



Blue Gold Program

Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) 02, 2015

01 April - 30 June, 2015

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)**

July 2015



Program Data

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Approval date DPP (DAE component)	24 July 2013
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Contractor	Euroconsult Mott MacDonald
Implementing Partners	Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
Contribution GoN	€ 15,750,000 to be administered by BWDB € 995,000 to be administered by DAE € 33,100,000 Technical Assistance
Contribution GoB	BWDB: € 7,499,000 DAE: € 356,000
Total project budget	EURO 57,700,000
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Issue and Revision Record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
1.0	09-07-2015	Blue Gold Team	Proteeti Masud; Dirk Smits	Dirk Smits	1 st Draft QPR 02, 2015
1.1	21-07-2015	Blue Gold Team	Proteeti Masud; Dirk Smits	Hero Heering	QPR 02, 2015

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List of Abbreviations

ADP	Annual Development Plan
AEO	Agricultural Extension Officer
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Program
CDSP IV	Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV
CEIP	Coastal Embankment improvement Project
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
CO	Community Organizer
CPWF	Challenge Programme on Water and Food (CPWF)
CSISA	Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoC or DOC	Department of Cooperatives
DoF or DOF	Department of Fisheries
DP III	Department of Planning III
DPP	Development Project Proforma
DTL	Deputy Team Leader
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
EMM	Euroconsult Mott MacDonald
FFS	Farmers Field School
FGD	Focus group Discussion
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GESAP	Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (of BWDB)
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GoN	Government of the Netherlands
GPWM	Guidelines for Participatory Water Management
ha	Hectare
HH	Household
IFMC	Integrated Farm Management Component
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPSWAM	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management
IPSWARM	Guidelines for Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Resources Management
IWM	Institute of Water Modelling
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LCG	Local Consultative Group
LCS	Landless/Labour Contracting Societies
LG	Local Government
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGI	Local Government Institutions
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PCD	Project Coordinating Director
PD	Project Director
PDP	Polder Development Plan
PMC	Project Management Committee
PSC	Program Steering Committee
SDE	Sub-Divisional Engineer
SWAIWRPMP	Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project
TA	Technical Assistance
TL	Team Leader
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TOT	Training of Trainers
UAO	Upazilla Agricultural Officer
UP	Union Parishad
WAP	Water Management Group Action Plan
VC	Value Chain
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
VCD	Value Chain Development
VCS	Value Chain Selection
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene education
WMA	Water Management Association
WMG	Water Management Group
WMIP	Water Management Improvement Project
WMO	Water Management Organisation
WUR	Wageningen University and Research Centre
XEN	Executive Engineer (BWDB)
ZSEs	Zonal Socio-Economists

1. Program Highlights

1.1 General

Blue Gold Program

- The highlight of this quarter was undoubtedly the visit of the Dutch Minister for Infrastructure and Environment and the Bangladesh Minister for Water Resources to polder 43/2A in Patuakhali District on 17 June 2015. Many officials of both Dutch and Bangladesh Governments accompanied the Ministers on this field visit, which thanks to the efforts of many colleagues was much appreciated by all visitors.
- The fourth PMC meeting took place on 30 April 2015.
- After consultations with the main stakeholders it was decided to bring the Annual Plan 2015 of the TA team in line with the GoB financial year. At the end of June 2015, a revised Annual Work Plan, covering the period July 2015 to June 2016 was in the final stage of preparation.
- The Action Plan based on the recommendations of the first annual review mission (21 August – 06 September 2014) was updated and disseminated on 21 March 2015. Comments of BWDB were received in April 2015 and included in the latest version of the Action Plan (version 26 April 2015).
- The community mobilization team shifted their focus towards the formation and registration of WMG's in the new polders (polders 26, 31-part and 2) taking into account the new approach towards defining the WMG boundaries with more emphasis on hydrological aspects,
- For the water management resources team the quarter was an extremely busy one with emphasis on assisting BWDB in supervision of implementation of earthworks by contractors and LCS. The intern from Technical University Delft left Blue Gold at the end of April. The training of supervisory staff on quality control with a focus on compaction of embankments was continued via a part-time input of another intern, who will also carry out some research on compaction improvement options.
- Cooperation between Blue Gold and DAE remained complicated. A revision of the DPP for the DAE component is urgently required. Also, unclear financial procedures and reporting by DAE persisted.
- At the same time, component 3 and 4 staff worked successfully together on market-oriented FFS. Proposals are drafted to expand the MFS program substantially in the next season.
- Training of WMG's in water management issues (LCS training) and in business planning (notably in organisational management (OM), management of agricultural machineries (MAM) and in savings & credit (S&C)) gathered further momentum.
- The PDP's for polder 22 and polder 43/2F are completed; the PDP for polder 43/2D was almost ready at the end of the quarter and the PDP for polder 43/2E started. A new planning for the remaining PDP's was agreed upon in a PDP planning session on 8 June 2015.
- The update of the procedures manual for the Innovation Fund in consultation with EKN could not yet be completed.

1.2 Field Visits and Missions

Table 1: External visits to Blue Gold during the period April - June 2015

No.	Name of visitor	Designation	Purpose	Period
1	H.E.Melanie Schultz van Haegen	Dutch Minister for infrastructure and Environment		17 th June 2015
2	H.E.Anisul Islam	Bangladeshi Minister		17 th June 2015

	Mahmud	for Water Resources	
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Overview of Blue Gold international missions during the period April -June 2015

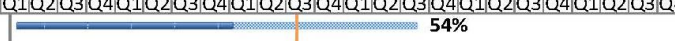
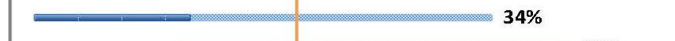


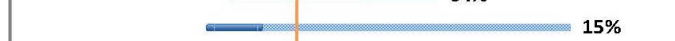


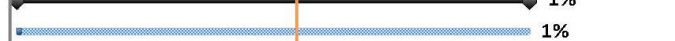
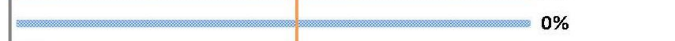





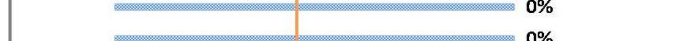











No.	Name of visitor	Designation	Purpose	Period
1.	Joris Obdam	Technical University Delft (TUD) intern	Internship on construction management and Quality Control in Patuakhali	15 February – 27 April 2015
2.	Hero Heering	Blue Gold Program Director	Back stopping plus institutional development support	part-time in May'15
3.	Kitty Bentvelsen	Sr. Gender Expert	Support to Gender Coordinator	18 March – 07 April 2015
4.	Judith de Bruijne	Jr. Water Resources Management specialist	Coordination of PDP process	Part-time from February 2015 onwards
5.	Geert Rhebergen	International Monitoring & Evaluation Expert	Developing outcome monitoring System	19 April - 23 rd April 2015
6	Findley Mostyn	Intern Blue Gold Program	Monitoring & Evaluation of soil Density	05 May – 17 June 2015 (Part time)


1.3 Status of WMG & WMA Formation

Table 2: Status of WMOs - formed and registered up to 30 June 2015

Sl. No.	Name of Polder	Nos. of WMGs			Nos. of WMAs		
		Proposed	Formed	Registered	Proposed	Formed	Registered
1	Polder 43/1A	14	14	13	2	3	0
2	Polder 43/2A	22	22	19	2	1	0
3	Polder 43/2B	28	28	28	3	3	0
4	Polder 43/2D	30	29	27	4	4	0
5	Polder 43/2E	12	12	12	2	2	0
6	Polder 43/2F	27	27	27	3	3	0
7	Polder 22	12	12	12	2	2	0
8	Polder 29	56	56	56	4	4	0
9	Polder 30	41	41	39	4	1	0
10	Polder 26	15	14	5	2	0	0
11	Polder 31 part	15	7	0	2	0	0
12	Polder 2	75	23	10	6	0	0
Total		347	285	248	36	23	0

1.4 Overall Work Plan and Progress

ID	Activities/ Items	Quantity (Target)	Quantity (Plan 2014-15)	Achievement 2014-15 (June)	Achievement upto Jun' 15	Unit (s)	% Complete																												
								2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019			
								Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
1	Polder Selection	26	2	2	14	Nos.	54%																												
2	WMG Formation	850	77	40	282	Nos.	34%																												
3	WMG Registration	850	310	248	248	Nos.	24%																												
4	Training for WMG Members						33%																												
5	Training on MAM	4830	4830	3107	3107	Nos.	64%																												
6	OM Training for WMG EC members, Potential leader & UP members	14450	4644	2126	2126	Nos.	15%																												
7	Embankment						1%																												
8	Resectioning	589	170	164	166(63%*)	km	1%																												
9	Retired	2	-	-	-	km	0%																												
10	Canal Re-Excavation	854	48	40	46 (65%*)	km	5%																												
11	Repair of Structures						2%																												
12	Sluices	239	7	7	7 (57%*)	Nos.	3%																												
13	Inlet/Outlet	664	4	4	4(60%*)	Nos.	1%																												
14	Construction/ Reconstruction of Structures						0%																												
15	Sluices	11	-	-	-	Nos.	0%																												
16	Outlet	11	-	-	-	Nos.	0%																												
17	Inlet	11	-	-	-	Nos.	0%																												
18	Bank Protection (temporary protection)	1.1	-	-	-	Nos.	0%																												
19	LCS Group Formation	1500	158	143	219	Nos.	15%																												
20	LCS Group Training	1500	150	143	187	Nos.	13%																												
21	Farmer Fields School						35%																												
22	Agriculture	1000	125	125	170	Nos.	17%																												
23	Fisheries	200	48	44	44	Nos.	22%																												
24	Livestock	200	88	88	132	Nos.	66%																												
25	Value Chain Selection, analysis & development	8	5	5	5	Nos.	63%																												
26	Market Oriented FFS Establishment (Sesame & Mung Bean)	200	80	40	40	Nos.	20%																												

ID	Activities/ Items	Quantity (Target)	Quantity (Plan 2014-15)	Achievement 2014-15 (June)	Achievement upto Jun' 15	Unit (s)	% Complete																												
								2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019			
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
27	WMO Capacity Building: MAM Training	465	295	246	246	Nos.	53%																												

ID – 3 : Plan for 2014-15 includes all existing WMGs in 9 IPSWAM polders which need to be registered by BWDB based on PWMR 2014
 ID - 8,9,12, 13 : (%) percentage in brackets shows the percentage of that item of work which is already completed.

1.5 Main Outputs

1.5.1 Component 1: Community Mobilization and Institutional Strengthening

Table 3: Component 1 Output Monitoring up to June 30 2015

No.	Output Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target	Achievement up to March 31 2015	Progress in 2 nd Quarter (April-June 30 2015)	Total up to June 30 2015	Percentage completed	Remarks
WMG								
1	Formation of WMGs (Total)	No.	850	314	-29	285	34%	29 WMG s merged
	WMGs Registration with BWDB	No.	850	248	0	248	29%	
2	IPSWAM WMGs are existing and operational	No.	250	242	-1	241	96%	1 WMG merged
	Male Members in WMGs	No.	na			28935		
	Female Members in WMGs	No.	na			17304		
3	New WMGs are established and operational	No. of new WMG	600	72	-28	44	7%	28 WMGs merged
	Male Members in WMGs	No.	na	8159		10452		
	Female Members in WMGs	No.	na	6398		8310		
4	% of WMG members are female	percentage	40%	39%	39%	39%		
5	% of all households are represented as member of the 850 WMGs	percentage	55%	55%	56%	56%		
6	Members in WMG Executive Committee	No. of EC	850	268	13	281	33%	
		No. of Male	7140	2124	98	2222		
		No. of Female	3060	1107	51	1158		

7	% of WMG EC members are female	percentage	30%	34%	34%	34%		
WMG Micro-Credit								
8	Total Capital (Tk) in WMGs	Tk.	na	16507860	1871202	18379062		
9	Total amount (TK) distributed for IGA	Tk.	na	8064988	1437523	9502511		
10	WMG members who have taken credit	No.	na	1434	39	1473		
11	% of WMG's perform economic activities	percentage	30%	31%	31%	31%		
WMA								
12	WMAs are established and Operational	No. of WMA	135	10	13	23	17%	
		No. of Male	1458	na		184		
		No. of Female	162	na		92		
13	% of female membership in WMA	percentage	10%	10				
WMF								
14	WMFs are established and Operational	No. of WMF	26	0		0		
		No. of Male	281	0		0		
		No. of Female	31	0		0		
15	% of female membership in WMF	percentage	10%	0				29 WMG s merged

1.5.2 Component 2: Water Resources Management

Table 4: Component 2 Output Monitoring up to June 30 2015

No.	Output Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target	Achievement up to March 31 2015	Progress in 2 nd Quarter (April – June 2015)	Total up to June 30 2015	Percentage completed
1	IPSWAM fine tuning polders included	No.	9	9	0	9	100%
		Area (ha)	45000	42168			
2	New fine tuning polders included	No.	12	0	0	0	0%
		Area (ha)	90000	0	0	0	0%
3	Rehabilitation Polders included	No.	5	3	0	3	60%
		Area (ha)	25000	20044			
4	% of all earthworks is done by LCS	percent	50%	47%	52%	52%	

5	% of LCS workers are female	percent	40%	39%	36%	36%	
6	No. of women are earning from LCS	No.	7500	4776	400	5176	69%
7	Total Length of Re-sectioning - Embankments	KM	296.00	28.80	80.57	109.37	37%
	Total Length of Re-excavation - Canals	KM	427	7.107	16.68	23.785	6%
	Structure Repair/Construction- Sluice	No.	250	0	0	0	0%
	- Outlet	No.	85	0	0	0	0%
	- Inlet	No.	601	0	0	0	0%
8	O&M agreement signed with BWDB	No.	26	1	0	1	

