

Monthly Progress Report-July 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: 1st Jan, 2013- 30th Sept, 2014

I. Activities carried out in the month of July, 2013

1.1 Under the RISTE project several activities were to be led by partner organizations. CUTS signed partnership agreements to sub-contract such activities with selected partner organisations. Agreements were signed and first instalment of the grant money allocated to the partner organisations:

- a. Unnayan Shamannay, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- b. Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar
- c. Indian Grameen Services, Jharkhand
- d. Samrudhi, Odisha
- e. Mukti, West Bengal

1.2 The partnership agreements start from the month of July, therefore, in July CUTS focused on assisting and directing partners in commencement of their respective work as per the work plan developed by CUTS in consultation with partners and project advisors. The terms of reference or the work plan that has been developed is descriptive as well as flexible to incorporate the state-specific requirements, however it gives the direction and clearly lay-out, what is to be achieved at per the outputs as well the outcomes for each of the activity carried out by the partner organisation. (Annexure 1: Partners Progress sheet July, 2013).

1.3 Budget template has been revised on the basis of finalised list of activities, outputs and outcomes. This template is been submitted to the Gates Foundation for their comments and approval.

1.4 RISTE Project Forum, an interactive platform for the all the partners and Project Advisory Committee members has been developed and made functional. This is a platform where all the members will be kept updated about the project progress and the activities, so they can give their suggestions as well as share their views on the subject.

1.5 Lay outing for the literature review document (monograph) and the briefing paper entitled 'Opportunities and Challenges in Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh', has been done. They will be published and uploaded on the project web-page and also will be shared on the project forum latest by the second week of August.

- 1.6 Baseline report- a quantitative report covering the issues such as; Rice seeds requirement and supply in Bangladesh; Rice seeds requirement and supply in four Eastern Indian states, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal; Bangladesh's rice seeds trade with India and China; Informal rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh; etc., has been shared with all the partners so they can validate the information and also incorporate the key findings for their respective states in their reports. This report is subjected to regular assessment and updation by CUTS and the partner organisation is also been shared with the PAC members for their views and suggestions on how the information gathered can be incorporated further in the Project.
- 1.7 Project Advocacy strategy is been roughly sketched by CUTS for India, and after internal review it will also be shared by the project advisors and the partners for their comments and suggestions. And CUTS will also be assisting and directing the Bangladesh country partner for preparing an advocacy strategy for Bangladesh.
- 1.8 Consultants for Media Outreach activities have been identified in both India and Bangladesh. They have been asked to draft an initial Media Outreach strategy for both India and Bangladesh respectively. And contracts are expected to be signed in the month of August.
- 1.9 As per the CUTS internal decision on preparing a project brief for all the projects carried out by all the CUTS centres in India and outside. Under this decision Project Brief for the RISTE project has also been prepared, uploaded and shared by all the members of the RISTE Project forum. The Project Briefs are prepared to briefly explain the project purpose and objectives to the readers.

II. Brief Outline of the activities planned for the month of August

- 1.1 Field Visit by CUTS to all the partners' states and in Bangladesh to take part in Farmers focused group discussions to be organised by the partner organisations. Also to build initial interactions with the identified stakeholders in the respective states and in Bangladesh.
- 1.2 Prepare and finalise the Advocacy strategy and Media Outreach strategy for India and for Bangladesh.
- 1.3 Signing agreements with two Media and Outreach Consultants in both India and Bangladesh respectively.

Partners Work Progress Sheet- July, 2013

Partner Organisations	Planned Activity	Progress Made
Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh	Desk and field research- to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of rice seeds between selected eastern states of India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial literature review for understanding demand and supply flow. • Preparation of questionnaires/check list of issues, for Farmers Group Discussions and interaction with key informants. • Location for FGDs, bordering areas of Bangladesh, have been identified as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shonamasjid area b. Benapole Area c. Burimari area • Key informants are identified for interviewing; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seed association leaders, b. Officials in the Ministry of Commerce and Bangladesh Tariff commission c. Trade experts • Communication for Field research is under process.
	Preparation of an advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy (in consultation with CUTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline for the first draft for the Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy is planned.
Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar	Desk and field research- to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of rice seeds between selected eastern states of India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus has been on to understand the demand and supply scenario of the rice seeds in Bihar State. • Initial contacts and meetings have been held with identified key stakeholders- to understand the barriers and constraints in the quality seed supply and production chain in the state: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. BRBN Officers b. KVK scientists c. Plant breeding officials d. Rice seeds traders • Based on the findings and information gathered at the initial stage of the project, questionnaires have been drafted, keeping with the key information and the gaps therein. • Following sites has been finalised to carry out the farmers group discussions (FGDs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bhagalpur, Purnea, Saharasa, Kishanganj and West Champaran.

Samrudhi, Odisha	Desk and field research- to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of rice seeds between selected eastern states of India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial desk research was carried out to identify the key stakeholders in the rice seed transaction in state. • Initial interaction and meetings were held with the key stakeholders to get hold on the existing scenario in the state; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MD of Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd. b. Official from the Orissa State Seeds and Organic Production Certification Agency c. Rice seeds growers • Detailed analysis of the existing rice seeds supply scenario is been done. It also covers the problems/ gaps in the supply chain due to lack of adequate infrastructure facilities in the state etc. • Field level FGDs in three districts have been conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dhenkanal, b. Kendrapara, and c. Puri • Questionnaires for canvassing the rice farmers, rice seed growers, FGD modules have been prepared and pretested in the field.
Indian Grameen Services, Jharkhand	Desk and field research- to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of rice seeds between selected eastern states of India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial desk research is in the process. • Sites for conducting the FGDs has been identified; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ranchi area, b. Gumla area, and c. West Singhbhum area • A small Paddy value chain study is planned and initiated.
Mukti, West Bengal	Desk and field research- to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of rice seeds between selected eastern states of India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary desk research has been planned and initiated; simultaneously drafting of the initial report of the project has started focusing on the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demand & Supply scenario of HYV rice seeds in W.B. b. A tentative model for analysis on demand &Supply scenario will be made c. Seeds Flow map will be verified. • Initial visits has been planned for following places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chuchura Rice Research institute, b. HYV- Seed breeding centers/ Public and Private both. c. Contact ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Commerce, Writers Building. • FGD sites has been decided on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dakshin, b. Dinajpur, and c. Burdwan