

Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)

(October 2015 to December 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: October 2015 to December 2015

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the months of October-December 2015:

- 1.1 Key informant interviews (KII) and surveys for the final perception study were conducted by CUTS team in different locations at West Bengal, Punjab, Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in India and also in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 1.2 CUTS started compiling data of perception surveys and writing final perception study report along with writing several other discussion papers and media articles. These will be published in the next quarter and will be used for wider dissemination and advocacy purposes.
- 1.3 CUTS published a discussion paper titled “Agricultural input trade and food security in South Asia”. The paper can be accessed at: [http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Agricultural Input Trade and Food Security in South Asia.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Agricultural_Input_Trade_and_Food_Security_in_South_Asia.pdf)
- 1.4 CUTS team had participated as discussants in stakeholder consultation on “Regional Cooperation on Trade, Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia” organized by SAWTEE, Kathmandu, Nepal from 25th December to 28th December 2015.
- 1.5 CUTS has started the internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the SDIP. The M&E will not only focus on the project team, project partners and their activities but also look at the scalability aspect of the work. Kyle Robert Cote (krc@cuts.org) from CUTS will carry out this exercise.
- 1.6 CUTS in association with Indian Grameen Services (IGS-Basix) organized a half day workshop cum stakeholder’s consultation on Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs) in Patna, Bihar on 22nd December 2015. The consultation was attended by top agriculture officials of Government of Bihar. Report of this consultation can be accessed at: [http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Stakeholder Consultation on FPOS in Bihar.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Stakeholder_Consultation_on_FPOS_in_Bihar.pdf)

Media coverage of this workshop can be accessed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Media.htm>

1.7 CUTS in association with Agartala Press Club organized a media conference on “Sub-regional trans-boundary cooperation towards food security” in Agartala, Tripura on 20th December 2015. Media coverage of this conference can be accessed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Media.htm>

1.8 CUTS team from Delhi, Calcutta and Jaipur had met for an internal brainstorming session in Delhi on Dec., 11th 2015 to finalise the advocacy messages. A draft strategy for carrying out an advocacy activity matrix plan was also drafted to be shared with the strategic partners.

1.9 CUTS has also narrowed down its key advocacy messages under the Phase 1 of SDIP. Based on the activities of its partners and CUTS own experiences across the domains of agriculture, water and energy, CUTS has drafted papers on 2 advocacy messages from each domain (total 6 no.s) and will be sharing the draft with its partners soon for designing a relevant advocacy activity matrix across the 3 basins.

2. CUTS Strategic Partners’ Progress

Partners	Activities
SDPI, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Published article Food insecurity is a non-traditional security threat ➤ Policy brief on Agriculture and Food Security ➤ Organised the 8th South Asia Economic Summit Sessions. The session report is in process, will be shared next month. ➤ Organised the 18th Sustainable Development Conference Sessions. The session report is in process, will be shared next month. ➤ SDTV News Package SDC 2015 (C-5) on Political Economy of Managing Water Variability in a Changing Climate - http://sdpi.tv/show.php?cat=sdc&id=785 ➤ Published Food insecurity in Balochistan can only be overcome through agricultural reforms ➤ SDTV News Packages: Coffee Table Program: Climate Change and Food Security ➤ SDTV News Packages: Coffee Table Program : Regional Solution to the Local Energy Needs ➤ SDPI has submitted the perception survey data to CUTS International. Moreover, it has also conducted National Level KIIs in Islamabad during the quarter Oct – Dec 2015.
CRRID, Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completed the primary survey of four villages selected as per the requirements of project from two districts of the Punjab state, namely, Ludhiana and Tarn Taran respectively standing for upper riparian and lower riparian areas of Indian Punjab. Further, the information collected from these respondents was filled in the excel data format

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	<p>provided by the CUTS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CRRID published an op-ed article in The Tribune newspaper titled “Ad-hoc policies fire fight farm crisis” on 31st October 2015.
SAWTEE, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducted Household Survey and Key Informants’ interview (KII) as part of CUTS perception study. The SPSS file of the HH survey has been sent. ➤ Conducted field work and prepared a research report on “Export of vegetables and fruits from Eastern Region of Nepal”. A policy brief based on the research report is in the works. ➤ Conducting research on “Chure Degradation”. Field work has been completed and report writing is being done at the moment.
NEFORD, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Based on previous Kharif season results, a drought-tolerant variety, Sahbaghi dhan, was selected. The seeds of this variety were distributed to farmers to plant a 100 ha cluster demonstrations in three districts (Mau, Azamgarh, Ghazipur) of eastern U.P. which are highly vulnerable due to being rain-fed. ➤ Encouraged by the performance of the Sahbaghi dhan in drought condition, a seeing is believing trip and farmers' goshti was organized on 17th October 2015 in village Mungesar (Mau). Besides farmers (140-75 Men, 65 Women), Government officials, scientists of International Rice Research Institute and Press also participated in the visit followed by goshti. ➤ On 6th November 2015, a state-level meeting was organized jointly by department of agriculture, Lucknow and International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, in the Committee Room of the Directorate. Mr. Arvind Singh Bisht, Commissioner for Information, Government of UP, chaired the meeting. In addition to the directorate staff, representatives of IRRI, several rice scientists, NGOs and press participated in this meeting where in a presentation was made by Dr. R.K. Singh (NEFORD) demonstrating the field performance of Sahbaghi dhan vis-à-vis other rice varieties grown by farmers. ➤ Currently, NEFORD is working on a paper on 'Conservation Agriculture Based Practices for Improving Resource-use Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation'. The draft is finalized and will be sent to CUTS in a two weeks’ time. ➤ A perception survey of 40 farmers of the flood-prone areas has been completed. In another survey, a discussion was held with the Government officials, NGO representatives, press and village heads on 15th-16th December 2015 in district Kushinagar (lower riparian) and on 17th-18th December 2015 in Mau district(upper riparian). Dr. Saurabh of CUTS International along with NEFORD staff jointly conducted this survey and Dr. Saurabh took the report back to CUTS.

