



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 Q1-2019

Blue Gold Innovation Fund



Progress Report Q1-2019

January to March 2019

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 January to 31 March 2019 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 31 March 2019

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)	29 (total)	0	0	1
One new project contract signed in Q4, 2 phase III project contracts signed	Phase II Innovision Agro Service Ltd. completed			Phase III Innovision Agro Service Pangasius

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 (UP) – Phase III: Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance & Technology (SWIFT)** SWIFT phase III proposal was received on 7 Feb 2019, it was accepted as performance so far has been remarkable. Main strengths of SWIFT: i) Good documentation, ii) Involvement of relevant government agencies at the relevant authority levels (DAE advise on recommended crops, BWDB endorsement of infrastructure), iii) Valuation and monetisation of in-kind contributions of community members, enhanced ownership, iv) Awareness improvement of available funding channels – and procedures – amongst community members and confidence to attract funding for small scale infrastructure.
- **UP – Phase III: Women Business Centers (WBC)** Phase III consolidates phase II WBC, rather than expands it. It will focus on making the 4 WBCs profitable and sustainable, by coaching and handholding the women entrepreneurs.
- **CIMMYT – Leveraging decision making science to sustain climate- and market-smart mungbean advisories in Patuakhali’s polder communities.** the project has shifted from mobile apps to IVR system for weather information advisory systems for mung bean farmers. CYMMIT partnered BIID is working on IVR to provide weather information to Mung Bean farmers. CIMMYT will collect this information from Department of Meteorology. Budget neutral change.
- **Khulna University (KU) - Development of value- added products from water hyacinth to support alternative livelihoods and ecological resilience in coastal villages of southwest Bangladesh.**

Contract preparation and signing was done in a speedy and professional manner, project started in time since Feb/March/ April is the time when the water hyacinth is the biggest problem

Projects nearing completion

The following projects have finalised its field activities in Q1 2019, and submitted final reports in Jan 2019. Both phase III project proposals were accepted.

- *United Purpose – Women Business Centres phase II*
- *United Purpose - SWIFT Phase II*

Projects completed

Innovision (Pangasius value chain project) ended in 31 January 2019, phase III proposal was not accepted.

New contracts signed or under negotiation

The following new contracts were signed in Q1-2019 (for more information see chapter 1):

- Khulna University (new contract, new project),
- United Purpose (UP) SWIFT project (new contract, old project phase III),
- UP WBC (new contract, old project phase III)

Concepts/proposals under development

None.

Concepts/proposals rejected

No new concepts received, call was closed in Q3 2018.

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)
United Purpose	Women Business Centers, <i>phase III</i>	Pilot Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	1 April '19 - 31 Jan '20	€ 30,641	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TA team was critical about the final report of Phase II regarding the correctness of output and outcome data. UP obtained a contract extension of 2 months, which ended 20 Jan. 2019. The revised phase 3 proposal was submitted late (20-01-2019, instead of 12-01-2019) and is currently being appraised. 11 March 2019: Received revised final proposal for Phase III. 31 March 2019: Contract signing Phase III completed at BGP office. Phase III consolidates phase II WBC, rather than expands it. It will focus on making the 4 WBCs profitable and sustainable, by coaching and handholding the women entrepreneurs. United Purpose is now in the process of establishing a social enterprise (a kind of apex body) as a support system for all WBCs. This should be operational in 6 months, and will also provide follow-up support to the Blue Gold WBCs. 	(Revised) Final report and (revised) phase III proposal	€ 0	€ 30,641

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, <i>phase III</i>	Pilot for testing various finance models for small-scale water management infrastructure	21 March '19 - 31 Dec '19	€ 53,146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22.01.2019. Progress review meeting held at Patuakhali with SWIFT field staff. Observed good documentation and endorsement of infrastructure by BWBD, Blue Gold. DAE also advise on recommended crops. BGP Team Leader and BGIF managers visited SWIFT field activities and observed two FCDI projects (culvert and microdam). UP Chairman, WMG leaders and farmers were present during the field visit. Local beneficiaries expressed happiness with newly established infra. Intensive community engagement and capacity building of WMGs was the key contributor to the success of the approach in phase 2, which will be continued in phase III in polder 43/2A and 55/2A, with a much higher target of structures to be implemented under phase III. Two field trips with DAE/BWDB staff in Patuakhali zone and BWDB and DAE staff will be invited to SWIFT workshops to increase potential for learning of this best-practise project. 	Phase III proposal	€ 0	€ 53,146
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	€ 132,654	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mPower drafted a script on Shurokkha promotional video documentary and start shooting after feedback from Blue Gold Livestock Expert, will complete shooting within June 2019. 28.04.2019 midterm review workshop at Patuakhali. The livestock farmers, Community Livestock Worker (CLW), Artificial Inseminators (AI) service provider, WMG members, Local DLS representatives, DLS Focal Point, BGP zonal and central representatives participated in the workshop. Local and Central DLS representatives appreciated regarding the benefit of livestock services digitally. Shurakhha services help farmers getting treatment facilities for animals through apps. AI workers getting more confident by using breed identification apps on selecting semen for the cattle services. Focal Point also pointed out to ensure seven days tale-services instead of existing five days and appreciated BGP for this innovation project. 	February 2019 bi-monthly report	€ 60,030	€ 69,624

