

Monthly Progress Report - September 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 March, 2015

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

1.1 CUTS team held discussion with the National Seed Association of India on the format of proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is supposed to be signed by the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and Bangladesh Seed Association (BSA).

1.2 Indian state partners organized village level awareness program (Kisan Goshti) in their respective states.

1.3 As part of the media outreach activities a number of media article were written on rice seeds trade in popular media such as in *The Financial Express*, *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Dainik Jagran*, and *The Daily Star*. These can be accessed through RISTE project webpage, URL: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/In_media.htm

1.4 As part of advocacy and media outreach, advocacy meetings with media and other key stake holders are going on in New Delhi, Dhaka and state capitals.

1.5 CUTS team has prepared a draft research report of second phase and this draft study is under finalization mode. During the project review meeting a number of critical suggestions was received on this study, after finalization this study will be sent for review.

1.6 A paper titled “Rice Seeds Availability in India and Bangladesh: Farmer’s Perspectives” was published in Bangladesh Seed Associations Annual Souvenir.

1.7 A series of media briefings were organized in the month of April-June. Report of these media briefing can be accessed on: http://www.cuts-citee.org/RISTE/pdf/Media_Briefing_Report.pdf.

2. Outline of the activities to be carried out in the month of October, 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 A research paper titled “India-Bangladesh Cooperation in Rice Seeds: Need for Structural Changes” is under progress. This will be presented at the 8th ASAE International Conference at Dhaka, Bangladesh, scheduled in October (15-17), 2014.

2.4 A research paper titled “Agriculture Input and Output Trade in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities” is under progress. This will be presented at the 8th ASAE International Conference at Dhaka, Bangladesh, scheduled in October (15-17), 2014.

2.5 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.

2.6 Progress for organizing a pre-conference mini symposium in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 8th ASAE International conference is under progress. Panellist/paper presenters have been identified and they have also given their approval to participate in the event.

2.7 One paper and one poster are under progress and these will be presented during the 4th International Rice Congress (IRC 2014) in Bangkok, Thailand in October (27-31), 2014.