1.5.2.1 Environmental

Table 5: Environmental Output Monitoring Progress up to June 30 2015

No.	Output Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target	Achievement up to March 31 2015	Progress in 2 nd Quarter (April – June 2015)	Total up to June 30 2015	Percentage completed
1	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	No.	26	5	2	7	27%
2	Issuance of Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) by DoE	No.	26	0	3	3	12%
3	Formulation of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Plan	No.	26	5	1	6	23%
4	Training course on DRR & Environment for Volunteers and UDMC (ENV+IS)	No.	26	2	0	2	8%
		No. of Male	na	44	0	44	
		No. of Female	na	26	0	26	

1.5.3 Component 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production

Table 6: Component 3 Output Monitoring up to June 30 2015

No.	Output Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target	Achievement up to March 31 2015	Progress in 2 nd Quarter (April – June 30 2015)	Total up to June 30 2015	Percentage completed
1	FFS implemented by DAE	No. of FFS	1000	170	0		17%
		No. of Male	25000	4250	0		
	-	No. of Female	25000	4250	0		

2	FFS implemented (Fish & Livestock) by TA team	No. of FFS	400	176	88	264	66%
		No. of male	5000	912	452	1364	
		No. of Female	5000	3488	1898	5386	
3	% of Female participation in FFS-DAE	Percentage	50%	50%	50%	50%	
4	% of Female participation in FFS-TA	Percentage	50%	69%	80%	80%	
5	Field day -TA	No. of field days	400	176	44	220	55%
		No. of Male	na	8953	2207	11160	
		No. of Female	na	14576	2865	17441	
		No. of Children	na	5144	927	6071	
6	Demos, each including a field day, are implemented by DAE	No. of demos.	380	141	60	201	53%
7	Departmental trainers (DAE-DTs) trained to conduct FFS	No. of DTs	50	50			100%
8	Farmer Trainers (DAE-FTs) trained to conduct FFS	No. of FTs	150	0		0	0%

1.5.4 Component 4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement

Table 7: Output Monitoring up to June 30 2015

No.	Output Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target	Achievement up to March 31 2015	Progress in 2 nd Quarter (April – June 30 2015)	Total up to June 30 2015	Percentage completed
1	Polder Master File	No.	12	9	3	12	100%
2	VC selection Matrix	No.	12	9	3	12	100%
3	Value Chain Analysis Completed	No.	8	2	1	3	38%
4	Basics of IGA management for	WMG	50	0	0	0	0%

	members of WMG	No. of Male		0	0	0	
		No. of Female		0	0	0	
8	Mechanisation Service Training for WMG (MAM Training)	WMG	137	34	74	108	79%
		No. of Male		591	1356	1947	
		No. of Female		365	763	1128	
9	Training on Credit and Savings for WMG	WMG	200	0	0	0	0%
		No. of Male		0	0	0	
		No. of Female		0	0	0	
10	Formation of Producer Group (PG)	No. of Group	200	40	20	60	30%
		No. of Male		818	77	895	
		No. of Female		182	423	605	
11	Training on Farmer Productivity (Crop Budgeting) for producer groups (PG)	PG	200	40	20	60	30%

1.5.5 Training Output Monitoring up to June 2015

No.	Training Activities	Unit	Entire Project Target- No. of batches	Achievement up to March 30, 2015				Progress in 2nd Quarter (April-June 30, 2015)				Achievement up to June 30, 2015				Percent age complet ed (Batche s)
				No. of Batch (s)	Male	Femal e	Total	No. of batches	Male	Female	Total	No. of batches	Male	Female	Total	
1	Training on LCS work	No.	400	218	5827	3743	9570	7	271	197	468	225	6098	3940	10038	56%
2	Training on Construction work Monitoring & Quality Control	No.	150	18	123	37	160	11	156	71	227	29	279	108	387	19%
3	Blue Gold Orientation for UP Representatives	No.	60	14	222	178	400	7	134	41	175	21	356	219	575	35%
4	Training on Organizational Management for WMG EC members,	No.	425	27	1305	594	1899	7	147	80	227	34	1452	674	2126	8%

	Potential leader and UP members															
5	Training on Management of Agri. Machineries for WMG (part 1 & 2 and follow up-1)	No.	407	50	922	547	1469	137	2671	1331	4002	187	3593	1878	5471	46%
	Total		1442	327	8399	5099	13498	169	3379	1720	5099	496	11778	6819	18597	34%

2. Context

2.1 Program Rationale and Objectives

The goal of Blue Gold is to establish and empower community organizations/water management organizations (WMOs) to sustainably manage their water resources and to make these resources more productive. The Program aims to create strong and well-organised communities that will interact with public and private organizations that play a role in the development of the area. Participatory water resources management is the entry point and the initial driver of the community organization process. The explicit objective of Blue Gold is to reduce poverty of the people in the coastal areas by enhanced productivity of crops, fisheries and livestock and increasing incomes by improved processing and marketing of agricultural products including value chain development.

2.2 Overall and Specific objective(s) of the Blue Gold Program

The overall objective of the Blue Gold Program is:

“to reduce poverty for 150,000 households living on 160,000 ha of selected coastal polders by creating a healthy living environment and a sustainable socio-economic development”.

The specific objectives of Blue Gold are:

- To protect the communities and their land located in polders against floods from river and sea (climate change adaptation) and to optimize the use of water resources for their productive sectors.
- To organise the communities in water management organizations and/or cooperatives which will be the driving force for the natural resources based development (agriculture, fisheries and livestock), whereby environment, gender and good governance are effectively addressed.
- To increase the household income derived from the productive sectors.
- To strengthen the institutional framework for sustained water resources development and related development services in the SW/SC coastal zones

2.3 Program Area

The Blue Gold Program covers a gross area of 160,000 ha of selected polders in the Districts of Satkhira, Khulna and Patuakhali.

Twelve polders have been selected so far and are included in the program for 2015. Moreover, four more polders will be selected during 2015.

2.4 Program Components

- 1 - Community Mobilisation and Institutional Strengthening
- 2 - Water Resources Management
- 3 - Food Security and Agricultural Production
- 4 - Business Development and Private Sector Involvement

In addition three other Dutch-funded projects are closely linked to the Blue Gold Program implementation:

- 1) The Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SAFAL) project, developing value chains in the subsectors aquaculture, dairy and horticulture;
- 2) The Max Value for WASH project, aiming to provide 800.000 people in rural communities with safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene education;
- 3) The BRAC WASH II program, providing improved access for all to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene education in polders 22, 29 & 30 of Khulna District.

3. Project Status

3.1 Program Management

Blue Gold is implemented by BWDB (Ministry of Water Resources) and DAE (Ministry of Agriculture). BWDB is the lead implementing Agency. Technical Assistance (TA) is provided through a consortium consisting of Euroconsult Mott MacDonald, the Netherlands (lead firm), Femconsult, the Netherlands, Mott MacDonald Bangladesh, Socioconsult (Bangladesh) and BETS (Bangladesh). Participation of other GoB institutions, notably the Department of Cooperatives (DoC), the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Department of Livestock Services (DoLS) is channelled through the TA contract.

Regular coordination meetings are held between EKN and Blue Gold TA management. Coordination with BWDB and DAE takes place on an ad-hoc basis, facilitated by shared offices in Motijheel (BWDB) and Khamarbari (DAE). Since March 2014 regular coordination meetings with BWDB are held in the Motijheel office.

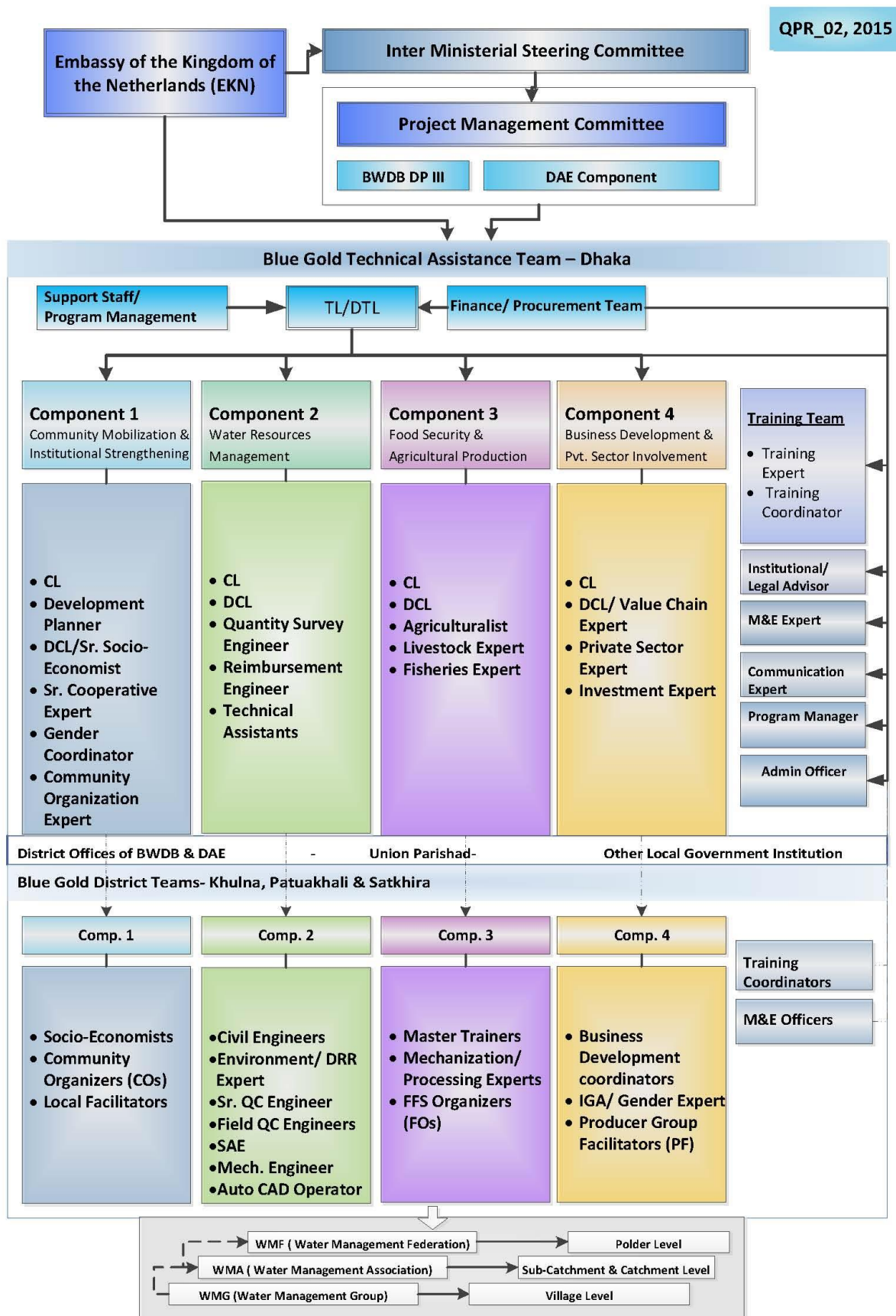
3.1.1 Organizational Issues

The Project Management Committee (PMC) is chaired by the Project Coordinating Director (PCD) of BWDB and consists of representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Planning Commission, IMED and from the four executing Departments (Agriculture Extension, Fisheries, Livestock and Cooperatives). The TA Team Leader is the Secretary to the PMC. The office of the PCD serves as the Secretariat of the PMC. The PMC would aim to meet once a month but should at least meet every three months. The fourth PMC meeting took place on 30 April 2015. The minutes of this PMC meeting are attached under Appendix 6

The Inter Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) is chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and consists of representatives of the Ministries of Water Resources, of Agriculture, of Fisheries and Livestock and of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives. In addition, EKN, PCD and Team Leader TA Blue Gold are members of the IMSC. The IMSC will meet once a year. For a detailed list of the TOR of the IMSC and its members see DPP–Recast May 2013, Appendix 9.

The first IMSC meeting took place on 15 January 2015. Unfortunately no decisions were taken regarding the two main issues: (1) combining the separate IMSC's for the BWDB and DAE components of Blue Gold and (2) green light for revision of the DPP for DAE as well as for BWDB.

3.1.2 Organogram



3.1.3 Staffing

The following table shows the staffing in different Blue Gold offices as per 30 June 2015:

Table 8: Update of staffing in different Blue Gold offices up to 30 June 2015

Date	Dhaka	Khulna	Patuakhali	Polders	Total
31 December 2013	32	18	13	51	114
31 March 2014	38	20	14	51	123
30 June 2014	33	20	16	72	141
30 September 2014	35	23	21	72	151
31 December 2014	43	30	27	72	172
31 March 2015	42	32	29	72	175
30 June 2015	45	34	31	72	182

Some new staff have been appointed in Blue Gold Program which is shown in following table:

Staff Name	Position	Working Station
Mohammad Naimul Hasan	Sub-Assistant Engineer	Khulna
Ferdous Hasnain Ivan	Investment Specialist	Dhaka
Nayema Akter	Admin Officer	Dhaka
Mourie Nishad Chowdhury	Senior National Gender Expert	Dhaka
Ashik Billah	Socio Economist	Patuakhali
Fatema Tuz Johora	Training coordinator	Khulna

3.1.4 Logistics

Clarifications were sought and obtained by BWDB regarding the status of the vouchers for custom duties and VAT paid by AG Automobiles Ltd for the importation of the three 4WD vehicles (Ford Everest).

As the Motijheel office is not safe, the option to establish a temporary joint office at the BWDB Green Road compound was explored. However, adding a fourth floor (11,000sqft) to the under-construction new WARPO building at the Green Road compound turned out too expensive and was therefore abandoned. No new options have been explored during this quarter.

At the BWDB compound in Patuakhali there is insufficient office space to accommodate the growing staff numbers of the Blue Gold TA team. A proposal was made and accepted to erect a small new building with three rooms in front of the current office of the TA team. Construction of this building started in May 2015.

In polder 22 two existing buildings are being renovated. One will serve as office and meeting room for CO's and FO's; the other one is earmarked for use by the WMA (as in the past). In addition the auditorium of the neighboring UP office is renovated in lieu of paying rent for the frequent use of this meeting room by Blue Gold.