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is fully operational in 10 polders and on track with implementation. Progress: During this period, 3 video trainings were organised for WMGs in Polders 22, 27/1, and 30, all in Khulna region. This concluded 5 out of 5 trainings scheduled in Khulna region, and 8 out of the 10 WMG trainings overall. During the trainings, 3 video competition rounds were announced corresponding to the 3 polders where trainings were held. Video collection for these rounds has started already. Video collection continued for Polder 43/2A and 43/2D where video competition was announced in November 2018. A sufficient number of videos has now been collected and winners will be chosen and awarded soon. During the reporting period, winners of the video competition from Polder 28/2 were awarded. In January 2019, we had progress review meetings at Arnhem, Khulna and Dhaka with the project implementing organization (consortium MetaMeta-Lead, JJS and Access Agro). Synergy SWIFT project and Horizontal Learning – make good practise video by Horizontal learning team. Instruction video's to be made Access Agriculture have to made locally (in polder area of Bangladesh). 	Bi-monthly progress report Dec-Feb 2019	€ 51,690	€ 77,446
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 Aug 2018 - 30 June 2020	€ 132,456	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIMMYT now has a good understanding of the preferences farmers have for receiving the information through applications. As smart phones are not widely used, voice and text messages to around 70 farmers directly is a viable option. Additionally, they connected people like imams could also be informed daily and they could relay the message to their networks. CIMMYT had promised development of weather information advisory systems as mobile smartphone apps. But at time of implementation they claimed to have found that farmers are interested to get weather alert on interactive voice response systems/IVR (instant voice recording) for weather alert. Thus, the 	Monthly progress report Feb 2019	€ 52,982	€ 79,474

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
					<p>project has shifted from mobile apps to IVR system for weather information advisory systems for mung bean farmers. CYMMIT partnered BIID is working on IVR to provide weather information to Mung Bean farmers. CIMMYT will collect this information from Department of Meteorology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIMMYT will able to provide market information from year 2020. 			
Khulna University	Development of value- added products from water hyacinth to support alternative livelihoods and ecological resilience in coastal villages of southwest Bangladesh	Production of value-added products from water hyacinth will provide an economic incentive for people to collect it from water bodies and sustainably reduce waterlogging.	1 Feb 2019 - 31 Jan 2020	€ 53,146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contract preparation and signing was done in a speedy and professional manner, project started in time since Feb/March/ April is the time when the water hyacinth is the biggest problem. ▪ Weakness of project proposal was market linkage for craft paper products, this is now a contract condition. A suitable business partner needs to be found within 3 months, otherwise Khulna University will receive no further funds. The business partner and Khulna university will submit a joint working schedule. ▪ 11.03.2019 Progress review meeting at Khulna University (KU) to review project status with Prof. Nazmul and Prof. Nazrul. Preliminary selected project location and KU almost finalized suitable partner to work on value chain development and commercial side of establishing linkages with relevant buyers of the processed water hyacinth products. They planned to work with Business Department of KU, Bangladesh Environment Development Society and Khulna Fine Arts institute together. ▪ 19.03.2019 Inception workshop held at in Khulna, Zonal Coordinator Matior attended together with 4 CDFs (Polder-25 + 27/1), 2 WMA presidents (Polder-25, 27/1+27/2), 10 WMG representatives from Polder-25, 1 from World Fish, 2 from Solidaridad Network Asia, 1 from BEDS (Bangladesh Environment Development Society), 11 participants from Khulna University and 2 from Wageningen University(Project member and Phd fellow). 	Feb 2019 monthly progress report	€ 0	€ 53,146

2. Projects completed

The following project was completed in Q4-2018. 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
Innovision Agro Service Ltd.	Piloting on augmenting homestead 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase II performed well but its impact was limited to direct beneficiaries, and its unclear whether the project actually solves a big problem (in the supply chain) for beneficiaries or simply increases their (moderate) profits.

