



Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) Dhaka, Bangladesh



Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)



Progress Report Q3-2017
Blue Gold Innovation Fund

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Progress Report Q3-2017

July to September 2017

Blue Gold Program – Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

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Blue Gold Program

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Executive summary

This report provides a quarterly progress update of the period July – September 2017 showcasing the innovative approaches that have benefited, or are expected to have a positive impact on, the lives of the people in the polders under the Blue Gold Program. This progress reporting is part of the management of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund (BGIF). For more details on the scope and set-up the BGIF, please consult the BGIF Procedure Manual V7- August 2017.

Quick status overview of Innovation Fund Projects and Applications on 30th Sep 2017

Unsolicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the numbers of the total number of projects under implementation, completed, under review, under development and rejected:

Projects under implementation (Chapter 1)	Projects Completed (Chapter 2)	Proposals under review (Chapter 3)	Concepts under development (Chapter 4)	Concepts Rejected (Chapter 5)
12	14	5	13	40
No new contracts signed in Q3	Two projects completed in Q3	Three proposals being reviewed in Q3	Eleven new concepts received in Q3	Twenty-five proposals rejected in Q3

Solicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the progress with solicited proposals (tenders). Further details are provided in Chapter 2 (Projects under implementation) and Chapter 4 (Concept under development).

	Planned Activities	Completion schedule	Remarks
1.	Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)	November 2019	As a result of joint EKN-BWDB-BGP-FRERMIP meetings in April 2017, a revised program has been agreed. River surveys were conducted in May/June 2017, and placement of emergency geobag revetment for riverbank stabilization in July 2017.
2.	Max. 4 projects concerned with "Improved Information for Agriculture"	September 2019	Call for Proposals published on 10 th of June, 2017; Concepts notes received on/before 10 th of August, 2017. Evaluation of concept notes finalized and announcement to shortlisted organizations submitted on the 5 th of October, 2017. Awaiting proposal submission on/before 30 th of November.

Projects under implementation

At the moment, 12 unsolicited procedure projects are under implementation. Below the most interesting project updates are provided (for more information see chapter 1):

- **BMSR Agricultural University** published its Mid-Term Progress report on “**Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas in southwest region of Bangladesh**”. Due to a sudden reduction in water level by excavation of a canal near Degur beel, the research has been challenging, but effective ad hoc arrangements have been put in place to move this fish to deeper zones temporarily. Also a training for 20 lead farmers and DoF officials has been conducted in the reporting period.
- **United Purpose** has been conducting its **Women Business Centre (WBC)** feasibility study in Q3-2017. The study included several union level workshops, focus group discussions and key information interviews to identify 4 market value chains (milk, poultry, fish and vegetables) as the main focus area of the WBCs. The WBCs will be piloted in polder 28/2 and 31-part to evaluate their potential.
- **Proportion & Grameen Intel** conducted a kick-off meeting of the **Feasibility for Agriculture advisory services project** on 19 Sep 2017 in Khulna in presence of DAE and BGP TA staff. In September, they continued with KII and are in a process of completing ‘Deep Dive’ report.

Projects nearing completion

The following projects have finalised their field activities in Q3-2017, but are still working on improving their final report.

- **Aspire/Insects4All** finalised its feasibility study on “**Insect Larvae as Fish Feed**” by presenting its findings on 29 August 2017 at BGP Motijheel office in presence of representatives from BWDB, DAE, DoF and WorldFish. Aspire/Insects4All are keen to implement a community-based pilot in Blue Gold Program area, which was supported by the representatives present.
- **WorldFish** successfully finalised its **EcoPond II** project, and final presentation was held earlier in Q2-2017. At the moment, WorldFish is producing a video demonstrate the success of EcoPond II. Blue Gold Program will not finance a further upscaling phase. This is also not necessary as WorldFish has been able to acquire other funds to continue up to June 2018 in BGP and to also extent its approach to other areas in Bangladesh.
- **WorldFish** also conducted its final activities and research results sharing workshop for the **Tilapia Fish Feed** project on 18 September successfully in presence of researchers, DoF /BWDB / fish feed companies’ representatives, fish feed private consultants and BGP TA team staff. The project experimented with 8 different treatments of feed management and maintaining quality protein ratio to enhance tilapia production in homestead ponds. Treatment-3 (low protein feed, low feeding level and high stocking density) appeared to provide the best results.

