

Blue Gold Program

Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

Quarterly Progress Report: July – September 2016

Innovation Fund: Scope and Purpose

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund is a tool created to accelerate the development process in the program area of the Blue Gold program, by financing innovative approaches and new initiatives to socio-economic development. Innovations submitted to the Blue Gold Innovation Fund are expected to contribute to the outcome / results of the Blue Gold program; the expected impact expected to be mostly locally or regionally centred.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 4.3 million, and has been divided into two separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 2.4 million (focusing on water resources management) and the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.9 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security).

The Innovation Fund is setup to utilize the establishment of linkages between Blue Gold and Bangladesh and Netherlands-based businesses / organisations. Contributions to innovation within Blue Gold may emerge from a wide variety of knowledge centres and enterprises, as long as the proposed activities fit within the framework of either the Water Management Fund or the Productive Sector Fund. The Blue Gold Program will scan relevant institutions and enterprises for emerging opportunities in specific technical fields.

1. Introduction

This report provides quarterly updates showcasing the innovative approaches that have benefited, or will have a positive impact on, the lives of the people in the polders.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 4.3 million, and has been divided into two separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 2.4 million (focusing on water resources management) and the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.9 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security). Applications to the Innovation Fund follow two routes:

- (1) **Unsolicited proposals**, which have a budget ceiling of €50,000 and focus on smaller interventions such as feasibility studies or pilots.
- (2) **Solicited proposals**, which have a budget ceiling of €500,000 and are initiated by Blue Gold through an international call for proposals (tender), and have a separate TOR and guideline document that will be published together with the call for proposals;

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund in the quarter April to June 2016 including:

Unsolicited Proposals: Chapter 2 Activities in the quarter; Chapter 3 Projects under implementation; Chapter 4 Projects under review; Chapter 5 Projects under development; Chapter 6 Projects rejected; Chapter 7 Projects completed, and Chapter 8 Financial report.

Solicited Proposals: Chapter 9 Status of solicited proposals.

Overview of Innovation Fund Proposals – as at 30th September 2016

Unsolicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the numbers of applications in process:

Proposals under implementation (Chapter 3)	Projects under review (Chapter 4)	Projects under development (Chapter 5)	Projects Rejected (Chapter 6)	Projects Completed (Chapter 7)
5	5	7	11	6
No changes	One new proposal submitted in Q3	Four new concepts submitted in Q3	Two proposals rejected in Q3	No changes

Solicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the progress with solicited proposals (tenders). Further details are provided in Chapter 8.

	Planned Activities	Completion schedule	Remarks
1.	Small scale dredging/excavation of in-polder drainage <i>khals</i>	end-September 2016	Awaiting input from EKN and BWDB before finalizing tender
2.	Low cost embankment protection in coastal rivers	November 2016	Tender design to be completed by 15 Oct 2016
3.	ICT in agriculture	March 2017	BG ICT strategy to be finalized by October 2016

2. Activities in the Quarter

Focus on food preservation facilities and irrigation solutions for agriculture

Besides the strong focus on improved water management practices, the Blue Gold program aims to increase agriculture production in the polder areas of the coastal zone. However, agriculture development is hindered by several constraints in the value chain, from production to sales. Two of these constraints, (1) cold storage facilities for agriculture produce and (2) irrigation technologies for agriculture production have been identified by the BG TA-team as constraints that can be tackled by external parties. The TA-team has been actively pursuing solutions for both constraints that can be designed and implemented with financial leverage from the Innovation Fund.

Food preservation

Market linkages, and prices, are important incentives for an increase in production. The price level of fruits and vegetables correlates strongly with the harvest cycles of Bangladesh. Generally there is surplus in the markets at the time of harvest, and there can be big fall in prices at that time but there can be very high price in the off season. Food preservation, or storage is required at various stages of marketing like before transportation, before export and after import. If farmers could have access to storage facilities, allowing them to supply their products in the off-season, they might get a better price for their products.

Storage is an important function in agricultural marketing. The perishable agricultural goods need special type of storage to prolong their usage. However, modern storage of fruits and vegetables is virtually absent in Bangladesh. Cold storage facilities are only available for potato. For most fruits and vegetables, no noticeable low temperature storage facilities are available. Realizing the plight that lack of storage creates for farmers, both on a business as well as a household level, the Blue Gold TA-team actively started searching for innovations that might solve these problems.

