



**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 Q4-2018**  
**Blue Gold Innovation Fund**



# Progress Report Q4-2018

October to December 2018

## Blue Gold Program – Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

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### Blue Gold Program

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## Contents

Executive summary	1
1. Projects under implementation	3
2. Projects completed	9
3. Proposals in final stage of review	10
4. Concepts under development	11
5. Project concepts/proposals rejected	12
6. Financial report	13

# Executive summary

This report provides a quarterly progress update of the period 1 October to 31 December 2018 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 V8- May 2018.

## Quick status overview of Innovation Fund Projects and Applications on 31 December 2018

The table below provides an overview of the numbers of the total number of projects under implementation, completed, under review, under development and rejected. *Note: projects initiated through solicited or unsolicited tender procedures are combined in one overview.*

Projects under implementation (Chapter 1)	Projects Completed (Chapter 2)	Proposals under review (Chapter 3)	Concepts under development (Chapter 4)	Concepts Rejected (Chapter 5)
<b>6 (total)</b>	<b>29 (total)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>One new project contract signed in Q4</b>	<b>One project completed in Q4</b>			

Further details are provided in Chapter 1-5.

### Projects under implementation

Seven projects are under implementation currently. Below the most interesting project updates are highlighted (for more information see chapter 1):

- **United Purpose (UP) – Phase II: Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance & Technology (SWIFT).** Q4 2018 progress was satisfactory. Main strengths of SWIFT: i) Good documentation, ii) Involvement of relevant government agencies at the relevant authority levels (DAE advise on recommended crops, BWDB endorsement of infrastructure), iii) Valuation and monetisation of in-kind contributions of community members, enhanced ownership, iv) Awareness improvement of available funding channels – and procedures – amongst community members and confidence to attract funding for small scale infrastructure. SWIFT phase III proposal will be received on 7 Feb 2019, which is likely to be accepted as performance so far has been remarkable. Proposal is likely to be 50,000 EUR
- **MetaMeta – Accelerating Horizontal Learning in BGP Polders: ICT as force multiplier.** Project is fully operational in 10 polders and on track with implementation. Progress: 5/10 video trainings, 16/50 video screenings, 6/18 instruction videos produced, Facebook and Agtube websites have been developed. In addition, 1 video training for Union Digital Centre (UDC) members has been added to project activities.

### Projects nearing completion

The following project has finalised its field activities in Q4 2018, and submitted final reports in Jan 2019.

- *Innovision Pangasius phase II*

- *United Purpose – Women Business Centres phase II*

### **Projects completed**

The following project was fully completed in Q4-2018 (for more information see chapter 2):

- BSMR-AU Gazipur, Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas

### **New contracts signed or under negotiation**

The following new contract was signed in Q4-2018 (for more information see chapter 3):

- United Purpose – Women Business Centres - 21 Nov '17 till 20 Jan '19 (12 months+2 months extension). Phase 3 proposal now under appraisal.
- Practical Action (& Shusilan) – Sustaining sack farming practices through agro-met services in coastal polder areas of Bangladesh- 20 December 2018 contract signing. Implementation 1 Feb 2019 – 31 January 2020
- Khulna University (& Wageningen University) - Development of value- added products from water hyacinth to support alternative livelihoods and ecological resilience in coastal villages of southwest Bangladesh - 29 January 2019 contract signing. Implementation 1 Feb 2019 – 31 January 2020

### **Concepts/proposals under development**

None

### **Concepts/proposals rejected**

No new concepts received, call was closed in Q3 2018.

