

Report on Experience Share on Women Empowerment through Backyard Poultry Rearing

1. Introduction

Blue Gold Program is working for poverty reduction of selected polders' dweller in south-west coastal region and the main vehicle for achieving the aforesaid goal is to use of water management benefits that are derived from improvement water infrastructures¹. Apart from that there are many others activities like FFS (for homestead gardening, poultry rearing, pond fish culture, beef fattening etc.) value chain development activities also been done. Since, poverty reduction is the core objective of Blue Gold thus BGP thinks if, half of working hands (women) are remain idle then poverty reduction is not possible, thus BGP try to involve women in different its activities as well as those are income and job employment activities. So, that the women can contribute to their HHs for income and production and by this way BGP is trying to empower the women of BGP working polders.

To accelerate the BGP's achievements or good practices, BGP follows horizontal learning process, and as part of that an experience share event on women empowerment through backyard poultry rearing has been held. This event was held in festival mood, interactive and as well as responsive manner.

2. Participants, Date and Venue

There were participated 25 interested couples from 5 WMGs- Akhoibaria Bahermouza, Naomala Nizbotkazal Bhangra, Betagi Sankipur Radhasetaram, Chowankhola Labilochan Lamna and Patabunia WMG of polder 55/2A as learner participants. Those participants were invited by the host WMG (Betagi Chikarbandh WMG). 5 women (Jotsna Begum, Farida Begum, Tulu Bibi, Salma Begum and Helena Begum) were participated from the host² WMG for sharing their successful experiences. Moreover, there were also attend Mr. Maloy Kumar Sure, District Livestock Officer (DLO) from the GoB part, and as guest participants there were present Mr. Guy Jones, BGP Team Leader, Md. Aowlad Hossain, Institutional/Legal Advisor, Roksana Begum, Gender Coordinator, and G.M. Khairul Islam, Communications Specialist. In addition of that, Mr. F.M. Shorab Hossain, Non-Res Zonal Coordinator & Community Organisation Expert, attend in the aforesaid event and oversee the whole program. The zonal experts also participated to success the experience share on women empowerment through backyard poultry rearing. There were also present two observers- Mr. Dr. Jeffery W. Bentley and Mr. Harun-Ar-Rashid from Agro-Insight. The event was held on February 28, 2018, at Chinguria village of Betagi Chikerbandh WMG under polder 55/2A. This venue is situated under Dasmina upazila of Patuakhali district.

¹ Water infrastructures are Sluice, Outlet, Inlet, and Khals etc.

² Host WMG is Betagi Chikarbandh WMG

3. What Achieved at Chinguria Village under Betagi Chikarbandh WMG

There is happened a transformation from housewife to small entrepreneur of backyard poultry. Though this transformation the woman has got dignity to the family as well as society, relief from physical & mental assaults by their male partner, liberty to use money as required, ensured participation in family decision making process, and control over family resources and make owner of some resources, after all it contributes to achieving BGP goal that is reduced the household poverty. The fact is there was conducted a FFS on homestead gardening, poultry rearing and nutrition in 2016, and as part of FFS there was demonstrated a trial on small scale poultry rearing at improved method including housing systems. By seen the result of trial many of them started poultry rearing with improved technologies and they take it as their farm as business and resulting is the poverty reduction with women empowerment.

4. What happened in the Event Day (What Activities were held in the HL)

The event day (experience sharing) was in festival mood through different activities. These activities are mentioned below in sequentially. The whole program was moderated by MS Tanjila Akter, daughter of WMG & FFS member Mst. Salma. The program started by cited the Holy Quran.



Fig. 1: Tanjila Akter, Daughter of WMG/FFS member Salma Begum is moderating the session

4.1 Reception to the Invitees

After taking the chair of host WMG's president, guests, invitee participants then the host WMG gave red rose welcome to the invitees and guests by gifting red rose flower.



Fig. 2: Reception with red rose

4.2 Introducing each other

The person who was present in the aforesaid experience sharing event s/he has introduced as following self-introducing method.