This has resulted in two proposals being submitted to the Innovation Fund. The NGO SPS has submitted a proposal for the production and sale of non-electric fridges for households in the polders. This fridge is made of locally available materials, and the production and sale of these products can create jobs and income for people living in the polders. The consultancy MarGEn has been previously involved in the design and

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

implementation of natural cold-storage facilities in the North of Bangladesh, and has submitted a proposal for a feasibility study on natural cold-storage facilities for the BG program area.

Irrigation technologies

The lack of access to fresh water in the polder regions is one of the biggest constraints for crop rotation and production during the dry season. This constraint is enhanced by the increasing influx of saline water in the polder regions, which fills up the already depleting fresh water resources and turns otherwise fertile agriculture land into barren waste land. The solution to this constraint in agriculture production lies in the conservation of fresh water resources and the local adaptation of irrigation technologies.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) is a government institute famous in Bangladesh for testing new agriculture technologies. The BG TA-team approached BARI for developing a proposal focused on piloting and implementing different irrigation technologies in the BGP area. The outcome of this pilot should determine which irrigation technology is most suitable for the polder areas, taking into account both the local as well as the business context.

3. Projects under implementation

Table 1 - Summary of projects under implementation (no change from Q2 Apr - Jun 2016)

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date contract awarded	Amount paid	Amount Due	Deliverable
Consiglieri Consulting	Follow-up study on access to energy in the polders	Productive Sector Fund	€ 24,957	08 Feb 2016: Concept note received 11 Feb 2016: Comments from TA team shared 10 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received 11 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 19 May 2016: Contract signed 01 Jun 2016: Start of literature study 14 Aug 2016: Meeting to discuss outcome of Phase I and steps for Phase II 13 Sep 2016: Request for project extension to October 22nd approved by BG	YES	DHAKA	€ 6,313	€ 18,644	ONGOING
FHRC	Collective action for improved water management	Water Management Fund	€ 49,731	27 Mar 2016: Concept note FHRC received 24 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 May 2016: Concept note FHRC received 09 Jun 2016: Additional discussion on proposal 16 Jun 2016: Revised proposal received 27 Jun 2016: Draft contract shared 17 Jul 2016: Contract signed	YES	DHAKA	€ 14,999	€ 34,732	ONGOING

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date contract awarded	Amount paid	Amount Due	Deliverable
MetaMeta	Roads for Flood Protection and Water Management	Water Management Fund	€ 24,820	16 Aug 2015: Proposal received 21 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 26 Oct 2015: Revised proposal received 10 Feb 2016: Revision of proposal requested according to the new IF guidelines 01 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received 29 Mar 2016: Contract requested MMD Netherlands 18 May 2016: Contract signed by MetaMeta 8 Jun 2016: Start of field study preparations	YES	ARNHEM	€ -	€ 24,820	ONGOING
NICE Foundation	Kawra pig rearing Khulna	Productive Sector Fund	€ 49,967	1 Aug 2015: Project started 13 Aug 2015: Inception workshop 11 Nov 2015: Quarterly report 18 Nov 2015: Visit by FP DLS (Lutfor Rahman) 22-27 Dec 2015: Knowledge-sharing visit to Vietnam 31 Jan 2016: Half yearly report 4 Apr 2016: Extension request received 31 May 2016: No-cost extension approved till 1st July 2016	YES	DHAKA	€ 45,776	€ 4,191	WAITING FOR FINAL REPORT
Practical Action	Aqua-geonics	Productive Sector Fund	€ 44,317	21 Mar 2016: Proposal received 18 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared 16 May 2016: Revised proposal received 24 May 2016: Additional comments of TA team shared 26 May 2016: Response on comments received 01 Jun 2016: Contract drafted and shared 08 Jun 2016: Contract signed 06 Sept 2016: Comments and observations BGP field team shared	YES	DHAKA	€ 12,702	€ 31,615	ONGOING

