

Performance Registration Results

Project : ZAA-504367-0006105

Name : *WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations*

From : *01/01/2005 Until: 31/03/2006*

Approved Budget : *EUR 155,000*

Counterpart : *Consumer Unity & Trust Society*

Number : *504367*

(01) Performance Registration - selected period

Reporting Period : *from 01/01/2005 until 31/03/2006*

Date(s) of receipt progress report(s):

Reporting period		Received	Quality of Progress report	Received F	Quality of Financial report	Date of Reaction
From	Until					
<i>01-01-2005</i>	<i>31-03-2006</i>	<i>27-10-2006</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>00-00-0000</i>		<i>00-00-0000</i>
<i>01-01-2005</i>	<i>30-09-2005</i>	<i>25-10-2005</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>25-10-2005</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>00-00-0000</i>

Assessment version : *002*

Language: *E*

Signed by PO: *Maaïke de Loor*

Date: *10/11/2006*

Signed by FO: *Vonne van Fessem*

Date: *02/11/2005*

(01.1) Policy & Practice Changes (Generators of Impact)

During the reporting period, which Policy & Practice Changes were achieved, to which it can reasonably be argued the Project Outcomes contributed?

Both PPCs were achieved:

- 1. SA countries were in a better position to negotiate better for more equitably designed trade rules, due to the efforts undertaken by this consortium lead by CUTS CITEE*
- 2. Civil Society did formally engage in multiple forms and at multiple instances in trade negotiations at the highest levels, with state (national) levels as well international, in WTO context.*

(01.2) Outcome / Risk

During the reporting period, were the agreed milestones of progress towards achieving the outcomes fully delivered? *Good*

During the reporting period, were the agreed milestones towards the control or mitigation of the principal risks fully delivered? *Good*

Clarification:

The report states well what outcomes have been achieved and what unplanned outputs/ outcomes also can be attributed to this project. They are rather impressive, especially given the time pressure, the technicalities and sensitiveness of the trade issues and the network/ forum CUTS CITEE had to build up.

The report does not fully report on its risk management, but from monitoring visits and email exchange it is known that they were managed well.

Which outcomes were achieved during the reporting period (intended and unintended):
All four outcomes were very satisfactorily achieved.

- 1. A total of 10 trade negotiators and trade policy officials from five South Asian countries were better equipped to negotiate during the Doha Round for the benefit of the poor, with a special focus on women, and with inputs from the ground/grassroots.*
- 2. The five SA countries - and also the G-20 and the mini Ministerials- submitted and released papers, non-papers, and press releases in order to voice their concerns and draw attention to pro-poor policies.*
- 3. Through action-research (civil society's involvement in the process of conducting research) an informal forum of state (trade policy officials and trade negotiators) and non-state (NGOs, trade unions, research institutions, WTO experts, business bodies) actors was put in place. This forum helped different actors to interact with each other on project-related issues.*

Performance Registration Results

4. CUTS contributed to develop CSOs understanding and knowledge on trade issues and a model in the form of a forum in which CSOs, trade actors and governments interact has been successfully set up and is very alive.

A few highlights from an additional, long list of unplanned outcomes:

- The Doha Round of negotiations continued in 2006. Research partners organised post Hong Kong dialogues in five South Asian countries piggybacked with their other events in order to appraise a larger set of stakeholders on what happened in Hong Kong and what actions that South Asian countries should take to consolidate gains and minimise difficulties.
- CUTS participated in the WTO Public Forum held at Geneva in September 2006. This forum further disseminated the findings of SAFIT research work. At the WTO Public Forum, CUTS Secretary-General was invited by SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry to speak on common South Asian Positions vis-à-vis key issues of Doha round of trade negotiations, where he presented the findings of SAFIT research work. In this meeting trade negotiator from all five South Asian countries and a few other key countries were present.
- CUTS came up with a compendium entitled, "Hanging By a Thread - Perspectives on the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong" consisting of articles published world over before, during and after the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial.
- Throughout the project policymakers and country negotiators took keen interest in the project activities. CUTS has a list of 27 VIPs from the 5 participating nations to evidence this.
- For the first time, civil society representative was a part of the official delegation of the Indian government to the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial. The project associates in Pakistan and Nepal were also member of their respective national government delegation to the HK Ministerial.

(01.3) Output

Which main products & services were delivered during the reporting period, which have or will contribute to the achievement of Outcomes?

1. Briefing Papers produced and released:

- o Agriculture Trade Negotiations after the 'July Package'--The Way forward for South Asia
- o Agriculture for July 'Package'--An Assessment of Implications for Least Developed Countries
- o Non Agriculture Market Access--Priorities for South Asia
- o Some Asian Agenda for Services Negotiations--Commonalities & Differences
- o Multilateral Agreement on Trade Facilitation--Important but Complex Agenda for South Asia
- o Development Dimensions of Doha Round--A Major Concern For South Asia
- o WTO in 2006: Looking Back to Move Ahead--Post-Hong Kong is More Challenging

2. A book entitled, "South Asian Positions in the WTO Doha Round- In search of A True Development Agenda". The 'foreword' in the book has been written by Amir Khosru M Chowdhury, the Former Commerce Minister and Trade Negotiator of Bangladesh.

3. Series of panel discussions, consultations on/during/post HONG KONG WTO negotiations held with the relevant high-level spokespersons present. Five national consultations by each of the SA participating NGOs.