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<p>IGS-BASIX, Bihar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5 FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisation) registered under company act and now and now these FPOs will apply for TIN and License for doing input and output business in order to reduce the cost of cultivation and ensure better price for their produce being linked to the market. ➤ One BOD from each of the FPOs(Total -5) and one IGS member were sent to NIPHM ,Hyderabad for training on bio pesticides and bio fertilizers for 3 days and coming back they are training their fellow FPO/FIG members. They have started working on that and producing to reduce the cost of cultivation. The training was organised from 1st Dec to 3rd of Dec 2015. ➤ 257 FIG farmers of 4 Panchayat were trained on cultivation of wheat through zero tillage ,out of that 34 farmers did follow the practice in 101 acre of land in East champaran. One of the BoDs of FPO, Mr.Madan Mohan Upadhyay purchased zero tillage machine for sowing. ➤ Worker of FPOs and women federation were provide training on soil testing on 3rd and 4th of December in Muzaffarpur and Minapur. They also purchased kit of soil testing .The farmers can get the soil testing result and recommended dose for the selected crop immediately. ➤ Workshop on “Stakeholders consultation on farmers producer organization “ was organized on 22nd of December’15 in Patna in which Govt officials ,NABARD ,NGOs and FPO representatives(CEO and BoD) participated ➤ 26 FIG (Farmer Interest Group) farmers of Basatpur patparia of Motihari FPO were linked to JAPHA com feed pvt limited and they sold 112 quintal of maize @Rs.1120/quintal against the market rate of Rs.960 and thus saved Rs.17920. ➤ 385 FIG farmers received 1000 bag of urea and saved 40 to 50 Rs per bag. ➤ 141 FIG farmers have purchased red pukhraj variety of seed from Technico (ITC) and have planted in their field for the first time. ➤ Training on papaya, G9 variety of Banana and Mushroom cultivation was arranged for female FIGs towards strengthening their regular income and increasing nutritious value to their food. Ms.Babita devi and Ms.Chanda verma are producing mushroom and earning Rs.1500-2000 per month. Ms Babita Devi also received prize from Mr.Radha Mohan Singh , Honourable Union minister for Agriculture .The training was provide by KVK and Kits were provided by ATMA. Out of 142 female FIG farmers trained, 100 received kits of Mushroom. They have been linked with the market and they are selling @120 rs per Kg. 360 FIG farmers received papaya(Red Dwarf-1050 plant) and banana plant(G9 -3500 plant) .

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seeds were provided with training of cultivation to FIGs by Block and KVK (Pea seed – 2 q – 15 FIG farmers, Masoor seed - 10 q – 70 FIG farmers, Wheat seed –52 q - 154 FIG farmers, out of that 7 female farmers, Mustard seed –1.25 q --- 107 FIG farmers) ➤ Two entrepreneurs have been identified for mini micro solar grid in Village Sonhatu and Bokanari. The grid will be installed by March. ➤ Two entrepreneurs for solar pump have also been identified and the pumps will be installed before March.
SNV, Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perception survey at HH level completed and data entry in excel sheet submitted to CUTS ➤ Perception survey at institutional level with KIIs completed and data sent to CUTS
RGVN, Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow-up on demonstration for vermicompost was done at the Garamsung village of Rangia. A training program was held in October 2015, for three days in the village. ➤ Follow-up on the 37 numbers of floating beds in Barukata village, Morigaon district. Presently, the third harvest is being reaped from the floating beds. ➤ According to directions given by CUTS for perception survey, 80 questionnaires on Farmers' HH have been filled in Krishnai block in Barpeta and Baska district. Key informants have also been interviewed and the reports have been compiled accordingly and sent to CUTS. ➤ The previous place that was selected for demonstration was found unsuitable as it had a regular supply of electricity. Therefore a new place has been identified, again neat the border. This is the Ganeshguri Chowk at Baksa district. The order for this has been given to Free Technologies, which has been the lowest bidder and agreeable to work in this remote district. Work order has been given and the work will start at the earliest.
Unnayan Shamunnay (US), Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quantifying water needs (usage) in agriculture: Analytical part along with the data derivation, analysis and drafting research note has been completed and submitted in this quarter. ➤ Case study of Ganges water treaty: A case study on Ganges water treaty has been finalized and submitted in this quarter. ➤ Preparation to arrange a Regional workshop (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions) by the send week of March, 2016. And the Sub-national workshop (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions) will be conducted by 30th March 2016. ➤ Two policy briefs on water and agriculture have been submitted in this quarter. These policy briefs are- Water Management in Bangladesh; and Agricultural Institutions and Sustainability in Bangladesh ➤ The third policy brief on "Policies and Institutional Practices for

Partners	Activities
	<p>Renewable Energy in Bangladesh" will be published by February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Perception 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. After finishing the survey, data entry sheet has been sent. Key Informative Interview (KII) has been also sent after recording.