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date contract awarded	Amount paid	Amount Due	Deliverable
WorldFish	EcoPonds and empowerment of women	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	3 Apr 2016: Proposal received 13 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 May 2016: Revised proposal received 26 May 2016: Additional comments TA-team shared 30 May 2016: Final proposal received 06 Jun 2016: Contract drafted and shared 12 Jun 2016: Contract signed	YES	DHAKA	€ -	€ 50,000	ONGOING

4. Projects under review

Table 2 - Summary of projects under review

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal title	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
16/06/2015	BARI	Hydroponics	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 20,333	23 Dec 2015: email to DG BARI requesting concurrence and signature on MoU 17 Jan 2016: follow-up email to DG BARI 2 Mar 2016: visit to BARI headquarters 31 Aug 2016 BARI accepts proposal to sign MoU with BGP	Waiting for BARI to confirm collaboration with Blue Gold
13/07/2015	Moringa Ltd	Moringa value chain development	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	29 Nov 2015: Meeting on concept development 29 Mar 2016: Proposal received 11 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 13 Jun 2016: Revised proposal received 28 Jun 2016: comments TA team shared 17 Jul 2016: Meeting at BG office 31 Jul 2016: Revised proposal received 4 Aug 2016: Comments TA-team shared 9 Aug 2016: Revised proposal received 30 Aug 2016: Meeting at BG office	Waiting for revised proposal Moringa Ltd

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal title	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
04/04/2016	Classical Handmade Products	Handicraft production Sathkira	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 21,490	28 Mar 2016: discussion with CHP on proposal 04 Apr 2016: Concept note received 07 Apr 2016: Meeting with CHP on concept note 31 May 2016: Concept note received 27 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared 14 Jul 2016: Additional questions received & answered	Waiting for comments from TA-team on the CHP proposal
10/06/2016	Next Billion	Mobile movies Blue Gold platform	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	10 Jun 2016: Proposal received 28 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared 17 Jul 2016: Revised proposal received 10 Aug 2016: Approval TL on collaboration with Next Billion 16 Aug 2016: TA-team meeting on Next Billion proposal 08 Sept 2016: Skype call on proposal development NB	Waiting for meeting with Next Billion to discuss the design of the implementation
01/08/2016	WorldFish	Tilapia fish feed improvement		Productive Sector Fund	€ 49,996	12 Jun 2016: Concept note received 29 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 Jul 2016: Proposal received 31 Jul 2016: Comments TA-team shared 08 Aug 2016: Meeting at BG office 21 Aug 2016: Revised proposal received 06 Sep 2016: Comments TA-team shared 07 Sep 2016: Revised proposal + response WF received	

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

During the period July – September 2016 the Blue Gold Innovation Fund had one new project proposal under review, by Next Billion. The development of the other four project proposals in the above summary will continue. Although it was expected that the proposals of Moringa Ltd and Classical Handmade Products would be implemented in Q3 of 2016, no sufficient progress was made in the developments of these proposals.

The TA-team was excited to receive renewed interest from BARI in the hydroponics proposal during Q3. BARI has agreed to sign a MoU with BGP, and will present their project proposal to BWDB and DAE.

Two applications that were ‘Under Review’ in Q2, the GIZ proposal on improved cooking stoves and the Witteveen & Bos proposal on small scale dredging, have been moved to the ‘Rejected Proposals’ category. The TA-team was unable to reach agreement with GIZ on the adaptation of the improved cooking stove proposal according to the structure of the Innovation Fund, which led to the rejection of the proposal. After Witteveen & Bos submitted their project proposal to the Innovation Fund, the TA-team has been providing support on the revision of the proposal. However, the initial interest seemed to have disappeared, as Witteveen & Bos has not responded for three months since the last date of contact. On this basis it was decided to shift the proposal to the ‘rejected’ category.

During Q3 the Next Billion proposal moved from the ‘Under Development’ category to the ‘Under Review’ category’. The Next Billion concept uses ‘video ladies’ to broadcast messages to rural communities. Blue Gold is interested to use this concept to spread program related content throughout the existing Blue Gold polders, as well as inform communities living in the ‘new’ polders of the BGP about the activities of Blue Gold. Next Billion is developing a project proposal, which is expected to be implemented early in Q4.

