

Quarterly Progress Report-April 2015 to June 2015

Project Title: 'Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio in South Asia' (SDIP)

Name of the Organisation: CUTS International

Supported by: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia

Duration: April 2015 to June 2015

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the months of April-June 2015

1.1 In continuation of activities under CUTS Work plan, policy mapping exercise in the domains of agriculture, water and energy was conducted in the month of April-June. For the initial snapshot, the team looked into various policies and acts under each of the three domains in the five project countries-Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Country specific policies at National and State level are included in the preliminary snapshots. In India, apart from Central government policies, the team also looked into the policies of various states-where CUTS SDIP activity is planned to be carried out.

The database can be accessed by clicking on the following link http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Policy_Mapping.htm.

1.2 The Diagnostic study report has been prepared and under publication. The report will be shared with all the SDIP partners and other stakeholders by the month of July 2015.

Brief information about the study:

With the assistance from our partners, CUTS conducted a quick diagnostic study across the basins including all the five project countries. The objective of this study is to validate the findings of desk research with local perspectives, coin initial advocacy messages and to identify the entry points and prioritise CUTS interventions. The diagnostic study helped CUTS in identifying the broad entry points to streamline its interventions in the SDIP focus areas. In light of the preliminary findings of the study, it was decided that CUTS will undertake some focused studies on the issues of Groundwater Regulation, Sustainable Agricultural practices, Value Added Market Chains in Agriculture and Small and Micro Renewable Energy Deployment.

1.3 CUTS conducted a one-day the 2nd Workshop with its Strategic Partners in New Delhi on 1st May 2015. Building on the first workshop, the second workshop aimed to determine the progress of partnership between CUTS and its nine strategic partners in South Asia. It further deliberated on the activities conducted by the partners over the last year and paved way to streamline their future activity plan. The objectives of this workshop were successfully met with valuable inputs from DFAT and our nine strategic partners.

The report of this workshop can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Report_on_CUTS_workshop_with_strategic_partners_1_May_2015.pdf

1.4 The preparation of Perception Study continued in this quarter. The questionnaires has been finalised and the household survey has been initiated at the selected places in the five countries in South Asia. CUTS is conducting the household survey with the help of its partners. A sample of total 1000 stakeholders has been selected to interview from the five project countries.

1.5 As part of the media outreach activities a number of media articles were written on food, water and energy issues by CUTS and its strategic partners in popular newspapers and other media channels. These can be accessed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Media.htm>

2. CUTS Strategic Partners' Activity Progress Updates

Partners	Activities
NEFORD Lucknow	<p><u>On-farm Activities :</u></p> <p>(i) Diversification of gene-pool : Field Trials As given in the previous quarterly report, 'Mother' and 'Baby trials ' were conducted using 20 different wheat varieties. While 50 farmers conducted the mother trials, 1500 farmers were involved in baby trials, each planting a combination of three out of 20 varieties. Crop cutting has been done and the yield data have been collected and are being analysed. The final results of these trials will be submitted in the next quarterly (July to September) report.</p> <p>(ii) Seed production Seed production has been started in this quarter to make seeds easily available of the varieties that the farmers have selected from Mother and Baby trials. Based on the performance of the last Rabi season, three varieties were identified- PBW16, HW2045 and Raj4120. Due to untimely rains, when the crop was almost matured, the crop was quite damaged and the seed production was badly affected. Still, NEFORD have been able to collect about 2700 kg of seed which will be planted in larger area next year.</p> <p>(iii) Measurement of weather parameters: 5 <i>i</i>-buttons have been installed on 5 different farmers' fields to collect hourly daily temperature and humidity. The data on temperature and humidity have been collected for all the Rabi months on hourly basis which are being processed and the final results will be submitted in the next quarterly report.</p> <p><u>Public Awareness and Advocacy :</u></p> <p>(i) Human Resource Development A training program was organized on the 26th April, 2015 jointly with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Seorahi in district Kushinagar. The focus of the training was 'Improving and Stablizing Crop Productivity in the Flood Prone Areas'.</p> <p>(ii) Field Visits and Data Recording: During the period under report, a number of field visits and other activities were organized to create awareness among the farmers about climate change and its impact on agriculture and accordingly data was collected from the field trials.</p> <p>(iii) Kissan Mela Under the auspices of NEFORD-CUTS International collaborative program, a farmers' fair (Kissan Mela) was organized on the 22nd May, 2015 at the premises of Amar Vani Viklang Sansthan, Tajopur (Mau). The 'theme' of Kissan Mela was 'More Crop per Drop of Water'. About 25 scientists of different disciplines' affiliated with NDUAT Faizabad, Directorate of Seed Research and NBIAM (Mau), KVKs' (Ghazipur and Mau), and Department of Agriculture and other line departments, along with about 4000 farmers (3800 men and 185 women) participated in the Kissan Mela.</p> <p>(iv) District Agricultural Development Forum (DADF) Meeting:</p>

A meeting of the DADF was held on 21st June, 2015 at Grishat Plaza, Mau. About 55 participants, representing farmers, teachers, government officials, scientists and print & electronic media participated in the discussion. The topic of the discussion was '**Land Bill and the Farmers**'. A note titled as '**Gaon Ka Such aur Land Bill**' (the truth of the villages and the land bill) was distributed to participants which formed the basis of discussion.

