

## **ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO RICE SEEDS TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH**

Project Launch Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, April, 2013, Kolkata

### **KEY MESSAGES EMERGED FROM THE PROJECT LAUNCH MEETING**

- Focus on rice seeds marketing channels and structure of rice seeds flow in India and Bangladesh are core elements in this project which are linked with low seeds replacement rate and low yield in Eastern India and Bangladesh.
- There is a need to identify major regulatory barriers preventing the formalisation of rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh.
- In order to understand the potential of rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh it is important to analyse and understand the trend of land use pattern in *boro* and *aman* varieties of rice in Bangladesh and India.
- To develop the quantifiable check points to measure the success of this project and its activities so as to achieve the intended goal of increased mutual rice seeds cooperation between India and Bangladesh
- Project should come out with a strong and precise business case- validating the volume and numbers from the field and setting the effective ground for the policy advocacy.
- Win for someone must not be a loss for another. Stakeholders benefiting from informal cross-border trade in rice seeds need to be identified and efforts should be made towards developing the process of mainstreaming them into the system without adversely affecting their livelihood concerns.
- In order to generate effective policy recommendations, it is essential to keep up with changes in policy perspectives on agriculture and trade in the respective governments. And there is an imperative to quantify the need and relevance of bilateral trade in rice seeds in order to attain the larger objective of economic security of small and marginal farmers in both the countries.
- There should be focus on three parameters *Economic*: to check the feasibility of cross-border trade in rice seeds as per price and yield compatibility of high-yielding and hybrid varieties of rice seeds and with respect to cost and benefit of formalising the existing informal trade in rice seeds; *Social*: to develop an advocacy plan by keeping in mind larger social objectives of bilateral cooperation that the project should take forward; *Scientific*: to categorise the varieties of rice seeds which are compatible in both the sides of the border.
- The project should develop policy messages for advocating supportive policy environment between the two countries which does not only facilitates trade but also supports effective economic integration, sweeping benefits to the marginal section of the population.

- The aim should be towards better economic and technical integration between the two countries, sharing and exchanging the technical know-how and collaborating in the agriculture research. Devising the solutions to the climatic change and food security hurdles faced by both the countries in similar ways.
- The Result Framework of the project should be a live document which must be flexible enough to allow the project's activities to address implementation challenges.
- The project needs to come out with specific policy recommendations to respective governments and CUTS and project partners should follow-up on those recommendations even beyond the project period.