3.2 Component 1: Community Mobilization and Institutional Strengthening

3.2.1 Status Overview of Activities

In the second quarter, two (2) WMGs in the 9 IPSWAM polders have been merged with other WMGs to facilitate conflict management and to prevent strong influential persons in disrupting reactivation/strengthening activities. Several community meetings with the concerned WMG leaders, members and UP representatives were conducted to reactivate these 2 WMGs and it was concluded that it will be counterproductive to reactivate these 2 WMGs as independent organizations but will be

more effective and useful for Blue Gold to merge them with adjoining WMGs. The 2 WMGs that have been merged with adjoining WMGs are:

- Polder 43/2D: Purba Sarikkhali WMG merged with Paschim Sarikkhali WMG
- Polder 30: Sukdhara Paschim WMG merged with Sukdhara Purba WMG

In view of this development, there will now be **240 WMGs** in the 9 IPSWAM polders.

The table below describes the Component 1 activities as mentioned in the Inception Report Work Plan with some modifications in the light of the new Participatory Water Management Rules 2014. Also presented is the status of Gender activities. The activities in the period April 1 to June 30, 2015 are as follows:

Table 9: Status of component 1 activities (April - June 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
Component 1: Community Organisation and Institutional Strengthening				
1.	Polder Selection	3 potential polders	April-June 2015	Only 2 selected (55/2C and 55/2A)
2.	Screening, hiring and orientation of 7 COs and 30 Local Facilitators (for new polders)	2 New Polders	June 2015	Interviews conducted
3.	Community Immersion, social investigation/ data gathering and polder mapping	Polders 2, 26, 31-part	April-June 2015	Completed
4.	Information dissemination/ campaigns	Polders 2, 26, 31-part	April-June 2015	Completed
5.	WMG Action Plan formulation	12 Polders	April-June 2015	14 WMGs formulated WAP (total to date is 121 WMGs)
6.	55% Membership Enrolment	240 WMGs in 9 IPSWAM polders	April-June 2015	239 (99.5%)
7.	At least 40% female membership	-do-	April-June 2015	148 WMGs (62%)
8.	77 WMGs to be formed in New Polders	Polders 2, 26, 31-part	April-June 2015	40 formed (47%)
9.	WMG Registration: a. 240 WMGs in 9 Polders b. 77 WMGs in 3 new Polders	12 Polders	April-June 2015	a. 233 (97%) b. 15 (18%)
10.	27 WMA Registration Application	9 IPSWAM Polders	June 2015	14 (52%)
11.	Mobilization of WMGs to organize, train and mobilize LCS groups for earthwork (jointly done with C2 and Training Unit)	12 Polders		Continued this quarter
12.	Other Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted 2 batches of CO Refresher Course • Conducted orientation session for COs on WMG Accounts Keeping System in Khulna • Participated in UP Orientation Sessions (Khulna and Sathkira) • Jointly with Component 4, participated in reviewing Savings and Credit Training Module for WMGs • Participated in the Organizational Management Training • Coordinated with DCEOs concerning WMG registration • Coordinated with Barisal Principal Extension Officer concerning WMA registration • Participated in the District level Coordination Meeting among COs, FOs and PFs • Identified water management infrastructure that can be used by WMA Executive Committee for WMO income generating and visited Land Acquisition (LA) Section of BWDB division to Barguna & Patuakhali: • Assistance provided to 3 Patuakhali WMGs in applying to BWDB for obtaining unused resources • Collaborated with Component 4 and Training Unit on Management of Agricultural Machineries Training and in formulating standard accounts keeping system for WMOs • Participated in Community Water Management Pilot (CWM) Project activities/meetings in Fultala, Polder 30 in Khulna District • Organized meeting for BWDB High officials (DG) at Kismot Fultala WMG & Khalshi Bunia WMG • Attend meeting of Bakultala WMA with DCEO Mr. Hafizur Rahman to review WMA By-Laws 			

Table 10: Status of Gender Activities (April - June 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
1.	Conduct FGDs to increase the gender awareness among all the members of WMGs	FGD with female and male WMG members in all the polders in Patuakhali and Khulna	2017	25 FGDs conducted in Patuakhali and Khulna
2.	Conduct Gender Session in 40 MFS and prepare a gender session plan for regular MFS	In all the MFS Group in Khulna and Patuakhali	June 2015	Completed.
3.	Finalization of Gender and Leadership Training Module and planning of the implementation of this training	Gender and Leadership Training for the EC members of WMG	April-June 2015	Module finalized among the TA team for discussion with BWDB
4.	Contribute to 2 batches of CO refresher training	Kuakata and Satkhira	May 2015	Completed
5.	Update Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan (GESAP) of BWDB		mid-2016	On May 18, 2015, procedure for updating GESAP was discussed in the 1 st GESAP Committee meeting. TOR for national expert completed and submitted to PCD in June 2015.
6.	Identify a suitable provider for vocational training and start planning	Project will facilitate vocational training among youths (boys and girls)	November 2015	Short term national expert recruited in June 2015. TOR also prepared and approved.

The major tasks this quarter in the 3 new polders (Polders 26, 31-part and 2) focused on completing identification of WMG boundaries, formation and registration of new WMGs. In the 9 fine tuning polders on the other hand, the major tasks were: identifying WMA boundaries, initiating WMA formation activities, LCS monitoring, and strengthening and capacity building activities for WMGs.

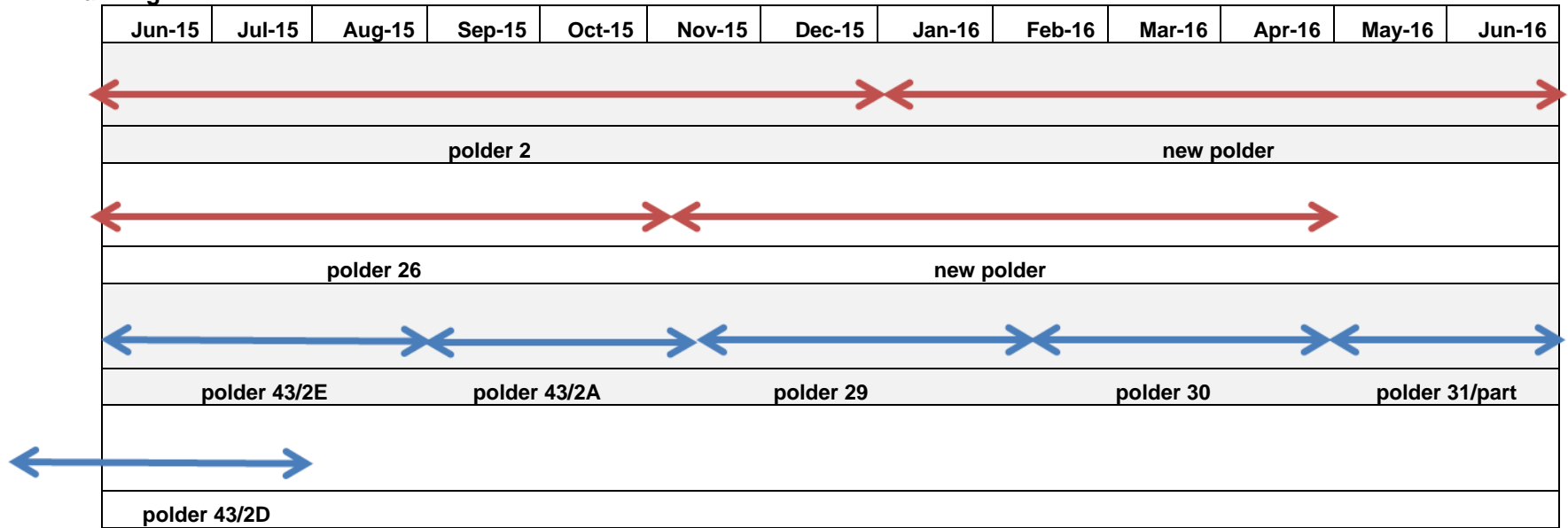
Strengthening and capacity building of existing WMGs continued to be the major activity in the 9 fine tuning polders. WMO strengthening activities undertaken by the COs included the following: mobilizing WMG ECs to increase membership enrolment (> 55% of households) and female membership (at least 40%); participating in follow-up sessions for WMGs relating to MAM training; participating in the WAP formulation session during OM training; providing support to problematic WMGs in updating and maintenance of books of accounts and records and strengthening financial transparency. In the 3 new polders, the following were the main activities: initiating consultation process/meetings in delineating WMG boundaries and mobilization of key contact persons/leaders to initiate WMG formation activities e.g. ad hoc committee formation, membership enrolment, by-laws formulation and election of Executive Committee. Conducting information campaigns, Identification of villages and households and listing potential WMG members continued in Polder 2 during this quarter.



The international gender expert visited the project between 18 March and 07 April 2015. For her mission report see Appendix 4.

Preparation of Polder Development Plans progressed well during this quarter. The short-term inputs of a junior international expert, working closely together with the Program Manager of Blue Gold proves fruitful. A taskforce was established with representatives of each of the components. This taskforce prepares the outlines of each new PDP prior to holding a brainstorm session with all staff members working in the polder under consideration. Much of the data and information in the chapter 'Present Situation' is gathered by component 4 staff as part of the value chain selection process.

On 8 June 2015 the PDP brainstorm session for polder 43/2D was held. In that meeting a new planning was discussed and agreed upon. See table 11:

Table 11: PDP Planning



 **Red Line= New Polder (Polder where no or hardly any implementation activities have started)**
 **Blue Line = Polder where some or all implementation activities have started**

3.2.2 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 12: Component 1 cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact Made	Potential for collaboration
FAO	Enhancing Food Security	Rebekah Bell and Dr. Abdul Aziz, National Coordinator	FAO evaluation meeting. Interactions with FAO in the field regarding status of the management of the agricultural machineries by WMGs.
Department of Environment	DoE	Mr.A.H.M Rashed, Assistant Director (Admin) and Mr. Tota Mia, (Inspector), Barisal	Environmental Study in Blue Gold Polder
IWM, IRRI, BRAC, IMMI	Community Water Management Pilot	Representatives of the different organizations	WLE Planning meeting for pilot in polder 30
Concern Universal	Organizational Development and Education Unit	Md Shamsuzzman Project Officer –DRR & her Team	WMG Formation Process
BWDB Khulna Division -1	Division Chief Planning Commission	Joint Chief Mr. Ilias , XEN Jessore & Khulna , DCEO & SE	Regarding LCS Work, visit Polder -29 and member enrolment in Sahosh Ghoshgati WMG in Polder -29 of Mr. Rasel Khan (relative of Mr. Ilias)
GIZ Bangladesh	New Water Mgt. Project	Nazmun Nahar, GIZ Gender Focal Person, Maliha Shahjahan, TL GIZ	Information sharing on Blue Gold activities

3.2.3 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

Table 13: Component 1 next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1.	Participate in Polder Selection	2 new polders	July 2015	Reporting and final selection of 55/2C and 55/2A in Patuakhali
2.	Screening, Hiring and orientation of 12 COs and 30 Local Facilitators	Polder 55/2C and 2A	July-August 2015	
3.	Training of New COs and Local Facilitators	Polder 55/2C and 2A	Aug 2015	
4.	Community Immersion, social investigation/ data gathering and polder mapping	Polder 55/2C and 2A	Sept. 2015	To continue until Dec. 2015
5.	Catchment Level Needs Assessment and Validation Meetings with/by WMAs	Polders 2 & 26	Aug.-Sept 2015	
6.	Formation of 15 new WMGs (out of 37 WMGs still to be formed)	Polder 2	July-Sept. 2015	
7.	Assist 60 WMGs formulate WAP	12 polders	July-Sept 2015	WAP to be formulated during OM training
8.	Assistance in installing Bookkeeping/Accounting System in 60 WMGs	12 Polders	July-Sept 2015	
9.	Formation of 4 Water Management Associations (WMAs)	9 IPSWAM Polders	July-Sept 2015	
10.	Registration of 20 WMGs with BWDB	12 Polders	July-Sept 2015	This includes 3 WMGs with pending court case

11.	File registration application with BWDB of 13 WMAs	9 IPSWAM Polders	July-Sept 2015	
12.	Review/modification of WMG By-Laws in 130 WMGs	12 Polders	July-Sept 2015	
13.	Achieve membership enrolment > 55% of HHs in 21 WMGs	12 Polders	July-Sept. 2015	One WMG in IPSWAM polders + 20 WMGs in 3 new polders
14.	Achieve 40% Female membership in 60 WMGs	12 Polders	July-Sept. 2015	
15.	Assist 75 WMGs in forming/ capacity building of necessary sub-committees	9 IPSWAM Polders	July-Sept. 2015	

Table 14: Gender next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Remarks
1.	3 Workshops on Gender Orientation and Awareness including dissemination of Anti-Harassment Policy among all the FOs and PFs	All the FOs and C-4 Staff/ PFs in Patuakhali	July- Aug 2015	
2.	Conduct FGDs to increase the gender awareness among all the members of 30 WMGs	12 Polders	July-Sept. 2015	COs and Gender Coordinator will conduct
3.	Finalization of Gender and Leadership Training Module	Training Module	July-Sept. 2015	Gender Training module approved by BWDB by September 2015
4.	Identify a suitable provider for vocational training in rural areas and start planning	Polder areas in Khulna and Patuakhali	November 2015	Needs assessment and action research will be will continue from September 2015 onwards
5.	Update Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan (GESAP) of BWDB	BWDB	July-Sept. 2015	Initiate 2 nd GESAP meeting to present action plan

3.3 Component 2: Water Resources Management

3.3.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below describes the Component 2 Activities during the period April – June 2015