Projects completed

The following projects were fully completed in Q3-2017 (for more information see chapter 2):

- **FHRC - Community Based Integrated Water Management**
- **Just Farming – Increasing Quality in Mung Bean Production**

Proposals in final stage of review

We have evaluated the following technical proposals positively and currently undertaking final contract negotiations with (for more information see Chapter 3):

- **United Purpose – Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology** – aiming to pilot test different financial models to ensure sustainable O&M of small-scale water infrastructure by WMOs
- **Light Castle Partners/Syngenta – Farmers’ Hub Model in Bangladesh** - aiming to assess the viability of marketing vegetables sampling.

Concepts under development

The number of concept notes received has been extra-ordinary in this reporting period. The solicited Call for Proposal for “Improved Information for Agriculture” innovation resulted in the receipt of 29 concept notes. The Dutch Network Group campaign to attract Dutch SME resulted by the end of September in 15 requests for feasibility studies for the BGIF. Also, 5 different NGOs approached us this quarter for activities at grassroot level. (For more information see Chapter 4)

Concepts/proposals rejected

Since we have been receiving many concept notes, it was a busy period of reviewing (for more information see Chapter 5).

- For the solicited call for proposals “Improved Information for Agriculture” a special evaluation committee was nominated. Consisting of 1 DAE representative, 3 TA members and 2 external evaluators.
- Unfortunately, we had to reject 25 concept notes under the unsolicited procedure and 17 under the solicited call “Improved Information for Agriculture”. From the concept notes rejected under the unsolicited procedure, 11 concerned organisations we have been sending feedback, but still did not reply after 6 months (with several reminders in between).
- For concept notes recently received, a number of Dutch applicants appeared to have limited understanding of the local context, while a number of local grassroot NGOs lacked innovative ideas and quality work approach and methodology. We are investigating with the Economic Affairs department of EKN whether **a special mission to the Blue Gold Program for Dutch SMEs** and other interested organisations would be viable. That special mission would include a matchmaking event with local NGOs, research institutes, universities and private sector.

Promotion Activities

To ensure a continuous flow of applications to and to demonstrate the effectiveness and possibilities of Blue Gold’s Innovation Fund, we are undertaking the following activities (for more information see Chapter 6):

- **SBYA / YY Goshti - Blue Gold Innovation Challenge** is in full swing to attract youngsters and students in Khulna to develop innovative ideas in the fields of water management and agriculture. In the coming weeks, the winners of the Final Pitch Event will be coached to develop full-fledged business plans.
- **Dutch Network Group – Dutch SME campaign** ran in full swing in Q3 resulting in 15 requests for feasibility studies by Dutch organisations (status: 30 Sep 2017).
- **Production of projects video** for successfully (almost) completed projects. In this quarter the video of FHRC – Community based integrated water management was completed.
- **Development executive summaries** for all successfully completed and running innovation fund projects. The summaries are 2 pages highlighting the project objectives, activities (expected) impact, lessons learnt, sustainability and upscaling potential.

1. Projects under implementation

The following Innovation Fund projects are under implementation as of 30 Sep 2017. Reports mentioned under deliverables can be delivered upon request.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
MetaMeta	Roads for Flood Protection and Water Management	Investigate the feasibility of integrated road planning with BWDB and LGED to reduce drainage congestion and enhance flood protection	1 Dec '17- 30 Nov '17 (1 year)	24,820	MetaMeta is finalising its feasibility study and started to prepare for the next phase of designing a pilot. This expected to be a combination of testing and monitoring Roads for Water infrastructural works in polder 26 and initiating a policy dialogue and developing BWDB-LGED guidelines on Roads for Water Management and Flood Protection.	Draft final report, incl. Pilot design	19,856	4,964
WorldFish	EcoPonds II and empowering of women	Upscale EcoPonds with leadership of women	16 June '16 - 15 June '17 (1 year)	50,000	WorldFish has delivered the final report of the EcoPond II and is still incorporating our feedback. At the same time, WorldFish is producing a video demonstrate the success of EcoPond II. Blue Gold Program will not finance a further upscaling phase. This is also not necessary as WorldFish has been able to acquire other funds to continue up to June 2018 in BGP and to also extent its approach to other areas in Bangladesh.	Draft final report	45,000	5,000