5. Projects under Development

Table 3 - Summary of projects under development

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
08/02/2016	Grameen Intel	Piloting of agriculture software for farmers in BG	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	08 Feb 2016: Concept note received 23 Feb 2016: Comments from TA team shared 29 May 2016: Meeting with GI to discuss revised proposal 31 May 2016: Comments on proposal shared 25 Jul 2016: Revised proposal received and comments TA-team shared 3 Aug 2016: Meeting BG office 24 Aug 2016: revised concept note received 05 Sep 2016: Comments TA-team shared & meeting at BG office	Waiting for proposal
24/04/2016	Deltares	Waterapp	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 50,000	24 Apr 2016: Concept note received 27 Apr 2016: Concept note shared with PCD 03 Jun 16: Comments TA-team shared 27 Jul 2016: Revised proposal received 28 Jul 2016: Comments TA-team shared with TL 21 Aug 2016: TL shares comments on proposal with Deltares 12 Sep 2016: Revised proposal + budget received	Waiting for proposal

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
02/06/2016	Center for River, Harbor & Landslide Research	Climate based adaption against riverbank failure	C2	Water Management Fund	€ -	02 Jun 2016: Concept note received 06 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 Aug 2016: Follow-up email on status of proposal	Waiting for proposal
14/08/2016	BAU	Rearing of guineafowls and turkey		Productive Sector Fund	€ -	16 Aug 2016: Concept note received 29 Aug 2016: meeting BG office	Waiting for proposal
20/07/2016	SPS	Non-electric fridge		Productive Sector Fund	€ -	20 Jul 2016: Concept Note received 30 Jul 2016: Comments TA-team shared 3 Aug 2016: Meeting BG office 11 Aug 2016: Feasibility study proposal received 16 Aug 2016: Comments TA-team shared 29 Aug 2016: Revised proposal received 18 Sep 2016: Feedback TA-team shared, invited for a meeting at BG office	Waiting for proposal
20/07/2016	BARI	Irrigation technology		Productive Sector Fund	€ -	28 Jul 2016: Concept note received 7 Aug 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 Aug 2016: meeting BG office 31 Aug 2016: Proposal received 07 Sep 2016: comments TA-team shared	Waiting for proposal
28/08/2016	MarGen	Natural Cold Storage		Productive Sector Fund	€ -	28 Aug 2016: concept note received 18 Sep 2016: Comments TA-team shared	Waiting for proposal

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund currently has 7 different projects under development. These consist of concept notes and proposals sent to the TA-team of Blue Gold for review and feedback purposes. Below is a description of the four newest proposals that were submitted to the Innovation Fund during Q3:

Guinea fowl rearing as an alternative source of income

On 30th May 2016 the Blue Gold TA-team visited the Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) in Mymensingh as part of the wider promotion of the Innovation Fund. During this meeting the TA-team met with the various agriculture, livestock and fisheries experts of the BAU and discussed the scope for the submission of project proposals to the Innovation Fund.

The first outcome of this visit is a concept note from the BAU livestock department on the scope of production, extension and promotion of specialized fowls in Bangladesh, such as guinea fowls, turkey, geese and quail. This proposal is research oriented, looking at the opportunities for both poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation through the rearing of these fowl species.

Testing the right irrigation technology for commercialization

The Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) is a Bangladeshi government institute famous for testing new agriculture technologies. Given the rising difficulties with access to fresh water for agriculture, and the threat of increasing salinity levels in the polders, BARI is developing a proposal to pilot and implement four different irrigation technologies. The outcome of this pilot should determine which irrigation technology is most suitable for the polder areas, taking into account the local context.

Production and commercialization of the non-electric fridge

Refrigeration of food in village households in the coastal areas is difficult because of the limited access to electricity. This means that surplus food cannot be stored for longer periods. Households without refrigeration generally prepare meals for the household each day.

The clear need for a food preserving technology that is non-electric, cost friendly and can be locally produced opens up opportunities for innovation that can lead to poverty reduction. SPS, a Bangladeshi NGO, has approached the Innovation Fund with a concept for a non-electric fridge made from local materials that has the potential to be produced and commercialized in the BGP area. SPS is developing a proposal for a feasibility study to assess the market potential of the non-electric fridge, and the possibility for commercialization in the BGP area.

