

Monthly Progress Report

Monthly Progress Report - February 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 February, 2015

1.1 A final report of the project's last phase has been prepared and is presently being reviewed. India and Bangladesh component is ready and currently being edited. The report has been finalised after taking into accounts the comments and suggestions of the project consultant.

This report will be published by the month of March.

1.2 CUTS have prepared a compendium 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 will be published and shared in the Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting of RISTE Project on 30th April. 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 will be carried out by Unnayan Shamannay (US) in Bangladesh. The outcome of this activity will be 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.

Due to political unrest in Bangladesh there is a delay in the activities to be carried out. Nonetheless, the case studies are in the process of completion and will be shared by March or April 2015.

1.4 RISTE Documentary Film shooting has been completed in India and Bangladesh. The documentary film is currently being edited.

The Documentary Film will be ready by the month of March and will be screened in the Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting of RISTE Project on 30th April.

1.5 CUTS have started the preparations for the final Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting under RISTE project. The meeting will take place in New Delhi on 30th April, 2015.

The objectives of this meeting are:

- *To disseminate and advocate key messages on trade and knowledge sharing between Bangladesh and India in high yielding variety rice seeds*

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- *To discuss larger aspects of agricultural cooperation between Bangladesh and India*

1.6 Mukti, West Bengal organised a Kisaan Goshti on 3rd February in Hili. The objective of the meeting was to share the findings of the ongoing research under RISTE project and develop an enabling environment / situation for cooperation in rice seeds between India and Bangladesh. This meeting was attended by around 175 participants consisting of government officials, farmers clubs, individual farmers, academicians, scientists, etc.

1.7 Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar organised a one-day Farmers' Training-cum-Awareness Generation Programme at Patna on 10th February 2015. The objective of this training programme was to educate farmers about the need for cultivating HYV rice seeds. It also aid emphasis on other aspects of rice seeds trade in the state. Following this meeting some articles have been published in local print media newspapers. A book in Hindi entitled "*Dhan Utpdan Barhane Ke Upay*" is under preparation and will be published in March.

1.8 Samrudhi, Odisha organised a workshop on seed production and marketing at Singhberhampur village in Puri on 21st February. The objective of this workshop was to sensitise farmers on HYV rice seed production and also to share the findings of ongoing research under RISTE project. It further deliberated on the marketing aspect of the seed trade within Odisha. The workshop was attended by around 60 people consisting of rice seed growers along with students and professors from Agriculture University.

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

2.1 Final research report will be published by the end of this month. For the advocacy component, the outcomes of this report will be disseminated for wider outreach in the final dissemination meeting.

2.2 Part 1 of the Media coverage booklet will be published. For the advocacy component, the document will be disseminated in the final dissemination meeting.

2.3 The report on the case studies conducted in India and Bangladesh is expected to be published in this month and will be shared along with the final project report under the last phase.

2.4 US, Bangladesh 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.

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

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

2.7 Preparation for the RISTE Final Dissemination Meeting is under process. The meeting will be held in New Delhi on 30th April.