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
WorldFish	Tilapia fish feed improvement	Reduce the cost of fish feed while maintaining proper feed management and quality protein ratio.	1 Nov '16 - 31 August '17 (1 year)	49,996	WorldFish has conducted its final activities and research results sharing workshop for the Tilapia Fish Feed project on 18 September successfully with researchers, DoF /BWDB representatives, representatives from different feed companies, fish feed private consultants and BGP TA team staff. The project experimented with 8 different treatments of feed management and maintaining quality protein ratio to enhance tilapia production in homestead ponds. Treatment-3 (low protein feed, low feeding level and high stocking density) appeared to provide the best results.	Draft final report	11,858	38,138
Social Business Youth Alliance	Blue Gold Innovation Challenge	Stimulating youth and students to come up with innovative business ideas for the BGP.	1 Dec '16 - 30 Nov '17 (1 year)	39,435	SBYA has been busy to execute activities for the Khulna cohort. In August there were promotion events at Khulna University, KUET and general ones for youth. In September application forms were distributed and received. From the in total 42 applicants, the best 10 ones were selected. In October a Bootcamp took place to coach the applicants to further develop their ideas and make draft business plans. The final pitch event in Khulna is planned for 22 October 2017	Progress report August 2017	27,834	11,601
Moringa Ltd	Moringa business market study	Assessing the feasibility of professionalising Moringa production and processing in BGP area	1 Jan '17 - 30 April '17 (4 months)	3,438	Moringa Ltd. has delivered a second revised report in the beginning of July. The assessment of the TA team however resulted in the conclusion that comments were not incorporated satisfactory. TA team is awaiting a next revision. At the same time, plans are under develop to organise a seminar on Moringa for interested companies (supplier, producers, buyers), research institutes, government and NGOs. This hopefully will result in more promising feasibility studies/pilots in the near future.	Final report (3rd revision)	1,703	1,735

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
Aspire & Insects4All	Insect Fish Feed	Assessing the feasibility of producing Insect larvae as fish feed in BGP area	23 Mar '17 - 31 Jul '17 (4.25 months)	8,000	Aspire/Insects4All finalised its feasibility study on "Insect Larvae as Fish Feed" by presenting its findings on 29 August 2017 at BGP Motihijeel office in presence of representatives from BWDB, DAE, DoF and WorldFish. Aspire/Insects4All are keen to implement a community-based pilot in Blue Gold Program area, which was supported by the representatives present. However, further approval from DoF is required to ensure that no further lab-based research is required before introducing the production of insect larvae at community level.	Final report	6,000	2,000
United Purpose	Women Business Centers	Assessing the feasibility of Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	1 July '17 - 30 Oct '17 (4 months)	25,000	The feasibility study is nearing its end and included several union level workshops, focus group discussions and key information interviews to identify 4 market value chains (milk, poultry, fish and vegetables) as the main focus area of the WBCs. The WBCs will be piloted in polder 28/2 and 31-part to evaluate their potential. The appreciation by the zonal TA team is good.	VCA research reports + Draft feasibility study report	13,750	11,250
Dutch Network Group	Marketing campaign BG IF	Promoting investments by Dutch SMEs in Bangladesh under the BGP	1 Jun '17 - 30 Sep '17 (3 months)	15,450	The DNG campaign to attract Dutch SMEs to invest in Bangladesh under the Blue Gold Program area is nearing its end. On its own initiative DNG continued the campaign for 3 more weeks to ensure all KPIs would be reached. In the end, the media outreach was very succesful and more clicks to the website were made than expected. The target to get at least 75 participants registered to the mini-course on Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh and 20 requests for a feasibility study under the BGIF was reached.	Draft final report and presentation	13,086	2,364