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Introducing natural cold storage facilities in the BG polders

Storage is an important function in agricultural marketing. The excess supplies at the harvest time are stored so that they could be supplied in the off-season. The perishable agricultural goods need special type of storage to prolong their usage. Generally there is surplus in the markets at the time of harvest, and there can be big fall in prices at that time but there can be very high price in the off season. Storage is required at various stages of the agriculture value chain, before transportation, before export and after import.

Modern storage of fruits and vegetables is virtually absent in Bangladesh. Cold storage facilities are only available for potato. For most fruits and vegetables, no noticeable low temperature storage facilities are available. However, there are a very few multi chambered and privately-owned low temperature storage facilities in Badamtali, Dhaka where the wholesalers keep high-value fruits, particularly the imported apples, orange, dates, pears and grapes. Reasonable progress in modern storage system has been made in potato sector. There are now around 393 cold stores (public and private), with a capacity of approximately 4.0 million metric tons against 82.05 million in 2011-2012. In the BGP area there are only 10 cold stores in Satkhira and Khulna, which have a capacity of about 27,000MT against 130,000 MT of production in the BGP area, and there is no cold storage in Patuakhali.

Natural cold storage facilities could be an interesting alternative to the capital intensive electrified cold-storage. The consultancy firm MarGEN is proposing a natural storage solution making use of locally available materials. This natural storage is designed to create a reduction in ambient temperature inside the storage of a few degrees, increasing shelf life. This technology has already been proven around the Rangpur and Bandarban areas. MarGEN is developing a proposal for a feasibility study that will identify if there are polder locations with enough agriculture production to warrant a natural cold-storage facility, and if a business model can be setup to finance such a facility,

6. Projects rejected

Table 4 - Summary of rejected projects

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Componer	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details	Amount paid
08/03/2015	Acacia Water	Feasibility study Aquifer Recharge for Agriculture and Proposal for Pilot Project	C2	Productive Sector Fund	€ 5,000	5 Apr 2015: Draft feasibility proposal received 25 May 2015: Proposal rejected by EKN; business model remains unclear. 1 Sep 2015: Business case calculations received by BG 3 Nov 2015: Business case of proposal rejected by BG 14 Jan 2016: Payment €5,000 on concept note work approved	Both the EKN and the BG IF found that the commercial viability of using water for irrigation during the dry season is not sufficiently proven.	€ 5,000
24/03/2015	EcoStories	Improved Cooking Stoves	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 30,500	16 Jun 2015: Received draft proposal 31 Aug 2015: Received revised proposal 6 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 25 Feb 2016: No follow up	After 5 months of inactivity from the applicant the BG IF decided to reject the proposal.	€ -
22/06/2015	Winning Agro	TA on calf rearing and product placement	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ -	15 Jun 2015: Meeting with Winning Agro and Sloten 22 Jun 2015: Concept note presentation by WA 02 Sep 2015: Comments TA team on concept note shared 08 Dec 2015: WA withdraws proposal	WinningAgro did not see a possibility to introduce their livestock feed product without the BG IF directly subsidizing the price of the product. Therefore the BG IF rejected the proposal.	€ -
22/07/2015	Twijnstra Gudde	Study wind and tidal energy	C2 + C5	Water Management Fund	€ 125,000	23 Jul 2015: Proposal received 14 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 14 Sep 2015: Proposal declined by BG	The TG proposal does not fit within the funding structure of the BG IF. The proposal focuses on research only and has a budget of €125,000.	€ -
17/09/2015	MetaMeta	Biological rodent control	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 84,500	15 Sep 2015: Proposal received 21 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 26 Oct 2015: Revised proposal received 10 Feb 2016: Proposal declined by BG	As the Blue Gold polders are not experiencing any hindrance from rodents the BG IF declines the proposal for biological rodent control.	€ -

