

## **National Consultation**

### **Regional Trade Potential and Associated Non-Tariff barriers, with Special Focus on Women-Owned/Led/Engaged Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: The Case of India**

**11<sup>th</sup> February, New Delhi**

The half day seminar was organized by CUTS, International at the Metropolitan Hotel and SPA, New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Delivering his welcome address, Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Director, CUTS International, highlighted the scope and the supply- and demand side constraints which hinders the potential growth and development of women headed MSMEs in India. In her inaugural address, L Savitri, Director, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation highlighted NTBS like standards and transport and logistics issues being addressed by SAARC Summit. Following the introductory remarks, Cheani Mukumba, Resercher, CUTS International gave a presentation of its study: 'Regional Trade Potential and Associated Non-Tariff barriers, with Special Focus on Women-Owned/Led/Engaged Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: The Case of India'. She highlighted the findings of the study carried out by CUTS international. It was based on both primary and secondary data and included there products Apparel, Handloom and Coir. The findings suggest that the growth rate of women MSMEs is significantly lower than MSMEs run by men and the problems faced by women are of different dimensions and magnitudes.

This was followed by two panel discussions. The first panel discussion addressed many domestic constraints such as startups, complex regulation, financial access, security, skill development, infrastructure and operational issues for women MSMEs in India. The second panel discussion focused on export opportunities for Women MSMEs. Chairing the session, D. K Singh, Additional Directional General, DFTP highlighted various schemes such as market and product incentives and training programs for exporters. Participating in the discussion, N. K. Maini, Deputy Manager SIDBI, highlighted various credit schemes available for MSME sectors and how women entrepreneurs could take advantage of these credit schemes. More than 50 participants representing various organizations and stakeholders participated in this conference. Finally, many participants suggested for better infrastructure, institutional set up and co-ordination among major stakeholders as a requirement for the development of women MSMEs in India.