

## Monthly Progress Report- December 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: 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013- 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

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### Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of December, 2013

- 1.1 An International Stakeholder Consultation was organised by CUTS and Unnayan Shamannay in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013. This consultation marked the completion of the first phase. This phase witnessed publication and preparation of several papers and reports. The basic purpose of the consultation was to present findings and building consensus on the need for enhanced cooperation and knowledge sharing between India and Bangladesh based on the reports produced by five project partners – four in India and one in Bangladesh. Another purpose was to gather inputs and perspectives from the key stakeholders for the future activities under the project. This consultation also marked the beginning of the second phase. The success of this consultation can be evaluated based on the kind of support that it got, in the form of participation, from key stakeholders like; policy makers, subject experts, traders and industry representatives from both India and Bangladesh. It can be noted that about 110 people from both India and Bangladesh, consisting of policymakers, research institutions, exporter and importers, academia, and media people participated in the event.
- 1.2 Along with the International Stakeholder Consultation, the Second Project Advisory Committee meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013, in Dhaka. Where the members of the committee discussed on the crucial aspects of the project implementation and came out with the key messages in order to take the initiative forward.
- 1.3 The reports of both International consultation and second PAC meeting are been prepared and in the process of been reviewed. Once finalised they will soon will uploaded on the project web-page.
- 1.4 Other than the above mentioned reports CUTS is also in the process of finalising the consolidated report, which is a compilation of the project initial reports that was gathered from the partners in India and in Bangladesh. As well the recommendatory paper and a joint communiqué prepared and revised by CUTS in consultation with Bangladeshi partner will soon be published on the project web-page. These documents will extensively be used for the advocacy initiatives in both India and Bangladesh and will be used to generate the consensus among the key stakeholders.
- 1.5 As an outcome of the International Stakeholder consultation the key areas of further research and understanding has been identified and CUTS in consultation with Bangladesh Project partner will prepare short notes/papers/ policy briefs on those identified areas and will take forward the research work in the second phase. In cue of

this CUTS has started the work by preparing one page notes on the following: Understanding the trade enabling factors in seeds (other than rice seeds) between India and Bangladesh, Knowledge sharing aspects in seeds between India and Bangladesh, Further role of Indian state partners in the project, the Media Outreach Strategy of the project specific to Indian context.

#### Outline of the activities to be carried out in the month of January, 2014

- 2.1 Along with the research activities CUTS in collaboration with Bangladesh project partner will continue the advocacy and outreach initiatives in both India and Bangladesh.
- 2.2 There are number of meetings scheduled to be held in New Delhi and in Dhaka with some key policy makers and other government officials so as to further the project recommendations and goal towards harmonising the rice seeds trade policy between India and Bangladesh.
- 2.3 The short one-page notes will be prepared and shared with partners and stakeholders. Along with the notes, a recommendatory note and a joint communiqué will be finalised and their dissemination will start among the identified list of stakeholders so as to gather their support towards the project initiative.
- 2.4 CUTS will receive all the final reports from the project partners in India and in Bangladesh and compile the key findings into a consolidated report of the project and publish and upload the same on the project web-page.
- 2.5 CUTS in consultation with project advisors and partners will finalise the activities and plan of action in the coming future under the second phase of the project.