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Date receive	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details	Amount paid
03/12/2015	Matrix Consultancy	Strengthening cattle supply chain	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	03 Dec 2015: Concept note received 14 Dec 2015: Comments from TA team shared 30 Juni 2016: No follow up on meeting, no response. Proposal is removed from application status.		€ -
01/03/2016	Patuakhali University	Carp & Tilapia hatchery	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	1 Mar 2016: Proposal received 29 Mar 2016: Comments TA team shared 26 Apr 2016: visit to Patuakhali University for on site discussion 30 Juni 2016: No follow up on meeting, no response. Proposal is removed from application status.		€ -
21/03/2016	Practical Action	Crab market study	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 24,963	21 Mar 2016: proposal received 18 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared & proposal rejected	The TA-tam is of the opinion that there is currently no scope for commercial & sustainable crab production inside the BG program area.	€ -
07/05/2016	Dutch Water Partners	Feasibility study on commercial water filtration	C2	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	07 May 2016: proposal received 08 May 2016: Comments EKN shared & proposal rejected	EKN not convinced that proposal offers or promises anything very different from what other similar studies/projects (Sujol, MAR, etc.) have offered/tried out – and which did not, thus far, yielded any sustainable successes in terms of introducing sustainable models for commercial water vending (i.e., others than already exist locally....).	€ -
10/02/2016	GIZ	Collaboration on improved cookstove dissemination	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 21,175	10 Feb 2016: Proposal received 25 Feb 2016: Comments TA team shared 5 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received 4 Apr 2016: Field visit to GIZ activities 24 May 2016: workshop on GIZ activities at Khulna office 28 May 2016: Revised proposal received 2 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared 26 Jul 2016: request for response sent 10 Aug 2016: comments TA team on revised proposal shared	17 Aug 2016: meeting with Khaleq from GIZ, decide not to proceed	

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Date receive	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details	Amount paid
23/12/2015	Witteveen & Bos	Scoping mission on small scale dredging	C2	Water Management Fund	-	27 Aug 2015: Proposal received 20 Sep 2015: Comments TA team shared 08 Feb 2016: Revised proposal received 09 Feb 2016: Proposal under review TA team 07 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 19 May 2016: Revised proposal received 23 May 2016: Second revision received 06 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team on BWDB involvement shared 01 Aug 2016: Follow up email from TA-team asking update	15 Sep 2016: No follow up, no response. Proposal is removed from application status	€ 5,000

GIZ Cooking Stoves

Although GIZ's proposal for introducing improved cooking stoves in the BGP area had almost reached implementation, a difference in opinion on the implementation of the proposal eventually led the TA-team to break-off GIZ's application to the Innovation Fund. The fundamental differences laid in quantifying both the estimate numbers of cookstoves to be sold, and the locations of the sales. The TA-team decided that without a clear overview of both these parameters, the chances of successful implementation were minimal, and has therefore rejected the proposal.

Witteveen & Bos Small Scale Dredging

The proposal of Witteveen & Bos for a scoping mission on commercial applications for small scale dredging was rejected based on the inactivity (no response) from the applicant's side.

7. Projects completed

Table 5 - Summary of completed projects (no change from Q2 Apr - Jun 2016)

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date Contract Awarded	Contract office
01/04/2014	WorldFish	Women-managed small household ponds (SHHP)	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 45,000	05 Apr 2014: Start of project 08 Mar 2015: No cost extension June 2015 18 Jun 2015: No cost extension Dec 2015 28 Dec 2015: Final report received	YES	05/04/2015	DHAKA
01/05/2014	Neelen en Schuurmans	Development and introduction of a web-based GIS information platform	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 48,000	01 May 2014: Start of project 22 Aug 2015: Training mission BG staff completed 03 Sep 2015: Final report received	YES	21/05/2014	ARNHEM / DHAKA
01/07/2014	IMARES	Pearl cultivation	C4	Water Management Fund	€ 10,000	01 Jul 2014: Start of desk study 01 Jan 2015: Final report received	YES	01/07/2014	ARNHEM
11/03/2015	DWA - YEP	YEP consultant via DWA Rijnland	C2	-	€ -	11 Feb 2015: Start of YEP recruitment procedure 09 Sep 2015: Contract signed with DWA 17 Sep 2015: Start date Ruud Leibbrand	YES	-	-
10/04/2015	GreyShack	Scoping study on energy use in BG area	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 7,316	25 Aug 2015: Start project 11 Dec 2015: Initial study report received 14 Jan 2016: Workshop and discussion on report conclusions 25 Feb 2016: Received the revised final report	YES	11/08/2015	DHAKA

