

## Quarterly Progress Report - July 2015 to September 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:** July 2015 to September 2015

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### 1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the months of July-September 2015

- 1.1 The second CUTS SDIP Cover Brief and the CUTS Annual Organisational Report for the reporting period of July, 2014 to June, 2015 was prepared and submitted in the month of July 2015 in compliance with the clauses mentioned in the MoU and Grant Agreement between CUTS and DFAT.
- 1.2 CUTS had a Skype conversation with Erica Packington IODPARC on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 on the organisational outcome of the SDIP project.
- 1.3 CUTS also attended the Annual Health Check-up meeting (Review of Partnership Progress) facilitated by Julie Mundy and Kate Hayes in Jaipur, India during 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.
- 1.4 The Mid-term review of the SDIP project was carried out by Jim Woodhill, the SDIP Mid Term Review consultant on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 at New Delhi, India with the CUTS team. The review helped both parties to analyse changing scenarios under the portfolio.
- 1.5 CUTS participated in the DFAT SDIP Annual Dialogue on 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2015 at New Delhi, India. Bipul Chatterjee, Veena Vidyadharan, Ashwini K. Swain, Saurabh Kumar, Susan Mathew and Ira Sharma represented CUTS in this dialogue. The CUTS monitoring and evaluation team comprising of Amit Gordon and Kyle Cote also participated in the Dialogue.
- 1.6 CUTS team has been in talks with Amit Parashar and Geoff Podger Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) since August on food-energy-water nexus and are in the process of exploring synergies between how can CUTS work along with CSIRO on issues related to ground water management, particularly in the Indus basin.
- 1.7 CUTS international conducted a meeting with Ms. Anjali Garg, International Finance Corporation on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at Jaipur to explore partnership potentials under the SDIP umbrella.
- 1.8 CUTS attended the independent appraisal of SDIP monitoring & evaluation approach by John Winter (independent consultant commissioned by DFAT) over skype. The appraisal will be a key input to the mid-term review of the first phase of the SDIP.
- 1.9 CUTS has been actively uploading relevant material on the SDIP Results portal introduced during the 2015 Annual Dialogue. The aim is to ensure that the portal acts as

a knowledge sharing tool between CUTS strategic partners and DFAT SDIP portfolio partners.

1.10 The perception study has started with the household survey. CUTS is conducting the household survey with the help of its strategic partners. The schedule for the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) has been shared with the partners and will start after the festival seasons in October-November.

1.11 CUTS Publications:

- [Government should determine the prices of sugarcane \(In Hindi\)](#)
- [Agricultural growth performance and institutional credit](#)

## 2. CUTS Strategic Partners' Activity Progress Updates

Partners	Activities
<p><b>2.1 NEFORD, Lucknow</b></p>	<p>1. On-farm Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Field trials on the effect of drought on rice crops indicate that considering HD-2733, the most preferred variety of this locality, as check, 6 varieties namely, CSW-38, DBW-14, HD-2985, HUW-468, PBW and PBW-550 gave higher yields than the check.</li> <li>➤ The performance of varieties were also tested in early, medium and late sowing conditions and it was found that the yields were higher in the medium sown conditions.</li> <li>➤ The ranking of the varieties based on farmers' preferences in PVS (mother) and baby trials indicates that both for early and medium sown conditions, CSW-38 and HD-2733 were the most preferred varieties. The farmers preferred HUW-468 and HW-2045 more for medium sown conditions. For late sown conditions, the farmers' choices were K-9107 and WR-544.</li> <li>➤ Based and performance of the last Rabi season, three varieties - PBW16, HW2045 and Raj4120 - were identified for seed production. 2700 kg of seed has been collected which will be planted in larger area next year.</li> </ul> <p>2. Trainings and field visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the period under report, three trainings were conducted involving 85, 65 and 20 farmers, respectively. The training topics were weed management, quality seed production and stress management, respectively.</li> <li>➤ NEFORD team also conducted two field visits involving about 320 farmers both men and women. The visit aimed on the spot learning and seeing the performance of varieties under drought condition.</li> <li>➤ In addition, NEFORD interacted with 2000 farmers and collected field data.</li> <li>➤ A meeting of the DADF (District Agricultural Development Forum) was held on 27th August, 2015 at Grishat Plaza, Mau. About 72 participants, representing farmers, teachers, government officials, scientists and print and electronic media participated in the</li> </ul>

