

Monthly Progress Report- November 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 January, 2013- 30th September, 2014

Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of November, 2013

- 1.1 The initial reports from all the project partners have been received. These reports are in process of being synthesised into a consolidated report so as to come out with key project findings. The synthesized report will zero down on the policy related challenges. This report will be presented at the International Stakeholder Consultation meeting in Dhaka on 22nd December, 2013.
- 1.2 There were State level workshops/ consultations organised by each of the state partner in India and country-level partner in Bangladesh. The findings from the reports prepared by Project partners were presented in these consultations which were attended by regional stakeholders including policy makers and others. CUTS also did a brief presentation in these consultations and initiated the project advocacy initiatives. A consolidated report covering the all the events is prepared and will be uploaded soon with the presentations made at each of the event, on project web-page. It is to be noted that the media coverage of the Bangladesh meeting was heartening.
- 1.3 In collaboration with Bangladesh project partner, Unnayan Shamannay, CUTS is organising an International stakeholder consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22nd December 2013, in which the findings from the first phase of the project will be presented and work towards achieving the second objective/phase will commence. This international stakeholder consultation aims to bring together the key government officials and policy makers from both India and Bangladesh, also the seed associations and other identified key stakeholders. In addition to this, there will also be a second project advisory committee meeting to be held on 21st December 2013, on the same venue.
- 1.4 In collaboration with partners, CUTS started work of preparing the recommendatory paper and a document for the joint communiqué. These documents will be presented in the December meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. And they will be inclusive of the key findings and recommendations from the project so far.
- 1.5 The work related to the advocacy of the project findings will continue, with support of the media outreach consultants. In cue of these activities there will be articles in the leading newspapers in both India and Bangladesh, by the key stakeholders who are well conversed with the subject of rice seeds and its trade in India and in Bangladesh, also highlighting the project initiative and findings so far.

- 1.6 In the process of networking and advocacy initiatives CUTS have had multiple individual meetings with policy makers and members of seed associations in both India and Bangladesh.
- 1.7 Three publications under the project namely; '*Potential for Trade in Seeds between India and other SAARC Countries*', '*Harmonisation of Seed Certification Process in Bangladesh and India*' and '*Potentiality of High Yielding Variety Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh*' apart from the project reports, are been prepared and finalised and will be uploaded on the project web-page.

2. Outline of the activities to be carried out in the Month of December,2013

- 2.1 International Stakeholder Consultation will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22nd December 2013 along with Second Project Advisory (PAC) Committee meeting on 21st December 2013 in Dhaka.
- 2.2 CUTS will prepare the stakeholder consultation and 2nd PAC meeting report and upload it on the project web-page.
- 2.3 CUTS in collaboration with project partners will release the joint communiqué and will initiate the process of getting peer review of a recommendatory paper by identified stakeholders in both India and Bangladesh.
- 2.4 After the consultations and meetings CUTS will chart out and initiate the work for achieving the second objective in the project results framework

Partners Work Progress Sheet- November, 2013

Partner Organizations	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After sharing with the CUTS the valuable comments have been incorporated in the preliminary draft paper. • Media and policy briefs are underway
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A country level workshop has been disseminated with the participation of resource personnel and seed experts from same horizon at the Conference Room of Unnayan Shamannay on 23 November 2013 • Three Bangla Newspapers and One English Newspaper have published their media artifact about the needed bilateral cooperation in rice seed trade between India and Bangladesh. • Media article headed “Developing Bangladesh-India rice seed cooperation” has been published in “The Financial Express • Inviting the guests from India and Bangladesh for the International Conference to be held on 22 December 2013
Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report has been submitted to CUTS.
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Consultation was been successfully held. Report has been prepared and sent to CUTS. • Meetings were conducted with key state level stakeholder groups who later participated in the event. • There was a media coverage from the event held.
Samrudhi, Odisha	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . Report has been submitted to CUTS.
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Consultation was been successfully held. Report has been prepared and sent to CUTS. • Meetings were conducted with key state level stakeholder groups who later participated in the event. • There was a media coverage from the event held.
Indian Grameen Services, Jharkhand	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report has been submitted to CUTS.
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Consultation was been successfully held. Report has been prepared and sent to CUTS. • Meetings were conducted with key state level stakeholder groups who later participated in the event. • There was a media coverage from the event held.
Mukti, West Bengal	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report has been submitted to CUTS.
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Consultation was been successfully held. Report has been prepared and sent to CUTS. • Meetings were conducted with key state level stakeholder groups who later participated in the event. • There was a media coverage from the event held