Table 15: Status of Component 2 Activities (April - June 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
1. Polder Selection				
1.1	Final selection of 2 new non-IPSWAM polders	55/2A, 55/2C	Apr - Jun 15	Done
2. Catchment Area Identification				
2.1	Catchment Area Identification & Identification of Hydrological Boundaries by IWM	26, 31-part, 2	May - Jun 15	In Progress
3. Physical Survey, Design Data Collection & Assessment of Rehabilitation Works				
3.1	Topographical Survey- Final Analysis and Reporting (Embankment)	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31-part, 2	Apr - Jun 15	Survey done; Reporting in progress
3.2	Topographical Survey, Final Analysis and Reporting (Canal)	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31-part, 2	Apr - Jun 15	Survey done; Reporting in progress
3.3	Design Data Collection for Rehabilitation works (outsourcing) (part)	12 polders	Apr - Jun 15	In Progress (for 2015-16)

3.4	Assessment of rehabilitation works & costs for earthwork (embankment) (part)	26, 31-part, 2, 29, 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/1A, 43/ 2B	Apr - Jun 15	Done
3.5	Assessment of rehabilitation works & costs for earthwork (canal) (part)	26, 31-part, 2, 29, 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/1A, 43/ 2B	Apr - Jun 15	Done
3.6	Assessment of rehabilitation works for structures; (part)	26, 31-part, 2, 29, 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/1A, 43/ 2B	Apr - Jun 15	Done
4. Design & Estimate Submission by BWDB Office				
4.1	Earthwork in embankment repair and construction; part	Not planned	-	-
4.2	Earthwork in canal re-excavation; part	Not planned	-	-
4.3	Repair/ Construction of Structures; part	Not planned	-	-
5. Estimate Vetting by TA Team				
5.1	Design & Estimate vetting for earthwork (embankment)	Not planned	-	-
5.2	Design & Estimate vetting for earthwork (canal)	Not planned	-	-
5.3	Design & Estimate vetting for structures	Not planned	-	-
6. Tendering by BWDB				
6.1	Tendering for earthwork and structures; part	43/2F	Apr 2015	Done
7. Implementation of Rehabilitation Works 2014-15				
7.1	Earthwork in embankment repair and construction; part	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31-part & 2	Apr - Jun 15	Overall progress approx. 65%, carried over to 2015-16
7.2	Earthwork in canal re-excavation; part	22,29, 30 and 43/2F	Apr - Jun 15	Overall progress approx. 70%, carried over to 2015-16
7.3	Repair/ Construction of Structures; part (2014-15 & 2015-16)	22, 30	Apr - Nov 15	In progress, overall 65%.
7.4	Monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation works	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31-part & 2	Apr - Jun 15	Done
8. Fund Placement				
8.1	Fund placement for April-June 2015	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31-part & 2	Jun 2015	Done
9. Field Visits				
9.1	Field visits for monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation work	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31-part & 2	Apr - Jun 15	Done
9.2	Field visit for catchment area identification	26, 31-part, 2	May 2015	Done
9.3	Field visit for selection of polder	55/2A, 55/2C	May 2015	Done
9.4	Field visit for engineering assessment	26, 31-part, 2	May 2015	Done
9.5	Field visit for selection of area for WMA center	2, 30	Jun 2015	Done
10. QGIS Training				
10.1	Structuring/ Screening necessary data	For Blue Gold Program Areas	Jun 2015	In Progress
10.2	Training on QGIS	For Blue Gold Program	Jun 2015	Rescheduled in Sep'15

		Staff		
11. Others				
11.1	Polder Development Plan	43/2F, 43/2D	Apr - Jun 15	43/2F (completed); 43/2D (In Progress)
11.2	Preparation of Rehabilitation Budget for 2015-16	12 polders	Apr - Sep 15	In Progress
11.3	Finalization of design and cost estimation for WMA center	For Blue Gold Program Areas	May	Done
11.4	Design and cost estimation of Patuakhali office extension	Patuakhali Office, BWDB Campus	April	Done, construction in progress.
11.5	Study on river bank erosion (outsourced to IWM)	29	Apr - Sept	In Progress
11.6	Outsourcing for making 2D Animation on LCS training	For Blue Gold Program	Apr – Jun 15	In Progress

3.3.2 Implementation Works

Implementation works could not start timely as planned due to late LCS formation and training (because of new WMG registration rules). Moreover, the process of issuing work order by BWDB also took longer time. Time extension process for the carried over works has also been delayed and these works could not be started in due time. Rehabilitation works have been carried out in 11 polders in 2014-15 implementation year. The table below summarizes the rehabilitation work progress for the implementation year 2014-15 & 2013-14 (carried-over works for 2013-14).

Polder	Length	Average Progress Approx. (%)	Contract Amount (Tk.)	Vetted Amount (Tk.)	Vetted length (km)	Remarks
Polder 43/2A : Re-sectioning of Embankment						
22 LCS	14.385	63%	14,721,348.00			Carried over to 2015-16, 6 LCS - no work for court case, 1 LCS - refused to work, 1 Contractor - 65%, 3 Contractors - avg. 20%
4 Contractors	10.048	35%	17,447,747.00			
Total	24.433	48%	32,169,095.00	40,330,828.00	30.793	
Retired Embankment						
14 LCS	1.646	57%	12,453,258.00			Contractor and LCS work carried over in 2015-16
2 Contractors	1.194	85%	11,577,526.00			
Total	2.840	73%	24,030,784.00	25,666,143.00	2.840	
Re-excavation of Canal						
No LCS	0.000	0%	0			No work awarded due to late APP
Total	0.000	0%	0	2,845,645.00	6.950 (4 nos.)	
Polder 43/2D: Re-sectioning of Embankment						
18 LCS	22.560	92%	14,235,186.00			All works from 2013-14, LCS work completed, 1 contractor work completed & 1 contractor
2 Contractors	9.040	80%	8,434,592.00			
Total	31.600	85%	22,669,777.00	26,330,721.00	32.600	

						work carried over to 2015-16.
Polder 43/2F : Re-sectioning of Embankment						
14 LCS	20.995	75%	12,452,613.00			All works from 2013-14, Will be carried over to 2015-16.
9 Contractors	12.200	70%	10,888,434.00			
Total	33.195	73%	23,341,048.00	24,915,004.00	28.275	
Re-excavation of Canal						
2 LCS	1.900	86%	1,306,735.00			Carried over to 2015-16
1 Contractor	1.900	90%	1,116,308.00			
Total	3.800	87%	2,423,043.00	2,639,430.00	3.525 (2 nos.)	
Polder 2 : Re-sectioning of Embankment						
19 LCS	2.000	63%	12,600,742.00			Carried over to 2015-16
1 Contractor	1.900	66%	9,345,785.00			
Total	3.900	65%	21,946,527.00	24,441,057.00	3.900	

3.3.3 Cooperation with other projects

Table 16: Component 2 Cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
Nelen & Schuurmans	GIS Company in the Netherland	Bastiaan Roos, GIS Expert	Setting up web-based GIS for Blue Gold program (under innovation fund)
IRRI, IWM	Challenge Program for Food & Water (CPWF)	Monoronjan Mandal, Zahir Uddin.	Pilot project on sub-poldering and on-farm water management in polder 30.
Dhaka University, Acacia Water	MAR Project	Dr. Matin, Albert Tuinhof, Seger Burger, Prof. Sarmin	Potential cooperation in Managed Aquifer Recharge for drinking and irrigation water supply between Acacia and Blue Gold program.
Deltares, The Netherlands	Innovative water management like pumped drainage	Toine Vergroesen, Hydrologist	Feasibility study for pumped drainage in polder 2, Satkhira and polder 31-part, Khulna
GIZ	Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS)	Md. Kamal Hossain	On how Blue Gold and ICS project could cooperate
IWM	DEM & Delineation of Hydrological Boundaries in polders 26, 31-part & 2	Zahirul Haque Khan	For catchment area identification in the polders and land use planning

3.3.4 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

Table 17: Component 2 Next Quarter Planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Remarks
1. Polder Identification				
1.1	Identification of new polders	Not Planned	Jul- Sep 15	-
2. Catchment Area Identification				
2.1	Catchment Area Delineation & Identification of Hydrological Boundaries	26, 31-part, 2	Aug -Sep 15	Part
3. Physical Survey, Design Data Collection & Assessment of Rehabilitation Works				
3.1	Topographical Survey- Final Analysis and Reporting	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31-	Jul -Sep 15	Report

	(Embankment)	part, 2		
3.2	Topographical Survey, Final Analysis and Reporting (Canal)	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31-part, 2	Jul -Sep 15	Report
3.3	Design Data Collection for Rehabilitation works (outsourcing) (part)	12 polders	Jul -Sep 15	Part
4. Design & Estimate Submission by BWDB Office				
4.1	Earthwork in embankment repair and construction;	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
4.2	Earthwork in canal re-excavation;	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
4.3	Repair/ Construction of Structures;	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
5. Estimate Vetting by TA Team				
5.1	Design & Estimate vetting for earthwork (embankment)	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
5.2	Design & Estimate vetting for earthwork (canal)	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
5.3	Design & Estimate vetting for structures	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
6. Tendering by BWDB				
6.1	Tendering for earthwork	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
6.2	Tendering for structures	12 polders; part	Jul -Sep 15	for 2015-16
7. Implementation of Rehabilitation Works 2014-15				
7.1	Earthwork in embankment repair and construction; part	Not planned	Jul -Sep 15	-
7.2	Earthwork in canal re-excavation; part	Not planned	Jul -Sep 15	-
7.3	Repair/ Construction of Structures;	22, 30	Jul -Sep 15	Part
7.4	Monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation works	22, 30	Jul -Sep 15	For structures only
8. Reimbursements				
8.1	Reimbursements	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30 & 2	Aug -Sep 15	-
9. Field Visits				
9.1	Field visits for monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation work	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31-part & 2	Jul -Sep 15	-
9.2	Field visit for identification of new polders	Not planned	Jul -Sep 15	-
9.3	Field visit for final selection of area for WMA center and commencement of work	2, 30, 43/2A	Jul -Sep 15	-
8.4	Field visits for preliminary assessments in new polders	55/2A, 55/2C	Jul -Sep 15	-
10. QGIS Training				
10.1	Structuring/ Screening necessary data	For Blue Gold Program Areas	Jul -Sep 15	-
10.2	Training on QGIS	For Blue Gold Program staff	Sep 15	-
11. Others				
11.1	Polder Development Plan	43/2D, 2, 43/2E, 26	Jul - Sep 15	Part

11.2	Preparation of Rehabilitation Budget for 2015-16	12 polders + 2 polders	Aug -Sep 15	-
11.3	Study on river bank erosion (outsourced to IWM)	29	Jul - Sep 15	Part
11.4	Finalization of animation for LCS training	For Blue Gold Program	Jul -Aug 15	-
11.5	O&M Training	4 polders	Sep 15	Part

3.3.5 Environment & DRR

Table 18: Environment & DRR Activities April - June 2015

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress/Remarks
Environment				
1.	Assist CEGIS during EIA study	43/1A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31/part and 2	Jan - Mar 2015	In progress
2.	UP Orientation (Environmental and DRR Issues)	2	Feb-15	Done
3.	Awareness meeting on Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) with COs	-	Mar-15	In progress
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)				
4.	Selection of Community DRR volunteers in polder	43/2D	Apr - Jun 15	Done
5.	Coordination and follow up with NGO for outsourcing training of Community volunteers on DRR	43/2F	Apr - Jun 15	In progress
6.	Conducting workshops at Union level to build awareness on DRR	43/2F	Apr - Jun 15	In progress

3.3.6 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
Environment				
1.	Assist CEGIS during EIA studies	43/1A, 43/2B, 43/2E, 26, 29, 31/part, 2 & new polders	Jul - Sep 15	Final EIA reports will be submitted to DoE for approval
2.	Information collection on ICS user and respective organizations	Blue Gold polders (IPSWAM)	Jul - Sep 15	Collaboration with GIZ, Grameen Shakti, RDF, Green Energy Foundation, Grameen Corporation and For Better World(DoE)
3.	Conducting awareness meeting at WMG level on using improved Cooking Stove (ICS) and follow up ICS implementation	Polder 22 & 43/2F	Jul – Sep 15	
4.	Conducting meeting at Union level to build awareness on ICS, tree plantation and safe drinking water	Polder 22 & 43/2F	Jul – Sep 15	
5.	Coordinate with GIZ and other organization for collaboration in ICS implementation in polders	Blue Gold polders	Jul – Sep 15	
6.	Conducting meeting at WMA level on “SEMP” implementation	43/2F	Jul – Sep 15	At WMG monthly meeting
7.	Coordination and follow up of implementation of solar desalination	Next Polder	Jul – Sep 15	Collaboration with comp-2

	panels			
8.	Dissemination meeting at educational institutions on solar water purification panels	Polder-22	Jul – Sep 15	With school teachers
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)				
9.	Selection of Community DRR volunteers in polder	Polder-29 & 30	Jul – Sep 15	Collaboration with Comp-1
10.	Organization and follow up of training of community volunteers & UDMC members on DRR	DRR, polder-43/2F	Jul – Sep 15	Training can be organized internally in collaboration with BG training cell
11.	Conducting awareness building meeting on DRR at Union level	DDR, Polder 43/2D	Jul – Sep 15	In conjunction with UDMC monthly meeting
12.	Conducting awareness building meeting on DRR at community (WMG) level	DDR, Polder 43/2D	Jul – Sep 15	In conjunction with WMG monthly meeting
13.	Conducting Community Risk Assessment(CRA)	Polder 22 & 43/2F	Jul – Sep 15	For developing CBDDR plan
14.	Formation of “Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction” (CBDDR) plan	IPSWAM polders	Jul - Sep 15	Including pre, during and post disaster period plan

N.B: CRA (Community Risk Assessment) is a participatory process for assessing hazards, vulnerabilities, risks, ability to cope, preparing coping strategies and finally preparing a risk reduction options implementation plan by the local community).

3.4 Component 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production

3.4.1 Status Overview of Activities

The below table shows the progress of Component 3 activities over the period April-June 2015 according to annual plan and revised planning of additional activities.

