

Advocacy Meeting

Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics GRANITE, Phase II Friday, 19 August, 2011 Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi

Objective

To discuss the findings of the CUTS study on the effectiveness of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India by bringing together diverse stakeholders ranging from government officials to representatives of export promotion councils, civil society organisations, business associations, academia and media and to formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Government of India

Background

Several steps have been taken in the National Foreign Trade Policy of India (adopted in 2004 and revised in 2009) to enhance labour-intensive exports to major markets but many Indian producers/exporters (especially small producers/exporters) are mostly unaware of them. Moreover, the Policy was adopted without much consultation with the larger community of stakeholders affected by international trade, nor have systematic socio-economic sustainability impact analyses been conducted.

Given this background, since 2005 CUTS has been implementing a project entitled Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (www.cuts-citee.org/GRANITE-II/index.htm) in eight states in India (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) to engage the civil society organisations with the implementation of this Policy.

The goal is to enhance inclusiveness in the formulation and implementation of economic policies, especially trade policies, so as to achieve better economic governance in India. Economic literacy initiatives such as workshops and participatory outreach meetings have been conducted. A coherent civil society voice on the opportunities and challenges of international trade will be a tangible outcome of the project.

Context

Critically evaluating the implementation and impact of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, CUTS International has produced a paper, which will be presented at this meeting. While preparing this paper, the effectiveness of various schemes to promote exports including those being implemented by the state governments to create a more enabling environment for export promotion has been examined from the point of view of employment generation, etc.

Given this context, this meeting is to discuss and debate on the draft recommendations prepared by CUTS International with a view to finalising and submitting them to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Government of India.

Agenda

1015-1045 **Registration**

1045-1130 **Opening**

1130-1200 **Break**

1200-1330 **India's Foreign Trade Policy and Its Outreach: A Critical Reflection**

1330 **Lunch**