4. Wider media coverage was received via leading dailies of the five South Asian countries, including: The Financial Express, Bangladesh; The Hindu, The Western Times and The Economic Times, India; The Daily Times and The Dawn, Pakistan; The Spotlight, The Rising Nepal and The Himalayan Times, Nepal; The Lanka Business Online, Sri Lanka among others.

	Planned	Actual (until selected period)
Direct		
Men	15	39
Women	10	15
Total	25	54
Indirect		
Men		257
Women		25
Total		282

Performance Registration Results

(01.4) Outcome/Investement Ratio

Assessment: *Unknown*

Justification:

(01.5) Financial Risk

Opportunity: *No*

Risk: *Small*

Principal Financial Risk(s) and Rationale:
no financial risk

Does the organisation secure the money it requires?
yes

Does the organisation work cost-effectively and cost-efficiently with the resources available?
The level of expenditure is lower than expected: about 43% (salary is 60%).

Does the organisation have a healthy pattern of quantitative and qualitative financial dependency?
Novib is only funder for this project

Does the grantee account for its finances?
Conform budget, notes etc. No information regarding income, lacking calculation CB, no breakdown for overhead

There will be proper use of funds
no evidence for misuse of funds

(01.6) Overall rating and follow up

What is your general assessment of the results achieved during the reporting period? *Good*

Sources of evidence other than the progress report:
*-media coverage;
-fact that 27 key official trade actors from the region have in various ways actively taken part in the project activities; and
-oral feedback from project partners.*

Justification:
CUTS and its partners have undertaken a highly challenging project in a very unpredictable environment. Even the fact that the Doha Round has now been officially suspended, their efforts have resulted in tangible gains of knowledge and experiences both for trade negotiators of the 5 SA countries as well as their CSOs to carry forward pro poor policies.

10.11.2006. Upon sharing the appraisal entered in SAP Nov. 6 2006, CUTS provided further input on the number of beneficiaries and risk management. This caused the appraisal to be reopened.

Direct beneficiaries include project personnel, researchers and commentators of the SAFIT-I project. Indirect beneficiaries include those who took part in national and regional consultations. Stakeholders interviewed during the fieldwork and those who received the book are not included in indirect beneficiaries.

Subjects of communication to the Counterpart:
*For a "in between report"- 9 months, sufficient but it is lacking
- information regarding income side of the project and the calculation of the closing balance
- breakdown overhead*

Performance Registration Results

2.11.06

-please elaborate on the risk management identified at the appraisal of the project, in particular risks 2 and 5.

Answer received 7/11/06:

Risk 2: Civil society is ideologically divided. To give an example: many grassroots organisations lobby to get agriculture out of the WTO. CUTS wants to negotiate agricultural issues within the WTO framework. Often organisations take more radical stands due to lack of understanding and knowledge of the complexity and impact of trade policies or due to a basic difference of opinion on the WTO and its impact. Is CUTS able to explain and communicate its position with a wide range of CSO's and is it able to build an alliance/forum that will be heard and respected by civil society as well as by policy-makers.

Explanation: In implementing the SAFIT project and other projects (notably GRANITE - Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics) CUTS CITEE and its partners have gathered diverse opinions and inputs from various civil society groups, including those who are more radicals. Their views and concerns have been suitably incorporated into research papers. They have been invited to various consultations and have been urged to express their views. Through networking and advocacy, CUTS CITEE and its partners have been able to convince many CSOs (having different views) that the WTO, despite all its limitations, is the best platform to take forward the interests of poor countries, including issues relating to agriculture, as otherwise the game of trade negotiations and trade policy-making will be completely exposed between unequal players. Many policy-makers have appreciated this approach of engaging with diverse groups and views, and some of them have started taking civil society's views, positions and concerns on trade and development issues more seriously.

Risk 5: Unequal distribution of trade benefits within the five South Asian countries will reduce the impact of a possible beneficial WTO agreement for these five countries.

Explanation: It is true that the benefits of a WTO agreement will be unequally distributed among the five major South Asian countries. In particular, least developed countries like Bangladesh and Nepal are not expected to benefit much unless appropriate actions are taken. However, popular perceptions on unequal benefits is a bit exaggerated and a careful analysis of issues can lead to common positions among the South Asian countries, which can benefit all. In the SAFIT-I project, CUTS CITEE and its partners have endeavoured to draw such common positions and have been fairly successful in that regard, including in advocacy with policy-makers. Secondly, CUTS CITEE and its partners have actively advocated for providing duty-free and quota-free market access to products from least developed countries to developed-country markets and those in emerging developing countries like India. This issue (duty-free, quota-free market access for LDCs) has been included in the WTO's work programme on the Doha Round of negotiations at the Hong Kong ministerial conference in December 2005. CUTS CITEE has specifically advocated with the Government of India to offer duty-free, quota-free market access to LDCs and the Government of India has agreed in principle to adopt this policy from April 2007.

- please state the number of beneficiaries, direct and indirect and segregated by sex.

- please show evidence of CUTS' continued review the 7-point gender indicators by way of a separate report on gender dimensions of the process part of the implementation. This was referred to on p. 7 of the Risk and Opportunity Appraisal of p. 6105.
Answer received 7/11/06 in separate email (on file).

10.11.2006 CUTS gave satisfactorily answers to the above points.