

Blue Gold Program



Agreement Signing Ceremony on O&M in Between WMA & BWDB



Islamic Foundation, Patuakhali
January 23, 2018





INTRODUCTION

January 23, 2019 Blue Gold – Patuakhali zone organized “Agreement Signing Ceremony on Operation & Maintenance between WMA and BWDB” at Islamic Foundation Auditorium, Patuakhali. The objective of this program was to make both the parties agreed on the roles & responsibilities of WMA & BWDB on the overall operation and maintenance of Water Management Infrastructures under specific polders, signing agreement & formally handing over the documents among the partners.

A Total of 18 Water Management Association from the 06 Polders 43/1, 43/2F, 43/2B, 43/2D, 55/2A, 55/2C Executive Committee members attended the program from Patuakhali and Barguna District. Following table shows the details of WMA participants.

District	Name of Polder	# of WMA	WMA Participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Patuakhali	43/2B	3	10	05	15
	43/2D	5	18	06	24
	43/2E	2	05	04	09
	55/2A	1	04	02	06
	55/2C	2	10	02	12
	43/2A	1	01	00	01
Barguna	43/1A	2	08	03	11
	43/2F	3	13	04	17
Total			69	26	95

Mr. Mojibur Rahman, Superintendent Engineer, Water Development Circle, BWDB, Patuakhali Mr. Md. Amirul Hossain, PCD, Blue Gold Program, BWDB, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Masud Karim, Chief Extension Officer, BAWD, Dhaka, Mr. Hridayeshwar Datt, DD, DAE, Khamarbari, Patuakhali, Mr. Md. Motiur Rahman, DD, DAE, Khamarbari, Barguna from Patuakhali and Berguna District were present during signing ceremony.

THE PROGRAM

The Program was started at 10.00 AM and continued till 01.00 PM. Following were the key session of the program:

1. Video show on news compilation on BGP activities which were published in different Television Channel, National News Paper;
2. O&M agreement signing, handing over and distribution among the WMAs, Photo session
3. Distribution of WMA registration certificates among 18 WMAs by the Chief Water Management Officials, BWDB;
4. After signing agreement of O & M (Operation & Maintenance) a social drama was staged to reflect the role of WMA (Water Management Association) in building confidence on how to carry out the operation and maintenance activities by the WMAs in boosting water management, agricultural production and economic development.



The Project Coordinating Director (PCD) Mr. Amirul Hossain presided over the program. Mr. Md. Hasanuzzaman, Executive Engineer (XEN) and Patuakhali O&M Division, BWDB, Patuakhali welcomed the participants and Mr. Md. Moshir Rahman, XEN, O&M Division, Barguna has clarified the importance of O&M Agreement in between BWDB & WMA and Roles of BWDB to implement the Agreement.



The Executive Engineers, BWDB from Patuakhali, Barguna and Chairperson of Water Management Associations signed O&M agreement & handed over the documents to WMAs. Mr. Md. Masud Karim, Chief Extension Officer, BWDB, Dhaka, distributed the WMA Registration Certificates among 18 Water Management Associations.

Md. Mazibur Rahman, Superintendent Engineer Patuakhali Water Development Circle, BWDB, Patuakhali, Md. Hridoyessor Datta, Deputy Director, DAE, Patuakhali and Mr. Matiur Rahman, Deputy Director, DAE, Barguna in their speech largely focused on BWDB and DAE's role in implementing the O&M activities.

REMERK & COMMENTS

UP CHAIRMANS

After the community drama, Mr. Humayun Kabir, Chairman, Auliapur UP, Patuakhali sadar, Patuakhali, Polder 43/2D and Ms Sabina Akhter Mayna, Panel Chairman, Gulishakhali, Amtoli, Barguna, polder 43/2F delivered valuable comments and shared their experience how Blue Gold Program helped the polder people in improving of water management systems and economic development. They have emphasized their roles and partnership relations with WMA and importance of O&M of water management infrastructures. They also declared to continue their support in implementing the O&M actions plan as per the agreement signed.



WMA REPRESENTATIVES

The WMAs Presidents have shared the benefits of Blue Gold Program in economic development through improvement of water management and agricultural production. Specially, Ms. Munimjan Akter, Joint Secretary, Goshkhali Sluice WMA, Polder 43/2F pointed out that to what extent the Blue Gold Program has contributed them as well as to make them confident in the preparation of O&M plans, generate O&M funds, encourage and involved in collective actions, developed linkages with the BWDB, DAE, BADC, LGED and other private sectors which make them highly self-dependent. She has also highlighted that how Blue Gold Program encouraged and supported women members for their empowerment through engaging them in the economic development activities.



TEAM LEADER

Mr. Guy Jones, Team Leader, Blue Gold Program delighted to see the partnership relations and valuable comments of UP & WMA representatives in this program. He has referred the WMA and UPs valuable comments that convinced him so confident that the economic development has been boosted significantly due to efficient water management system was established under Blue Gold Program. The Team Leader expects that 18 WMAs will continue this operation and maintenance,



agricultural production, economic development and change the civil society. In the concluding session, he thanked to all the participated members in this wonderful program.

PROJECT COORDINATING DIRECTOR, BGP, BWDB

Mr. Amirul Hossain, PCD, Blue Gold Program, BWDB has delivered valuable comments in his closing address. He thanked BWDB Executive Engineer(s), WMA(s) and Blue Gold Teams in Patuakhali for organizing such a wonderful O&M Agreement Signing Ceremony. He inspired to see and listened to the valuable comments from the WMAs and UPs in water management and economic development through Blue Gold Program in this south-western zone. He mentioned that the report says the average rate of income and economic development in south-western zone increased significantly.

Bangladesh Government has special attention for the economic development of south western zone. He mentioned the name of some water management infrastructures constructed through Blue Gold Program and how these could improve water management systems, agricultural production and changes the lives of the community people. He also mentioned that now BWDB is not much worry about how sluice gates would be operated and managed since WMAs have become confident enough to operate and manage the water management systems efficiently whenever necessary.



The PCD found the program was highly participatory where the WMAs, DAE, BWDB, UP, Blue Gold Team and other partners involved in organizing this event in a festive mood. He again thanked to the organizers, the BWDB Divisions and the Technical Assistance Team of the Blue Gold Program for their hardworking and efforts without which it couldn't have brought the flavor of success under this program.

CONCLUSION

This is one of the greatest successes and milestones of Blue Gold Program which indicates that WMAs is becoming self-sustaining organization and capable to hold the O&M responsibilities of water management infrastructures, handle In-polder water management with their own resource and expertise. They have demonstrated their confidence and commitment and ownership on the water management infrastructures through signing of the agreements and taking over the responsibilities in presence of all the implementing partners, donor and media people. This is an important indicator to step forward of successful phasing out of the program.

We can see our future.....!!!



*Md. Abul Kashem
Training & Communication Leader
January 28, 2019*



Kingdom of the Netherlands

