

Monthly Progress Report - May 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 May, 2014

1.1 RISTE team participated in International Rice Research Institute, India office’s (IRRI India) Annual Summit held in New Delhi. This summit was focused on Stress Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA) project.

1.2 A paper presentation on the findings of the project was made at the 5th Crop World India 2014 Conference in Mumbai. Findings of the RISTE project were included in the recommendations of the conference.

1.3 As part of the media outreach activities Media briefing cum stakeholder workshops with media and other key stake holders were organised in Ranchi. 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 is drafting 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs). One of which is proposed to be signed by the National Seeds association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seeds Association (BSA); another MoU is proposed to be signed between Central Rice Research Institute, India (CRRI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

1.5 CUTS is also supposed to give a joint memorandum to Jt. Sec. (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India with cooperation from National Seeds Association of India.

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

2.1 Literature review for the second phase research will be over by the end of this month. Series of media articles (around 5-6) and a consolidated report will be produced based on this literature review.

2.2 RISTE team 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.

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 and Dhaka with key stake holders, policy champions and media personnel.

2.5 As part of advocacy and media outreach, Media briefing/training workshops will be organised in Kolkata and Bangladesh.

2.6 CUTS team will conduct field work for the second phase of research in Dhaka.

2.8 A presentation based on the project findings will be made to the agriculture development team of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.