



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 Q3-2018
Blue Gold Innovation Fund



Progress Report Q3-2018

July to September 2018

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 1 July to 30 September 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 30 September 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)
7 (total)	27 (total)	4	0	103 (total)
One new project contract signed in Q3	One project completed in Q3	Six new proposals being reviewed in Q3	38 new concepts received in Q3	34 concepts rejected in Q3

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 – Phase II: Pilot on Women Business Centres (WBC)** – Basak cultivation has intensified with a special TOT by ACME/BCSIR, a 7 km roadside plantation of Basak sapling (total 14,000 saplings) and the preparation of 17,500 basak sapling for sale. Demonstration plots have also been established for native chicken hatchery (3), vegetable cultivation (5), vermicompost (3) and a WISH pond. Another 14 vaccination campaigns, two matchmaking workshops with market actors and public sector representatives, a technical training by Ispahani Seeds and a TOT on primary health care services took place too. Moreover, the 20 entrepreneurs from the four WBCs provided 60 technical training sessions on fish, poultry and cattle rearing to 1,480 producers of whom 80% were women and 20% were men. The total income of the 4 WBCs keeps on increasing rapidly: from BDT 4607 in January 2018 to BDT 170,638 in September 2018. Pilot (phase II) will end by 30 November.
- InnoVision Agro Services – Pilot on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazilas of Patuakhali through community participation.** InnoVision presented at DOF fisheries week at district level (21-23 July), demonstrating the potential of Pangasius in a stall. They were awarded the 1st price from DOF. During September 2018, they organised a special training and site visit to Mymensingh for the 30 farmers involved in Pangasius cultivation. Also 3 fish feed mills have been purchased and provided to respective WMGs. The sustainability of this initiative is however a concern, therefore InnoVision has been asked to develop an activity plan to ensure an appropriate exit strategy and potential upscaling strategies.

- **mPower – Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle.** Service providers (both Artificial Insemination technicians and Community Livestock Workers), which were trained in September 2018, are working now actively. Regular courtyard meetings are taking place to inform cattle owners of Surrokha livestock services and give general advice on how livestock health can be improved. The service has been positively received so far, however it is provided for free and more market research is necessary to understand what people's willingness-to-pay would be.
- **MetaMeta – Accelerating Horizontal Learning in BGP Polders: ICT as force multiplier.** Project has fully started to operate in 10 polders. In the 6 polders in Khulna and Satkhira they started earlier, their local partner JJS received 24 video entries and 17 were shortlisted as eligible. Three trainings for video makers in Patuakhali are planned for between 21-30 October. Other activities for the next 2 months are 10 video screenings, 3 rounds of mobile video competition, training of UDCs and production of 3 instructional videos. BGP is stimulating at least 1/3 female participation.
- **United Purpose (UP) – Phase II: Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance & Technology (SWIFT).** UP intensified its coordination with BGP Patuakhali team and has developed a realistic workplan. UP has identified 79 potential sites for small-scale infrastructure works in P55/2A and P43/2A. She shortlisted 21 out of 79 as high potential sites. At these locations, the WMG commitment to finance infrastructure by own means and with support of Union Parishad is high. The project seems to be on the right track now.

Projects nearing completion

The following project has finalised its field activities in Jan 2018, but is still working on its final report.

- **BMSR Agricultural University's - Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas in southwest region of Bangladesh** (final draft report submitted on 16 June 2018; comments TA team and BWDB submitted on 16 September 2018)

Projects completed

The following project was fully completed in Q3-2018 (for more information see chapter 2):

- **MetaMeta** submitted their revised final report “**Recommended good practices: Road Development to Support Water Management and Flood Resilience**” on 5 September 2018. We have approved the report and after formatting the lay-out it will be published on the BGP website.