	<p>discussion. The topic of the discussion was 'Crop Productivity issues in the stress prone areas'. A note titled as '<i>Krishi ki Utpadakta se Jude Kuch Jameeni Sawal</i>' was distributed to participants which formed the basis of discussion.</p> <p>3. Research and policy studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Currently, NEFORD is working on a paper on 'Resource conservation technologies'</li> <li>➤ A perception survey of 40 farmers of the drought prone area has already been completed and the report has been sent to CUTS International. The survey data of another 40 farmers from low land flood prone areas is nearly completed and will be sent soon. Another survey of the officials, policy makers and NGO's engaged in agriculture is planed after mid-November.</li> </ul> <p>4. Reaching out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the period under report, July to September, 2015, 2562 stake-holders were reached out through various public awareness activities, out of which 307 i.e. 12% were the women participants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1. RGVN, Assam</b></p>	<p>1. Floating Bed Cultivation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Piloted in Barukata village of Morigaon district of Assam.</li> <li>➤ 37 floating beds have been made.</li> </ul> <p>2. Vermicompost Pits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 5 vermicompost pits in Garmsung village of Kamrup district of Assam.</li> <li>➤ Conducted training sessions and advocating organic fertilizer usage amongst the community.</li> </ul> <p>3. Draft Report on the study on potentiality assessment of flood resistant crop in Assam: Recommendations from the study are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organized marketing centers are required for Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) like Patidoi and local Mionor fruits etc. in both Majuli and Lakhimpur.</li> <li>➤ Popularization of local Bao varieties would help in increasing demand and better price bargaining for farmers in Lakhimpur and Majuli.</li> <li>➤ Better extension services for the varieties developed by AAU and availability of quality seeds would help in yield enhancement for the Bao both in Majuli and Lakhimpur.</li> <li>➤ Development of resistant Boro varieties for farmers in Nagaon would help tackle the early floods (occasional).</li> <li>➤ In Nagaon short duration Ahu varieties can be promoted with irrigation facility which could be harvest before onset of flood.</li> </ul> <p>4. Off-Grid Energy Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Solar panels have been set up in two market places on the international border in Kumarikhata.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Side by side with the solar panels, information will be disseminated through training on off grid sources of energy.</li> <li>➤ The service provider is conducting a survey in the area presently and will submit a report on the potentiality in the area.</li> </ul> <p>5. Designing of Leaflets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 6 leaflets have been designed on sustainable agricultural practices in English. The leaflets have been translated into local language and Hindi for greater dissemination. Leaflets are in the process of printing.</li> <li>➤ The leaflets are on: Agri water management, System of Rice Intensification, Vermicompost, Floating Bed, Sandy Soil and Pheromone Trap. They are available at: <a href="http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Outputs.htm">http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Outputs.htm</a></li> </ul> <p>6. Perception Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ According to directions given by CUTS for perception survey, 40 more questionnaires on farmer's HH have been filled in Krishnai block in Barpeta. Another set of 40 questionnaires have already been sent to CUTS International. The data has been entered and will be sent to CUTS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. CRRID, Chandigarh</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The study team prepared, published and distributed three Policy Briefs, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Agriculture Development of Punjab: Problems and prospects</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Remodelling Water Use in Indian Punjab for Efficiency and Sustainability</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Punjab's Energy Sector: Growth, Structure and Strategic Policy Issues.</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The study team participated and interacted in One Day Workshop on 'Punjab Agriculture and Status of Small and Marginal Farmers' organized by the CRRID, Chandigarh jointly with the Andhra Pradesh Farmers Commission at Chandigarh.</li> <li>3. Professor Kesar Singh Bhangoo has delivered an awareness lecture on 'Agrarian Crisis with Special Reference to Small and Marginal Farmers' organised by the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) at Chandigarh for the block level leaders of the BKU.</li> <li>4. The team members also participated on 14th September, 2015 in a book release function organized at CRRID, Chandigarh. The book entitled 'Punjab A Frozen Tear: Hopes and Despairs of Farmers' was written by Sh. P.P.S. Gill, Senior Journalist who worked for the Tribune Group of Publications, Chandigarh. Professor S.S. Gill Coordinator of the present programme at CRRID acted as a resource person and main speaker on issues related to the agriculture.</li> <li>5. The Study Team has finalized the sampling framework for doing perception survey by selecting the two districts, two blocks from</li> </ol>

