

Addressing Barrier to Rice seed Trade between India and Bangladesh



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Why this project?

- Rice is a staple food in all the four States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal) and also in Bangladesh
- Demand for rice is expected to increase significantly in the coming period (This is because of increase in population and income level)
- Rice yield is much lower in selected states/county compared to others. These are primarily because of:
 - ❖ low seed replacement rate is also low in four states
 - ❖ unawareness about good quality of rice seed in remote areas
 - ❖ low timely availability and accessibility

Why India and Bangladesh?

- Both the countries share similar food habits
- Both the countries share similar agro climatic condition making rice seed varieties available in India and Bangladesh adaptable in both
- Rice seeds produced in India and Bangladesh are informally used by farmers in both the countries. These informally traded varieties are showing good results in terms of yield and adaptability
 - ❖ HYV rice seed produced in India could be useful for Bangladesh and vice versa
- Adaptability creates the need for looking at the two market in an integrated way

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal

- **To develop an enabling environment to promote seeds trade and knowledge-sharing on HYV rice seeds between India and Bangladesh**

Objectives

- Understanding of factors that drive demand and flow (production, marketing and use) of HYV rice seeds in Eastern Indian States and Bangladesh to identify varieties with bilateral trade potential
- Understanding of systemic enabling factors and challenges (institutions, laws, policies, regulations and practices) to bilateral knowledge-sharing and trade of seeds between India and Bangladesh, particularly on HYV rice seeds
- Influence changes to policies and practices to facilitate formalisation and expansion of bilateral trade and knowledge-sharing on HYV rice seeds between Bangladesh and India

Area selected for the study

Interactions with stakeholders and farmers' FGDs:

- Three districts, including West Singhbhum, have been selected for the study
- The purpose is to understand, stakeholders' perception on different issues relating to procurement and use of HYV rice seeds
- Different districts are areas reflect different perception on use of HYV rice seeds

Way forward

Customized state-level measures are required to address issues relating to HYV rice seeds. Overall, these need to cover the followings:

- Need for improving SSR
- Need for making marketing/distribution system more accountable/efficient (example issue of receipt on purchase of seeds)
- Ensuring timely availability of seed
- Measure for improving marketing infrastructure
- Awareness campaign “seed Badlo-Bhagya Bulao”

One can expect that the issues highlighted would be addressed by regulatory and other measures to ensure food security to the larger number of people



Thank You

Suresh P Singh

sps@cuts.org