prevention.'

Global Road Safety Partnership organised a workshop titled 'Role of Road Safety Policy Advocacy in Saving Lives', on November 28, 2022. The workshop was aimed at presenting highlights from 10 years of the Road Safety Grants Programme. Cherian made a presentation on policy advocacy wins in India.

Global Health Advocacy Incubator organised a workshop on 'The importance of coalitions for strengthening road safety policy,' on November 30, 2022. Nalin Sinha (India), Jackie Okao (Uganda), and Valentine Ochoa (Mexico) were speakers. Cherian shed light on the coalition experience of Road Safety Network in India.

‘Light4defenders’ Manifestation



Commemorating World Day of Remembrance

CUTS team commemorated the World Day of Remembrance on the 3rd Sunday of November. In 2022 the theme was Remember, Support, Act. CUTS organised two street plays on November 18, 2022 in Bhawani Niketan College, where a considerable number of people participated.

Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal Singh met with Transport and Road Safety Commissioner, Rajasthan, on November 17.



2022, and discussed various road safety issues in the state. Madhu Sudan Sharma also met with Brijendra Ola, Transport Minister of Rajasthan and briefed him about CUTS work and the relevance of World Day of Remembrance.

C UTS observed Human Rights Day with 'light4defenders' manifestation, highlighting the plight of environmental defenders. This year's theme of Human Rights Day was 'Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All.' Over the last decade, at least 1,733 land and environmental defenders have been assassinated in approximately 60 countries, with more than 35 percent of those killed identified as indigenous. On average, one person is killed every two days while attempting to protect community land, the environment, and our planet from destructive industry practices, criminal activity, and complicit governments.

Gram Gadar Award

Gram Gadar Award for Rural Journalism was presented in a function held in Jaipur on November 23, 2022 to Jay Kumar Bhati of Rajasthan Patrika, Jodhpur by Munish Gurjar, Hon'ble Mayor of Jaipur-Heritage, for his reporting/writings on the topic 'Women's Participation in Development' published during 2021. He was given a certificate and a cash prize of ₹10,000.



Making Telecom Consumers Aware

CUTS organised three back-to-back Consumer Awareness Programmes with the support of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at



Devthala in Govindgarh block of Jaipur district on November 15, 2022, with around 100 senior students. The second one was held at Sargoth village of Reengus Panchayat Samiti of Sikar district on December 28, 2022, with around 46 senior students. The third one was held on December 30, 2022 at Nawan City of Nagaur district with about 52 local telecom customers and a few students.

Sustainable Consumption Stakeholder Perspectives

The first Stakeholder Sensitisation Programme on Sustainable Consumption was organised at Kota District on November 18, 2022 under SCP-ProScop Project supported by SSNC. Yodhistar Chansi, Secretary, Ramkrishan Sansthan welcomed the participants. Rajkumar Gurjar, J.En. Rajasthan Pollution Control Board; Hemlata Gandhi, Coordinator, Kota Municipal Corporation; Yagyadutta Hada, Vice President, Kota

Scout & Guide were speakers. Around 40 representatives from LSG, CSO, academics, SHGs and media attended the programme.

The second stakeholder sensitisation programme on sustainable consumption was organised at Bharatpur on December 01, 2022. Abhijeet Kumar, Mayor Bharatpur; Amit Kumar, Engineer, Pollution Control Board; Laxman Pathak, Rtd. Environmental Engineer; Anurag Tripathi, Engineer, PHED were the main speakers. More than 40 participants attended the meeting.

Advocacy for Effective FoPL

CUTS carried out an in-depth analysis of the Draft Notification regarding Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022, related to Front of Pack Nutritional Labelling (FOPNL) and high fat, sugar, salt (HFSS), dated September 13, 2022, and submitted its comments in the prescribed format to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The project team met Bhuvneshwar Kalita, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and raised concerns about the FoPL draft notification and format. CUTS successfully carried out signature campaigns targeting universities and colleges in Rajasthan, seeking their support for strong warning labels and mobilising the support of around 3,000 people.

At Maharani's College, Jaipur CUTS organised an interactive session "Why India needs Front of the Pack Warning Labels," on November 04, 2022 and sensitised the young consumers.

Simi TB and Satyapal Singh participated in the GHAI partners meeting in New Delhi on October 17-18, 2022, as well as the in-person partners and a strategic meeting with Senior Vice President Yolonda Richardson (GHAI) in New Delhi on December 07, 2022.

Improving City Governance for Urban Transformation

Two capacity-building workshops were organised for the officials of urban local bodies (ULBs) of Rajasthan under the project 'Improving City Governance' project supported by Australian High Commission.

The first workshop was conducted at Jodhpur for the ULB officials who come under the Jodhpur division on November 10, 2022. Amar Deep Singh welcomed the participants and delivered the workshop's opening remarks. D Sudhakar, a Lead Resource Person from Hyderabad, delivered the sessions on municipal finance, solid waste management, sustainable transportation and community participation.