New contracts signed or under negotiation

The following new contract was signed in Q3-2018 (for more information see chapter 3):

- We signed a contract with CIMMYT for the “**Leveraging decision-making science to sustain climate and market-smart mung bean advisories in Patuakhali's polder communities**” on 22 August 2018 in stead of 15 June. The project has thus started with a two-month delay. Inception briefings took place and polder 55/2A, 43/2A and 43/2F have been selected for activities.

Concepts/proposals under development

The number of unsolicited concept notes that came in was enormous (38) after our announcement of to close BGIF application deadline on 15 July 2018. After the evaluation of 21 concept notes focussing on our priorities issues (water hyacinth & climate smart agriculture) by a specially formed evaluation committee at zonal level, 6 concept notes were selected as most promising. During Q3-2018, the respective organisations developed a full proposal. The proposal evaluation committee under leadership of Dr. Wais Kabir and BGIF manager came together on 8 October and decided that the proposal of **Practical Action on Sack farming with support of Agro-met services** would be most promising to address climate smart agriculture in BGP polders, and the two proposals from **KU & WUR** and **Saafconsult & Kumudini focussing on producing ecological paper for handicraft products from water hyacinth** were most prospective to eradicate the excessive growth of water hyacinth in polders' water bodies. Adjustments in staffing and a few technicalities are required for the Practical Action project and synergies between KU &

WUR and SaafConsult & Kumudini projects are essential to make paper production a technically, socially and commercially viable success.

We also stimulated **TU Delft, JJS & Both Ends** to further develop their concept note on “**Building the capacity of WMAs by collective choice problem solving**” into a full proposal (see Chapter 3).

Concepts/proposals rejected

After the final call for concept notes, we have rejected 34 concept notes/proposals in Q3-2018 (For more information see Chapter 5):

- We rejected 15 concepts because they were not focussing on priority themes identified by the BGP team (already announced in the previous Q2-2018 progress report).
- Another 15 concept notes and 3 proposals were rejected by the evaluation committee “BGIF final call for concept notes”, because they were either not fitting the local context, not cost effective, not commercially viable, not sustainable or were not written clearly and focussed.
- One concept note developed by Carthago and WUR with a promising theme “Exploring community-led water management strategies: Serious Gaming” was rejected, because it lacked understanding of the local institutional context and lacked mechanisms for local sustainability.

Communication activities

We executed the following promotion activities in Q3-2018 (for more information see Chapter 6):

- We circulated the publication of the Innovation Fund Booklet “**Inspiring Innovation Fund projects at a glance**” more widely.
- The Innovation Fund Manager shortly presented about the Blue Gold Innovation Fund booklet during the Netherlands Water Partnership - Bangladesh meeting on 21 August 2018 in Den Hague.

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)
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)	€ 42,202	BSMRAU finalised its pilot project on pen culture in polder 2, with harvest of the fish in November and December. A presentation and discussion were 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. 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. The delivery of the final report of the project has unfortunately been delayed with more than 6 months. Feedback by our team has been provided in Sep 2018. Expectation is to close this project by the end of October 2018.	Draft final report	€ 40,252	€ 1,950

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
United Purpose	Women Business Centers	Pilot Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	21 Nov '17 till 20 Nov '18 (12 months)	€ 50,012	4 women business centres (WBC) in polder 28/2 and 31-part (namely Choyghoria, Joykhali and Raypur, Bunarabad in Khulna region) have become fully operational and have their own bank accounts since April/May 2018. Entrepreneurs are providing advisory services for improved agricultural production; buying and selling eggs, vegetables and other grocery and food items; cosmetics; Flexiload; bKash; agricultural inputs such as seeds and organic fertilizers; solar electricity services; basak sapling plantation and dry leaf collection; primary health services, including diabetics measurement and blood pressure; hygienic milk collection; fish culture; as well as vaccination and de-worming campaigns to the local community. Since the project inception, women entrepreneurs have formed a total of 172 producer groups with 3,420 female producers and 1,135 male producers group members. Linkages between entrepreneurs of WBCs and different government officials have been developed too. In this reporting period, Basak cultivation was put central with a 2-day special TOT by ACME/BCSIR, a 7 km roadside plantation of Basak sapling (total 14,000 saplings) establishment and 17,500 basak sapling preparation for selling to producers. Demonstration plots have also been established for native chicken hatchery (3), vegetable cultivation (5), vermicompost (3) and a WISH pond. Another 14 vaccination campaigns, two matchmaking workshops with market actors and public sector representatives, a technical training by Ispahani Seeds and a TOT on primary health care services by UP took place too. Moreover, the 20 entrepreneurs from the four WBCs provided 60 technical training sessions on fish, poultry and cattle rearing to 1,480 producers of whom 80% were women and 20% were men. The total income of the 4 WBCs has increased rapidly: from BDT 4607 in January 2018 to BDT 170,638 in September 2018.	September monthly progress report	€ 16,881	€ 33,131

