

Monthly Progress Report

Monthly Progress Report - January 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- 31st March 2015

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of January, 2015

1.1 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 Oriya have been included in the document.

The document will be published in this month and will be uploaded in the website for wider dissemination.

1.2 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 February.

1.3 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.

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 February 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.

2. Outline of the activities to be carried out in the month of February, 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 the last phase.

2.4 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.

2.5 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 Goshthis 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.