The second capacity-building workshop was conducted at Kota for ULB officials comes under Kota division on December 22, 2022. Vasudev Malawat, Commissioner, Kota Municipal Corporation (North) and Deepti Ramchandran, Divisional Deputy Director, Local Self Government Department, attended the workshop as special guests. Both interacted with participants and appreciated the training programme.

Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

A total of 42 activities were conducted in 12 selected districts, including village-level awareness workshops, GAW activities, kitchen garden trainings, evaluation meetings of seed cells, and organic gardens in schools.

During the period, two village-level awareness meetings were organised. The main objective was to create mass awareness among producers and consumers of organic production and consumption benefits.

Green Action Week was observed in all the 12 districts of the project to sensitise a broader audience on sustainable consumption. Kitchen garden training were organised in the sets of selected villages to be converted as "Model Organic Village" in all the districts.

A total of 22 kitchen garden training were organised with orientation, demonstration and seed kit distribution to the selected women participants in the trainings.

A total of three evaluation meetings of community-managed seed cells were organised, where farmers were motivated to adopt the traditional seeds of different crops in organic farming and save extinction seeds of different crops.

Meetings were organised in selected schools to change the mindset of school-going children towards agriculture and educate them about the benefits of organic farming through developing organic gardens.



Monitoring and Tracking Project Progress

On December 21, 2022, Taifur Rahman and Nalin Sinha visited CUTS office and met with the Road Safety team. Cheriyan initiated the discussions, and Madhu Sudan Sharma gave a detailed presentation. Other members also shared their experiences about recently concluded activities, the outcomes achieved, and proposed activities for the coming months.



Rahman asked the project team to focus on the project, content, and explore policy opportunities while summarising the discussions. After the review, Rahman and Sinha also met with Mehta and Bipul Chatterjee to discuss global and regional issues.



Focus on Organic Farming

Nils Viklund, Programme Manager for Chemicals at SSNC Sweden, visited CUTS from December 12-15, 2022, to review the progress of the ProScop project. The visit began with an introductory and review meeting with the project team. He visited the proposed model organic village of Devthala in Nindola Panchayat, Govindgarh Block of Jaipur District and met with the progressive organic farmers of the village. On December 15, 2022, Nils visited Lalsot block in the Dausa district to see several organic gardens in schools, organic farms, and kitchen gardens developed by women in Thaloj village.

GAW India Partners Meet

GAW India Partners Meet was organised at CUTS Conference Hall, Jaipur, on December 15, 2022. Representatives of 13 partner organisations from 13 states participated and presented their activities under the campaign. Nils Viklund, Programme Manager, SSNC, also attended the meeting and interacted with participants. All partners made presentations and shared activities, challenges, impact, and way forward. It was a good opportunity to learn from each other and discuss innovative ideas.



WEBINARS/MEETINGS/VISITS

- Satyapal Singh and Simi TB attended a National Webinar on 'FoPL as an essential tool to address the Non-Communicable Disease burden in India' organised by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network Of India on October 10, 2022.
- Deepak Saxena and Dharmendra Chaturvedi attended a webinar organised by Bureau of Indian Standards, Delhi, on World Standards Day on October 14, 2022. Saxena also attended a physical event on October 15, 2022 organised by BIS, Jaipur at Jaipur.
- Simi TB attended an international conference on 'Powering Cities in the Global South: How Energy Access for All Benefits the Economy and the Environment' organised by Nansen Environmental Research Centre (India) on October 31, 2022.
- Cheriyan attended the 14th TMC meeting headed by Usha Sharma, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan convened by the Transport and Road Safety Department, virtually on November 09, 2022.
- Amar Deep Singh attended Asia Expert Working Group meeting organised by Local Public Sector Alliance on November 17, 2022 through online platform.
- Amar Deep Singh participated in the National Consultation organised by Praja Foundation and National Institute of Urban Affairs at New Delhi on November 25, 2022.
- Nimisha Gaur attended an event on 'GM Mustard, Diversity, Integrity & Purity of our Seeds & Food' organised by Navdanya, Jaipur on December 19, 2022.
- Cheriyan was a panellist of the 5th E-dialogue series under 'Lets fix our food' organised by the Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Nutrition under a project supported by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund on 'Taxation on HFSS to discourage consumption', on December 16, 2022.
- Madhu Sudan Sharma and Satyapal attended the partners meeting hosted by Synergy's Delhi office in New Delhi from December 19-20, 2022.
- Simi TB attended TERI event 'National Webinar on Green Budgeting, Launch of Green Budgeting Portal' on December 28, 2022.
- Simi TB and Amit Babu attended the Third FSSAI-Consumer Forum meeting for discussion on issues of consumers, consumer organisations on December 29, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

- Role of Small and Medium travel business key in road safety
KNN India, December 24, 2022
- FoPL regulation needs wider consultation
The Bureaucrat, December 16, 2022

New Project

A Holistic Representation of Frauds and Grievance Redress in Digital Payments and Digital Credit Services in Rajasthan