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
United Purpose	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	Pilot project started with a little delay, because Phase I: feasibility was not directly accepted by the TA team. Its scope was too broad. It required quite a lot of changes by UP. In Q3-2018, UP intensified its coordination with BGP Patuakhali team and has developed a realistic workplan. UP has identified 79 potential sites for small-scale infrastructure works in P55/2A and P43/2A, of which 21 high potential sites have been shortlisted at the time the Innovation Fund Manager (IFM) paid a visit to Patuakhali on 2 Oct 2018. During the site visit of the IFM to Shoto Bighai WMG in P42/2A, it was noticed that the approach of UP focusses on high self-reliance of the communities to finance & sustain small-scale WM infrastructure with support of Union Parishad. The project seems on the right track now.	Monthly progress report September	€ 0	€ -
Innovision Agro Service Ltd.	Piloting on augmenting homestead ponds of 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	€ 42,654	On 21-23 July, Innovision presented during the DOF fisheries week at district level, demonstrating the potential of Pangasius in a stall. They were awarded the 1st price from DOF. On 25-26 September 2018, they organised a special training and site visit to Mymensingh for the 30 farmers involved in Pangasius cultivation. Also 3 fish feed mills have been purchased and handed over to the respective WMGs. The appointed fish feed mill operators have been trained, but this an ownership/lease/use arrangement needs to be developed with the WMG. Sustainability of this initiative is a great concern: raw fish feed materials for the mill are not available in the locality and therefore expensive, there are no nurseries for the farmers to purchase Pangasius fingerlings, not all farmers are maintaining appropriate feeding strategies and they lack experience with marketing. Innovision has been asked to develop an activity plan to ensure an appropriate exit strategy and potential upscaling strategies to sustain this Pangasius cultivation.	Mid Term Report + Monthly Progress Report September 2018	€ 20,280	€ 22,374

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
mPower	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	€ 132,564	In Q3-2018 mPower delivered its inception report and baseline study, which was approved on 1 Oct. after some minor revisions. 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. A first field visit by IFM showed that interviewed cattle owners feel that the app provides a lot of benefits, since they can directly communicate with experienced veterinaries 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. The search for a Dutch partner providing DNA chips + analysis has not been successful so far; the proposed fee rates are too high to be considered cost-effective. mPower will come up with an alternative to spend allocated funds on the project.	Baseline study + bimonthly progress report Aug-Sep 2018	€ 13,298	€ 119,180
MetaMeta	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	€ 129,136	Project has been able to start its operation in 4 additional polders in Patuakhali areas, resulting in a total of 10 polders being covered. In the 6 polders in Khulna and Satkhira they started earlier, JJS received 24 video entries and 17 were shortlisted as eligible. Awarding criteria are being formulated and an evaluation committee being arranged for. The 3 trainings for video makers in Patuakhali are planned between 21-30 October. The draft participant lists cover a low number of females and in some polders none. This requires attention. Also the recommendations provided on 26 July to JJS by the IFM are not fully being considered: field facilitators are seldomly visiting the field to follow up with the trained video makers in Khulna and Satkhira, and there is no field facilitator in Patuakhali. Other activities planned for the next 2 months are 10 video screenings, 3 rounds of mobile	Bi-monthly progress report Aug-Sep 2018	€ 25,863	€ 103,273

