

Monthly Progress Report - October 2014

Project Title: ‘Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh’
(RISTE project)

Name of the Organisation: CUTS International, India

Supported by: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Duration: 1st January, 2013- 31st March 2015

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of October, 2014

1.1 CUTS organized a parallel session titled “Challenges and Opportunities to Trade in Rice Seeds between India and Bangladesh” in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 8th Asian Society of Agricultural Economists conference on 17th October 2014.

1.2 CUTS also presented two papers separately in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 8th Asian Society of Agricultural Economists conference. 1st paper was titled “Cooperation in Rice Seeds: Need for Structural Changes” while the 2nd paper was titled “Agriculture Input and Output Trade in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities”.

1.3 CUTS also presented a poster titled “Cooperation in Rice Seeds: A Sustainable Way to Rice Production in India and Bangladesh” and a paper titled “India-Bangladesh Cooperation in Rice Seeds: Need for Harmonization in Seeds Laws and Regulations” during the 4th International Rice Congress (IRC 2014) in Bangkok, Thailand in October (27-31), 2014.

1.4 CUTS also contributed papers in the quarterly magazine of National Seeds Association of India titled “Seeds Times”.

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

2.1 The draft report is under the process of finalisation. After its finalisation, the report will be shared with project consultants for review. The report will be finalised incorporating comments and suggestions from the project consultants.

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

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

2.4 As the RISTE project has got a no-cost extension covering the period October 2014 to March 2015, CUTS Project team will prepare Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and arrange for its signing by the project partners in India and Bangladesh.