Research and policy studies completed:

'Status of ground-water resource and its sustainable development in U.P.'

Reaching out :

NEFORD has been able to reach out quite a large number of stakeholders and created awareness about sustainable agriculture development, climate change and adaptation strategies. About 8600 stakeholders were reached out through our various public awareness activities, out of which 833 were women participants.

**RGVN
Assam**

- **Sandy Soil Cultivation in Goalpara district**
 - Piloted in Sardarpara Village in Krishnai Goalpara district
 - 2 SHGs piloted this technique- Kahua and Pragati (100% women)
 - Ash Gourd, Sponge Gourd, Ridge Gourd and Pumpkin are four types of vegetables to be grown under this cultivation method

- **Potentiality assessment of Flood resistant crops in Assam – A Study**

Crops chosen:

 - Paddy varieties
 - Horticultural crops and vegetables
 - Minor forest products in non-forest areas having edible quality or potentialities in industrial sectors

Study covered the following:

 - Survival and production rate in flood prone situation
 - Pilot projects and studies going on in Assam under Assam Agriculture University
 - Acceptance by farmers and suitability to food habits
 - Market potential in local markets

- **Perception Survey**

According to directions given by CUTS for perception survey, 40 questionnaires on Farmers' HH have been filled in, in Tamulpur and Kumarikhata blocks of Baksa districts of Assam, bordering the India – Bhutan International border.

- **6 pamphlets designed for dissemination**

6 leaflets have been designed on sustainable agri-practices in English. The leaflets are to be translated into local language for greater dissemination. The leaflets are on: Agri-water management, SRI, Vermicompost, Floating Bed, Sandy Soil and Pheromone Trap. Some of these leaflets were shared in CUTS Strategic Partners Workshop in Delhi on 1st May 2015.

- **Study on AWM of small and marginal farmers in Morigaon district**

A study was done by RGVN under CUTS SDIP project in Morigaon district of Assam during the last quarter. The study covered 500 small and marginal farmers, especially women. The study was carried out by questionnaire, interview and PRA methods. The study focused mainly on water availability and Irrigational techniques used, agriculture and land holding.

The report of the study has been published and shared with relevant stakeholders.

- **Pilot with flood resistant water resistant seeds from IRR**

The demonstration of systematic rice intensification (SRI) technique was carried out on two districts namely Barpeta and Dhemaji with flood resistant seeds from IRR during the reporting quarter.

**CRRID
Chandigarh**

Following activities were carried during the reporting period

- Held a meeting with group of 30 farmers discussing issues related to water and energy security at village Chakkan in district Hoshiarpur, another meeting with a group of farmers in village Bhunga and Ramtaltwali in Hoshiarpur about energy and water saving technology.
- Held a meeting at village Kal Jharani, District Bathinda with group of 20 farmers and other group of 15 stakeholders on the energy issues.
- Organized a group meeting in the village Daulatpur, district Ludhiana and held a meeting with elected representatives of PRIs on Energy Conservation and its efficient use.
- Held a meeting with officials (7) of Punjab Energy Development Agency and met a group of 10 applicant villagers interested in setting up of solar plants at Chandigarh.
- Organized a group meeting with officials (6-7) of Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) at Patiala and members of Engineers Association of PSPCL.
- Held a meeting with members of Water Users Association at Villagers of Muktsar District.
- Conducted group meetings with Villagers Singhpura (Mohali) and Singh Bhagwantpur (Ropar) on the issue of agricultural development and status of water resources.
- The team visited Mehta village, district Bathinda and held meeting with farmers involved in organic farming to understand the practices of saving land productivity and water conservation.
- The team visited village Balad Kalan and held meeting with a group of around 100 landless farmers involved in cooperative farmers.
- CRRID has conducted a study on Impact Assessment of the Buffalo Breed Improvement and Management Programme. This report has been shared with the officials of agriculture department, dairy wing.
- Perception survey for CUTS will be started soon.
- The following articles have been published:
“[Crop Damage and Delivery of Compensation](#)”
“Land Bill: Social Impact is Must” (in Punjabi language)
- **Following papers will be published soon:**
 - Remodelling Water Use in Indian Punjab for Efficiency and Sustainability
 - Agriculture Development in Punjab: Problems and Prospects

- Energy Sector in Indian Punjab: Current Issues, Problems and Future Vision (Sub-National Perspective)



**BASIX
Patna**

Following activities were carried during the reporting period

- Promotion and installation of 3 solar pumps under entrepreneurship model took place in Gaya and 1512 solar light reached the rural house hold.
- 250 farmers of Gaya and Motihari were provided training on Moong (Green Gram) cultivation and seed was provided through convergence with Krishi Vikas Kendras. Good crop was observed and seed was of good quality free from yellow Mosaic disease which is very common in this region. It is expected that the farmers will earn 20 to 30 thousand per acre through the sale of this crop.
- Two meetings of farmers from and officials from Punjab National Bank were organized for facilitating credit linkage and consequently 100 farmers from FPO are going to avail credit facility for dairy activity.
- Training and demonstration was organised for seed bed preparation along with training on the use of drum-seeder and paddy trans-planter were provided to the famers to ensure timely sowing/transplantation for enhanced productivity and drudgery reduction of women. ***90% of transplantation is done by women and they suffer from physical disorder and pain.***
- Perception Survey for CUTS has been completed in district Katihar.

