



Blue Gold Program

Outcomes of livestock interventions in improving livelihoods and access to markets



Overview of livestock intervention in Blue Gold Program (BGP) polders

BGP trained members of the Water Management Groups (WMGs) on livestock technologies and market orientation through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). These FFS covered local poultry, beef fattening, and dairy farming. The objectives of livestock FFS are to improve:

- Farmers' knowledge on farm practices
- Access to markets
- Decision-making capacity
- Household incomes
- Household nutrition
- Livelihoods

With an aim to reduce bird and livestock mortality, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), supported

by WMGs, operate sustainable vaccination campaigns for rearers.

This was further supported by Upazila Livestock Offices (ULOs).

These FFS facilitated the adoption of improved management practices, links with technical service, and access to quality inputs.

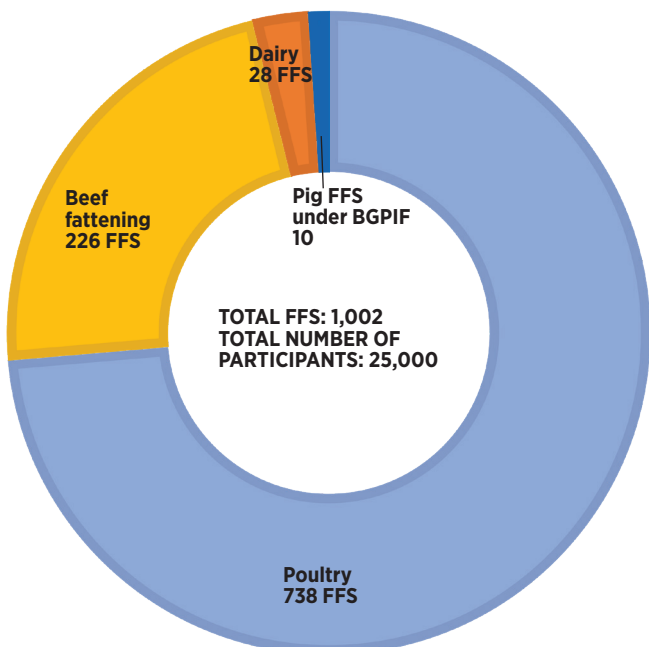
The livestock FFS were conducted by Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) and Farmer Trainers (FTs) in 22 polders.

The same FTs were locally selected and acted as resource persons for the WMGs and its surrounding areas.

BGP has also successfully implemented two programs on hygienic pig farming and cattle breed identification under the Blue Gold Innovation Fund (BGIF).

Farmer Field Schools:

- **Experiential Learning Cycles**
- **Incorporation of key technologies**
- **Participatory discussions**
- **Consideration of market linkages and real benefits**
- **Hands-on work**
- **Trials**
- **Group work**
- **Farm management analyses**
- **Season-long learning**



FTs: 56

Community Livestock Workers (CLWs): 38

Men involved in FFS

Poultry: 1,273

Beef fattening: 1,509

Dairy: 85

Pig: 33



FTs: 39

Community Poultry Workers (CPWs): 60

Community Livestock Workers (CLWs): 2

Women involved in FFS

Poultry: 17, 177

Beef fattening: 4,141

Dairy: 615

Pig: 167

Average incomes of poultry farming families increased from BDT 1,000 to BDT 3,067 per month.



Poultry



Sustainable, improved poultry rearing was recognised as a key tool to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods in BGP polders.

Objectives of local poultry rearing Farmer Field Schools

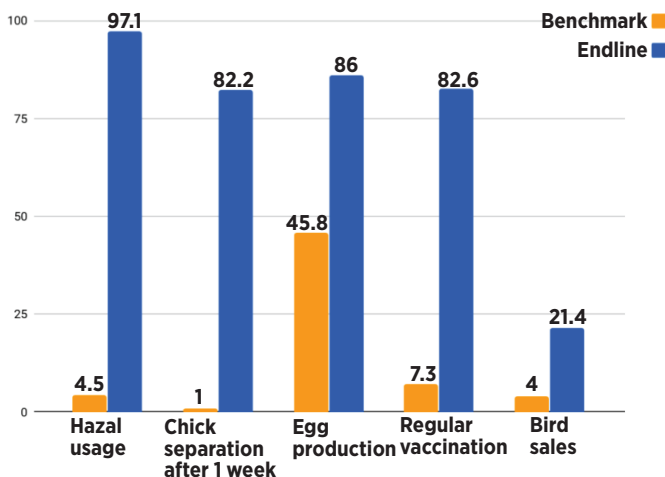
- Increase family incomes
- Produce eggs and meat for consumption
- Empower women by improving knowledge of production and creating market linkages

Success criteria

- Adoption of improved hazals
- Reduction in bird mortality through vaccination services
- Chick separation after a week
- Increased production and access to markets

Results after poultry Farmer Field Schools

- 92% in the adoption of hazal
- 75% increase in vaccination
- 81% increase in chick separation after 1 week
- 88% annual increment in average hen egg production
- Average chicken sales increased from 4 to 21.4 per year
- Average egg consumption increased by 108%



Beef fattening



Beef, or cattle fattening is an important part of Bangladesh's agribusiness sector, with the potential for great economic and social impact. Most farmers in this FFS prepare their cattle to be sold at the Muslim Eid-ul-Azha festival.