8. Financial report on unsolicited proposals

Table 6 – Value of Contracts Awarded by Date of Award

Period	Number of Contracts Awarded	Value of Contract Awarded	Cumulative Value of Contracts Awarded		
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	0	€ 0	€ 58,000		
2015 - Q2	2	€ 45,000	€ 103,000		
2015 - Q3	2	€ 57,283	€ 160,283		
2015 - Q4	0	€ 0	€ 160,283		
2016 - Q1	0	€ 0	€ 160,283		
2016 - Q2	5	€ 144,094	€ 304,377		
2016 - Q3	1	€ 49,996	€ 354,373		
2016 - Q4	8	€ 275,000	€ 629,373		Forecast

By the end of Q3 2016, a cumulative value of €354,373 contracts had been awarded through the Innovation Fund. Taking account of the anticipated award of contracts for eight proposals, the Q4 2016 forecast total is €629,373,.

Figure 8.1 Cumulative Value of Contract Awards

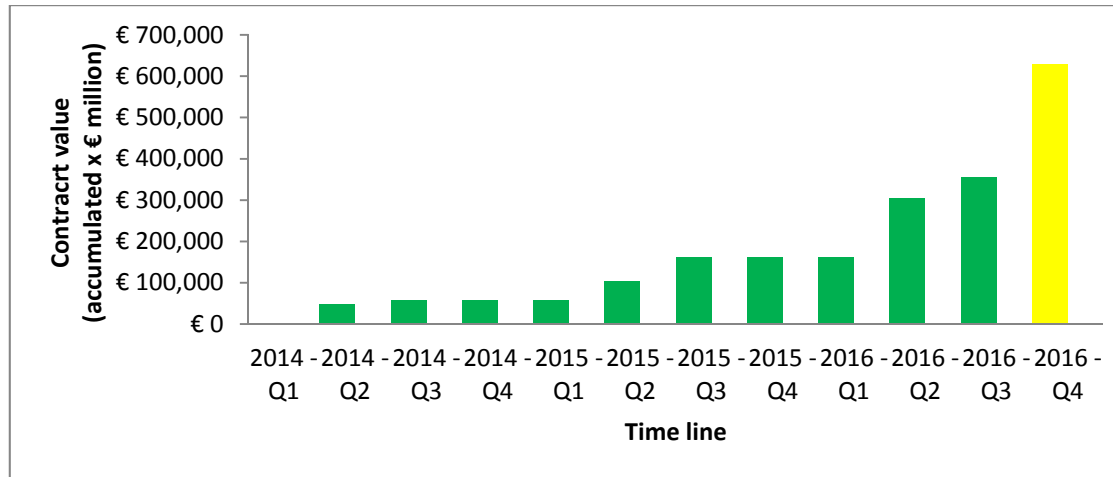
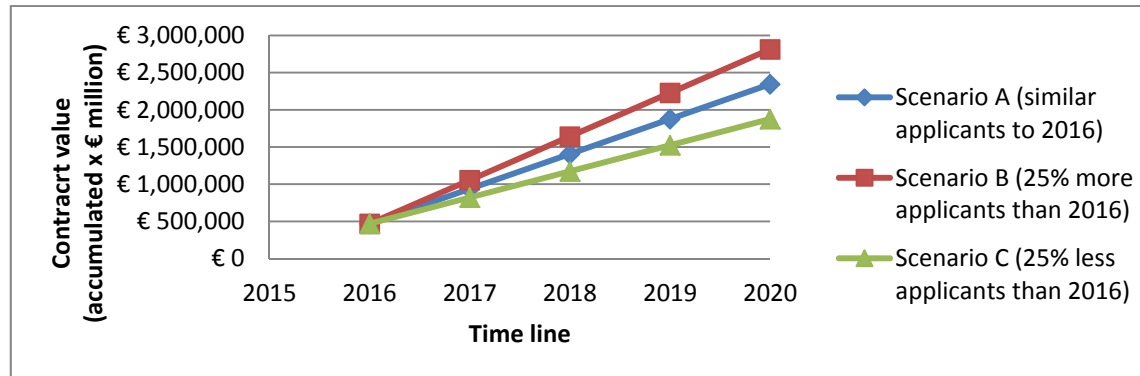