**SDPI
Pakistan**

Articles published under the SDIP themes include:

- [Opinion Looking at History for the future of the CPEC](#)
- [Green to orange](#)
- [Labour-intensive industries – a way to fight poverty](#)
- [Shale gas: a real game-changer](#)
- [Murky Visions](#)
- [On the same grid](#)
- [Food Insecurity in South Asia](#)
- ["Affordability" to Include Environment Costs in South Asia's Energy Security](#)

Papers published under the SDIP themes include:

- [Sustainable Energy for All in South Asia Potential, Challenges, and Solutions \(W - 151\)](#)
- [Climate Variability Impacts on Rice Crop Production in Pakistan](#)

SDTV Talk Show:

- [Coffee Table Program: Cross boundary water management](#)

PTV World Talk Show:

- [CHANGING TIMES water shortage in Pakistan](#)

Related Events:

- [GLOBAL citizen's consultation: World Wide Views on Climate and Energy 2015](#)

Perception Survey:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As decided in the workshop, SDPI has planned to conduct a perception survey in Rahimyar Khan District and Minawali District. CUTS had shared the questionnaires with SDPI for comments. After finalization of questionnaire, SDPI has translated the questionnaires in Urdu languages. In the 2nd week of June, SDPI has conducted a household-level perception survey and Key Informant Interviews in Rahimyar Khan District. Currently the data entry and translation of Key Informant Interviews along with translation of open ended questionnaires are in process and will be shared with CUTS soon.
SNV Bhutan	<p><u>Two district level advocacy workshops were organised under the PES scheme in Bhutan in April 2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contractual agreement for the 1st ever PES scheme in Bhutan (which was established on 1st December 2010) expired on 31st December 2013. This agreement is renewed further for five years (1st Jan 2015 to 31 December 2019) and was signed on 9th April 2015 between the Yakpugang Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) (Provider of environmental services) and the Drinking Water Users of Mongar Town and Mongar Referral Hospital (Buyers of environmental services). The main environmental service is the protection of drinking water source in Yakpugang Community Forest. Before signing of the PES contractual agreement, awareness was created to both the Buyers and Provider of the PES. The concept of PES was explained to the stakeholders. The components of PES and major types of PES were also touched with examples from abroad and from within the country. The steps involved in establishing a PES scheme were also explained. One day workshop was conducted for each stakeholder (Buyer and Provider) by SNV. From the Buyers' side, 24 participants attended the workshop while 34 participants attended from the Provider's side in the workshop. <p><u>Activities planned for the coming quarters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen female leadership in farmers' groups and cooperatives Facilitate market linkages between Indian traders and Bhutanese producers Develop brand for Bhutanese vegetables for Indian market Facilitate trade facilitation through multi stakeholder platforms between Bhutan & India Regional advocacy workshop on Indo-Bhutan trade facilitation & value chain development Strengthen female leadership in water users' associations Facilitate a PES scheme between DGPC & upstream community for increased/ consistent hydropower generation Introduce premium payment from Indian power companies to DGPC for compensation to upstream community
SAWTEE Nepal	<p><u>As per the work plan for the study, SAWTEE has conducted the following activities (for both studies – fruit and vegetable and Chure) during the reporting period</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of questionnaire Pre-testing of the questionnaire Selection of field sites Identification of resource persons at the national and district level

- Coordination at the field level for key information survey and focus group discussion

Perception Survey for CUTS will be started off soon in Nepal.

**US
Bangladesh**

Research Activities carried out:

- **Agricultural market supply chain of inputs and services:** Some products have been selected initially but not finalized which would be proposed. Supply chain of two inputs (seeds, fertilizer) has been specified and for the rest two inputs (pesticides, irrigation), it is under processing. Stakeholder interview of four inputs will be conducted in the coming quarter.
- **Quantifying water needs (usage) in agriculture:** Methodology and analytical part has completed along with some part of data collection.
- **Case study of Ganges water treaty:** An outline has made on the basis of secondary review which has accelerated a background of decorating the two case studies. A mapping of field data collection has also been completed.
- **Off-grid power system in Bangladesh & financing mechanism:** As HECMOTE has not appeared feasible because of some property rights issues therefore Unnayan Shamannay is stepping forward with a new alterative process.

Advocacy and Networking

- **Sub-national workshops (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions):**Co-ordination with selected probable fields has been completed and preliminary settings are done.

Perception Survey

- Bangla Questionnaire for perception survey has been translated. Besides that, the sampling design for conducting the perception survey on two basins was completed. Identification of the stakeholders for semi-structured and open-ended questionnaire for the field work has been listed to be completed within the coming quarter.