# 1. Projects under implementation

The following Innovation Fund projects are under implementation. 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)
<b>United Purpose</b>	Women Business Centers	Pilot Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	21 Nov '17 till 20 Jan '19 (12 months+2 months extension)	€ <b>58,568</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TA team was critical about the final report of Phase II regarding the correctness of output and outcome data.</li> <li>UP obtained a contract extension of 2 months, which ended 20 Jan. 2019. The revised phase 3 proposal was submitted late (20-01-2019, instead of 12-01-2019) and is currently being appraised.</li> <li>Meeting on 27.12.2019 with UP country director UP WBC staff. During meeting improvements to phase II identified: i) Market linkage ii) Outreach iii) Strengthening relationship WBC-producers iv) Community linkage v) Improving gender issues. vi) WBC increase profit margin vii) WBC need to focus on local resources and existing value chains for better performance viii) WBC-producer linkage in many places is unrealistic etc. iv) Need better business plan for better performance. ix) WBCs are performing as 'retailers' not as 'WBC' xii) Should have better 'indicators' to suggest it can be sustainable- better profit margin, better share of contribution in overall profit from both product and service, entrepreneurship xiii) Need to put emphasis on 'women' related product and services xiv) Local products should have better share in overall business xv) Better use of ICT equipment for market linkage and earing xvi) Consider shifting to better location where there is more effective opportunity to survive as 'business center' xvii) Better understanding of local opportunities and realistic linkages instead of top down designer approach</li> <li>On 04.02.2019, we had meeting with UP at BGP office. In the meeting ideas were shared about potential third Phase of WBC project. UP will submit a modified proposal as per the discussion as soon as possible.</li> </ul>	(Revised) Final report and (revised) phase III proposal	€ <b>25,841</b>	€ <b>32,727</b>

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
<b>United Purpose</b>	Sustainable Water Management Finance & Technology	Phase II: Pilot for testing various finance models for small-scale water management infrastructure	1 May '18 - 28 Feb '28	€ 52,040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pilot project started with a little delay: Phase I was not directly accepted by TA team; scope was too broad, required a lot of changes by UP.</li> <li>▪ In Q3-2018, UP intensified its coordination with BGP Patuakhali team and has developed a realistic workplan.</li> <li>▪ Two batches training for WMG executive committee members on Communication and Leadership held on 17-18 October and 22-23 October at polder 43/2A and 55/2A respectively. In the first training 17 (all male) and 15 participants (Female 6) participated in the second training. <i>In the reporting period, a number of field visits took place:</i></li> <li>▪ 23.10.2018 training program on 'Leadership and Communication training for Resource Mobilization and Advocacy' organized by at polder 55/2A. Fifteen participants (4 female) attended the program.</li> <li>▪ 20.12.2018 Mativanga in polder 43/2B under Patuakhali Sadar upazila. Observed two constructed gated pipe culverts and had discussion with community people including land owning farmers, WMG members, UP member and SWIFT field staffs. The progress seems satisfactory. It was good to know about the way field staffs could mobilize farmers in contributing in construction work. Both the structures still need earth work and wooden gates. BGP engineer, who was with the visiting team, provided advice on little technical issues. Good cooperation and coordination among concerned SWIFT and zonal BGP staffs.</li> <li>▪ 22.01.2019. Progress review meeting held at Patuakhali with SWIFT field staff. Observed good documentation and endorsement of infrastructure by BWBD, Blue Gold. DAE also advise on recommended crops.</li> <li>▪ BGP Team Leader and BGIF managers visited SWIFT field activities and observed two FCDI projects (culvert and microdam). UP Chairman, WMG leaders and farmers were present during the field visit. Local beneficiaries expressed happiness with newly established infra.</li> <li>▪ SWIFT phase III proposal expected within 7 Feb 2019.</li> </ul>	Mid-term report	€ 9,552	€ 42,488



Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
<b>Innovision Agro Service Ltd.</b>	Piloting on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazills of Patuakhali through community participation	Rational use of homestead ponds of Patuakhali region for increasing aquaculture productivity and income generation through practicing of Pangasius aquaculture.	1st June 2018 to 31 January, 2019	€ <b>42,654</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress review meeting with Innovision at Patuakhali on 21.10.2018. It was decided in the meeting that, a meeting could be organized with WMGs, fish farmers, Polder Coordinators, Feed Mill Operator as well as Innovision representative about the feed mill agreement. It was also decided that, next feed ration should be prepared by supplied feed mills.</li> <li>Attended Pangas demo field day at Nazma Begum's pond of Kallyan Kolosh WMG. WMA &amp; WMG presidents, WMG members, fellow farmers Blue Gold and Innovision Agro Service Ltd. representatives also present. All the participants impressed with the performance of Pangas production. At the end of the field day, the pond was netted. A total of 42 pangus weighed 46 kg was harvested and sell in the farm gate. The fish farmer got Tk.4256.</li> <li>More attention should go to sustainability of fish feed production, perhaps less dependancy on fish feed mills but a homestead based model, or fish feed mill should become a separate business model separate from the fish farmers.</li> <li>19.12.2018 Innovision Agro Service Ltd. completed field level activities and conducted an experience sharing meeting at Patuakhali. Personnel from DoF, WDB, Blue Gold, farmers and other value chain actors attended the program. Farmers are happy with the production of Pangus but availability of fingerling round the year is their concern.</li> <li>Innovision's Pangas phase III is uncertain, phase II performed well but it's impact was limited to direct beneficiaries, and its unclear whether the project actually solves a big problem (in the supply chain) for beneficiaries or simply increases their (moderate) profits. Within February 2019 a decision will be taken whether this project should be continued or not.</li> </ul>	Draft Final Report	€ <b>22,374</b>	€ <b>20,280</b>

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
<b>mPower</b>	Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle	To apply cost-effective innovative algorithms to assess breeds and register cattle; promotion of Shurrokha livestock services	1 Apr '18 - 30 Sep '19	€ <b>132,564</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service providers (both Artificial Insemination technicians and Community Livestock Workers), which were trained in Sep 2018, are working now actively. Regular courtyard meetings are taking place to inform cattle owners of Surrokha livestock services app and give general advice how livestock health can be improved.</li> <li>A field visit by joint fund managers (04.10.2018) showed that interviewed cattle owners feel that the app provides a lot of benefits, since they can directly communicate with experienced veterinarians in Dhaka. The service is now provided for free and more market research is necessary to understand what people's willingness-to-pay would be.</li> <li>The search for a Dutch partner providing DNA chips + analysis has not been successful. Allocated funds to this activity will go to development of E-learning modules for service providers and Capacity building learning videos for service providers and farmers.</li> <li>mPower drafted a script on Shurokha promotional video documentary and start shooting after feedback from Blue Gold Livestock Expert. Complete the video shooting within January 2019.</li> </ul>	Inception and Baseline study report	€ <b>38,179</b>	€ <b>119,180</b>
<b>MetaMeta</b>	Accelerating Horizontal Learning in Bangladesh Polders: ICT as Force Multiplier	Strengthening ongoing horizontal learning BGP activities by training WMG members to produce their own best practice videos with their mobile phone and best productions will be awarded and widely circulated.	May 2018- October 2019	€ <b>129,136</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is fully operational in 10 polders and on track with implementation. Progress: 5/10 video trainings, 16/50 video screenings, 6/18 instruction videos produced, Facebook and Agtube websites have been developed. In addition, 1 video training for Union Digital Centre (UDC) members has been added to project activities,</li> <li>Developed videos should become more accessible to mainstream organisations (example at District level SDGs committees). BGP technical experts should more directly shared with MetaMeta/JJS/Access Agriculture the materials we have developed under FFS (booklets, existing instructional videos Khairul) and comments on videos produced should be provided by DAE (Humayoun) and other BGP experts.</li> <li>In January 2019, we had progress review meetings at Arnhem, Khulna and Dhaka with the project implementing organization (consortium MetaMeta-Lead, JJS and Access Agro).</li> </ul>	Bi-monthly progress report Aug-Sep 2018	€ <b>51,690</b>	€ <b>77,446</b>

