

Monthly Progress Report- August 2013

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

I. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of August, 2013

- 1.1 Field Visit by CUTS to all the partners’ states and in Bangladesh to take part in farmers focused group discussions (FGDs) to be organised by the partner organisations. Also to build initial interactions with the identified stakeholders in the respective states and in Bangladesh.
- 1.2 Advocacy strategy note is been prepared by CUTS and its project partner, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh. It has been decided that the advocacy strategy note will not be two separate documents for India and Bangladesh separately. Rather it will be one consolidated document for both the countries so as to make the advocacy initiatives under the project in India and Bangladesh in harmony with each other.
- 1.3 Media Outreach Strategy note for RISTE project has been drafted for both the countries and will be combined and finalised as soon as possible. In addition to this, Media Outreach consultants have been identified in India and Bangladesh respectively and the process of signing of agreements with them will be completed as soon as possible.
- 1.4 One briefing paper has been published and uploaded. And monograph is in the final process of lay outing. Once layouted it will be published and uploaded on the web-page and also will be shared with project advisory committee members and other experts in the RISTE Project Forum.
- 1.5 The RISTE Project forum is been continuously expanded with addition of the experts on the subject. At the same time sharing of the project related information on the forum which is then reviewed and commented by the members of the forum, enormously helps project activities to be more focused.

Outline of the activities to be carried out in September- 2013

- 1.1 Advocacy Strategy note will be finalised and activities to be planned as per the plan in India and in Bangladesh will be put in place for commencement.

- 2.1 Media Outreach Strategy note will be finalised and activities to be conducted as per the final plan will start. In addition, contracts will be signed with Media Outreach Consultants in India and in Bangladesh respectively.
- 3.1 Initial desk research reports will be collected from all the partners and the process of consolidating the document will start.
- 4.1 There will be number of meetings which will be conducted as part of early advocacy initiatives for the project as well as identifying the policy champions with whom CUTS needs to collaborate in writing the media articles.

Partners Work Progress Sheet- August, 2013

| Partner Organisations | Planned Activity | Progress Made |
|--|--|--|
| Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh | Desk and field research to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of HYV rice seeds between India and Bangladesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check list have been prepared for conducting FGD with farmers, and initial interaction with government officials, experts and rice seed traders. • FGDs have been conducted and also meetings were conducted with important officials and seed traders. • A draft literature review has been prepared to understand the policy regime and field realities. • Meetings have been conducted with relevant key stakeholders – to understand the role of media, dissemination of research findings, and forms of analysis and reporting. |
| | Preparation of an advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Media Outreach Strategy has been prepared and shared with CUTS. |
| Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar | Desk and field research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits has been made to key state institutions in the rice seed flow map and meetings were held with key officials to understand the existing scenario and their perspectives for the future: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bihar State Seed certification Agency (BSSCA) b. Bihar Rajya Beej Nigam (BRBN) etc. • Literature review has been done to understand the existing seed policies and programmes in the state and primary and secondary data has been collected and analysed. • FGDs have been carried out and also meetings with seed traders have been part of the field visits. |
| Samrudhi, Odisha | Desk and field research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review has been done to understand the existing seed policies and programmes in the state and primary and secondary data has been collected and analysed. • FGDs have been carried out and also meetings with seed traders have been part of the field visits. |
| Indian Grameen Services, Jharkhand | Desk and field research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review has been done to understand the existing seed policies and programmes in the state and primary and secondary data has been collected and analysed. • FGDs have been carried out and also meetings with seed traders have been part of the field visits. |
| Mukti, West Bengal | Desk and field research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review has been done to understand the existing seed policies and programmes in the state and primary and secondary data has been collected and analysed. • FGDs have been carried out and also meetings with seed traders have been part of the field visits. |