

Report of Scoping Visit in Assam

1. Objective of the scoping Visit:

Under the project scoping visits were made of all the four states of Assam, Karnataka, Odisha and Rajasthan in the month of October, 2013. These visits were meant for finalizing the State Level Partner Organisation and to share about the project to enhance SLPOs understanding, knowledge about the overall project idea, objectives, goals, key features and activities along with methodologies, strategies and approaches, target groups, government departments and agencies etc. During this visit state partners were also sensitized about the Rural Non-Farm Sector as a whole and the key activities of Research, networking and advocacy part along with the web portal and its interactivity.

Scoping visits also meant for meeting with the key government department officials like Rural Development Department, State Rural Livelihood Missions, National Institute of Rural Development, State Institute of Rural Development, NABARD, major research institutes of the state working in the area of livelihoods to brief them about the project and seeking their active cooperation throughout the project period.

During the scoping visits major NGOs which are working in the sector of Livelihoods or RNFS were also targeted to meet their management officials for briefing them about the project and their active cooperation.

2. Duration of Scoping Visit

October 28-29, 2013

3. Meeting and Signing MoU

During the scoping visits project director and project coordinator met with key persons of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati (Assam). Key persons were informed about overall project, goals, objectives, activities, intermediately results, outputs, outcomes/impact, methodologies/approaches of action research, research, networking, web discussions and advocacy as part of the project.

After the presentation, a round of discussions happened, where queries from OKDISCO were answered.

After mutual decision of CUTS and OKDISCD, a formal MoU has been signed between CUTS and OKDISCO for project period of one year.



Director, CUTS signing MoU



Exchanging Signed MoUs

4. Meetings with Stakeholders

Member of Project Management Team (PMT) along with the representatives of the SLPO met with the below mentioned (table) key state functionaries and completed necessary ground preparations for launching the project smoothly in all the states. Further, SLPO did required follow-ups at state level to reach out the key officials and stakeholders to brief them about the project.

S. No.	Name of the Department/Organisation/institution	Meeting With	Persons Visited
1.	State Rural Livelihood Mission (SPM)	Mr. Binay Kumar Deka, SPM	Mr. George Cheriyan, CUTS Mr. Madhu Sudan Sharma, CUTS Mr. Monjit Borthakur
2.	State Institute of Rural Development, Govt. of Assam	Mr. AMM Zakir, Joint Director	"
3.	NABARD, Guwahati, Assam	Mr. R. Maruti Ram, CJM Ms. Rashmi Darad and whole Non-Farm Team including 10-12 officials'	"
4.	Rajasthan Gramin Vikas Nidhi, Guwahati, Assam	Mr. Amiya Kumar Sharma, Executive Director	"

5. Outcome

- Clarity about the project was enhanced in the SLPO, targeted key Government officials and practitioners of the RNFS.
- Formal MoU was signed with the SLPO.
- Face to face meeting with the top level Government officials will ensure their active participation in the project activities at various point of time.
- PMT was also knew some of the ground realities during the visits and interacting with the key stakeholders and partner organisation.