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
<b>International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) - Bangladesh</b>	Leveraging decision making science to sustain climate- and market-smart mungbean advisories in Patuakhali's polder communities	Developing climate and market smart advisories for mungbean farmers in BGP working areas in Patuakhali	26 August 2018 till 30 June 2020	€ 132,456	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synergy SWIFT project and Horizontal Learning – make good practise video by Horizontal learning team.</li> <li>Permanent staff required in Patuakhali; someone needs to be assigned for this project for Patuakhali specifically.</li> <li>Instruction video's to be made Access Agriculture have to made locally (in polder area of Bangladesh).</li> <li>One video screened from Access Agriculture was shown which showed agricultural practises from Africa, not relevant to the coastal zone target group. This has been addressed.</li> </ul>	Monthly progress report Sep 2018	€ 26,491	€ 105,965
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project started early Sep 2018 and kick-off/briefing meetings have been held in BGP Patuakhali office, and in DAE and BMD head offices in Dhaka. Sites for the project activities have been selected in polder 55/2A, 43/2A and 43/2F. Unfortunately, the BMD weather forecasting raster data (17 m2) essential to the activities of this project would not allow to include polders 47/3 and 47/4. Progress review meeting with CIMMYT at Patuakhali 21.01.2019.</li> <li>18 focus group discussions (90 farmers participated, 40% were women) have been held which yielded insight in historical experiences with rainfall during the mung bean harvesting season and how this affected profitability.</li> <li>CIMMYT now has a good understanding of the preferences farmers have for receiving the information through applications. As smart phones are not widely used, voice and text messages to around 70 farmers directly is a viable option. Additionally, they connected people like imams could also be informed daily and they could relay the message to their networks.</li> <li>CIMMYT will submit an updated activity chart.</li> <li>An MSc student will conduct a study soon on the social network/ power structures, the result of which will be used in the second round of testing the application in the field. The next harvest season will start in Feb. The CIMMYT team is confident the app will be ready by this time. The project thus seems performing well, despite having a late start.</li> </ul>			

## 2. Projects completed

The following project was completed in Q4-2018. The final report is available on request and will be published soon on the BGP website.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Costs (EUR)	Details
<b>BSMR-AU Gazipur</b>	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)	€ <b>42,202</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BSMRAU finalised its pilot project on pen culture in polder 2, with harvest of the fish in November and December. A presentation and discussion was held on December 11, 2017 at Program Coordinating Director's Office, PCD Mr. Amirul Hossain, Focal Point of DoF Dr. Sainar Alam, District Fisheries Officer, and BGP TA Team experts attended the session.</li> <li>▪ Another workshop was conducted on 18 January at local level to discuss the possible follow-up within polder 2. We are also in discussion with Dr. Jahangir Alam to evaluate other aquaculture interventions within the BGP area.</li> <li>▪ The delivery of the final report of the project has unfortunately been delayed with almost 6 months. Feedback by our team has been provided in Sep 2018.</li> <li>▪ Final version was submitted on 04 November 2018.</li> </ul>

### 3. Proposals in final stage of review

None.

## 4. Concepts under development

None.

There are no concepts under development, since our application deadline closed on 15 July 2018 and we have already made a selection of organisations which we would like to proceed with for further proposal development and potential project implementation.

However, we have asked United Purpose to re-submit a proposal for Women Business Centres phase III and similarly to Innovision for the Pangasius project phase III. These have been received in January 2019 and are currently pending BGIF management decision whether lessons learned in phase II have been incorporated in the next phase.

SWIFT proposal phase III (also by United Purpose) is due in February 2019.

## 5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

None. For this period no project concepts/proposals were rejected.

## 6. Financial report

This chapter contains information on the total volume of contracts awarded, forecasts for the next quarter, figures on total expenditure till date, semi-allocated contracts, and remaining amounts to be spend.

