

Monthly Progress Report - April 2014

Project Title: 'Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh'

(RISTE)

Name of the Organisation: CUTS International

Supported by: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Duration: 1st January, 2013- 30th September, 2014

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of April, 2014

1.1 Detailed lists of media personals and policy champions have been prepared and they have been approached for writing media articles for the purpose of advocacy. We are advancing these activities by coordinating with them via email, phone and one to one meetings (in New Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal).

1.2 Dissemination of Recommendatory Paper, Joint Communiqué and Consolidated Report (hard/soft copy) amongst the key stake holders has been started and key stakeholders have been approached for peer-review and endorsement. Soft copy of these documents can be accessed through webpage of RISTE (URL: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Outputs.htm>).

1.3 The revised work plans and revised Results Frameworks and their implementation have been discussed with each of the project partner and its execution has begun. This was done by visiting all the country/state level project partner personally by RISTE project team.

1.4 As part of the media outreach activities Media briefing cum stakeholder workshops with media and other key stake holders were organised in Bihar (Aurangabad) and Odisha (Kendrapada and Balasore). Local media (print and electronic) have covered these events adequately. News related to these can be accessed through RISTE project webpage (URL: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/In_media.htm).

1.5 Representative of Odisha state partner Samruddhi visited CUTS Jaipur office and discussed various aspect of revised work plan and media outreach activities with the RISTE team.

2. Outline of the activities to be carried out in the month of May, 2014

2.1 As part of advocacy and media outreach, Media briefing/training workshops will be organised in West Bengal, Jharkhand New Delhi and Bangladesh.

2.2 A paper presentation on the findings of the project will be made at the 5th Crop World India 2014 Conference in Mumbai.

2.3 RISTE team will write media article which will be based on project report and other related documents.

2.4 RISTE team will participate in IRRI India's Annual Summit to be held in New Delhi. This summit is focused on STRASSA project.

2.5 There will be a number of advocacy meetings which will be conducted as part of advocacy initiatives for the project and will be scheduled in New Delhi and Dhaka with key stake holders, policy champions and media personnel.

2.6 Literature review for the second phase research has started. Policy and practice briefs (total five), series of media articles (around 5-6) and a consolidated report will be produced based on this literature review.

2.7 Media coverage/news/articles of the project will be collected and it is planned to print in the form of small booklet/mini album.

2.8 Based on the research work of first and second phase Journal articles will be written and these will be submitted to the peer-reviewed economic Journals in India and Bangladesh.

2.9 A briefing paper titled "Farmer's perspectives on Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh" is under progress.