Table 19: Status of component 3 activities April - June 2015

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule (with comments)	Progress
Component 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production				
1	Fourth cycle FFS			
1.1	40 FFS poultry, summer vegetables, nutrition, in Khulna	22, 29, 30	September 2015	50%
2	Fifth cycle FFS			
2.1	48 FFS fish (including Tilapia), poultry, nutrition, in Patuakhali	43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F	November 2015	50%
3	Market Oriented Farmer Field Schools Patuakhali (Component 3 & 4 jointly)			
3.1	20 MFS mung bean	43/2D, 43/2F	June 2015	100%
3.2	20 field days mung bean	43/2D, 43/2F	June 2015 (8 field days implemented)	40%
3.3	20 MFS Tilapia	43/2D, 43/2F	December 2015	10%
4	Market Oriented Farmer Field Schools Khulna (Component 3 & 4 jointly)			
4.1	20 MFS sesame	22, 30	June 2015	95%

4.2	20 field days sesame	22, 30	June 2015 (16 field days implemented)	80%
4.3	20 MFS backyard poultry	22, 30	December 2015 (just starting)	1%
5	Trials, demos, participatory research			
5.1	Mini pond trial (water melon training) and field day	22	May 2015 (report pending)	95%
5.2	Sugar beet trials with field day, post harvest (processing) trials and fodder trials and field day	29	April 2015 (report pending)	95%
5.3	Silage trials sugar beet	29	September 2015	20%
5.4	World fish study small HH ponds (eco ponds)	29	June 2015 (pending final report) (3-month no-cost extension is planned)	95%
5.5	BAU demo-trials new fruits and vegetables	22, 29, 30, 43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2E, 43/2F	April 2016 (MOU was signed in 9 April)	20%
5.6	Moringa (drumstick) introductions in Patuakhali	43/2D, 43/2F	May 2015	100%
5.7	Polder trials summer vegetables (6 polders)	43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F, 29, 30	September 2015 (5 instead of 6 polders)	50%
6	Livestock related activities			
6.1	Follow up on functioning trained service providers (CPW and CLW)	All polders	Ongoing	
6.2	Fodder demos with ongoing FFS in Khulna	22, 29, 30	Sept 2015	0%
7	Fish related activities			
7.1	Select participants for nurseries training	Selected polders	Feb 2015	100%
7.2	Training on nurseries management	Selected polders	August 2015	70%
7.3	Community based fish culture		April 2016	10%
7.4	Fish sanctuary development		Long-term	10%
7.5	6 FFS Rice-fish culture	29,30	December 2015	10%
8	Other activities			
8.1	Training for 12 FOs and 5 PFs in Patuakhali on market orientation Tilapia	Patuakhali	April 2015 (12-14 May)	100%
8.2	Training for 10 FOs and 5 PFs in Khulna on market orientation poultry	Khulna	April 2015 (move to August)	0%
8.3	Farmers Field Day organized for visit of Dutch ministers	Patuakhali polder 43/2A	17 June 2015	100%
8.4	Research proposal NICE foundation on 'Securing the livelihood through improvement of Kawra pig-rearing community of Southwest Bangladesh'		(Proposal accepted by EKN)	100%
DAE				
9	FFS			
9.1	50 FFSs Boro and Rabi crops in WMGs of 12 selected Blue Gold polders	10 Upazilas	June 2015	100%
10	Demonstrations			
10.1	Demos on various topics (60)	10 Upazilas	June 2015	100%

3.4.2 Component 3 activities April to June 2015

Main activities of Component 3 (TA) during this reporting period (April-June 2015) involved organizing 88 FFS of which 40 FFS are in Khulna (polders 22, 29, 30) on poultry, summer vegetables, nutrition and 48 FFS in Patuakhali (polders 43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2F) on tilapia (and mixed fish), poultry and nutrition.

The following table gives an overview of all FFSs to date with male and female participants.

FFS cycle	Modules in FFS	No. of FFS	Male	Female	Status FFS
Khulna					
1	Homestead vegetables & fruits, poultry, nutrition	20	68	432	Completed
2	Fish, beef fattening, nutrition	20	237	263	Completed
3	Homestead vegetables & fruits, poultry, nutrition	40	132	868	Completed
4	Homestead vegetables & fruits, poultry, nutrition	40	123	877	On-going
Patuakhali/Barguna					
1	Homestead vegetables & fruits, poultry, nutrition	24	15	585	Completed
2	Fish, beef fattening, nutrition	24	358	242	Completed
3	Homestead vegetables & fruits, poultry, nutrition	48	102	1,098	Completed
5	Fish (including Tilapia), poultry, nutrition	48	204	996	On-going

An overview of gender ratio is presented in the following table.

Gender ratio in 264 FFS (completed + ongoing)			
	Men	Women	Percentage women
Khulna	560	2,440	81%
Patuakhali/Barguna	679	2,921	81%
Total	1,239	5,361	81%

Component 3 and 4 together completed the first season of 20 Market Oriented Farmer Field Schools (MFS) in mung bean (Patuakhali) and 20 MFS in sesame (Khulna).

MFS topic	No. of MFS	Male	Female	Total participants	Percentage female
Khulna					
Sesame	20	382	118	500	23%
Patuakhali					
Mungbean	20	441	59	500	12%

A report was prepared on data collected using tablets with ODK software during FFS cycle 3. Because of positive experience with the use of the tablets this will now be continued in all FFS.

Two field coordinators were recruited for a period of 1 year as part of the work with BAU on introducing new vegetables and fruits varieties in 9 Blue Gold polders.

The WorldFish led research on eco-ponds (Participatory Research on a Habitat Restoration Approach to Small Pond Fish Productivity, Diversity and Resilience) provided a first draft report and organized a workshop on 11 June. The final report is expected by 30 June. WorldFish has asked for a no-cost extension (from unspent funds) for 3 months until 30 September 2015. During this period emphasis will be on measuring Women Empowerment Index (WEI) indicators, and evaluating what has happened with the ponds after the training period.

The Blue Gold fisheries expert participated on 15 April 2015 in a one-day seminar on Gender in Aquaculture, organised by the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh – Centre for Sustainable Development (ULAB-CSD). During the seminar the findings were

shared of a research work on “Women in Aquaculture” in the southwest region of Bangladesh involving various stakeholders such as the government departments of fisheries, agriculture, and planning commission as well as NGOs who are working for food security, aquaculture and women’s empowerment. The research was jointly carried out by GWA and ULAB-CSD in early 2015.

See Appendix 3 for a summary of the proceedings of this seminar, which are highly relevant for the Blue Gold Program.

DAE has verbally reported to have completed the 50 FFS (Boro rice and Rabi crops) and 60 demonstration-trials, all including field days, but no monitoring reports have been received yet.

A tripartite meeting was organized on 7 June to discuss the issues related to the Statement of Expenditure (SOE) for the period Jan-Jun 2014. That SOE is still not approved. Another SOE for the period Jul-Dec 2014 was submitted to team leader Blue Gold on 29 June 2015.

3.4.3 Cooperation with Other Projects and Organizations

The table below highlights some contacts and points of cooperation between C3 and other projects and organizations.

Project/Organization	Comment
DLS	Contacts related to follow up of CAHWs and use of vaccination cards. Coordination meeting with PCD.
DoF	Contacts with the department concerning planning of training for fish nurseries, development of fish sanctuaries and community fisheries. Coordination meeting with PCD.
WorldFish	Field visits and contact with WorldFish on the research on “women-managed small household ponds” (SHHP) in polders 29 and 30. Meetings on draft report. Attended workshop 11-6-2015.
BAU	Finalized proposal and signed MOU (9-4-2015) on introducing improved fruit species and varieties and vegetables in Blue Gold program area.
NICE Foundation	Revising proposal (for innovation fund) on “Participatory Action Research on Securing the livelihood through improvement of Kawra pig-rearing community of Southwest Bangladesh”.
IRRI	Contacts on possibility of working on aromatic rice varieties with producer groups
Classical Handmade Products	Discussion meeting on possible proposal for innovation fund on using Water Hyacinth as raw material for handicrafts.
Bengal Meat	Field visit to Bengal Meat to explore collaboration on sheep rearing in Blue Gold area..
KWS	Meeting, field visit and contact by email on promoting sugar beet cultivation and processing in BG area
BCSIR	Science Laboratory of Bangladesh Council Scientific and Industrial Research for sugar beet analysis
WorldFish	Contacts related to nursery management, and analyzing sugar beet as potential ingredient in fish feed.
Geocycli	Meeting on use of satellite images to explore possible innovation activity.
PRAN	Meeting with PRAN Confectionary to explore collaboration on food processing (e.g. sugar beet)
Just Business	Preparatory meetings on research on 'Economic Impact & Maintenance Cost Analysis of Water Management Infrastructure'. Contract made for 32 days.
AID	Field visit to Action in Development in Jhenaida to explore use of solar pumping for irrigation.

3.4.4 Next Quarter Planning July - September 2015

A revised annual plan for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (Bangladesh financial year) is under preparation. The following table is based on the draft annual plan, showing planned activities of Component 3 for the third quarter of 2015.

For DAE no activities have been included in the plan during these 3 months, as no funding is available in this period, pending decisions on the SOEs.

Task Name	Jul	Aug	Sep
Component 3			
Third cycle FFS			
4 follow-up workshops (total 88 participants)			X
Fourth cycle FFS			
40 FFS poultry, summer vegetables, nutrition in Khulna	X	X	X
40 field days			X
Fifth cycle FFS			
48 FFS fish (including Tilapia), poultry, nutrition in Patuakhali	X	X	X
Polder level trials			
5 polder level trials summer vegetables	X	X	X
5 field days summer vegetables			X
Rice-Fish Culture			
6 FFS rice-fish culture	X	X	X
Sixth cycle FFS			
Prepare for start 88 FFS winter vegetables, poultry, nutrition			X
Community Animal Health Workers			
Follow up on work of CPW and CLWs	X	X	X
Follow up on use vaccination cards	X	X	X
Minipond water melon trial			
Repeat trial in other WMG (prepare ponds, grow rice, stock fish)	X	X	X
Sugar beet trials			
Finalize sugar beet silage trial	X	X	
Test silage with milking cows	X	X	
Sugar beet report		X	
Prepare for next season sugar beet trials			X
BAU new fruits and vegetables			
Test new fruits and vegetables with FFS graduated farmers of cycle 1	X	X	X
Test new fruits and vegetables with farmers in ongoing FFS cycle 4	X	X	X
Trial plots with new fruits and vegetables in 9 polders	X	X	X
Follow up progress of trained nursery owners	X	X	X
Moringa Patuakhali			
Evaluate performance and prepare report		X	
Sheep innovation			
Prepare concept note		X	X
Fish nurseries			
Training on nurseries management	X	X	
Evaluation and report nurseries management			X
Community based fish culture			
Implement community fish culture	X	X	X
Fish sanctuary development			
Implement fish sanctuary development Khulna and Patuakhali with DOF	X	X	X
Workshops sluice gate operation			
Implement x workshops/meetings with WMGs		X	X
Pig farming innovation			
NICE foundation implementing pig farming innovation research	X	X	X

Component 3 and 4 jointly			
PF and FO training			
Training PFs and FOs on market orientation for poultry MFS		X	
Patuakhali producer groups			
Follow up mung bean	X	X	X
20 MFS tilapia	X	X	X
Khulna producer groups			
Follow up sesame	X	X	X
20 poultry MFS	X	X	X
20 trials aromatic rice	X	X	X
DAE			
Prepare SOE for period Jan-Jun 2015	X	X	

Component 3 - TA

Main activities during the next reporting period (July-September 2015) of Component 3 will be the running of 88 ongoing FFS in Khulna and Patuakhali, and jointly with Component 4 running 20 MFS tilapia and 20 MFS poultry. Preparations will start for the next FFS cycle which will also include polder 2 in Satkhira.

Polder level trials on summer vegetables will be completed and together with BAU Germplasm Center activities will continue testing new fruit and vegetable types/varieties together with FFS farmers. WorldFish will finalize its research on eco-ponds and prepare a final report, while NICE foundation starts with research on pig rearing with Kawra communities.

DAE

DAE will have no activities in this period, but will prepare the next SOE covering the period Jan-Jun 2015, which is due by 31 August 2015.

3.5 Component 4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement

3.5.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below provides an overview of Component 4 Activities as mentioned in the Inception Report Work Plan and implemented in the period April-June 2015. The activities relate to the selected polders, except if otherwise indicated.