4.3 Welcome Address

□ Welcome speech of host WMG:

Mr. Monir Biswas, the President of host WMG (Betagi Chikarbandh WMG) 1st delivered his welcome speech, since he was the Chair of that program. He welcomed invitee participants who came for learning from different WMGs for his WMG, and then then he gave thanks to BGP management for giving opportunity to him to organize this event. He also said that he is very thankful to BGP Team Leader for visiting his WMG.



Fig. 3: President of host WMG is delivering his welcome speech

❑ **Welcome Speech of Zonal Coordinator:**

The Zonal Coordinator of Patuakhali, (Mr. F.M Shorab Hossain) delivered his welcome address. He thanked to host WMG for arranging such event, he thanked to DLO for attending as government representative, and finally he thanked to BGP Team Leader and other officials who contributed to conducted this event. He gave special thanks to CDFs for facilitating to obtain such success. He thanked to Gender Coordinator and Institutional Expert for providing necessary support to conduct that program.



Fig 4: Zonal Coordinator is delivering welcome address

❑ **Welcome Speech of BGP Team Leader:** 1st he thanked to host WMG for crating opportunity to for him to take such experience. He also thanked to invitee participants



Fig 5: BGP Team Leader is delivering his welcome speech and ZC, Pat. translated that speech

(couples) who came for learning from different WMG. He gave special thanks to the women who have taken their poultry farm as business. He also gave thanks to the DLO for attending in this program and contributing lot to poultry rearing the rural women. He also gave special thanks to Roksana Begum, Gender Coordinator for feeling that women take farm as business and taking initiative to spread out this success. Again he gave special thanks to S. Nahar, CDF to assist this community to do this business (poultry rearing). Then he said that the invitee WMGs' members will learn lot from host participants, who have done this farm as business.

4.4 Described Principles of Horizontal Learning

Md. Aowlad Hossain, Institutional/ Legal Advisor addressed to all present audience including guests and participants. Then he explained the objectives and principles of horizontal learning. He said this event is not same as training session. This is such learning process where the learners learn from the same level of people who have done that and obtain success. Thus it a reciprocal learning process where both the parties share their experiences and identify the best one.



Fig. 6: Md. Aowlad Hossain explained HL principles

4.5 Experience Share of Hosts and Question & Answering Session

There were 5 women who have become success in backyard poultry farm business and pulled out themselves from household poverty and ignominy of their male partner. There were 5 women shared their success experiences on poultry farm business and also changing dignity in their family. They also shared how contribute in their household costs and decision making process. In below the stated experiences are motioned consecutively.



- ❑ **Jotsna Begum:** She said that before of starting poultry farm business poverty was constant companion in her of family. Now that ambience is not existed in her family, and it has become possible by backyard poultry farm business. She has received training on vegetables production at homestead and backyard poultry rearing in improved poultry house from BGP conducted FFS. Earlier they also reared poultry but that was not profitable and right way. Earlier they reared duck & hen in same and dark small house. Now she used improved hazol for hatching eggs and separate chamber for chickens and adult poultry birds. After receiving training she has made a big poultry house where maintain enough ventilation for available air and sunlight passing. Now she separate the hens from chickens after 15 days of hatching and this way she make shorter the laying gap in between two cycle of egg. She sold 2-2.5 moths aged poultry birds at farm gate with reasonable price. Now she earns BDT 10,000-12,000 thousand per month from her poultry farm. She said that now she doesn't take money from her hubby for meeting her personal requisites rather, she gifts money to her hubby. Now she is carrying the educational costs of her children, and she has one DPS of BDT 1,000/month. She also answered some technical questions; those were asked by the invitee participants. She invited to visit her farm and learn about backyard poultry rearing.
- ❑ **Farida Begum:** She also said that earlier she was bad experienced in her family as consequent effect of poverty. She said that sometime she was abused by her husband also. Her husband was only the earning person and his earn was not sufficient for to maintain her family successfully. She also said that her husband's thinking was she was sitting idle and increase his costs. But at present his thinking is changed at 180⁰ angle, now his thinking is she also a productive/earning person for family. She provided BDT 40,000 to her husband for investing in cow rearing. She said that backyard poultry farm is very helpful for gain independency of women. She informed that another 50-60 families visited her farm and they are rearing poultry successfully. She said that she vaccinated regularly to her poultry birds and provides both commercial and homemade feeds.