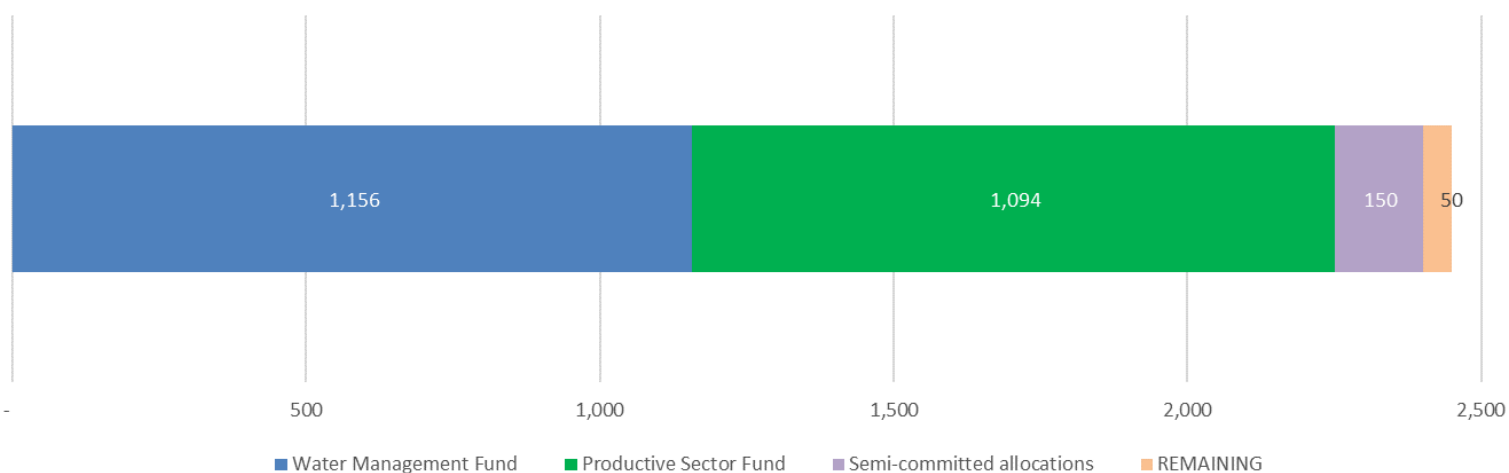
### BGIF financial overview

Find below BGIF financial overview as of 31 December 2018<sup>1</sup>:

	1. Sub-total Local Contracted Amount ('000 BDT)	2. Sub-total International Contracted Amount ('000 EUR)	3. Total equivalent contracted amount * ('000 EUR)	4. Total payment to date* ('000 EUR)
<b>Water Management Fund</b>	46,908	529	1,156	1,081
<b>Productive Sector Fund</b>	68,144	404	1,094	609
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>			2,250	1,362
Remaining, but semi-committed			150	
Remaining, unallocated			50	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>			<b>2,450</b>	

\* Including management costs

**BGIF Actual or expected allocation and remaining budget ('000 EUR)**



<sup>1</sup> Actual or expected Allocation (EUR) includes Practical Action – Sackfarming project and Khulna University – Water Hyacinth project, both of which have started 1 February 2019.



The Water Management Fund has 3 running projects: Meta Meta - Accelerating Horizontal Learning in Bangladesh Polders: ICT as Force Multiplier (EUR 129k) and United Purpose- Phase II: Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology on 1 May 2018 (EUR 50k), Khulna University: Water Hyacinth (EUR 50k), signed 29.01.2019, active 01.02.2019.

The Productive Sector Fund has 4 running projects: United Purpose – Women Business Centres (EUR ~60k); mPower - Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle project in March (EUR 132k); Innovision Agro Services - Pilot on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazilas of Patuakhali (EUR 50k); CIMMYT project – Leveraging decision making science to sustain climate and market-smart mungbean advisories for Patuakhali's polder communities (EUR 132k). Practical Action – Sack farming and agromet services (EUR 50k) – signed 20.12.2018, active 01.02.2018.

## Future planning

Remaining EUR: 200 thousand

3 Pipeline PHASE III projects:

- 1) SWIFT phase III proposal has been received on 7 Feb 2019, which is likely to be accepted as performance so far has been remarkable.
- 2) WBC phase III is uncertain, performance phase II was sub-optimal – appraisal ongoing whether lessons have been learned from phase II. Revised proposal received 20-01-2019.
- 3) Innovision's Pangas phase III is also uncertain, phase II performed well but its impact was limited to direct beneficiaries, and its unclear whether the project actually solves a big problem (in the supply chain) for beneficiaries or simply increases their (moderate) profits. Within February 2019 a decision will be taken whether this project should be continued or not.

Assuming we will stick to our semi-committed allocations and keep management handling fees in line with current spending (around 13%), we have about EUR 50k remaining to spend.

Khulna University is tasked to identify a partner to implement the business promotion component of the project. This partner will submit a ToR and budget to implement the extra activities (these extra activities will be linked to the joined workplan that will trigger payments).