

Final Monthly Progress Report

Project Title: ‘Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh’ (RISTE project)

Name of the Organisation: CUTS International, India

Supported by: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Duration: 1st January 2013- 30th June 2015

1. Activities carried out by CUTS and its partners in the month of May-June 2015

1.1 Final report of the project titled “**Trade and Knowledge Sharing in HYV Rice Seeds: Scope for Cooperation between Bangladesh and India**” has been prepared, published and disseminated among key stakeholders in both the countries.

It can also be accessed online by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Trade_and_Knowledge_Sharing_in_HYV_Rice_Seeds_Scope_for_Cooperation_between_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf

1.2 CUTS have prepared a compendium titled “Media Coverage” of all the news related to RISTE project that has been published in various print media channels in India and Bangladesh throughout the project cycle.

It can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/RISTE-Media_Coverage_Book.pdf

1.3 CUTS conducted meetings with several seed dealers in West Bengal in order to know their views on formalisation of HYV rice seed trade between India and Bangladesh. The same activity was carried out by Unnayan Shamannay (US) in Bangladesh. The outcome of this activity is a publication of case study report voicing the views of private seed dealers in India and Bangladesh for efficacy of rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh.

The report of the case studies can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/RISTE_Case_Study_Bangladesh_and_India.pdf

1.4 RISTE Documentary Film shooting has been completed in India and Bangladesh. The documentary film has been finalised and produced. Copies of this documentary have also been submitted in relevant Indian and Bangladeshi ministries.

It can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlWbOIOVRZc&feature=youtu.be>

1.5 CUTS successfully concluded the final dissemination and advocacy meeting which took place in New Delhi on 30th April. The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan consisting representatives from specific government departments, seeds associations, agriculture universities and research institutions, academia, subject experts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media, CUTS project partners from India and Bangladesh and CUTS team members involved in the project in various capacities.

The report of this meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Report-Dissemination_and_Advocacy_Meeting-RISTE.pdf

The highlight of this meeting was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seed Association (BSA). It has been a landmark achievement for CUTS International under the RISTE project.

The MoU can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/MoU_between_Seeds_Associations_of_India_and_Bangladesh.pdf

1.6 Unnayan Shamannay arranged a TV Talk Show recording on April 06, 2015 which composed of a panel discussion titled “**Bangladesh-India Rice Seeds Cooperation: Problems and Prospects**” and was telecasted in Rtv on April 11, 2015 at 10.10 am & 11.30 pm.

The programme can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZAzpKbXmy0&feature=youtu.be>

1.7 The five project partners of CUTS conducted several activities under the extended phase of the project from January 2015 to May 2015.

CUTS have prepared a compendium of its partners’ activities which can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Compendium_of_Partners_Activities.pdf

1.8 A radio feature on RISTE project stating its accomplishments was broadcasted in All India Radio (AIR) on 9th May.

The programme can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Audio/Radio_report_RISTE.mp3

1.9 Internal Evaluation of the project is in progress which is being conducted by the CUTS Monitoring & Evaluation team. The Key Informant (KI) List has been prepared along with the informant questionnaire. Using time series analysis and information from KI interviews the report of the evaluation will be prepared by the month of August.

1.10 The report of the Project Advisory Committee meeting held on 30th April can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/PAC-III-Meeting_Report.pdf

1.11 In order to sustain the momentum achieved by RISTE project two concept notes on operationalization of formal trade between India and Bangladesh on HYV rice seeds were prepared by the CUTS team: one on the steps that the government should take and the other are on steps that traders/exporters should take. They have been submitted to the Seeds Division of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and to seed associations.

1.12 All other outputs of the project can be accessed by clicking on the following links:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Outputs.htm>

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Events.htm>

http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/In_media.htm

http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Project_Advisory_Committee.htm

2. Outline of the activities to be carried out in the month of July 2015

2.1 CUTS will be preparing the final narrative report and financial report which will be submitted to the Gates Foundation by the month of August. This output will mark the successful completion of the project.