Table 20: Status of Component 4 activities (April - June 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
Component 4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement				
1.	Selection of sub-sectors/products and value chains on a polder basis. On-going Polders 2 and 26			Completed Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 29, 31 part, 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/2B & 43/1A)
3.1	Engage with communities to define broad development options	Support multi-disciplinary survey	On-going as new polders are selected	C4 monitoring of WMO functionality assessment and WAP completions, for options development.
3.2	Develop regional development framework (RDF)	Define information collect, liaise with other programmes and draft RDF	On-going	Collection, recording, improvement of polder master files (completed for all mentioned polders)
3.3	Select or prioritise value chains for analysis		On-going	Value Chain Selection Matrix prepared and potential Value Chain

				ranking completed for all mentioned polders. Ongoing in polder 2 and 26.
3.4	Formulating PDPs	Assess polder info, develop scenario and draft PDP	On-going	Component coordination for PDP formulation (on-going). Joint development of PDP for Polders 22 & 43/2F completed. Work is on-going for 43/2D, others follow.
4	Undertake in-depth Value Chain Analysis (specific to defined VC) (On going for backyard Poultry and Moringa)			Completed for Sesame, Mung Bean and Tilapia.
4.1	Consult the actors for VCA	In depth analysis of specific VCs Khulna district	On-going	Develop map, actor baseline data, identify constraints and opportunities. Preparation of Moringa forward market Study
4.2	Identify and Assess solutions	VC under analysis	Awaited	Assess potential solutions on viability. Consider collective action Define basic approach to VC development within a MFS approach.
4.3	Engaging with VC actors to plan interventions	VC under analysis	Awaited	Facilitate solutions, business planning training Assess form of association Create linkage with VC actors Assist business planning
4.4	Define VC intervention strategy	Tilapia VC at Polders 43/2f & 43/2d and backyard Poultry VC at Polders 22 & 30.	On-going	Tilapia VC concluded and interventions being formulated for backyard Poultry VC.
5.	Facilitate Value Chain Development			
5.1	Influencing incentives by awareness	Facilitate Value Chain Development	On-going 2015	DAE, MoL, MoF, Orientation workshop further postponed.
5.2	Enhancing skills by Capacity Development	Prepare Capacity Development for specific target groups	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities below
5.2.1	WMO Skills Development	Management of Agricultural Machinery (MAM) Capacity and skill development for WMO	On-going throughout project on issue basis	Already 265 (Operational-108, Book keeping-42, First follow-up-64 and Second follow-up-51) training sessions completed.
		Savings and Credit (S&C) function capacity and skills development for WMO	On-going	Contractor selected via competitive tendering. Training material preparation is underway.
		Basic IGA Management training	Started	A concept paper has been prepared after completing TNA for IGA Management for WMO members
5.2.2	CO & FO Skills Development	VC and Business skills Development programme for CO	On-going	VC Training programs for DT's (DAE) further postponed. Experience exchange with DAE

		and FO/DAE		envisaged within MFS programme defined.
5.3	MFS Program	Market orientation of specific VC producer groups. Polders 22 & 30 (Sesame) and Polders 43/2F and 43/2d (Mung bean & Tilapia),	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities below
5.3.1	Producer Group Facilitator (PF) Skill Development	VC, Market orientation, Business and Market linkage skill development for PFs and FOs.	On-going throughout 2015	PFs were trained on the use of TABs to conduct baseline survey. Training completed on implementing MFS Tilapia. Curriculum in preparation for MFS backyard poultry for conducting training for PF/FOs
5.3.2	MFS program implementation	MFS sessions are going on as per schedule (including-setting up trials, linkage meeting with VC actors, support actors).	On-going	MFS Sesame completed for 20 producer groups for Polder 22 and Polder 30. MFS Mung bean completed for 20 producer groups for polder 43/2D and polder 43/2F. MFS Tilapia ongoing for Polder 22 and 30.
		Promoting Collective action among PG	On-going	Collective action promoted among PG members for the buying of inputs, selling produce or availing services.
		Resource Farmer training within MFS (linkages)	On-going	Training completed for Resource Farmers. Field visits organized to market actors as part of capacity building.
		Input Provider training programme within MFS (linkages)		Linkage meetings took place in Khulna and Patuakhali. Trainings will take place for capacity development for input provider as part of VC efficiency. Baseline survey conducted and analysed to record farmers' perception on input provider as source of information.
6.	Monitor and Evaluate Business Development Programme			
6.1	MFS M&E	MFS Monitoring	On-going	MFS baseline survey developed, completed and analysis ongoing for Sesame and Mung bean MFS.

The selection of value chains on a polder basis has been an activity throughout the period. The master files for Polders 2, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31(part), 43/2F, 43/2D, 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/2B & 43/1A have been completed. The proposed value chain selections for these polders have been completed except for polders 2 and 26. PDPs for polders 22 and 43/2F have been finalized and is on-going for polder 43/2D. The information collected in the Master files will contribute to the formulation of new PDPs.

The MFS programmes for Sesame and Mung bean crops were on-going in polders 22, 30 and 43/2F, 43/2D respectively, and the core sessions during the growing season have been completed. These provide producer groups with market linkages along with improved production technology to encourage them to become market oriented and consider farming as business. Several good examples of collective action were observed among the Producer Groups as members purchased

inputs together, or sold their produce collectively. The MFS for Tilapia producer groups has started in Polder 43/2D and 43/2F mainly targeting women related to the Mung Bean producers of Mung MFS. The preparations for the backyard poultry MFS at polder 22 & 30 are underway, again targeting women related to the MFS farmers of Sesame.

Training programs were organized for the capacity building of the Resource Farmers (RFs). Through this training RFs improve their skills in organizing collective actions, enhance their networking ability and develop their entrepreneurial skills. There were also sessions arranged for input providers with forward market actors and the impact was positive.

The training program for the efficient use of agricultural machinery (MAM training) as part of WMG capacity building is going on successfully. The contracting process to conduct the Savings and Credit training for WMGs has been completed. The training module preparation is at its final stage. This Savings and Credit training programme aims to improve the management of this function amongst WMG members and to enhance proper record keeping. It should contribute to transparency and accountability in the activities of the WMG.

Despite the changes in BCUPs organisational structure, the collaboration at field level between BRAC/BCUP loan distribution activities and Blue Gold program beneficiaries is being continued. The beneficiaries of Blue Gold program are receiving loans from BRAC/BCUP at lower rates than the market rate.

3.5.2 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 21: Component 4 cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
BRAC	BCUP programme	Belayet Hussain	Maintain liaison on agricultural finance programme (beyond MFI) for MFS/WMG.
DAE	Sesame – Mung Bean FFS	Mrs Tahmina Begum	Consideration of exchange of experiences with MFS/FFS Sesame and Mung bean
DANIDA	IFMC	Ms. Rilla Norslund	Cooperation on FBS – MFS, organisation of Producer Organisations
World Fish	CSISA-BD Project AIN Project	Md. Mokarram Hossain, Asoke K Sarker, Zakir Hossain, Baten Bhuyan, Erik Keus	Technical Information sharing for aquaculture promotion in polder region.
Patuakhali University.	Faculty of Fisheries	Prof. Dr. Sultan Mahmud	Technical information on Tilapia promotion
GYM (Grameen Yukiguni Maitake Ltd.)	Joint venture social business company	Tomoyasu Ebana Mohammad Iqbal Mazumder	Evaluate linkage with Mung PG group
CDI (the Netherlands)	Moringa Value Chain Study	Yeray Saavedra Gonzalez	Undertaking of international value chain and end-markets study for Moringa
Bengal Meat	Livestock	Wayne Gaskell	Explore supply chain coordination for small livestock
Grameen Intel	ICT for soil testing	Fakhrul Arefin	Explore possibility of linkage of ICT with PG.
Just Food	Vegetable value chain -	Gijs Herpers	Explore suitable area of production in Blue Gold area,

	Inclusiveness		Inclusiveness study,
IRRI	IRRI-Blue Gold pilot project	Dr. Manoranjan Mondal Timothy Russell	Exchange ideas about community based water management – Polder 30. Explored possibilities of introducing new varieties of rice such as Aromatic rice/high value rice in MFS.
FAO	Agricultural Machinery	Ms. Rebekah Bell	Project Evaluation on delivery of Agricultural Machinery
CCBA	Value Chain studies	Dr. Md. Anisur Rahman	Background on NATP and CCBA projects of relevance to MFS
BARI	Moringa Study	Dr. M.A. Goffar	Background on Moringa in Bangladesh
CSISA-MI	Mechanization	Bill Collis, Senior Project Leader CIMMYT	Explore possibility of collaboration

3.5.3 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

Table 22: Component 4 next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1	Selection of sub-sectors/products and value chains on a polder basis (polders 2 and 26 only)			
1.1	Engage with communities to define broad development options	Support multi-disciplinary survey	On- going	Follow catchment planning process on an integrated basis with the catchment stakeholders.
1.2	Develop regional development framework (RDF)	Define information, collect, liaise with other programmes and draft RDF	On- going	Information collection going on to initiate understanding Polder Scenarios.
1.3	Select or prioritise value chains for analysis	Define criteria, collect and analyse data, & select.	2015	Apply ranking matrix in support of polder development option identification (completion for polders 2, 26).
1.4	Formulating PDP	Assess polder info, develop scenario and draft PDP	2015	Drafting of a polder growth scenario with other components following the newly introduced process (Polders 43/2D, 43/2E, and start Polders 2 & 26)
2	Undertake in-depth Value Chain Analysis (specific to defined VC)			
2.1	Consult the actors for VCA	Pre-Feasibility analysis of the following VCs: sunflower, beef fattening and milk value chain.	July-September, 2015	Develop map, actor baseline data, identify constraints and opportunities. Actors related to these value chains will be consulted to get a good idea about the potential of these value chains.
2.2	Identify and Assess solutions	Value chain study of Moringa.	July - September 2015	Assess potential solutions on viability. Define basic approach to VC development
2.3	Engaging with VC actors	Expansion of VC Sesame and	July-September	Facilitating solution, business planning sessions, create

		Mung bean in additional polders	2015	linkages with VC actors through MFS
2.4	Define VC intervention strategy	VC under analysis (Backyard Poultry – polder 22 & 30)	July-September 2015	Complete VC intervention strategy report for Backyard Poultry.
3	Facilitate Value Chain Development			
3.1	Influencing incentives by awareness	Facilitate Value Chain Development	On-going 2015	DAE, MoL, MoF Orientation workshop re-organised.
		VC and Business skill development program for DAE, DLS & DoF	On-going during MFS	Planned for DAE, DLS & DoF staff.
3.2	Enhancing skills by Capacity Development	Prepare Capacity Development for specific target groups	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities below
3.2.1	WMO Skills Development	Collective action skills development for WMO	2015-2016	Continue MAM training for 217 WMG.
			2015 -2017	Conduct training on Savings and Credit through third party. Pilot with 50 WMGs.
			July-September, 2015	Procurement documentation developed for conducting Small IGA Management improvement training.
4.	MFS Program	Market orientation of specific VC producer groups	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities Polders 22 & 30 (Sesame & backyard Poultry) and Polders 43/2F and 43/2d (Mung bean & Tilapia) will continue till 2017.
4.1	MFS program implementation	Implementation of first MFS on Poultry (polder 22 & 30) and Tilapia (polder 43/2F & 43/2D) linked to MFS Sesame and Mung bean	July-September 2015 On-going	Benchmark surveys completed on first season MFS Sesame & Mung, and baseline of Tilapia and Poultry. RF capacity building training, Baseline survey for Input traders, Training for Input Traders.
4.2	Producer Group Facilitator (PF) Skill Development	Training on different Market orientation related issues for conducting MFS	On-going throughout 2015	Advanced training on production technology (Poultry), including FOs. Follow up training on MFS operation along with VC development, use of TAB etc. Weekly sessions will continue.
4.3	Resource Farmer (RF) Skill Development	MFS organization, market orientation and entrepreneurship skill development	July-September, 2015	Knowledge and skills for the envisaged roles of the RF.

4.4	Input Trader (IP) Skill Development	Demand-supply estimation, client relations and product specific embedded service related issues	July-September, 2015	Knowledge and skills enhancement on product, service and efficient business, proper handling of pesticides.
		Establishing of linkages with forward market actors	On-going	Involving potential buyers in the MFS programme. Promote collective actions. Undertaking market visits with farmers. Establishing contact with GYM for the export of Mung bean, other alternative buyers for both crops
5.	Monitor and Evaluate Business Development Programme			
5.1	MFS M&E	MFS Monitoring	On-going	MFS Sesame/Mung bean baseline survey processed and analysed. MFS Tilapia/Poultry baseline survey will be completed by ODK.

The work on the selection of value chains in polder 2 and 26 will be based on the project objectives and finalised (combining with already selected VCs or deciding on new VC) during this reporting period. Input will be provided to the drafting of PDPs in accordance with the new process. This information will also serve the catchment planning efforts which will start in the above polders. The PDP outcomes might result in new value chain analyses to be initiated. In the meantime, pre-feasibilities of diversification options are undertaken.

The Value Chain analysis for Poultry is nearly completed. Intervention activities for the Tilapia and Poultry value chains will be initiated through the on-going MFS Tilapia and the start-up of the Poultry MFS. A scoping study on Moringa which was initiated in the previous reporting period will be presented during a workshop in August.

WMG capacity strengthening on the basis of MAM and Savings and Credit training will respectively continue and start. PFs and POs will be trained on Poultry MFS curriculum including different aspects of market orientations. Additional training programs for different stakeholders like resource farmers and input provider will be undertaken, and others for public service providers prepared. This will include an MFS information sharing workshop with district level DAE officials in this reporting period.

The MFS Sesame/Mung program's second year baseline will be processed and a report with a comparative analysis with first year findings will be prepared. At the same time the MFS Tilapia/Poultry baseline will be conducted.

3.6 Water Management Fund and Productive Sector Innovation Fund

3.6.1 Current activities

1. Women-managed Small Household Ponds (SHHP) project requests extension

On 18th June, WorldFish submitted a request for a no-cost extension of the SHHP project, citing that the project is going to end by 30th June as per the previously extended contract. However, since some of the funds of the SHHP project remain unspent, WorldFish has requested for a further no-cost extension for a period of three months (July-September 2015).

As per the original no-cost extension, WorldFish will submit the final report on the SHHP project to Blue Gold by June 30, 2015. During the second period of no-cost extension (July-September 2015), WorldFish will focus on fine tuning the research regarding *Technologies, Economic Analysis and Measurement of the Women Empowerment Index (WEI)*.

2. Follow-up on water hyacinth handicraft production

The Innovation Fund Manager has made contact with a company that might potentially serve as the private sector partner for a water hyacinth handicraft production project within Blue Gold. The company, *Classical Handmade Products BD*, has previous experience in partnering with NGOs and has been asked to submit a project proposal.

3. NICE Foundation submits research proposal on Kawra pig-rearing community

The proposal of the NICE Foundation regarding research on the Kawra pig-rearing community in the South-West of Bangladesh has been approved by EKN on 23rd June, 2015. Blue Gold will move forward with the official procedures, drafting and signing a contract. The NICE Foundation aims to start their activities within the Blue Gold program on August 1st, 2015.

4. ACACIA Water works on revised proposal

The project proposal from ACACIA Water, focused on the adaptation of MAR technology for agriculture practices, has been reviewed by EKN. Comments provided by EKN on 31st March 2015 have been passed on to ACACIA, who are currently in the process of revising their original proposal. It is expected that ACACIA will submit their revised proposal by mid-July. Once approved, implementation of the project is aimed for September 2015.