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
ProPortion Inc & Grameen Intel	Feasibility for Agriculture advisory services	Assessing whether a package of soil testing kits together with a number of other digital agriculture advisory services is attractive to WMG members in BGP area Khulna	1 May '17 - 31 Dec '17 (8 months)	25,000	Proportion & GrameenIntel conducted a kick-off meeting on 19 Sep 2017 in Khulna in presence of DAE and BGP TA staff. In September they continued with KII and now in a process of completing 'Deep Dive' report. Visited BGP TA Dhaka office on 12 Oct 2017 to collect information for value chain analysis	Progress report July-August 2017	6,250	18,750
Deltares	Pump drainage Polder 2	Assessing the technical and socio-economic feasibility of pumped drainage in polder 2	1 May '17 - 31 Aug '17 (4 months)	49,882	A part of this contract has been transferred to WMKIP budget under management of Deltares/IWM. Since the WMKIP contract signature was planned for the 1st of October (however still delayed), the second part of the field work planned for August was cancelled on behalf of Deltares. IF manager urged in July already for a solution, but only at a too late stage Deltares came with the suggestion the field work could be contracted separately under BGIF. The study will be transferred to 2018.	Field trip report May 2017	€ 0	49,882
BAU Germ Plasm Center	Participatory Action Research on Fruits and Vegetables	Introducing new types of lean season fruits and vegetables in 12 different polder areas of BGP and researching the viability and uptake by WMG members	1 May '17 - 30 June '20 (3 years)	48,194	BAU started the introduction of lean season fruits and vegetables this monsoon with the promotion of Moringa. Due to the fact that not yet a training could be organised for the farmers involved, the uptake and maintenance was not optimal. Especially for Moringa the results were disappointing with only 60% uptake. The project is also challenged by the fact that the coordinator in Patuakhali left the project. Recruitment is ongoing and is expected that for the Rabi season training can be timely conducted for the introduction of sweet potato and strawberries.	Quarterly Progress report May-Sep 2017	12,049	36,146

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
BSMR-AU Gazipur	Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas	Conducting participatory action research on site specific aquaculture interventions in polder 2 to increase productivity and nutrition	1 Jun '17 - 31 Dec '17 (6 months)	44,121	BMSR Agricultural University published its Mid-Term Progress report. Dr. Jahangir Alam is conducting a participatory action research in two areas in polder 2 to increase the productivity of waterlogged Aman rice fields by the introduction of pen culture and by assessing the effects of addition of carps at different stocking rate on growth and production of tilapia. Due to a sudden reduction in water level by excavation of a canal near Degur beel, the research has been challenging, but effective ad hoc arrangements have been put in place to move this fish to deeper zones temporarily. Also a training for 20 lead farmers and DoF officials has been conducted in the reporting period.	Mid-term progress report	41,915	2,206

2. Projects completed

The following two projects were completed in Q3-2017. The final reports are available on request and will be published soon on the BGP website.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Costs (EUR)	Details
FHRC	Community Based Integrated Water Management	Test alternative ways of WMG action planning and exchange activities between WMGs	1 Oct '16 - 30 Sep '17 (1 year)	49,996	FHRC conducted a final workshop of their project on 27 September 2017 in Khulna in the presence of zonal representatives from BWDB, DAE and TA team. Also WMG representatives and TA Team Leader joined. The workshop kick-off included a presentation of their project video, which will be soon available on the BGP website. Critical feedback was provided and has been incorporated in their final report.
Just Farming	Increasing quality in mung bean production	Optimising the Mung Bean production management with help FarmForce software and training of farmers	1 Jan '17 - 31 August '17 (8 months)	34,930	Just Farming has delivered their revised final report in the beginning of August. The initial report lacked an analysis of why the process and FarmForce software did not result in the intended outcomes. Proper lessons learnt have now been incorporated. As the feasibility was meagre, the project will at this stage not be followed with a pilot.

3. Proposals in final stage of review

The following five proposals are under review. The draft proposals are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Budget (EUR)	Current status
16/10/2017	United Purpose	Pilot Women Business Centre	Shusanto Roy	Productive Sector Fund	50,000	Contract signing was scheduled for 24 October, but postponed due to meagre quality draft feasibility report. Awaiting revised report.
19/06/2017	CDR International	MAR upscale for agriculture irrigation	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	25,000	Discussions held on 29 August 2017. Awaiting revised proposal
31/05/2017	United Purpose	Sustainable Water management through Indigenous Finance and Technology	Aowlad Hossain	Water Management Fund	25,000	Discussions held on 4 October. Revised proposal sent on 11 October. TA is reviewing revised technical and financial proposal; Contract signing schedule for December
06/03/2017	Aid Environment	Feasibility study on enhancing water availability	Judith de Bruijne	Water Management Fund	25,000	Additional suggestions and linkages with research institutes provided in June 2017. Awaiting revised proposal
31/01/2017	LCP	Farmer Market Place	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	25,000	Negotiating financial budget. Contract signing expected in November.

