

Monthly Progress Report- February 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 February, 2014

- 1.1 CUTS RISTE project team participated in the Indian Seed Congress, 2014, which was organized by the National Seed Association of India in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Project team had a good interaction with the key stakeholders particularly, scientists, representatives of private companies and government officials.
- 1.2 A consolidated report, based on the desk and field research carried out by four Indian State Partners and a Bangladesh Project Partner has been prepared, reviewed and edited/layout. It has gone for publishing and will be uploaded on the project web-page soon along with dissemination of its hard copies among stakeholders.
- 1.3 A Recommendatory Paper and a Joint Communique has been prepared, reviewed and edited based on the desk and field research carried out CUTS and Bangladesh Project Partner. It has gone for publishing and will be uploaded on the project web-page soon along with dissemination of its hard copies among stakeholders.
- 1.4 A discussion paper entitled ‘*Harmonisation of Seed Certification Process in Bangladesh and India*’ and a briefing paper ‘*Rice Seed Production and Use in Bangladesh and India-Need for Bilateral Cooperation*’ have been published, uploaded on the project web-page and it has disseminated through other channels like; RISTE project web-forum also.
- 1.5 A review meeting of the project was held in the office of CUTS-CITEE in Jaipur, which was attended by Mr. Hari Menon, Deputy Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, India office; Dr. Mahfuz Kabir from Unnayan Shamannay, Dhaka and CUTS project team. Revision of result framework was discussed in the meeting along with the progress made so far and further work.
- 1.6 Based on the inputs from the international conference and second Project Advisory Committee meeting that was held in Dhaka, and Media Outreach strategy that was prepared by CUTS and Media Outreach Consultant- Work Plans, for all the project partners in India and in Bangladesh and for CUTS have been revised to carefully intertwine the research activities and the media outreach and advocacy initiatives to form an effective medium to attain the intended objectives and thus, the project goal ‘*to develop an enabling environment to promote seeds trade and knowledge-sharing on HYV rice seeds between India and Bangladesh.*’

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

2.1 A detailed list of media personal/stakeholders/informants will be made who will be engaged in the project for various activities including approaching them for article writing/advocacy etc..

2.2 A Recommendatory Paper will be forwarded to the key stakeholders, as identified in the project Results Framework, for peer-review and endorsement and to generate consensus on the demand scenarios and potential trade between India and Bangladesh in HYV rice seeds.

2.3 The Joint Communiqué will be released jointly by CUTS and Bangladesh project partner.

2.4 A consolidated report will be forwarded to the key stakeholders, as identified in the project Results Framework, for advocacy and to generate consensus on the demand scenarios and potential trade between India and Bangladesh in HYV rice seeds.

2.5 The revised work plans will be shared with all the project partners and the implementation plan will be discussed with each of the project partner.

2.6 The media outreach activities will start on identifying the key stakeholders and media personnel in New Delhi, in each of the States and in Bangladesh.

2.7 After finalising the five key policy and practice issue, literature review will be carried out by CUTS and Bangladesh Project with support from State partners.

2.8 Various meeting are scheduled with key stakeholders and media personnel regarding the activities to be carried out in the second phase of the RISTE Project.