

Monthly Progress Report- October 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

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of October, 2013

- 1.1 Advocacy Strategy note and Media Outreach Strategy note has been finalised after incorporating comments and suggestions from all the key stakeholders. In addition to this, CUTS also appointed Media Outreach consultants: in India, Mr Dipanker De Sarkar and in Bangladesh, Mr Asjadul Kibria. They will be responsible for the media outreach activities under RISTE project in their respective countries.
- 1.2 A paper entitled ‘Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh- An examination of WTO rules and regulations’ was presented at International Seminar on India and WTO, organised by Central university of Kerala at Kesargod, Kerala. This paper will be finalised and will be published with the Central university of Kerala, by the end of December.
- 1.3 A paper entitled ‘Potential for Trade in Seeds between India and other SAARC Countries’ has been written and reviewed by the external consultants/ reviewers. This paper is well received and said to cover the bigger aspects of seeds trade than just the rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh. It has been finalised and will soon be published on the project web-page as a working paper.
- 1.4 In the rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh, one of the biggest challenges that have been identified is the un-harmonised standards for the seed certification process, which prevents the two countries in progressing towards bilateral rice seeds trade. Keeping this as a focus a briefing paper entitled ‘Harmonisation of Seed Certification Process in Bangladesh and India’ has been prepared, focusing especially on the rice seeds standards in both the countries. This paper is in the process of finalising and will soon be published on the project web-page.
- 1.5 A discussion paper entitled ‘Potentiality of High Yielding Variety Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges’ is under process. Will be finalised soon and to be shared with the project consultants for their comments and suggestions before publishing it.
- 1.6 CUTS have been engaged with partner organisations in preparations for the November workshops that are to be organised by each partner in their respective states and in Bangladesh, to disseminate the findings from the activities covered under first objective of the project results framework.

- 1.7 At the same time there will be 2nd Project Advisory Committee meeting to be held in Dhaka in the month of December, along with a large stakeholder consultation, having participations from both India and Bangladesh. This is a key stakeholder consultation for the project where the project findings will be presented to the larger audience, of key stature for the project, at the same time there will be discussions on the activities and advocacy strategy relating to the project.
2. Outline of the activities to be performed in the month of November, 2013
 - 2.1 The initial reports from some of the partners are gathered so far, and others are in process of submitting the same. These reports will be synthesised into one consolidated report highlighting the key findings and recommendations with respect to each of the state and in Bangladesh.
 - 2.2 CUTS will participate in all the workshops to be organised by the four state partners in India and partner in Bangladesh.
 - 2.3 All the papers prepared so far will be published and uploaded on the project web-page.
 - 2.4 In collaboration with partners, CUTS will commence the 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.
 - 2.5 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.

Partners Work Progress Sheet- October, 2013

Partner Organizations	Planned Activities	Progress Made
Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh	Desk and field research to understand the comprehend factors driving demand and informal flow of HYV rice seeds between India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a recommendatory Paper on demand scenarios and potential trade between India and Bangladesh in HYV rice seeds is in the process. And will be finalised soon.
	Advocacy strategy and media outreach strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a meeting scheduled with the media personnel's, but it couldn't be held due to political disturbance and now it is rescheduled in the month of November. • A media outreach consultant for Bangladesh has been finalised and contracted, in consultation with CUTS • November workshop (23rd November, 2013), preparation has started and agenda and background note for the same has been finalised in consultation with CUTS. • Preparations for the December, International Seminar that is to be held in Dhaka, has started, in partnership with CUTS.
Bihar Water Development Society, Bihar	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many stakeholder meetings were held so as to gather the real time qualitative and quantitative information. • There was a preliminary exercise of identifying a supporting agent in the informal trade of HYV rice seeds in Bihar. • Out of the desk and field research there was a listing of the identified real time barriers in the formal rice

		<p>seeds trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the findings so far have been drafted into a form of draft report, which will be finalised soon and then will be shared with CUTS.
	Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations for November workshops are in process. Date has been finalised on 27th November, 2013.
Samrudhi, Odisha	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many stakeholder meetings were held so as to gather the real time qualitative and quantitative information. The initial report of the project has been submitted to CUTS for reviewing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations for November workshops are in process. Date has been finalised on 29th November, 2013
Indian Grameen Services, Jharkhand	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations for November workshops are in process. Date has been finalised on 25th November, 2013
Mukti, West Bengal	Desk and field research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGD completed in Cooch Behar distt. at Barther Sitai. Retailers interview in Dinhata/Cooch Behar. Draft report preparation (Data compilation, tabulation, analysis and seed flow mapping etc.).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations for November workshops are in process. Discussion with office bearers of Seed producers Association in West Bengal. Date has been finalised on 21st November, 2013