

Monthly Progress Report

Monthly Progress Report - December 2014

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- 31st March 2015

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

1.4 A briefing paper titled “**India-Bangladesh Cooperation in Rice Seeds: Need for Structural Changes**” has been published.

The paper reveals that lack of availability of good quality rice seeds at the local level is inducing farmers to opt for seeds informally traded between Bangladesh and India. What is more, farmers in India find some of the Bangladeshi variety seeds more suitable and adaptable to local conditions. This also holds true for farmers in Bangladesh. It recommends measures to formalise rice seeds trade and knowledge sharing between two countries.

The full paper can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Briefing_Paper14-Rice_Seeds_Availability_in_India_and_Bangladesh_Farmers_Perspective.pdf

1.2 CUTS team has prepared a compendium of all the news related to RISTE project published in various print media channels in India and Bangladesh throughout the project cycle. The report will be published soon. It aims to serve as a useful reference resource document for understanding the developments that has happened in the course of RISTE’s journey. In the entire duration of the project cycle about 80 news items (34 of them have been covered in India and 26 in Bangladesh) were reported by the print media and around 60 selected and most important news reports and articles are included in this compendium. News items published in English, Hindi, Bengali and Uriya have been included in the document.

1.3 A final report of the project’s second phase has been prepared and is presently being reviewed. India component is ready and it has been reviewed by the project consultant. It will be finalized taking into accounts the comments and suggestions of the project consultant. Bangladesh component is under progress and it will be shared with project consultants for review.

1.4 CUTS RISTE team 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 has been carried out by Unnayan Shamannay in Bangladesh. The outcome of this activity will be a publication of case studies which aims to understand what seed dealers in India and Bangladesh thinks about formalisation of trade. The case studies are in the process of completion and will be shared by January 2015.

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

2.1 Final project report will be published by the end of this month. For the advocacy component, the report will be disseminated for wider outreach.

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2.2 Media coverage booklet will be finalized and published. For the advocacy component, the document will be disseminated to various stakeholders for wider outreach.

2.3 The report on the case studies will be published in this month and will be shared along with the final project report under phase two.

2.4 CUTS's and US's RISTE team will visit various places in India and Bangladesh for documentary movie making.

2.6 US will organise one TV talk show in Dhaka with the objective to sensitise a wider stakeholder group on the outcomes of the RISTE project and the importance of cooperation on rice seed trade.

2.6 Various other advocacy meetings with key stakeholders will be conducted in New Delhi and Dhaka.

2.7 RISTE's Indian project partners in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal will organise Kisaan Goshthis in several areas to further sensitise the farmers about the project and its research outcomes.