3.6.2 New initiatives in Quarter 2

1. Inclusion of Innovation Funnel to Procedures Manual

The Innovation Fund Manager has updated the Procedure Manual for the Innovation Fund, by adding an additional tool that allows the effective management of innovative concepts. This tool, the Innovation Funnel, is a graphic structure for the selection of project applications.

The Innovation Funnel approach starts with a broad range of project proposals and gradually refines and selects from among them, creating a handful of innovative development projects that can be pushed to completion and introduction within the Blue Gold program. A variety of different product and process ideas enter the Innovation Funnel for investigation, but only a fraction becomes part of a full-fledged development project.

The goal of the Innovation Funnel is to create a portfolio of projects that will meet the Blue Gold program objectives, while applying the Innovation Fund resources strategically and ensuring that the selected projects deliver on the objectives anticipated when the project proposal was approved.

The updated Procedures Manual will be finalized and shared with EKN in Q3.

2. Visit to Urban Dredging Demonstration Project (UDDP) in Dhaka

On 15 April a team of Blue Gold, consisting of the Innovation Fund Manager and the staff of Component 2, visited the project sites of the UDDP project in Dhaka. The purpose of the visit was to research the potential suitability of UDDP's C86xs floating bulldozer for use and / or implementation in the Blue Gold polder areas.

One of the focus activities of the Blue Gold program is the excavation of canals in the polder areas. Making use of specialized dredging machinery offers the potential to increase the production output and continue excavation work during the rainy season. Although the UDDP project has two floating bulldozers in use, unfortunately both were out of service during Blue Gold's project visit. Therefore a follow-up visit is recommended to gather more experience on the C86xs floating bulldozer. Additionally, other options of suitable dredging machinery for the Blue Gold program will be explored.

3. Visit to Bengal Meat production facility in Pabna

On 12 April a team of Blue Gold, consisting of the Innovation Fund Manager, the Livestock Expert and the Market Development Expert visited the production facility of Bengal Meat in Pabna, Bangladesh. The aim of the visit was to evaluate collaboration possibilities between Bengal Meat and Blue Gold, specifically on the topic of livestock farming as an income generating activity for Blue Gold farmers. Both sheep and cow rearing offer potential to become an alternative income generation activity for farmers in the Blue Gold polders. However, many questions remain open before Blue Gold can proceed to undertake a pilot. With the potential to involve a private lead firm (Bengal Meat) and a firm establishment that the Blue Gold polders are indeed good production areas for sheep and/or cattle (fattening), the feasibility of this operation and especially the presence/feasibility of forward and backward linkages needs to be looked at, along with the impact it could have on economic growth (read income/jobs) and the strict requirements of Bengal Meat will have to be ascertained as end-market provider.

Together with Component 3 and 4, the Innovation Fund Manager is searching for relevant partners that would allow Blue Gold to take this initiative forward.

4. Visit to solar irrigation project of Action in Development, Jhenaidah

On 23rd June a Blue Gold team consisting of the Innovation Fund Manager and the Leader of Component 3, visited the solar irrigation project sites of Action in Development (AID) in Jhenaidah. The aim of this visit was to learn more about AID's implementation of solar irrigation pumps in farmer communities. Specific information was collected on the technical setup, the feasibility and financial sustainability, the business model and the community involvement.

Blue Gold learned that next to a demand for irrigation services, there is a potential (unmet) demand for the provision of electricity to rural farmer communities. Additionally, the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) plays a key role in financing solar power projects in Bangladesh. Blue Gold is interested in exploring solar power irrigation for Polder 22, and will continue to follow-up with AID on this topic.

5. Polder Landscape Planning approach

Blue Gold has contacted Michel Boom of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) to assist in the development of an integrated planning approach for Polder 2. If successful, this planning approach can be extended for use in other polders.

Michel Boom was part of the reconnaissance mission of the Dutch Water Authorities (DWA) and Dienst Landelijk Gebied (DLG) between 16 and 28 January 2015. The focus of the reconnaissance mission was to explore possibilities for mutual cooperation with the Blue Gold program. Michel's international expertise in the landscape planning approach (Sketch & Match) could be extremely valuable for Blue Gold. Therefore Blue Gold has requested his help with initiating a process of integrated planning at polder level with the various key stakeholders of the Blue Gold program.

Michel Boom will join the Blue Gold team during a two week mission, which will start in the third week of August 2015.

3.7 Training

3.7.1 Training Conducted (April - June 2015)

No.	Training Title	Date & Place	Participants	Batch	Participants (number)		
					Male	Female	Total
Program Management							
01.	Blue Gold orientation for Union Parishad	20-28.04.15, Polder- 26,29 & 31part, Khulna	UP Representative, BWDB, DAE, WMA, WMG, CO	05	79	33	112
02.	Blue Gold orientation for Union Parishad	13-14.05.15, Polder- 2, Satkhira	UP Representative, BWDB, DAE, WMA, WMG, CO	02	56	7	63
Total				07	135	40	175
Component 1							
03	Training on Organizational Management for WMG members	Polder-43/ 2A Patuakhali	WMG member, UP representative	07	147	80	227
Total				07	147	80	227
Component 2							
04	Training on LCS work	01-06.04.15 polder-26,30 Khulna	LCS Member & WMG Representatives	07	271	197	468
Sub Total				07	271	197	468
05	Training on Construction Monitoring & Quality Control	21-28.04.15,Polder- 22,26,29&30 Khulna	Monitoring Committee Member, LCS Leader, WMG/WMA Representatives	04	72	33	105
06	Training on Construction Monitoring & Quality Control	13.05.15 Satkhira	Monitoring Committee Member, LCS Leader, WMG/WMA Representatives	01	18	12	30
07	Training on Construction work Monitoring & Quality Control	Polder-43/2A,1A and 2B, Patuakhali	Monitoring Committee Member, LCS Leader, WMG/WMA Representatives	06	66	26	92
Total				11	156	71	227
Component 3							
Component 4							
08	MAM Training for WMG	Polder- 22,29,30	WMG, FFS, MFS	48	1423	809	2232
09	MAM training for WMG	Polder-43/2D, 2F & 2A	WMG, FSS, MFS	89	1248	522	1770
Total				137	2671	1331	4002

M & E							
10	Training on Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response & Early Warning System	Polder - 22	Volunteers, Elected UP Members (UDMC)	02	43	25	68
11	Training on Early Warning Materials use and First Aid.	Polder 22	Volunteers, Elected UP Members (UDMC)	02	43	26	69

- Blue Gold Orientation for UP Representatives:** The Union Parishad is an important supportive organization of Blue Gold at the polder level. The objective of this orientation is to introduce Union Parishad representatives with different components/activities of Blue Gold, identify the areas of collaboration and develop partnership between BWDB, DAE, DLS, DoF, UP, WMO and Blue Gold Program. In this quarter a total of 175 representatives in 7 unions participated in the orientation program in Khulna and Satkhira.
- Training course on Organizational Management for WMG's:** The 1st batch (61 batches) Organizational Management (OM) Training for WMG's has been completed in 5 Polders for 122 WMG under Khulna, Patuakhali and Barguna. The 2nd batch training will start soon in other polders. This is foundation training where 11 sessions are planned in a 3 days training course. This training is conducted by an External Training Team..
- Training on LCS work:** This year LCS training course was divided into 2 parts that the 1st part is one day formal training. The one day training contained LCS working steps and procedures, techniques of earth filling, measurement of excavation, billing procedures, LCS management, and roles of different parties involved with the LCS work etc. The 2nd part of LCS training is planned as on-the-job training (OJT) which will be conducted when the LCS work in the field starts. This quarter 07 batch (468 members) received training in Khulna District.
- Training on Construction Monitoring & Quality Control for WMA Monitoring Committee:** The objectives of this training are to develop knowledge and skills to monitor the construction activities for quality control. This was a one day practical training where WMA Monitoring Team, Contractor representatives, LCS leaders and UP representatives attended. Five major topics were discussed: Importance of Construction Monitoring and Quality Control by the WMA monitoring Team, Importance of Construction Monitoring and Quality Control, Construction work in Blue Gold, Techniques to monitoring the construction work and practice to fill up Monitoring Tools. In this quarter 11 batches training were conducted where 227 participants attended.
- Training on Management of Agricultural Machineries (MAM) for WMG:** The objective of the training program is to create awareness amongst the WMG members of their machinery asset holding, the options available to them to organize a mechanization service to the WMG members, and to properly manage it for the longer term. In the 1st day of this training (part-1) WMG EC members, FFS and MFS members, and some active WMG members (30 participants) participated in day long training.

In the second part (part-2) the specific management and bookkeeping requirements of the chosen options are discussed and practiced with the Management of the WMG and/or the specific sub-group appointed to manage the Mechanization Service. The bookkeeping practice makes the WMG aware to use of the envisaged bookkeeping documents, the system of which they will use in managing the machineries. After completion of part 1 & 2 training the trainers conducted 2 follow ups in order to monitor proper bookkeeping by the WMG and to provide on-the-job training and necessary support. This quarter a total of 137 batches training were conducted where 4002 participants attended.
- Training on Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Response & Early Warning System:** The objectives of this training is to increase knowledge of UDMC members and Community DRR Volunteers (WMG&WMA) on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and disaster response. This is conducted in Polder 22 for 2 batch participants where 68 participants attended. This training was conducted by Shushilon a Khulna based local NGO.

7. **Training on Early Warning Material Use and First Aid:** The objectives of the Training were to develop the knowledge and awareness on use of Early Warning and First Aid Materials, Early Warning System and develop mass awareness regarding disaster risk reduction through WMG, WMA members, Community Volunteer's and UDMC members. Both the training programs were conducted in Polder 22 by Shushilon. This quarter a total of 2 batch training has been conducted in polder 22 where 69 participants were attended.

3.7.2 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

Component-1: Community Mobilization & Institutional Strengthening

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Apr – Jun 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Outsourcing company/organization for conducting OM training course	--	--	--	x	x		
2. Implement OM training course for WMG at the Polder level	WMG and UP Representatives	3 days	18 batches		x	x	
3. Outsourcing company/organization for conducting Financial Management (FM) training	--	--	--		x		
4. Implement Financial Management Training for WMG at Polder level	WMG and UP Representatives	3 days	?		x	x	
5. Outsourcing company/organization for conducting Gender & Leadership Development (G&LD) training	--	--	--			x	
6. Organize training course on Water Management Organizations	Newly recruited CO	7 days	--		x		Jointly with C-1
7. Training on community organizing & facilitation process	Local/Community Facilitator	5 days	--			x	Jointly with C-1

Component-2: Water Resources Management

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Apr – Jun 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Orientation on Construction Management & Quality Control	BWDB, Blue Gold District Team	01 day	03		x		Khulna, Satkhira & Patuakhali
2. Design and organize Refresher Training on LCS work	BWDB & Blue Gold District Team	01 day	02 batches		x		Khulna & Patuakhali
3. Revise/prepare curriculum outline of O&M Training Module (3 days) based on IPSWAM Training Module	--	--	--		x		
4. Curriculum development workshop on draft O&M Training Curriculum Outline	BWDB and Blue Gold Staff	01 day	01 batch		x		Dhaka (DP-III)
5. Develop ToR for outsourcing training company/NGO for conducting O&M training at the	--	--	--			x	

polder level.							
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Component-3: Food Security and Agricultural Production

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Apr-Jun 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1.							
2.							
3.							

Component-4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Apr – Jun 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Organize training course on Management of Agricultural Machineries (MAM)	WMG EC members + Potential members from the WMG	02 days	--	x	x	x	Khulna and Patuakhali
2. Assist External Training Team in finalizing Training Module on S&C for WMG	--	--	--	x	x		
3. Participate in organizing dry-run on S&C in Patuakhali and Khulna	External Training Team	02 days	02 batch		x		Khulna and Patuakhali
4. Piloting of S&C in Khulna and Patuakhali	WMG	02 days	4 WMG		x		Khulna and Patuakhali
5. Organize orientation on S&C Training course	ZSE, CO, PF, FO	01 day	02 batches		x		Khulna & Patuakhali
6. Organize & implement S&C training to the WMG level	WMG	02 days	? batches		x	x	02 days training + 2 F/up

DRR & Climate Change

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Jul-Sep, 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Develop ToR for outsourcing training company/NGO for conducting DRR training	--	--	--		x		To be outsourced
2. Training on Disaster Prevention and Early Warning System	Community Facilitator/Volunteer & UDMC	02 days	--			x	
3. Training on Early Warning Material Use and First Aid	Community Facilitator/Volunteer & UDMC	02 days	--			x	

Monitoring & Evaluation

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Jul 2015 to Jun 2016			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Refresher Training for all COs on Tablets Operation using ODK software	All COs	3 days	2 batches		x		
2. Training for Baseline Survey Enumerators (Training provide by Mott. MacDonald)	Enumerators	5 days	22 Parti. + 5 resources			x	

Project Management & Capacity Building

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	No. of Batches/ Participants	Jul-Sep, 2015			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Mid-term Review Mission	--	--	--		x		
2. Need based Quarterly Staff Development Training	CO, FO, PF	02 days	02 batches			x	
3. ICT training (2 days)	CO, FO, PF	02 days	02 batches		x		

3.8 Communication and Knowledge Management

3.8.1 Status Overview of Activities April - June 2015

No.	Planned Key Activities	Completion Schedule	Progress
1	Newsletter Issue 1, 2015	June	Completed
2	2D Animation video about LCS training	June	Final version is being reviewed by C2
3	Evaluation of Mela	June	Drafted and will be incorporated in planning
4	Evaluation of Community Radio	June	Drafted and will be incorporated in planning
5	Broadcasting of melon production on Bangladesh TV	Not previously planned	Broadcasted in May and June
6	Video documentation of Dutch minister's visit	Not previously planned	Done
7	Producing new English brochure	March	Still in process
8	Redesign and printing of folder	Not previously planned	May
9	Printing of revised notebook	Not previously planned	May
10	Updating Facebook and Blue Gold Web content	Throughout the quarter	
11	Photo documentation	Throughout the quarter	

- Video documentation of Blue Gold Mela was made in addition to planned activities for the quarter.

