

Monthly Progress Report- March 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 March, 2014

- 1.1 A consolidated report, based on the desk and field research carried out by four Indian State Partners and a Bangladesh Project Partner has been prepared, reviewed and edited/layout/printed. It has come out in printed form (hard copy). Soft copy will be uploaded on the project web-page soon along with dissemination of its hard copies among stakeholders.
- 1.2 A Recommendatory Paper and a Joint Communique has been prepared, reviewed and printed based on the desk and field research carried out CUTS and Bangladesh Project Partner. These have been uploaded on the project web-page. Dissemination of hard copies among stakeholders has started.
- 1.3 Based on the inputs from the international conference and second Project Advisory Committee meeting that was held in Dhaka, and Media Outreach strategy that was prepared by CUTS and Media Outreach Consultant- Work Plans, for all the project partners in India and in Bangladesh and for CUTS have been revised to carefully intertwine the research activities and the media outreach and advocacy initiatives to form an effective medium to attain the intended objectives and thus, the project goal ‘*to develop an enabling environment to promote seeds trade and knowledge-sharing on HYV rice seeds between India and Bangladesh.*’ CUTS have started field visits to implement the plans.
- 1.4 Literature review for the second phase research has started. 5 policy and practice briefs and a consolidated report will be produced based on this literature review.
- 1.5 RISTE project team had several meetings in New Delhi for advocacy purposes. Some of the stakeholders briefed in these meetings were from Mr. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Director General, National Seeds Association of India; Dr. Sanjay Singh, Principal Scientist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute etc.
- 1.6 A media article titled “Time for Trade and Renewal of Bilateral Cooperation in Rice Seeds” has been prepared. Soon it will be published in a relevant newspaper in India.
- 1.7 Based on the activities done so far and progress achieved, a project progress brief has been prepared. It will be uploaded on web-page soon along with its distribution.

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

2.1 A detailed list of media personal/stakeholders/informants will be made who will be engaged in the project for various activities including approaching them for article writing/advocacy etc..

2.2 A Recommendatory Paper will be forwarded to the key stakeholders, as identified in the project Results Framework, for peer-review and endorsement and to generate consensus on the demand scenarios and potential trade between India and Bangladesh in HYV rice seeds.

2.3 The Joint Communiqué will be released jointly by CUTS and Bangladesh project partner.

2.4 A consolidated report will be forwarded to the key stakeholders, as identified in the project Results Framework, for advocacy and to generate consensus on the demand scenarios and potential trade between India and Bangladesh in HYV rice seeds.

2.5 The revised work plans and its implementation will be discussed with each of the project partner.

2.6 The media outreach activities will start on identifying the key stakeholders and media personnel in New Delhi, in each of the States and in Bangladesh.

2.7 After finalising the five key policy and practice issue, literature review will be carried out by CUTS and Bangladesh Project with support from State partners.

2.8 Various meeting are scheduled with key stakeholders and media personnel regarding the activities to be carried out in the second phase of the RISTE Project.