

Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)

(January 2016 to March 2016)

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: January - March 2016

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the months of January - March 2016:

- 1.1 CUTS conducted a two-day workshop with its Strategic Partners in New Delhi on 29th-30th January, 2016. This workshop was the third workshop with CUTS partners under SDIP. Building on the first and the second workshop, the third workshop aimed to share the key findings of perception survey, CUTS advocacy messages and operational strategy with partners. It further deliberated on the partners’ advocacy messages and strategy for each location and at basin level. 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-CUTS_Workshop_No3_with_strategic_Partners.pdf
- 1.2 At the third strategic partners meeting, CUTS monitoring and evaluation team conducted an evaluation of the strategic partners to monitor the progress of the project. The discussions and findings have been documented and will feed into the internal monitoring and evaluation plan of CUTS in SDIP.
- 1.3 Based on the discussions at the third strategic partner’s workshop, an event matrix for advocacy has been prepared in conjunction with the strategic partners. This matrix contains the details of the events in core topics of agriculture, water and energy relevant to local level policy making. The events would form the body for policy advocacy at CUTS and at the partner’s level for the next 6 months’ time till July.
- 1.4 Based on the activities and field insights of CUTS and its strategic partners across the domains of agriculture, water and energy in the river basins of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra, CUTS has shaped 6 policy dialogues topics. The topics will be used for advocacy at local, national and regional level for efficient policy discussions. The topics are:

- (i) Promoting Efficient Use of Resources through Regulations and Knowledge Sharing on Sustainable Agricultural Practices in South Asia
- (ii) Enhancing Farm Incomes and Economic Growth in BBIN Countries through Better Linkages and Stronger Value Chains
- (iii) Integrated Approach to Groundwater Regulation, Management and Conservation
- (iv) Development of Inland Waterways for Trade and Transit in BBIN
- (v) Promoting Energy Cooperation among South Asian Countries
- (vi) Promoting Renewable Energy Technology Transfer, Trade and Knowledge Sharing in South Asia

The advocacy topics will be disseminated as advocacy brief documents in the next quarter.

1.5 CUTS published a news article titled “Creating agricultural value chains in South Asia” in Financial Express, Bangladesh on 30th January 2016. The article can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Creating_Agricultural_Value_Chains_in_South_Asia.pdf

1.6 The perception survey report by CUTS on agriculture, water and energy scenario in South Asia titled “Rethinking Perceptions” has been shared with relevant strategic partners and DFAT for comments and suggestions. The report will be published in the next quarter and will be available for wider dissemination and advocacy purposes.

1.7 CUTS is working on a research paper tentatively titled “Interrogating South Asia’s Hydro Politics Implications for Water Security and Hydro-Power Cooperation in the Sub-Continent”. This will be available for wider dissemination in the next quarter.

1.8 CUTS is working on a research paper tentatively titled “Agricultural Value Chains in India: Prospects and Challenges”. This will be available for wider dissemination in the next quarter.

1.9 Based on CUTS work under SDIP, CUTS team has submitted a research paper tentatively titled “Transformative knowledge sharing in Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra river basins” for the 2nd Symposium on Transformation for Rural Development: Collaboration & Coproduction of Knowledge being organised by Charles Sturt University, Australia, Ambedkar University, Delhi and PRADAN. The final paper will be presented at Delhi on 19th - 22nd April, 2016.

2. CUTS Strategic Partners’ Progress

Partners	Activities
CRRID, Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organised India-Pakistan meet of Legislatures, Public Officials and Experts for Promotion of Agriculture at CRRID, Chandigarh on 10th March 2016. The report is available here: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/India-Pakistan Legislators & Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance & Democracy Especially Promotion of Agriculture.pdf ➤ Participated in a national seminar titled "Contemporary

Partners	Activities
	<p>Development Issues in Northern India", which was held on February 27-28, 2016 at the Punjabi University, Patiala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For the purpose of dissemination, three papers in the area of agriculture, water and energy, have been prepared in Punjabi language for the Workshop to be held in April, 2016 ➤ Delivered a lecture on “Agriculture and Food Security in India” at a national Seminar on Agriculture and Food Security in India: Challenges and Opportunities organised by Geography department, Punjab University, Chandigarh on 11th March 2016. ➤ Delivered a lecture on “Agriculture and Value Chain in Punjab” at an annual meet of Democratic Kisan Sabha (Punjab unit) at Sardoolgarh, district Bathinda on March 26, 2016.
IGS-BASIX, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FPO farmers attended the Bihar Diwas function held in Patna on 22nd March 2016. 7 farmers from each FPOs attended the function. ➤ Two farmer’s meetings were organized at FPO’s farmers’ house in Motihari Sadar & Chakia. Around 70 to 100 FPO farmers participated. The meeting was held in order to make the farmers aware of the proper farming techniques to enhance the productivity. ➤ So far 8 solar pumps have been installed under the SDIP project. ➤ Some of the FPO women farmer are engaged in Mushroom cultivation and earning more than three thousand by selling its by-products. ➤ 60 women out of 85 are earning more than Rs.1000 through solar light lending model. ➤ Every month IGS is participating in the meeting organised in secretariat headed by APC for development in different aspect of agriculture.
NEFORD, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NEFORD conducted field demonstrations of some IARI wheat varieties during Rabi season 2015-16. Total 32 demonstrations were conducted which were well monitored by NEFORD staff from time to time. ➤ Two field days were also organized on 7th January and 18th February 2016, each attended by 50-60 farmers who observed the performance of these varieties. ➤ NEFORD has completed a review paper on 'Conservation Agriculture Based Crop Management Practices for Improving