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
					video competition, training of UDCs and production of 3 instructional videos.			
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) - Bangladesh	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	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.	Monthly progress report Sep 2018	€ -	€ 132,456

2. Projects completed

The following project was completed in Q3-2018. 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
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 '16-30 Nov '17 (1 year)	€ 30,970	MetaMeta started to prepare for the next phase of designing a pilot since December 2017. The next phase is a combination of testing and monitoring Roads for Water infrastructural works in polder 26 and initiating a policy dialogue and developing BWDB-LGED Good Practices document on Roads for Water Management and Flood Protection. Finance for this pilot will come partly from an already obtained fund of Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), and possible additional funds may be provided by local UP/Upazila. Developing sound financial and administrative procedures for fund disbursement to construct two culverts in polder 26 is challenging. Frank van Steenberg visited early July 2018 the country for follow up and submitted on 16 July the final report with Recommended Good Practices. We provided feedback on this report and its final version was submitted on 4 September 2018.

3. Proposals in final stage of review

Four proposals are currently under review and clarification questions have been submitted to the respective applicants. The draft proposals are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget (EUR)	Current status
23/06/2018	SaafConsult BV & Kumudini Welfare Trust	Testing Water Hyacinth(Eichhornia crassipes) based products for commercial use	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	The current proposal does not meet Blue Gold's expectations regarding working location, local-based production & processing and addressing our poor, vulnerable beneficiaries. It did however score well on available technical expertise on paper production for handicrafts and exploring potential niche market channels. Normally, we would have declined this proposal. However, Khulna University (KU) & Wageningen University (WUR) also submitted a proposal on pulp & paper production from water hyacinth. They had an opposite scoring. We see potential for synergies between the two proposals. For this reason, we have proposed joint proposal development between SaafConsult & Kumidini + KU & WUR. We are awaiting SaafConsult's reaction.
15/07/2018	Khulna University & WUR	Development of value added products from water hyacinth to support alternative livelihoods and ecological resilience in coastal villages of southwest Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	The current proposal does not meet Blue Gold's expectations regarding making paper & pulp production from water hyacinth a viable business case with sufficient attention for commercial and marketing aspects. It did however score well on working location, local-based production & processing and addressing our poor, vulnerable beneficiaries. Normally, we would have declined this proposal. However, SaafConsult & Kumudini Welfare Trust also submitted a proposal on paper production from water hyacinth. They had an opposite scoring (see above). We see potential for synergies between the two proposals. For this reason, we have proposed joint proposal development between SaafConsult & Kumidini + KU & WUR. KU & WUR are positive; we are awaiting SaafConsult's reaction.

15/07/2018	Practical Action & Shusilan	Sustaining sack farming practices through agro-met services in coastal polder areas of Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	€ 46,000	The innovativeness of using agro-met services for sack farming has been appreciated by the evaluation committee. However further discussion and clarification is required with PA to understand how the two interrelated and how data will reach WMG members. Also implementation in polder 47/3 and 47/4 is preferred over polder 43/2D, and better field staff by Shusilan should be provided.
15/04/2018	Delft University of Technology, JJS and Both Ends	Building local capacity of water management groups/associations (through collective choice problem solving)	Water Management Sector	€ 50,000	After review documents from previous experience and a Skype call early Aug 2018, we felt that there is potential in this proposal to strengthen decision-making of WMAs on operation and improve water allocation. Proposals is currently under review and decision is expected by the end of Oct 2018.

4. Concepts under development

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.

