

Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India & Bangladesh (RISTE)



Goal

- A strong case for initiating a feasible and doable sub-regional cooperation initiative between India and Bangladesh on agricultural issues which will have practical relevance to the development discourse of India and Bangladesh

Objectives

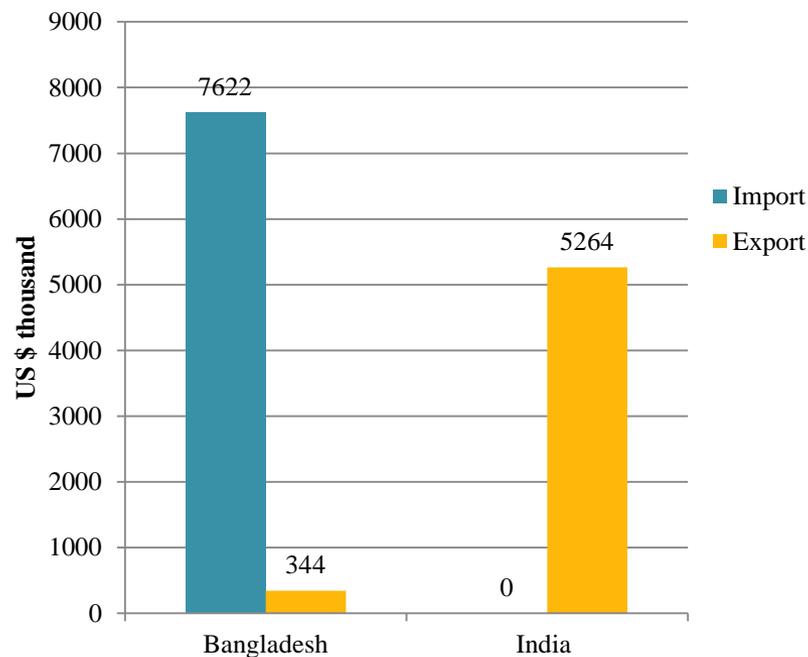
- To address trade and trade-related regulatory challenges in cross-border rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh
- To identify key advocacy stakeholders to ensure greater uptake of the findings of the policy research in objective 1 in the media and society, more broadly
- To conduct strong monitoring and evaluation, and oversight of the project to create the enabling conditions for learning about seed trade, not only in rice, but also for other important crops in South Asia

Major Issues

- Low seed replacement rates leading to low yield
- The wide-spread shortages of the quality rice seeds supply, at affordable prices
- The emerging challenge of climate change and sudden erratic shifts in the weather cycles, posing a challenge for both India and Bangladesh, which shares the common climatic zones
- Informal rice seeds trade due to lack of policy initiatives in formalizing the rice seeds channel of trade between India and Bangladesh

Trade potential

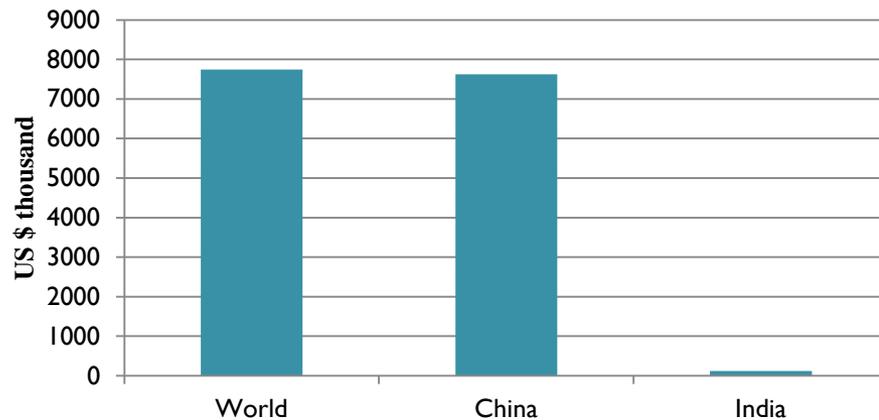
India and Bangladesh Rice Seed Export and Import in year 2007



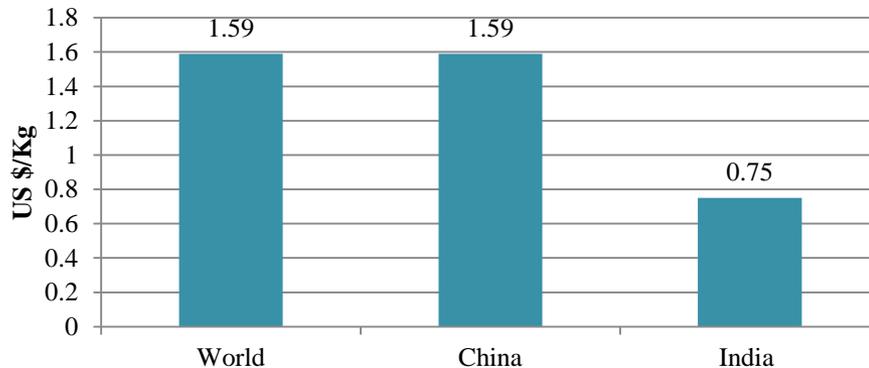
- Bangladesh is a net rice seed importer with an estimated import market size of US \$ 5.9 million in 2010-11
- India is a net exporter of rice seeds with an exhibited export capacity of US\$ 17.3 million in 2011

Trade Potential

Bangladesh Import of Rice Seed, 2007 (US \$ thousand)



Bangladesh Rice Seed Import Price, 2007 (US \$/Kg)



- On an average, per unit import price faced by trading partners for rice seed imports from India is much less than import price paid by Bangladesh to its trading partners.
- Bangladesh's average bilateral trade costs in agricultural products with India is much lower compared to its bilateral trade costs with other trading partners.