4. Concepts under development

The following concepts are under development. The concept note are available upon request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
12/03/2017	Nice Foundation	Developing pig-meat value chain	Munir Ahmed	Productive Sector Fund	There are doubts within the TA team to continue with the scale up of pig farming within BGP. This sensitive issue is carefully being discussed at various levels.
25/05.2017	BOP Inc	VR in training	TBC	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting for revised concept note
21/05/2017	SHARE Bangladesh	Women Empowerment in Agriculture	Roksana Begum	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting for revised concept note
09/07/2017	WUR Plant International	Extra K+ fertilization for watermelon and mung bean	Shamim Alom	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Skype call with TA team in Khulna on 21 Aug 2017. Concept note received on 13 Sep 2017 and feedback provided by TA team. Awaiting revised concept note.
11/07/2017	Geophix	Fish friendly treatment pumps to improve water quality of surface water bodies	Robbert Huizinga	Water Management Fund	Email communication and Procedure Manual sent. Awaiting concept note.
08/08/2017	Huizing Harvest BV	Mechanisation solutions	Shaifullah / Karel T'Jonck	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Email exchanges with clarifications request and on 28 September Skype call with BGP TA team and CIMMYT. First concept received but poor Value-for-Money. Awaiting revised concept note.
27/08/2017	VSO	Youth Business Support Consultants	Judith de Bruijne	Productive Sector Fund	VSO came initial to us for crab farming proposal, but that was not considered environmentally sustainable by the TA team. Requested them to focus on their core strengthen of empowering youth and business development. Awaiting first concept note.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
29/08/2017	Edam Kistemaker	Windmill for polder areas	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual and clarification questions sent and left message on voicemail. Awaiting response.
05/09/2017	Silverpit Port Maritime	Maintenance and repairs maritime/ technical equipment	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual sent. Awaiting email response
09/09/2017	DoubenConsult	Low-cost water level monitoring network	Robbert Huzinga/ Aveek Rahman	WMKIP	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Full concept note received, but appeared that theme would better fit under WMKIP. Feedback on concept note provided during Skype call on 23 October 2017.
12/09/2017	Seolfor	Moringa plantations	Karel T'Jonck	Productive Sector Fund	Skype call organised on 10 October 2017 where idea was presented. Feedback provided. Awaiting revised concept note.
20/09/2017	BioMyGreen	Organic seed coating with Mycorrhiza yeast	TBC	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual sent. Skype call conducted on 9 October. Awaiting draft concept note.
23/10/2017	Eijkelpamp	Soil testing kits	TBC	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting first concept note.