Figure 8.2 Projected Cumulative Value of Contract Awards 2017-2020



9. Status of solicited proposals

Tender topic	Budget	Completion schedule	Status	Details
Small scale dredging/excavation of in-polder drainage <i>khals</i>	€ 500,000	end-September 2016	31 Mar 2016: interview with dredging consultant 21 Jul 2016: draft tender document shared 25 Jul 2016: comments Ben Lamoree received 25 Jul 2016: comments Khaled EKN received 02 Aug 2016: coordination meeting EKN 07 Aug 2016: request for follow up meeting EKN sent 25 Aug 2016: request for follow up meeting EKN sent 12 Sep 2016: request for follow up meeting EKN sent	Awaiting input from EKN and BWDB before finalizing tender document
Low cost embankment protection in coastal rivers	€ 500,000	end-September 2016	23 Jun 2016: First BWDB committee meeting to agree core objectives of initiative 19 Jul 2016: ADG Planning office order establishing six member committee 18 Aug 2016: Meeting to agree design principles 4-5 Sep 2016: Visit to Lower Bhadra River by committee, IWM and EKN team 22 Aug 2016: Revised ADG Planning office order establishing six member committee 15 Oct 2016: target date for design completion	Design to be finalised by 15 Oct 2016

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

Tender topic	Budget	Completion schedule	Status	Details
ICT in agriculture	€ 500,000	March 2017	19 Dec 2015: compilation of ICT project overview in Bangladesh completed 20 Dec 2015: meeting Next Billion to discuss ICT collaboration opportunities 07 Feb 2016: Co-creation workshop with WinMiaki on ICT possibilities for BG 16 Feb 2016: meeting Practical Action to discuss ICT collaboration opportunities 03 Mar 2016: presentation of outcomes WinMiaki workshop 20 May 2016: TA-team workshop on horizontal learning concept + ICT within BG 29 May 2016: meeting mPower to discuss collaboration opportunities with BG 14 Jul 2016: concept note on Next Billion approach for BG approved 31 Aug 2016: TA-team workshop on ICT strategy for BG	BG ICT strategy to be finalized in November 2016

Small-scale dredging/excavation of in-polder drainage *khals*

A draft proposal is to be submitted to EKN and BWDB for approval.

Low-cost embankment protection in coastal rivers

Based on the outcomes of a study on river bank erosion management in Polder 29 (Chandgor, Khulna) by the institute of Water Modelling (IWM), it is proposed that the permeable groynes recommended in IWM's report will be piloted to assess their suitability as a low cost form of protection of coastal river embankments. A presentation to BWDB on the outcome of the IWM study was held on 23rd June, as a result of which the chair of the meeting appointed a BWDB committee to look at the technical design of the groynes and the modalities for implementation, with PCD as Member Secretary, Blue Gold Program TA team providing assistance, and IWM offering technical advice.

After completing designs and cost estimations, tender documents will be prepared for a civil engineering contract for the construction of the groynes. To comply with requirements of the Innovation Fund, a number of Dutch-Bangladesh contractors will be shortlisted for the civil works. The modality for implementation is aimed to include: (a) Dutch specialist skills - alongside IWM - in reviewing design criteria, monitoring during construction, and monitoring the impact of the measures; and (b) Dutch contracting skills in advising on construction methodologies, and contract management. Finance will come from the TA Budget of the Blue Gold Program under the Innovation Fund. It is expected that tenders will be invited in October/November 2016 with the aim of awarding a contract in January 2016, for completion by end-June 2016. The impact of the groynes will be measured for a period of 18 to 24 months, including at least one full flood season.

Blue Gold Program Innovation Fund

The BWDB committee plans to complete design work by 15th October, after which engineering cost estimates and tender documents will be prepared.

ICT in agriculture

Creating ICT literacy amongst BG beneficiaries and government field staff is a first step towards creating a competency that will remain long after the ending of the TA assignment. Training BG beneficiaries and staff on accessing information and developing ICT skill is a priority for the BG program. There are various platforms available which source information and can be accessed via the internet. Companies like mPower, Practical Action and WinMiaki have all developed their own platform, often with financial support from donors (USAID). It is however unclear whether these platforms are financially sustainable. By using these platforms as part of the training of farmers, facilitators and DAE staff, the level of ICT literacy is developed – even if in the longer term these sources are replaced by others.