



New roles of CSOs for Inclusive Development

Civil society advocacy collaborations in India

The research project ‘Civil society advocacy collaborations and their contributions to CSO capacities and legitimacy to advance inclusive sustainable development and equality in the Indian context’ studies advocacy collaborations between civil society organizations (CSOs) working at the grassroots, national and international levels in India. Unlike many other studies of transnational advocacy networks, it focuses on the contributions of collaboration to the agency and work of Indian CSOs at the domestic level. The project seeks to learn how the different capacities, understandings, viewpoints, and forms of power and legitimacy shape these CSOs’ domestic political roles as they interact with each other and navigate the opportunities, dependencies and constraints connected with collaboration. The study will focus on CSO activity around two themes: climate-related natural hazards and women’s rights.

Main question	How does collaboration between grassroots, national and international CSOs contribute to building civil society’s capacity and legitimacy to advance inclusive sustainable development and equality in the Indian context?
Consortium led by	Dr M van Wessel (Wageningen University & Research)
Consortium	Wageningen University & Research, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Lehigh University, International Institute of Social Studies in cooperation with two consortia: Partners for Resilience and Count me In!
Country focus	India
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a literature review on transnational advocacy collaborations, ownership and autonomy in advocacy collaborations, as well as the composition of civil society in India • Carry out field work in the Netherlands and India using content analysis, network analysis, (semi-structured) interviews and participant observation • Update different audiences through progress reports, factsheets and policy brief made available via diverse platforms • Integrate the results for donors with policy recommendations in a report • Produce a CSO-practice-oriented e-book, freely available online • Discuss results with a civil society audience through a conference organized in Delhi • Engage a scientific audience by organizing an academic workshop • Produce nine academic peer-reviewed publications