5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

The following projects have been rejected in Q3-2017.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
16/06/2015	BARI	Hydroponics	Kim Janssen	Productive Sector Fund	Project implementation halted by BARI until MoU is signed. After more than 6 months awaiting this MoU we decided to reject this proposal.
20/07/2016	BARI	Irrigation technology	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	Project implementation halted by BARI until MoU is signed. After more than 6 months awaiting this MoU we decided to reject this proposal.
04/04/2016	Classical Handmade Products	Handicraft production Sathkira	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
09/06/2016	Urban Wetlands	Floating Units for Sustainable Water treatment and Agriculture	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
02/06/2016	Center for River, Harbor & Landslide Research	Climate based adaption against riverbank failure	Boudewijn Sterk	Water Management Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
14/07/2016	Multisourcing	Digital Farmer Field Schools	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
20/07/2016	SPS	Non-electric fridge	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
08/09/2016	North South University	Application of hybrid dryer for agriculture purposes	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
14/08/2016	BAU	Turkey Rearing	Dr. Munir Ahmed	Productive Sector Fund	After several rounds of revisions, the set up of project seems to be too academic for the BGP.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
25/09/2016	Errorlab	Automatic solar irrigation system	Ashraf Islam	Productive Sector Fund	After more than 4 rounds of revisions, the TA team felt that even the last version of the proposal did not connect to any of water realities in the southern polder areas.
05/10/2016	Laiteer	Off-season vegetable production	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
20/12/2016	FlexBase	Floating Agriculture	Boudewijn Sterk	Productive Sector Fund	The platforms FlexBase aims to provide are too expensive for the people in Blue Gold area. We also believe similar platforms can be made from cheaper materials, like bamboo.
11/01/2017	Kaizen CR	Digital Marketplace	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	No interest anymore from the organisation involved, waiting for more than 6 months for proposal
03/06/2017	Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Water fowl (ducks) for food and nutrition security and income generation	Dr. Munir Ahmed	Productive Sector Fund	The TA team concludes that the proposal topic (duck rearing) and proposed activities are very much similar to the work that the Blue Gold program is implementing through its poultry FFS. In these activities the Blue Gold Program follows the same extension method to increase local poultry production. Therefore the activities mentioned in the proposal do not qualify as 'innovative'.
30/05/2017	Practical Action	Scale-up of aqua geponics	Tanvir Islam	Productive Sector Fund	After internal discussion and discussion with Practical Action on 27 August 2017, it has been decided that there are too many drawbacks found in the pilot stage to agree to upscaling. Practical Action also managed to get through other donors fund for piloting in other areas of Bangladesh.
11/06/2017	mPower	Shurokha' livestock service delivery	Dr. Munir Ahmed	Productive Sector Fund	mPower is invited under the solicited procedure "Improved Info for Agriculture" to combine this concept with its other submitted concept note on livestock breed identification
22/06/2017	Prottyon	Strengthening resilient agriculture and diversified livelihoods for enhancing food security	Jahangir Islam	Productive Sector Fund	At the moment, the proposal is rejected. The NGO is invited to find a technical collaboration partner who could supplement their grassroots knowledge and connection with the introduction of an innovation and high quality of work.
08/07/2017	SAE Import & Export	Linkage network of international farmers	Judith de Bruijne	??	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Unclear, not fully developed concept. Rejected for now.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
09/07/2017	PEACE	Livelihood development for vulnerable women	Joynal Abedin	Productive Sector Fund	First concept note received had good understanding of grassroots level but lacked innovative concepts, seemed IMPACT oriented. After 3 revisions little improvements were made. IFM sees only potential viability in combination with strong technical partner, who can bring in innovation.
09/08/2017	Trimact BV	DevSAT collaboration for development sector	Niels van den Berge	?	Concept is rather interesting for policy makers in the development (aid) sector, not for our beneficiary group. Forwarded concept to EKN for perhaps other purposes.
10/08/2017	SISEER foundation	Introduce climate resilience agriculture in coastal area of Bangladesh	Judith de Bruijne	Productive Sector Fund	At the moment the proposal is rejected. The NGO is invited to find a technical collaboration partner who could supplement their grassroots knowledge and connection with the introduction of an innovation and high quality of work.
31/08/2017	Rexil-Agro BV & BAU	Silicic acid agro technology (SAAT)	Ashraf Islam	Productive Sector Fund	After evaluation of various academic literature sent by Rexil-Agro and discussions with agricultural experts, we came to the conclusion that Silicon addition in the form of liquid sprays is not allowed in Bangladesh and the cost-benefit ratio of the spray would likely be poor. Soil in Southern Bangladesh already contains a lot of silicon. Considering that farmers anyhow spend little on fertilizers, the chance is small they will be investing in an expensive spray which will only provide a limited extra amount of yield.
01/09/2017	Klerkx Training and Gelukkige mensen.nl	Training services	Judith de Bruijne	??	Rejected as applicant is not interested to pursue
05/09/2017	Uitgeverij Tattwa	Booklets	Judith de Bruijne	??	Rejected as applicant was rather interested to promote certain religious values than to contribute to the water or agricultural objectives of BGP
09/10/2017	eProd Solutions	Software for agricultural production	Rabiul Amin	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study received via DNG. Skype call organised on 18 October. Concept appeared to be only relevant for large scale operationing companies working with cooperatives /large farmer groups (>500). These are not available with BGP area. Brought them the company in contact with Just Farming.