Trade Potential

- India has a significant advantage over Bangladesh's trading partners in rice seeds and also has high export capacity compared to import requirements in Bangladesh
- The potential market size for Indian exports to Bangladesh can be safely assumed as Bangladesh's entire import market, which stood at US\$ 5.9 million in 2010-11.



OUTCOME BASED APPROACH

Outcome 1

A preliminary understanding of issues and challenges hindering trade and cooperation in rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh

Activities

- Initial desk research and fact finding exercise (visiting four states in Eastern India and Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- Project launch meeting
- Constitution and First meeting of the Project Advisory Committee

Outputs

- Operational Strategy note including selection of partners
- Literature review document
- Contracts with partners
- Defined set of activities for each of the partners and others associated with the project
- PAC meeting report

Outcome 2

Clear understanding on outputs and outcomes expected from the project and each of the project partners, PAC members and others associated with the project (consultants and media outreach partners)

Activities

- Drafting terms of reference for a comprehensive desk research
- A comprehensive desk research

Outputs

- A comprehensive desk research report

Outcome 3

Understanding on real time stakeholders' perspective on issues and challenges hindering rice seeds trade cooperation between India and Bangladesh

Activities

- Drafting of two sets of questionnaires (one to be executed in India and the other in Bangladesh)
- Field research in India and Bangladesh
- Data analyses from field research
- Second meeting of the Project Advisory Committee
- Organizing evidence-based policy advocacy meetings in India

Outputs

- A detailed report covering relevant stakeholders in order to gain the real time perspective on issues and concerns in rice seed flow in India and Bangladesh
- The report also highlights the existing barriers in rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh

Outcome 4

Understanding of key messages emerging from the study in both India and Bangladesh by relevant stakeholders

Activities

- Preparation, printing and dissemination of a consolidated evidence-based policy advocacy document
- Organizing evidence-based policy advocacy meetings in Bangladesh

Outputs

- Evidence-based (country wise and consolidated) policy advocacy documents containing a set of recommendations to fill in the existing gaps relating to rice seeds requirements and supplies
- Meeting reports

Outcome 5

• *Dissemination of key messages for policy and practice change for an improved rice seeds trade regime in India and Bangladesh for a better policy synergy between India and Bangladesh*

Activities

- Preparation, printing and dissemination of policy briefs
- Organizing the third meeting of the PAC

Outputs

- Report on the meeting showing inputs from PAC members on the progress of the project
- Validation of project outputs

Work Plan



Major Questions

- What are the factors responsible for low rice seeds replacement rate in India and Bangladesh?
- If both India and Bangladesh have a liberalised trade regime, and if there is no official restriction on import of rice seeds from India, why there is insignificant formal rice seeds trade between the two countries?
- What are the major issues in the seed policies and regulations in India and Bangladesh that are affecting the trade of rice seeds?

Major Questions

- Who are the stakeholders facing negative externalities from the limited rice seeds trade and cooperation between India and Bangladesh?
- How mutual rice seeds trade cooperation can be beneficial for both India and Bangladesh in attaining sufficiency of quality rice seeds and resulting benefits to their marginal section of farmers?

Bangladesh Partner

- Drafting of terms of reference for desk research
- Desk research including stakeholder mapping
- Drafting of two sets of questionnaires: stakeholders in seeds flow; and policy makers and institutions
- Field research including validation of rice seeds flow
- Data analysis from field research
- Organizing evidence based policy advocacy meetings
- Preparation, printing and dissemination of policy briefs
- Organizing dissemination meetings targeting stakeholders

India Partners

- Drafting of terms of reference for desk research
- Desk research including stakeholder mapping
- Drafting of two sets of questionnaire; stakeholders in seed flow, and policy makers and institutions
- Field research including validation of rice seeds flow
- Data analysis from field research
- Organizing state level dissemination meetings targeting stakeholders

Expected Outputs

- Questionnaires for survey of stakeholders in rice seeds flow
- Data collection for quantitative analysis
- A short report covering rice seeds flow and also major issues and concerns. This will also assess efficiencies/inefficiencies and to identify issues and concerns faced by stakeholders
- A report based on survey of stakeholders in the seeds flow
- Dissemination meetings covering relevant stakeholders in the seeds flow chain.



Thank You

The future depends
on
what you do in the present.

- Mahatma Gandhi