5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

The following projects have been rejected in Q3-2018. Concept notes/proposals can be provided upon request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
31/01/2017	Light Castle Partner (LCP)	Farmer Market Place	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	LCP seems to be too busy with other projects and have not responded to our request to update their workplan and budget, so we could proceed with contract negotiations and signing. Since the project is tailored to the Rabi season, it should have started in Oct 2018 with site selection and WMO motivation. Unfortunately, LCP does not cooperate, and we decided therefore to reject the proposal.
18/12/2017	Action Aid	Unpaid care work	Roksana Begum	Productive Sector Fund	Decision has been taken to carry over this proposal to another budget line under Blue Gold Program, because the theme is not really an innovation, it is rather an awareness creation campaign to create more attention for this important gender issue. BGP gender experts are therefore directly taking this up with EKN and DAE for further discussions and potential approval.
04/04/2018	Tube-Barrier	PWS -Popup Water Storage	Mofazzal Ahmed	Water Management Sector	Mr. Mofazzal has requested TubeBarrier to reconsider their concept and make it available as temporary inflatable water retention structures (1.2 m in height) for canals in BGP area. This would be profitable for Rabi crop cultivation. After further desktop analysis, TubeBarrier decided that it would be too challenging to redesign the TubeBarrier for this purpose without doing lab simulations in Netherlands. Therefore, they decided to withdraw.
14/02/2018	Green Soil Bag	Low cost revetment of embankments with soil bags filled with grass seeds	Delowar Hossain	Water Management Sector	Mr. Delowar, BGP civil engineer, visited one of their site in Siranganj and saw limited feasibility for BGP. We planned to organise still further discussions with Green Soil Bag, but since they have not come back to us after more than 6 months, we decided to reject this concept.
12/07/2018	C4RE Foundation	Community based sustainable bio energy systems for biogas production from water hyacinth	committee	Productive Sector Fund	Concept is not cost effective and very technical. Supply of raw materials will not be sufficient for continuation and there is limited scope to reach poor beneficiaries.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
12/07/2018	AID Foundation	Turning Pestilence into Promise: Revitalising Coastal Polders Through Holistic Community Based Management of the Canals	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposed concept note covered a lot of activities, but it is not clear what they will actually do and focus on. Organisation seems also to lack the right experience to do so many different project activities in a holistic and coordinated manner.
05/03/2018	Acacia B.V.	A new design for Managed Aquifer Recharge for Agriculture	committee	Water Management Sector	The idea is looks very good and quite suitable for drinking and HH use water, but limited scope for crop fields. It is likely not cost effective and there are doubts about the technical feasibility.
15/07/2018	CEGIS	Management of excessive water hyacinth in selected water bodies and assessing their potential re-use of waste water treatment aimed at eco-friendly livestock/ poultry feed production for sustainable livestock development in Bangladesh	committee	Productive Sector Fund	Actually, the concept is a study and it is difficult to implement the findings of the study within BGP projected timeframe to bring benefit to the BGP target groups. Besides, in the title they propose re-use of waste water treatment, but that this not well reflected in the text. They bring in too many different issues and lack focus to really achieve tangible outputs.
15/07/2018	PARIBAR TAN-Khulna	Establishing an effective water hyacinth control mechanism through alternative agriculture knowledge sharing amongst farmers in the BGP area in Patuakhali	committee	Productive Sector Fund	Implementation strategy, replication and sustainability approach are not clearly mentioned. So, this project is not feasible for support.
15/07/2018	Practical Action	Resource Farmers Development for Introduction of Floating Vegetable Bed and Economical Utilization of Water Hyacinth at Catchment Level of Polder 55/2A and Polder 55/2C of Patuakhali BGP Zone.	committee	Productive Sector Fund	Though the concept is matured enough but not feasible for the proposed area, because of social, cultural and economic condition of the local people .

