

Monthly Progress Report - April 2015

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 April, 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 and published. This report will be disseminated widely among key stakeholders.

This report has been shared with the fellow participants and other stakeholders in Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting of RISTE Project held on 30th April. It can be accessed 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.

Part 1 of this document has been published and shared in the final dissemination meeting on 30th April. It can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/RISTE-Media_Coverage_Book.pdf

The final document will include more articles covered under RISTE till June 2015 and will be published in the same month.

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 case studies have been published and disseminated in the meeting on 30th April. 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.

The Documentary Film was screened in the meeting on 30th April. It can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIWbOIOVRZc&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 April 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

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

2.1 Final research report will be disseminated to various stakeholders.

2.2 Final version of the media coverage booklet will be published. For the advocacy component, the document will be disseminated in the final dissemination meeting.

2.3 On the basis of TV talk show organised by Unnayan Shamannay in Bangladesh, CUTS will also organise a TV talk show in collaboration with DD national.

2.4 Advocacy meetings will be organized in various parts of India and Bangladesh mainly in New Delhi, Kolkata and Dhaka.

2.5 A programme on RISTE meeting held on 30th April will be broadcasted by All India Radio on 9th May. The programme will be a broadcast on Short Wave.