Partners	Activities
	<p>Productivity, Resource-use Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation'. The report has been submitted to CUTS for reviewing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proceedings of seminar held on 19th March 2016 on ‘Sustainable Agriculture in Changing Climate Scenario’ have been sent to CUTS. The report can be accessed here: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Report_on_seminar_on_Sustainable_Agriculture_in_Changing_Climate_Scenario_at_Lucknow-UP.pdf ➤ District Agriculture Development Forum and Felicitation of Dr. R.K. Singh on 21st February, 2016. The report can be accessed here: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Report_on_the_District_Agriculture_Development_Forum_DADF-Meeting_at_Mau-UP.pdf ➤ Kisan Sabha on 5th March, 2016. ➤ Rabi data collection from 15th – 30th March, 2016. ➤ About 453 stake-holders were reached out through various public awareness activities, out of which 95 i.e. 21% were the women participants. ➤ A paper titled “Performance of Sahbaghi Dhan-A drought tolerant rice variety on farmers’ fields” was presented by Dr. R.K. Singh; Director NEFORD, during the ‘Phase 3 year Review and Annual Planning Workshop for South Asia’ held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 25-28 April 2016.
RGVN, Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After the completion of the 1st batch of Vermicompost production, the SHG members have used the compost for their farming. Total 35 quintal has been harvested from the 1st batch. Presently, second batch of production is going on. ➤ One to one advocacy meetings were held with six state level experts from 17th March onwards by RGVN personal. They are Dr. R.M. Pant, Director, National Institute of Rural Development; Bijoy S. Sarma, Asstt. Director of Agriculture (Administration), Assam; Sunita Rai, Asstt. Manager, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA); A.M.M Zakir, Director, State Institute of Rural Development; H.C. Baishya, Agriculture Coordinator, Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society and Ruma Choudhury, Marketing Officer, Assam Agricultural Marketing Board. ➤ The solar lighting project has been implemented in Ganeshguri which is 8 kms from the international border. The report can be accessed here: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Report_on_the_Solar_Lighting_Program_at_Baksa_in_Assam-India.pdf

Partners	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An Advocacy meeting on Sustainable Agricultural Practices was organized on 14th March, 2016 at Hotel Cygnett Inn, Guwahati.
SAWTEE, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working on the draft of policy brief (advocacy message document) on nontariff barriers on export of vegetables and fruits from Nepal to India. The study will be shared for wider dissemination in the next quarter. ➤ Working on the draft paper on the study on “Impact of Chure Degradation on Water: A Perception Study in Kamala Basin”. The study will be shared for wider dissemination in the next quarter ➤ Participated in the regional meeting on “Food and Agricultural Systems” on 10th – 12th Feb., 2016 organised by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India. ➤ Participated in the national consultation meeting on “Paris Climate Agreement: How Can Nepal Benefit” on 29th Jan., 2016 organised by Ministry of Population and Environment, Government of Nepal in Kathmandu. ➤ Participated in the consultation meeting on “Climate Finance: Financing Resilient and Low-carbon Development in Nepal” on 29th Feb., 2016 organised by Ministry of Population in Kathmandu.
SDPI, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Published a policy brief titled “Better Water, Better Jobs - Envisioning a Sustainable Pakistan”. The paper can be accessed here: http://sdpi.org/publications/publication_details-743-28.html ➤ Published article titled “Are we serious on climate change?” The article can be accessed here: http://nation.com.pk/columns/21-Mar-2016/are-we-serious-on-climate-change ➤ Published an article titled “Economists for creation of 'energy ministry'”. The article can be accessed here: http://www.brecorder.com/market-data/stocks-a-bonds/0/24468/
SNV, Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SNV will be preparing for 4 key events in the coming months. ➤ A three country (Bangladesh, Bhutan & India) multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop focusing on value chains and transboundary aspects. ➤ National advocacy workshop on value chains and market linkages. ➤ Knowledge sharing seminar among relevant agencies on PES Framework. ➤ Media workshop and stakeholders engagement for promotion of

Partners	Activities
Unnayan Shamunnay (US), Bangladesh	Biogas as RE source.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policy brief on "Policies and Institutional Practices for Renewable Energy in Bangladesh" was published. The report can be accessed here: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Policy_Brief_on_Energy_Policies_&_Institutional_Practices_for_Renewable_Energy_in_Bangladeshra.pdf
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Paper titled “Quantifying water needs (usage) in agriculture” has been submitted to First Annual Economists’ Conference on “Bangladesh: Way towards a Middle Income Country”. ➤ US will be preparing for 2 regional workshops one in Chapainawabganj district and one in Kurigram district.