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
15/07/2018	Win Miaki Ltd	Integrated beneficial management of Water Hyacinth	committee	Productive Sector Fund	Producing charcoal and bio-gas is technically feasible at rural areas but not commercially viable.
11/07/2018	Acacia Water B.V.	Freshwater pockets for Agriculture	committee	Water Management Sector	If they successfully identify freshwater pockets then it will compete with domestic use of water and then domestic use will likely get higher priority. Moreover, it is too difficult to replicate easily and up-scale to other areas. Overall it is a high tech concept which not be adopted by polders' dwellers. It also may not be financially viable.
12/07/2018	AgriWatch B.V. & GeoInfoSolutions	Improved information in agriculture for adaptation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) best practices in coastal Region of Bangladesh (SLMBPB)	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposed project is not innovative. This project mainly identifies best agricultural practices which already exist in the polder area. A similar activity has been undertaken by BGP through preparing a factsheet booklet and actively using this for horizontal learning purposes.
15/07/2018	AIRN	Alternate livelihoods through climate resilient farming	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposed project is not any innovation idea for solving any problem that is faced by BGP. DAE is promoting good quality coconut sapling. From this project there is no any output come achieved within the forecasted time frame. In coastal region coconut is abundantly grown. Therefore, this concept is not feasible for innovation fund.
15/07/2018	LEDARS	Promoting climate adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture and water Management Technologies.	committee	Productive Sector Fund	This project concept is has no clear problem statement and unspecific activities. Moreover, no innovative activities or approach is being proposed.
10/07/2018	Protect Environment from Adverse Climate Change (PEACE)	Environmental Friendly and Climate change adaptive Livelihood Development for Vulnerable Women and other poor's living in polder area.	committee	Productive Sector Fund	This concept paper describes too many things. Many of these activities are being implemented by BGP already. The paper failed to give clear explanation about innovation, rather they propose traditional activities. Moreover, the concept paper has no clear problem statement with a connected intervention strategy.
12/07/2018	PSTU	Improvisation of Homestead Plantation towards Socio-economic Development and Nutritional Security in the	committee	Productive Sector Fund	This concept paper failed to give a clear explanation what type of innovation will be implemented. Moreover, wood and fruit tree plantation is a very common practices in the Patuakhali region and it will take more time than project period to get results.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
		Coastal BGP Area			
12/07/2018	PSTU	Exploring Sustainable Intensive Crop Production Systems in the Polders of the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh	committee	Productive Sector Fund	This proposed study proposal is not innovative and not relevant to BGP goals or objectives at this stage. A lot of information on different cropping patterns is already available at DAE. If the study would have started at the beginning of the project, BG could have been benefitted. It is not found feasible at this stage.
15/07/2018	CNRS	Smart Agricultural Resilience-building Technologies (SMART) in coastal zone of Bangladesh	committee	Productive Sector Fund	This project concept covers many aspects, but lacks a clear problem statement and specific project activities. Moreover, no innovative activities or approach is being proposed.
04/05/2018	Ashroy Foundation	Eco- friendly use of Water Hyacinth in Production of Vegetable at the Bank of Canals	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposal is rejected because: -Only incentive is Water Hyacinth (WH) cleaning, but it depends on salinity, water flow, duration of water logging etc. Context of polder 2 is not considered. - Composting is not innovative at all, and mulching is more accepted by farmers. -Alternative livelihood not mentioned as already the polder inhabitants produce a lot of vegetable, crop and fish suitable for geo-location -UP cannot provide technical support -This is already the mainstream activity of DAE and some NGOs -BGP already implemented TA FFS that teaches compost making. -WH does not make compost with good nutrition value
10/07/2018	PEACE	Resource Farmers Development for Introduction of Floating Vegetable Bed and Economical Utilization of Water Hyacinth at Catchment Level of Polder 55/2A and Polder 55/2C of Patuakhali BGP Zone.	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposal is rejected because -Floating beds require long retaining periods. Target area does not have water logged area (even if so not more than two months?) -They want to implement floating bed in canals during monsoon, but that goes against BGP objectives, since that would obstruct flow and create more sedimentation. - Removing floating beds from canals in the winter season, as proposed is labour intensive. Not feasible -Not innovative. Compost making is not new. WH has only water and 5% potassium. - Compost only for homestead in combination with cow dung. Not suitable for crop land. -No cost benefit analysis -No market linkages included for seedlings -Doubtful scaling up opportunities -PEACE Organizational strength doubtful, they have no experience doing similar projects before -No or very little market potential.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
15/07/2018	C4RE Foundation	Introduction of pot culture Practice of Vegetable for vegetable production in the homestead of WMG members for Food and nutritional Security in polder area.	committee	Productive Sector Fund	The proposal is rejected because -Sack and pot not innovative -Lack market linkages -Lack cost –benefit analysis -Chance of market distortion (idea of pot, type- size-supply not clear), so likely no replication will take place
11/07/2018	Carthago & WUR	Exploring community-led water management strategies: Serious Gaming	Bart Brookhuis	Water Management Sector	After Skype discussions with the consortium it appeared that had little understanding of the local institutional setting, lack a good local partner and had not thought of proper mechanisms to ensure sustainability.

