

Monthly Progress Report - July 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 July, 2014

1.1 CUTS team organized a Project Review Meeting in Jaipur. The meeting was attended by a large number of key stakeholders and policy champions. The project review meeting focussed on progress made so far, planned and unplanned activities and potential activities for the extension period. Potentiality of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seeds Association (BSA) was also discussed during the meeting. Report and presentations of the event can be accessed through RISTE project webpage, URL: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/Events-Project_Review_Meeting.htm

1.2 Bihar Water Development Society (Bihar state level project partner) organized a seminar in Patna on potential benefits of cross-border rice seeds trade on the farmers of Bihar. Local media and key stakeholders of Bihar paid attention to this issue and participated in the event.

1.3 As part of the media outreach activities a number of media article were written on rice seeds trade in popular media such as *Prothom Alo*, *Eurasia Review*, *South Asia Monitor* and *Dainik Jagran*. These can be accessed through RISTE project webpage, URL: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/In_media.htm

1.4 CUTS team has drafted one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is proposed to be signed by the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seeds Association (BSA). Both the parties have given their principle approval for such an initiative and discussion on various aspects of this MoU has started.

1.5 CUTS have drafted a Joint Memorandum (jointly by the National Seeds Association of India and CUTS) which will be given to Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. NSAI has given its approval to this Joint Memorandum and it is under finalization mode.

1.6 As part of advocacy and media outreach, advocacy meetings with media and other key stake holders are going on in New Delhi and Dhaka.

1.7 Literature review of the second phase is over and a draft study is under finalization mode. During the project review meeting a number of critical suggestions was received on this study.

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

2.1 After the revision of study, the report will be shared with project consultants for further review and it will be further revised to make it more precise and accurate.

2.2 RISTE team and its project partners will write media article which will be based on project findings and other related documents.

2.3 A briefing paper titled “Farmer’s perspectives on seeds trade between India and Bangladesh” is under progress, it will be shared with project consultants for review.

2.4 There will be a number of advocacy meetings which will be conducted as part of advocacy initiatives for the project and will be scheduled in New Delhi, Bangladesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar with key stake holders, policy champions and media personnel.

2.5 Two papers and one poster are under progress and these will be presented during the 8th ASAE conference in Dhaka in October.

2.6 Progress for organizing a pre-conference mini symposium in Dhaka during 8th ASAE conference is under progress. Panellist/paper presenters have been identified and they have also given their principle approval to participate in the event.

2.6 One paper and one poster are under progress and these will be presented during the 4th Rice Congress in Bangkok in October.

2.7 Preparation of an event has started which will be organized by CUTS in association with NSAI on the project findings and MoU in New Delhi in side-line of entrepreneurship development program of NSAI.