- ❑ **Tulu Bibi:** She also said that there is happened numerous changes in her family after and before of joining with BGP conducted FFS. Earlier her husband said, that she was sitting idle and loss his income, she has no any dignity in the family and didn't get any respect/cordial behaviour from her male partner. But now the situation is changed, now she is earning from her poultry farm and contribute in the family expenditures. She has given BDT 40,000 to her husband for purchasing cow.
- ❑ **Salma Bugum:** Salma Begum also same type of story. She provided the economical calculation for the invitee participants. She said that if anyone will rear 10 poultry birds then she will get gross return BDT 5,000 and make profit BDT 2000 from that. She said if the parent hen's weight is 1kg then it can hatch ½ kg of eggs that is 10-12 eggs, and the parent hen's weight is 1.5 Kg the it can hatch 15-20 eggs. If anyone maintain this ratio then her business will not run with good profit, because there will be the chance the of underutilization if less number eggs set for hatching or loss eggs in case of more number eggs set for hatching.
- ❑ **Helena Begum:** Her story is also same with others. She explained about the improved hazol and its benefits. He invited to all invitee participants and guests to visit their farms and asked gather experiences about backyard poultry farming.

4.6 Host's HH/farm visit

After sharing experiences as invitation of host WMG participants the invitee participants visited poultry farm by dividing into five groups. The invitee participants observed improved house and hazol and how they (host participants) maintain their poultry birds in the house. They also (invitee participants) asked different question and made clear sense on poultry birds. In that time the guests also visited the successful poultry farms.



Fig. 12: Invitee participants and the honorable guests are visiting the successful poultry farm

4.7 Expression share of Farm visit and action plan preparation

After completion of farm visit all participants again took sit and expressed option and apprehension on farm visit and then all the invitee couples prepared an action plan in a pre-designed format for doing their next steps to backyard poultry farming. After preparing the action plan, that plan was also been presented by the couples who made the action plan.



Fig. 13: Action plan preparation and plan presentation

4.8 Guests' opinion expression

Those were guests they also shared their observations. The DLO, Patuakhali said that here really happened renaissance in backyard poultry farming. He is very thankful to BGP for offering to join such event. He also declared that when the BGP beneficiaries call them (DLS officials) they will response always. He also provided some technical advices to the farm owners.

BGP Team leader also shared his experience and he gave thanks the women they make this such success. He thanked to DLO to contribute in this success and his (DLO) commitment for providing necessary services.



Fig.14: Dr. Maloy Kumar Sure, DLO, Patuakhali is delivering his opinions and advices

4.9 Vote of Thanks and closing the session

Roksana Begum, Gender Coordinator she thanked to the Betagi Chikarbandh WMG leaders and the women who were the key persons to this event. She also thanked to BGP Team Leader for attending the event and gave thanks to zonal and polder team to assist her to successfully conduct the event.



Fig. 15: Roksana Begum is delivering her speech

F.M. Shorab Hossain, Non-Res Zonal Coordinator, Patuakhali & Community Organisation Expert gave thanks both host and invitee WMGs who helped to make success the event. He also gave thanks to the polder team for well performing the jobs.

Finally the chairman of the event gave thanks to all specially his members who make the success, and then he gave thanks to invitee participants who came for learning. He gave special thanks to BGP Team Leader for visit his WMG's activities.

5. Conclusion

Such experience sharing event is very fruitful and effective to rapid dissemination of BGP success from one WMG to another. In such event the learners get opportunity and feel free to ask and learn at congenial environment. To make action plan in the event helps to CDFs for providing follow-up support and assistances. On the other hand, the joint visit husband & wife and as well as make action plan is very helpful to implement the plan. By participating the both husband and wife the learning will more fruitful than others method and the understanding also be better. Thus such events need to be increase in the program, so that the BGP can achieve its goal in the defined time frame.

6. Annexures

6.1 Program schedule that was followed

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6.2 Format of action plan preparing

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