6. Communication activities

Since our application deadline for submission closed on 15 July 2018, future communication activities will only focus on demonstrating the effectiveness of BGIF and stimulating horizontal learning on successful innovative practices and services. For this reason, this chapter is renamed as Communication activities.

BGIF Booklet – “Inspiring innovation projects at a glance”

Sharing the outcomes of BGIF project can stimulate adoption and replication, and even stimulate the development of new innovative approaches. To promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund has developed executive summaries for 10 successfully completed innovation activities. The summaries are 2 pages highlighting the project objectives, activities (expected) impact, lessons learnt, sustainability and upscaling potential. The publication has been officially published and printed in May 2018 and has been distributed to both Dhaka and zonal offices of BWDB, DAE, DLS, DOF and BGP TA team during June/July 2018. Copies have also been made available to EKN and will be shared in the Netherlands too.

An update with additional innovation project examples might be developed in 2019/2020 to cover the outcomes of projects implemented during 2018 and 2019.

Production of project videos

As an additional measure to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned and to stimulate the adoption and replication of innovative practices and services, BGP has requested implementing partner organisations to develop project videos. The target group of the videos are 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?

Next quarter, we expect the video of Women Business Centres in Khulna, developed by United Purpose, to be ready for broadcasting. All developed videos can be viewed via <http://www.bluegoldbd.org/innovationfund/project-video/>.

Ensuring horizontal learning and replication

In the first place, BGIF implementing partner organisations are responsible for ensuring the innovation project includes strategies for wider adoption and replication. This is strict criteria while evaluating submitted project proposals. Projects without upscaling strategies are rejected. Nevertheless, it is evident that the implementing organisation will not have the resources to upscale widely and designed strategies might not fully work in practice. With the appointment of BGIF lead advisors for every single project at zonal level, we hope to support the partner continuously in implementing and adjusting replication strategies, as well as to identify opportunities for joint horizontal learning events between WMOs. The BGIF lead advisors are the first point of contact and will gather opinions and advice from other staff operating at polder and zonal level to benefit the BGIF implementing organisation. The names of BGIF lead advisors can be found in the table provided in Chapter 1: Projects under implementation.