Objectives of beef fattening Farmer Field Schools

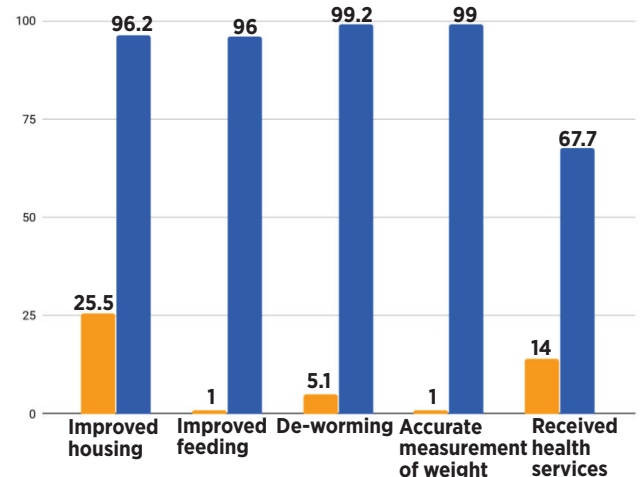
- Improve knowledge on cattle fattening techniques
- Improved incomes with increased meat production per cattle
- Self-employment opportunities for farmers

Success criteria for beef fattening for farmers

- Limiting age between 2 to 3 years for calf selection
- Urea molasses and straw feeding
- Balanced feeding
- Well-ventilated and hygienic housing
- Timely de-worming
- Accurate and correct measurement of body weight
- Effective networking with buyers and local veterinary services

Results after beef fattening Farmer Field Schools

- Increased profits from small-scale cattle farming
- Increased meat production and sales from 172 kgs to 236 kgs for each animal





Gross average income per animal from beef fattening was BDT 20,350.

Dairy



Dairy farming has been an essential part of agrribusiness in BGP polders, contributing to economic, personal, and social empowerment of farmers.

Objectives of dairy Farmer Field Schools

- Improve dairy farm management practices
- Strengthen linkages with local feed suppliers, veterinary services, and milk collectors
- Improved household nutrition with increased access to, and consumption of dairy and dairy products

Success criteria for dairy farming

- Improved housing conditions
- Balanced feeding
- Quality healthcare
- High quality fodder
- Calf management
- Feeding high protein alfalfa
- Linkages built with market actors

Results after Farmer Field Schools in Satkhira

- Milk production increased from 2.1 litres to 5.0 litres
- Strengthened linkages with private sector actors

Community Animal Health Worker services



BGP trained 100 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) with the support of Upazila Livestock Offices (ULOs) and the Department of Livestock Services. These CAHWs provide vaccination services, and support in the overall health and well-being of poultry and livestock.

- Community Poultry Workers (CPWs) provide vaccination services for poultry, which generate incomes ranging between BDT 4,000 to BDT 6,000 per month
- Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) provide small and large ruminant health services, which generate incomes ranging between BDT 9,000 to BDT

12,000 per month

- Both CPWs and CLWs are linked with ULOs

Blue Gold Innovation Fund (BGIF) livestock



BGIF tried and tested new innovative approaches to discover new ways of socio-economic development in BGP polders. There were two livestock projects under the BGIF, that focussed on the management of water resources, improvement of agriculture practices, and the creation of new business opportunities.

Securing improved livelihoods of Kawra (pig-rearing community) of Southwest Bangladesh: implemented by Nice Foundation

Outcomes

- 200 members of the pig-rearing community trained
- Ensured production of safe high quality pork
- Strengthened market linkages

Breed identification and digital registry of cattle: implemented by mPower Social Enterprise Ltd.

Outcomes

- Over 6,000 livestock farmers received tele-veterinary, breed identification, Artificial Insemination (AI) recommendation, and SMS-based advisory services
- Successful development of AI dashboard
- 52 community livestock service providers gained technical knowledge through e-learning modules and videos

Social and behavioural change communication materials produced for livestock Farmer Field Schools

Videos on livestock: 7

Training modules and booklets: 4

Apps developed: 1

International publications: 4