6. Promotion activities

To ensure a continuous flow of applications to and to demonstrate the effectiveness and possibilities of Blue Gold's Innovation Fund, we are undertaking the following activities:

SBYA / YY Goshti - Blue Gold Innovation Challenge

The Blue Gold Innovation Challenge (BGIC) is organized by SBYA/YY Goshti to inspire youth and students to develop innovative business solutions to the water resource management and agriculture problems faced by inhabitants of BGP polder areas (Patuakhali and Khulna). BGIC is a year-long program which aims to help 4 entrepreneurs launch their own social business ventures. Top 20 applicants receive training, mentorship and resources to build their business model. The rewards for the top 4 participants include seed capital, mentorship and funding opportunity from the Blue Gold Program, start-up accelerators and social business funds.

The Blue Gold Innovation Challenge (BGIC) conducted its three on-location activity "Inspire: Knowledge Sessions" at BMA Bhabon on August 18, at KUET on August 20 and at Khulna University on August 21, 2017. The knowledge sessions were attended by Young Professionals, representatives from local NGOs; NPOs, and local media personnel of Khulna. These events were a chance to inspire people from the local community to apply for the BGIC program.

BGIC Applications in Khulna were open till September 14, 2017. After scrutinising, YY Goshti and Blue Gold Program shortlisted 10 finalists for the Innovation Camp to attend the week-long training of which 8 presented on the final pitch day. The finalists got hands on training on social business, how to make a plan turn in to reality, what are the factors to consider before kick starting a business and how they can leverage the BGP and YY Goshti network to strengthen their businesses. The next consecutive two days were followed by Pitch Camp where the finalists learnt to prepare a pitch deck for the judges and potential investors and made themselves prepared for the Pitch Day. In the coming weeks, the winners of the Pitch Day will be coached to develop full-fledged business plans.

Dutch Network Group – Dutch SME campaign

Since the roll-out of the Innovation Fund in 2015, the applications to the fund have been characterized by a relatively small participation of Netherlands based enterprises, with the majority of applications coming from Bangladesh-based enterprises. As the Innovation Fund is aimed at giving practical implementation to the 'Aid to Trade' policy of EKN in Bangladesh, a larger involvement of Dutch enterprises within the scope of the Innovation Fund is desirable. Not only for the development of Dutch business in Bangladesh, but also for the opportunities that this provides for collaboration between the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

Together with DNG the Innovation Fund launched a marketing campaign, titled 'Ondernemen in Bangladesh', using email, social media (LinkedIn, Twitter) and a website (www.oibd.nl) to target SMEs and entrepreneurs from the Netherlands. The marketing campaign was launched on June 1st, 2017 and will run till the end of September 2017. It resulted in 15 requests for feasibility studies by Dutch organisations (status: 30 Sep 2017). In the month October, it continues in order to reach the target of 20 requests.

Production of projects video

Broadcasting the activities of the Innovation Fund can stimulate adoption and replication, and even form the motivation for the development of new innovative approaches. In order to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund is currently developing project videos for all of the implemented innovation activities.

The project videos are produced by the implementing partners of the Innovation Fund and targeted towards people generally interested in development. These could be citizens from the Netherlands or Bangladesh, academicians, development practitioners, donors, government agencies or partner organizations. The project videos' primary focus is the innovation itself: how did the idea for the innovation come up, where and how has it been implemented, what went well and what went wrong during implementation, what are the lessons learned, and what kind of future is there for this innovation? The take-aways of the video are: (1) highlighting the spirit of innovation in development, (2) showcasing how innovation in development can benefit the local people, and (3) creating a sense that learning from innovation includes sharing mistakes and successes.

In this quarter, the video of FHRC – Community based integrated water management <https://youtu.be/UmNSGiiLBcY>, and the video of MetaMeta – Roads for Water Management and Flood Protection were launched: <https://vimeo.com/239883862>
All videos can soon be viewed via <http://www.bluegoldbd.org/innovationfund/video/>.

Development executive summaries

The development of executive summaries of Innovation Fund projects can stimulate adoption and replication, and even form the motivation for the development of new innovative approaches. In order to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund is currently developing executive summaries for all (almost) completed innovation activities. The summaries are 2 pages highlighting the project objectives, activities (expected) impact, lessons learnt, sustainability and upscaling potential. All summaries have a similar format and include photos and visuals.