	<p>each district and two villages from each block. The two selected districts were Ludhiana as an upper riparian and Tarn Taran as a lower riparian. From the Ludhiana district, two blocks on the basis of same criterion were selected; one Samrala and other Sudhar. From Samrala block, the village namely Madpur has already been surveyed by filling questionnaire from twenty households across the spectrum.</p>
<p><b>3. BASIX, Patna</b></p>	<p>1. Perception Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The survey has been conducted in lower and upper basin of the Ganga River.</li> <li>➤ 81 respondents were covered from 29 villages, 5 blocks and 3 districts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. SDPI, Pakistan</b></p>	<p>1. Articles published under the SDIP themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Food insecurity is a non-traditional security threat</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Policy brief (on Agriculture and Food Security)</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">The LNG deal and the masters of spin</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">The crisis of too much and too little water</a></li> </ul> <p>2. Papers published under the SDIP themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">The Indus River Basin and Climate Change</a></li> </ul> <p>3. Related Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Public forum on the status and challenges in the Transmission of power</a></li> </ul> <p>4. Perception Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SDPI has conducted perception survey (household-level perception survey and Key Informant Interviews) at Mianwali District in the 2nd week of September.</li> <li>➤ Collected data of both Surveys (Mianwali and Rahimyar Khan) is being entered and soon will be shared with CUTS.</li> <li>➤ Currently SDPI is conducting perception survey (Key Informant Interviews) at National Level. After compilation of data, all documents will be shared with CUTS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. SNV, Bhutan</b></p>	<p>1. Formation of a new water users' association committee (WUAC) at Gathia under Samtse District besides drafting and testing of framework on the climate-smart farmers association (CsFA). About 140 h/holds including 23 women led h/holds have been the beneficiaries. A field trip in Jul-Aug 2015 was carried out to review and monitor activities focused to unfinished part of the planned activities and to assess progress of the ongoing field activities in most of the CSA pilot sites, besides implementation of CUTS remaining activities which have been top up to CSA in nature.</p> <p>2. Integrate Payment for Environmental Services (PES) drinking water schemes to regulate water flow and to improve water quality:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 114 household of Yakpugang Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) improving the quality of drinking water for Mongar Town water users.</li> <li>➤ The 29 households of Burkhey Watershed Management Group looking after the drinking water source for five companies of Pasakha under Chukha Dzongkhag.</li> <li>➤ The 30 households of Namey Nichu CFMG of Tsentog Geog of Paro Dzongkhag looking after the drinking water of a number of hotels and other water users downstream</li> </ul> <p>3. Recognizing the need to empower women especially in assuming leadership roles, Regional Agricultural Marketing and Cooperative Office, Mongar in collaboration with SNV, Bhutan has organized leadership training for the identified women office bearers of the Cooperatives and Farmers' Group of the six eastern Dzongkhags namely Mongar, Lhuntse, Trashi Yangtse, Trashigang, Pema Gatsel and Samdrup Jongkhar.</p> <p>4. The vegetable trader's coordination meeting was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 at Samdrupjongkhar to improve the production and marketing of vegetables. The meeting was attended by the Local traders of Samdrupjongkhar, Indian traders across the border and Dzongkhag officials which are directly or indirectly involved in promoting vegetable marketing.</p> <p>5. A visit to North Eastern India was planned for exploring agricultural business opportunities. A team comprising of officials from RAMCO, DAMC and FCBL visited the North Eastern state of Meghalaya and Assam from 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. The team spent three days in Shillong (Meghalaya) and five days in Guwahati (Assam).</p>
<p><b>6. SAWTEE, Nepal</b></p>	<p>1. Literature review, questionnaire preparation and its pre-test were completed in the earlier quarter. Site selection for field work was also done during the same period. However, additional media monitoring is done in this quarter as well to explore more issues related to SAWTEE's studies (Chure and NTBs on Nepal's export of vegetables and fruits) under this project. Outlines of both the studies are prepared in this quarter. Also, chapter writing is begun.</p> <p>2. Local-level (tentative) resource persons are contacted. Contact with them is being maintained. Orientation is given to the enumerators who will be involved in data collection in the field. A name list of tentative respondents for Key Informants' Interview (KII) to be conducted by CUTs is prepared.</p>
<p><b>3. US, Bangladesh</b></p>	<p>1. Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agricultural market supply chain of inputs and services: Supply chain of two inputs (seeds, fertilizer) has been specified and for the rest two inputs (pesticides, irrigation), it is under processing.</li> </ul>

	<p>Stakeholder interview (expert opinion) of four inputs will be conducted within a shortest possible interval. We have traced out that information can be treated as a potential input for agricultural input supply chain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Quantifying water needs (usage) in agriculture: Analytical part along with the data derivation, analysis and drafting research note has been completed. And it will be submitted to CUTS in a shortest possible interval.</li><li>➤ Case study of Ganges water treaty: Finishing literature review and field work of case study of Ganges water treaty, a draft research note has been prepared.</li><li>➤ Off-grid power system in Bangladesh &amp; financing mechanism: We have figure out the research outline and methodology of off-grid solar power system and its financial mechanism.</li></ul> <p>2. Advocacy and Networking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Expecting to arrange a Regional workshop (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions) in January, 2016.</li><li>➤ The Sub-national workshop (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions) is expected to be arranged in February/March, 2016.</li></ul> <p>3. Policy Brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Policy brief on "Agriculture" and "Water" are drafted. The titles of the two policy briefs are "Agricultural Institutions, Practices and Sustainability" and Sustainable Water Uses in Bangladesh".</li></ul> <p>4. Media Article:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ An article on agriculture has sent to the media and has been published on "Financial Express" titled as "Ills afflicting agricultural productivity" at 26th July, 2015.</li></ul> <p>5. SDIP Perception Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Farmers questionnaire survey has been successfully completed comprising of three districts and five sub-districts. The districts are Rajshahi, Kurigram and Chapaynababganj. And the sub districts are Shibganj, Chapai Sadar, Godagari, Kurigram Sadar and Ulipur. Key Informative Interview (KII) at Regional and National level is about to finish. Data entry of questionnaire and reporting of KII information at provided template are under processing.</li></ul>
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