7. Financial report

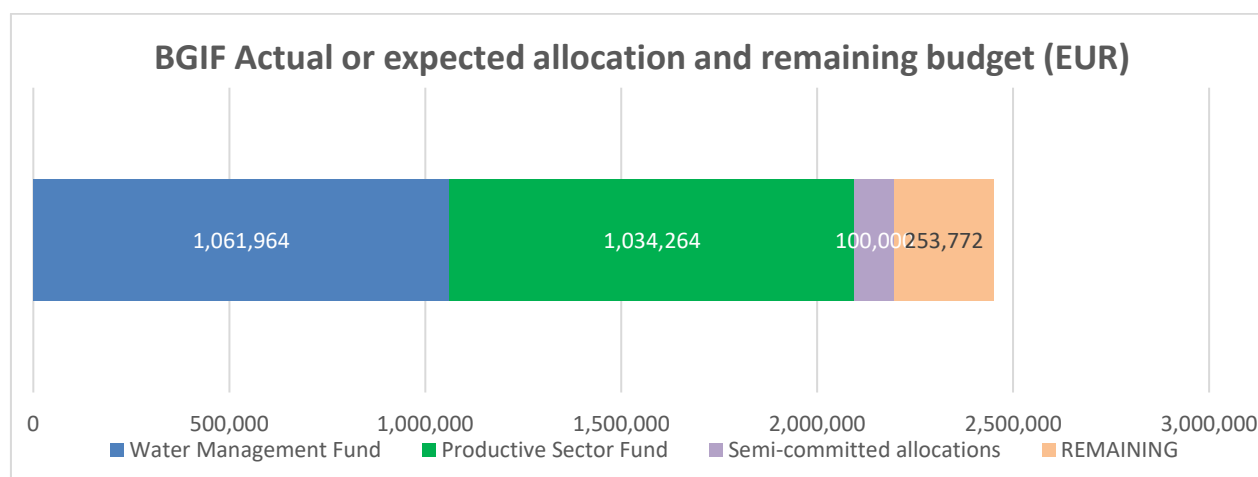
This chapter contains information on the total volume of contracts awarded, forecasts for the next quarter, figures on total expenditure till date, semi-allocated contracts, and remaining amounts to be spend.

BGIF financial overview

Find below BGIF financial overview as of 30 September 2018:

	Total Contract Amount (BDT)	Total Contract Amount (EUR)	Actual or expected allocation ¹ (EUR)	Total paid (EUR)
Water Management Fund	42,559,969	479,104	1,061,964	969,185
Productive Sector Fund	49,573,859	345,330	1,034,264	558,540
OVERALL TOTAL			2,096,228	
Semi-committed allocations			100,000	
REMAINING			253,772	
TOTAL BUDGET			2,450,000	

¹ Including management costs



The Water Management Fund has only 2 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).

Under the Productive Sector Fund, we have 4 running projects: United Purpose – Women Business Centres (EUR 50k); 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); and the recently signed (22 Aug 2018) CIMMYT project – Leveraging decision making science to sustain climate and market-smart mungbean advisories for

Patuakhali's polder communities (EUR 132k). The currently outstanding amount can be mostly attributed to those projects.

We have semi-committed an amount of about EUR 100k, with the purpose to support the implementation of phase III of United Purpose projects "Women Business Centres" and "Sustainable Water Management Indigenous Finance & Technology" if they perform well in phase II.

Future planning

Assuming we will stick to our semi-committed allocations and keep management handling fees in line with current spending (around 12%), we have about EUR 253k remaining to spend on awarding new contracts.

As highlighted in the Q1 and Q2-2018 progress report we aim to spend this on innovation projects, which potentially could solve two of our main problems in BGP area. After consultation at polder and zonal level, the following priority issues were identified to be addressed under the Productive Sector Fund: 1. Removal of excessive water hyacinth; 2. Climate smart agricultural technologies. A Final Call for Concept Notes highlighting these priority issues resulted in 38 extra applications by 15 July 2018 with budgets of max. EUR 50k. In early August 2018, 6 proposals were selected to be most promising to address BGP priorities by a special evaluation committee.

While writing this report, the evaluation committee concluded that 3 consortia have submitted proposals which are interesting for further discussions with BGIF management and potential funding under BGP Productive Sector Fund.

Another concept note on water management decision-making by WMOs has picked out too by BGIF management and a full proposal has been requested for. The proposal is currently under evaluation by a small internal BGP committee. It is potentially promising to still fund on the Water Management Fund.

Our intention is to award the final 3 to 4 contracts before 30 November 2018.