

Monthly Progress Report - June 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 June, 2014

1.1 CUTS team conducted field work for the second phase of research on five identified issues in Bangladesh. This field visit was also accompanied by local journalists to view the real time issues.

1.2 A presentation based on the project findings and Indian seeds system was made to the agriculture development team of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in New Delhi.

1.3 As part of the media outreach activities Media briefing cum stakeholder workshops with media and other key stake holders were organised in Kolkata and Dhaka. Local media (print and electronic) have covered these events adequately. News related to these can be accessed through RISTE project webpage, URL: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/In_media.htm

1.4 CUTS team has drafted 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs). One of which is proposed to be signed by the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seeds Association (BSA); another MoU is proposed to be signed between Central Rice Research Institute, India (CRRRI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). Both MoUs have been shared with the respective members for the preliminary review.

1.5 CUTS have also 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. This Joint Memorandum is under review with key stakeholders and NSAI.

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

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

2.1 On 18th July, a project progress meeting will be organizing in Jaipur. The meeting will review the progress made in the project and future direction of the project. Discussion on MoU's will also be done in the meeting.

2.2 Literature review for the second phase research will be over by mid-July, the first draft will be shared with the participants of the Project Progress Meeting and it will be revised based on their comments. A comprehensive report covering impact stories, field case studies and Bangladesh report will be prepared. A series of media articles and a consolidated report will be produced based on this literature review and will be shared with project consultants for the review.

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

2.4 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.

2.5 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, Dhaka, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar with key stake holders, policy champions and media personnel.