3. Proposals in final stage of review

None.

4. Concepts under development

None.

5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

Innovision - Pangasius project phase III. The appraisal team was not sufficiently convinced that phase 3 of this project provided significant opportunities for learning and seemed to be a repletion of phase 2.

- The proposal does not really scale up its activities as we expect our Innovation Fund projects to do; which go through Feasibility Study stage, then implementation and finally scale up. Phase 3 serves a similar number of beneficiaries and operates at a similar scale compared to the previous phase.
- Insufficient evidence of learning from phase 2 implementation.
- Unconvinced of the market constraints that phase 3 tries to resolve when resorting to the production of local feed.

6. 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.

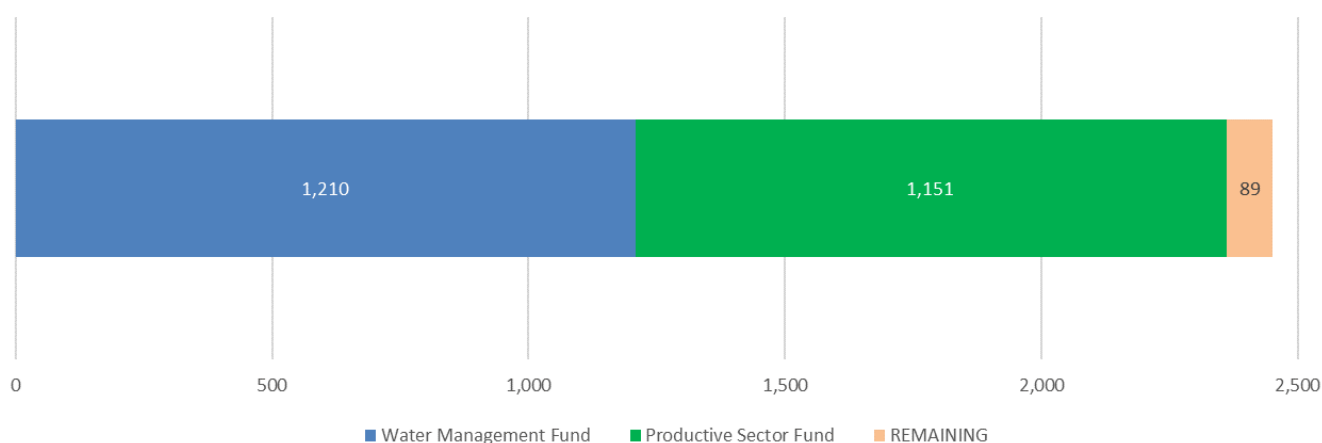
BGIF financial overview

Find below BGIF financial overview as of 31 March 2019:

	1. Sub-total Local Contracted Amount ('000 BDT)	2. Sub-total International Contracted Amount ('000 EUR)	3. Total equivalent contracted amount * ('000 EUR)	4. Total payment to date* ('000 EUR)
Water Management Fund	51,903	479	1,210	1,122
Productive Sector Fund	71,829	367	1,151	697
OVERALL TOTAL			2,361	1,820
Remaining			89	
TOTAL BUDGET			2,450	

* Including management costs

BGIF Actual or expected allocation and remaining budget (EUR)



The Water Management Fund has 3 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, phase III (EUR 53k), Khulna University: Water Hyacinth (EUR 46k).

The Productive Sector Fund has 4 running projects: United Purpose – Women Business Centres, phase III (EUR 30k); mPower - Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle (EUR 132k); CIMMYT –

Leveraging decision making science to sustain climate and market-smart mungbean advisories for Patuakhali's polder communities (EUR 132k). Practical Action – Sack farming and agromet services (EUR 50k).

Future planning

Remaining EUR: 89 thousand

At the moment, 89k EUR is unallocated. Of this amount, roughly EUR 10k will go to Khulna University for the contract addendum that was identified at the start of the project. Also, another EUR 20 k for currency fluctuations as an old exchange rate (100BDT/EUR, now it's around 92.5BDT/EUR) has been used with some of the old proposals which are still being paid out (swift phase II for example), so EUR 59k is a more accurate estimate of what funds are currently left in the Innovation Fund. A strategic decision needs to be made how these funds should be spent.