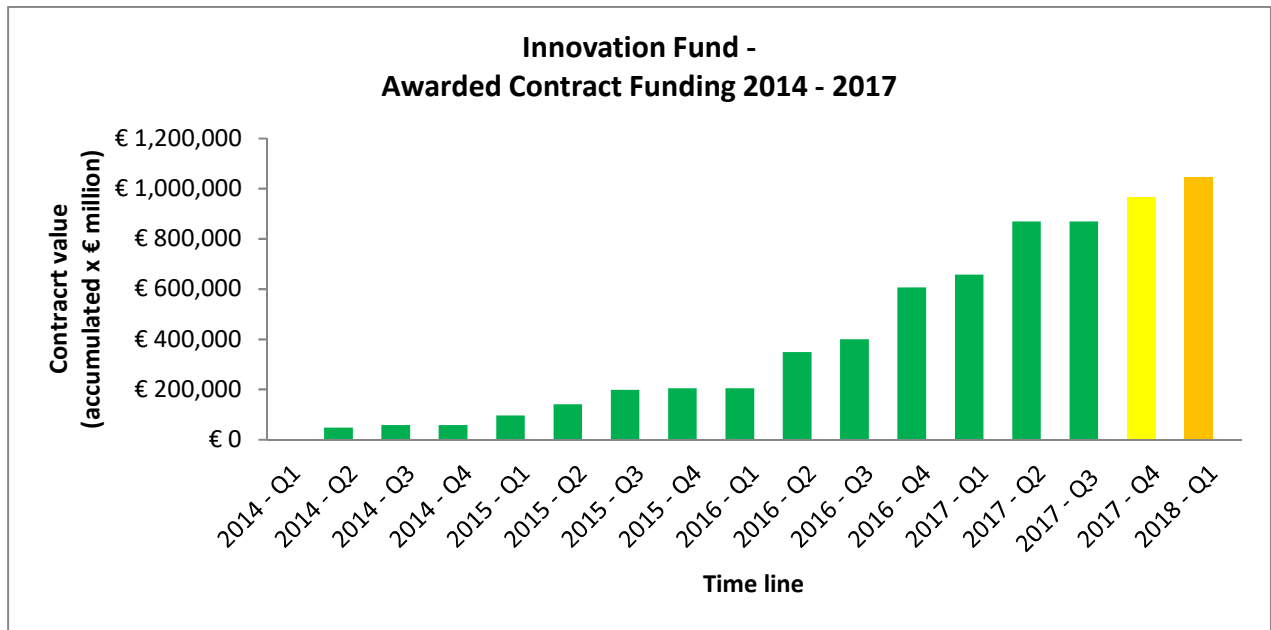
7. Financial report

Unsolicited Procedure

The table shows the expenditures so far under the unsolicited proposal procedure:

	Number of Contracts Awarded	Value of Contract Award	Cum Value of Contract Awards	
2014 - Q1	0	€ 0	€ 0	Actual
2014 - Q2	1	€ 48,000	€ 48,000	
2014 - Q3	1	€ 10,000	€ 58,000	
2014 - Q4	0	€ 0	€ 58,000	
2015 - Q1	1	€ 38,000	€ 96,000	
2015 - Q2	1	€ 45,000	€ 141,000	
2015 - Q3	2	€ 57,283	€ 198,283	
2015 - Q4	1	€ 7,200	€ 205,483	
2016 - Q1	0	€ 0	€ 205,483	
2016 - Q2	5	€ 144,094	€ 349,577	
2016 - Q3	1	€ 49,996	€ 399,573	
2016 - Q4	5	€ 207,000	€ 606,573	
2017 - Q1	4	€ 51,888	€ 658,461	
2017 - Q2	5	€ 210,648	€ 869,109	
2017 - Q3	0	€ 0	€ 869,109	
2017 - Q4	5	€ 98,000	€ 967,109	

Although it was forecasted that 1 unsolicited proposal contract would be awarded in Q3 2017 with a value of €10,000, the total number of contracts awarded in Q3 was zero. This can partly be explained by the fact that the envisioned project “ErrorLabs – irrigation” did not match with the local reality on the ground (see also Chapter 5). Q3 was also characterised by a hand over of Innovation Fund management responsibilities and a lot of attention was devoted to the solicited call “Improved Information for Agriculture”, leaving little time to fast track projects under the unsolicited procedure. However, it is expected that five new contracts will be signed in Q4 with a total cumulative value of EUR 98,000.



Solicited Procedure

For the “Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)” activities an approximate amount of EUR 214,000 has been disbursed. A more detailed overview will follow in the next quarterly progress report.