3.8.2 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

No.	Planned Key Activities	Completion Schedule
1	Planning of regular community radio program	July
2	Preliminary assessment of ICT use by grassroots staff	July
3	Training of ICT for Grassroots Staff	August
2	Planning of regular Blue Gold mela	August
3	Evaluation of newsletter issue 1	August
4	Newsletter publication	September
5	2D animation film for C2	August-October
6	Producing new English brochure	August
7	Linking Digital Library to website	September
8	Photo documentation	Throughout the quarter
9	Updating Facebook and Blue Gold Web content	Throughout the quarter

3.9 Monitoring & Evaluation

3.9.1 Overview of Activities: April - June 2015

The table below gives a general overview of M&E activities carried out in the period of April to June 2015:

Table 23: Status of M&E activities

No.	Planned Key Activities	Completion Schedule	Progress
1.	Socio Economic Baseline Survey for new five Polders	Sept- Dec. 2015	The same sampling procedure and survey methodology will be applied as in the first survey.
2.	Outcome Mapping/ Monitoring	Throughout program	On-going; Semi-annual Outcome Monitoring Report distributed to respective stakeholders, reviewed WMG Progress Markers
3.	Output Monitoring	Throughout program	On-going; completed data processing and analysis, prepare report
4.	Observation Monitoring (Process Monitoring)	Throughout program	On-going; regularly field observation, analysis report preparation

Blue Gold's M&E system comprises of the three pillars of Impact Measurement, Outcome Monitoring and Output Monitoring. The process and main results per each pillar are described in the following sections.

3.9.2 Impact Measurement

The final report of socio-economic baseline survey of the nine IPSWAM polders was completed and distributed to respective stakeholders. Five additional polders (Polder no. 2, 26, 31-part, 55/2A & 55/2C) are or will be selected for implementation under the Blue Gold Program. The M&E team is planning to start the socio-economic baseline survey in September 2015 with the same sampling procedure and survey methodology as applied in the first survey.

3.9.3 Outcome Mapping

After analysis of all data of each boundary partner, the M&E expert shared outcome results of progress markers (PM) of WMG at the two zonal offices with COs and Socio-Economists. The international M&E Expert shared/presented outcome results of each progress marker of 4 boundary partners at Dhaka Blue Gold office with CLs/DCLs and experts. After getting all feedback from the two sharing meetings, a Semi-annual Outcome Monitoring Report was prepared and distributed to the respective stakeholders. As per M&E plan, the next outcome monitoring will be started in August/Sept. 2015.

3.9.4 Output Monitoring

The following procedures have been undertaken for regular monitoring of inputs, activities and outputs during this quarter. The excel datasheets have been used by the respective component staff.

Table 24: Achievements June 2015 based on Indicators of Logical Framework (LFW)

Indicators and Targets of LFW	Achievement June 2015	Remarks
Polder identified and selected out of target of 26 polders	12	
250 IPSWAM WMGs are existing and operational, and are registered	241	Some WMG's merged
600 new WMGs are established and operational, and registered	44	Due to new policy total number may decrease
> 55% of all households are represented as member of the 850 WGMs by the end of the program	56%	285 WMGs of 12 polders
>40% of all WMG members are female	39%	285 WMGs of 12 Polders
>30% of executive committees' membership of WMGs are women	34%	

At least 255 WMGs are performing activities in credits and savings and mechanization services	96	Only performing activities in Savings and Credits
In 45,000 ha of IPSWAM polders the water management infrastructure fine-tuned for optimal use	42,168	Total surface of the nine IPSWAM polders is 42,168 ha
25,000 ha of polders are rehabilitated	20044	In 3 polders (2, 26, 31-part). All other new polders will be fine-tuning polders.
>50% of all earthwork is done by LCS	52%	In 10 polders
40% of LCS labourers are female	38%	In 10 polders
At least 7500 women earning from LCS	5176	In 10 polders
1000 FFSs implemented by DAE and efficiently completed	170	
400 FFS implemented by TA and efficiently completed	264	88 FFS running, 176 FFS completed
Female FFS participants ratio is 50:50	Male 20%, Female 80%	Only TA

**Note: Only those output Indicators from the logical framework are mentioned in the above table where there is progress

3.9.5 Observation Monitoring (Process Monitoring)

The M&E team has started the process monitoring/observation monitoring. The main objective is to observe the Blue Gold activities which are running or completed for finding progress or actions or constraints and/or whether those activities are implemented as per the guidelines of the Blue Gold Program. The following findings of M&E team have developed through attending 6 sampled WMG monthly meetings and visiting/observing LCS and Contractor on earthworks activity in the 3 districts (Khulna, Satkhira, and Patuakhali):

- There was an initial meeting after the election of the Executive Committee (EC) of Durgapur Sluice WMA. Out of 9 EC members, 7 EC members attended the meeting. General members were also invited to attend but only 4 members were present;
- The newly elected president of the WMA, Mr. Chitta Ranjan Halder was found sincere specially in taking opinions and suggestions from general members, and keeping open choices in taking decisions;
- The WMG willingly refused to do LCS contract and all WMG members took this decision collectively when they got the proposal;
- President of the WMG claimed that BWDB official told the president to meet individually regarding second bill and indicated to give an amount for that reason.
- Water logging is one of the major problems of this particular community. The land undergoes into water for five months in every year. Therefore, no crops produced during that time;
- 9 EC members attended in the WMG meeting, which is very positive and significant. WMG members carried out the activities according to their objective, for example (a) meetings were held regularly, (b) more than 80% of EC members attended the meeting; (c) updated pass book, individual ledger, general ledger, etc. were kept by themselves;
- Meeting had started and finished on time, and all documents of WMG had been updated with the help of respective Community Organizer (CO) during the meeting.

The following recommendations and suggestions have been made through M&E observation findings of LCS and Contractor's earthwork.

- 1 The tender period and timeframe for earth-work should be shifted to an earlier date like tender procedure should take place in the period from October to December and the timeframe for earth-work within the months of January to June;

- 2 The laborers (LCS members) are very poor and their condition is just as hand to mouth. Therefore the billing procedure should be more daily labor-friendly in considering their urgent needs. So that they can be paid daily as the contractors pay to their labors;
- 3 Training should be provided in a proper time when actually it is more applicable by ensuring inter component coordination and training unit. As per discussion with the monitoring committee members it would be needed to provide the refresher training to maintain quality for properly monitoring and follow-up LCS and Contractors on earth-works;
- 4 It was observed that some of female LCS groups are dropping excavation soil immediately close (not more than 2 feet) to the width margin, i.e. they are not following the measurement rule. So, BWDB and Blue Gold should frequently visit whether they are dropping excavation soil close to the margin or not.
- 5 It was found that within same WMG, there are two separate male & female LCS groups, holding separate contracts but two groups are working together on re-sectioning of embankment without informing authorities, if it is running this way then conflict maybe come up very shortly. They should work separately as per their contract.
- 6 In some areas the local land owners refused to give soil for re-sectioning of embankment from their lands to excavate. It was found that new WMGs have not enough capacity and skill to solve such problems. It was suggested that the Blue Gold and BWDB engineers provide help and support to new WMGs for solving this type of conflict through discussion with local land owners.

3.9.6 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

Table 25: M&E next quarter planning

No.	Activities	Timeframe	Responsible Person/s
1	Output Progress Monitoring Report, based on component reports, following output indicators of logical framework	Sept/Oct 2015	M&E Expert
2.	Implementation of the Outcome Mapping Monitoring Plan	Semi-Annual (Aug/Sept 15)	M&E Team
3.	Sharing meeting/ workshop on Outcome Mapping Monitoring results/data, based on progress markers of the boundary partners	Sept 2015	International M&E Expert/ M&E Expert
4.	Outcome Monitoring Report based on results of progress markers of the boundary partners	Sept. 2015	M&E Expert
5.	Observation Monitoring for supporting Components, prepare Observation Monitoring Report	July-Sept.	M&E officers/ M&E Expert
6.	Regular verify and check of Output Monitoring Data	July-Sept	M&E Officers

3.10 Institutional Strengthening

3.10.1 Status Overview of Activities

Table 26: Progress of Institutional Strengthening activities (April - June 2015)

SL	Planned activities	Subject	Timeframe	Progress
1	Project orientation for Union Parishad at Khulna and Satkhira	Institutional	Continues	7 Orientations held
2	Updating of the draft format for key stakeholders analysis and plan	Institutional	Continues	On going
3	Provided support to Communication Expert regarding Blue Gold Newsletter	Institutional	-	1 st . issue printed and circulated
4	Assessment of Institutional setting at Polders	Institutional	Continues	1 Polder
5	Facilitated in CO's Refresher training courses		May 2015	2 batches at Patuakhali and Khulna
6	Briefed Upazila Parishad regarding	Institutional	Continues	1 UZP Chairman and 1 UNO

	cooperation on implementation of project activities			
7	Polder Development Plan (PDP) preparation	Institutional		1 PDP, IS part
8	Facilitation in HLP Upazila Workshop at Patuakhali Sadar (Participated by the UP and WMO representatives)	Institutional	-	Completed
9	Prepared 2 Fact Sheets on 2 good practices regarding jointly selected by WMOs and UP representatives regarding Maintenance of Embankment, Sluice Gate, Out Lets jointly by WMOs and UPs	Institutional	-	Jointly organized by NILG, Blue Gold, WSP- World Bank, Max Foundation and other HLP partners
10	Promote UPs to assist business friendly environment at local level and provide support to the CAHW	Institutional	Continues	8 UPs
11	Follow-up on deployment of Zonal Planning team of BWDB	Institutional	Continues	On going
12	Follow-up visit /briefing meeting with UP and UZP	Institutional	Continues	10 UPs
13	Facilitate for inclusion of WMO members in UP Standing Committees, UDMC and UDCC	Institutional	Continues	WMO members included in the UP Standing Committees and other Committees
14	Linkage with Horizontal Learning Program (HLP)	Institutional	Continues	Participated in meetings/Workshop and reviewed documents
15	Linkage with LOGIN	Institutional	Continues	Participated in meetings and reviewed documents

3.10.2 Next Quarter Planning (July - September 2015)

- Project orientation for Union Parishad (UP)
- Follow-up visit/briefing meeting with UP/UZP to strengthen cooperation among UP, UZP and WMOs
- Follow-up and updating of the Stakeholders Action Plan
- Facilitate to link productive sector and value chain development with Union Parishad
- Follow-up on deployment of Zonal Planning Team of BWDB
- Facilitation for preparation of joint work plan on cooperation by the WMOs and UP through participatory workshop
- Input for preparation of Polder Development Plans (PDP)
- Support to Communication Expert regarding Radio program, Newsletter, IEC materials development
- Enhancing cooperation among BWDB, WMOs and LGIs regarding availability of required land for re-sectioning of embankment and re-excavation of canal
- Assessment of Institutional setting at Polders
- Facilitate to establish linkage of Gender related activities with Union Parishad' regular activities
- Facilitation for linkage of DRR activities with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) jointly with Environment Expert.
- Facilitation for experience sharing visits on Good Practices (polder to polder)
- Translation of the Fact Sheets on maintenance of embankment, sluice gate, outlets etc. jointly by WMOs and UPs from English to Bangla, facilitate for printing and dissemination to encourage WMOs and UPs
- Facilitation for translation of Fact Sheets on Water Management, printing and distribution
- Facilitation for cooperation with Max Foundation, BRAC Wash, Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB), Shushilan and others
- Linkage and cooperation with Horizontal Learning Program (HLP), LOGIN and other networks

3.10.3 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 27: Cooperation with Other projects/organizations/networks

Project / Organization/ Networks	Related to project/ program	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
NILG	HLP Upazila workshop/LGI linkage	Director Training and Consultancy (Joint Secretary, LGD, MoLGRD&C)	Cooperation with LGIs and HLP, sharing of experience
World Bank	Disaster Management	Disaster Risk Management Specialist	Cooperation regarding DRR issues
Water and Sanitation Program, World Bank	Horizontal Learning Program	Task Team Leader, Senior Decentralization Specialist	Cooperation with LGI Network and Mutual learning among WMOs and UPs
Max Foundation	Water and Sanitation	Country Director and Monitoring Expert	HLP Upazila Workshop, cooperation among UP, WMOs regarding drinking water and sanitation facilities and nutrition
HYSAWA Fund	Hygiene Sanitation and Water	Team Leader and Project and Director Program	LGI and Community participation in water and sanitation infrastructure development
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Linkage between LGIs and CBOs	Senior Advisor, Local Government, Coordinator	Linkage between WMOs and LGIs
Union Parishad (UP)	LGI involvement	Chairman, member (female, male) and Secretary	Cooperation regarding implementation of project activities, O&M, conflict resolution and sustainability
Upazila Parishad(UZP)	LGI involvement	Chairman, Vice-Chairman (female, male) and UNO	Cooperation regarding implementation of project activities, conflict resolution, linkage of DRR activities with UDMC
Radio Nalta, Loko Betar	Community Radio Station	Station Manager, Coordinator	Utilization of Community Radio for information dissemination
Horizontal Learning Program (HLP)	Peer-learning network of LGIs	Focal Person and Partners	Cooperation among WMOs and LGIs
Local Governance Initiative (LOGIN)	Local Governance Network	SDC Program officer , LOGIN Country Facilitator and other members	Linking with Local Governance Network. Capacity building through experience sharing, exchange of innovative good practices among UPs, WMOs and CBOs

4. Main Challenges

4.1 Component 1

1 Financial Transparency Issues

Trust among members and leaders is an essential element in the overall functioning and sustainability of any organization. Crucial to establishment of trust is strong financial transparency. Strengthening/reactivation of the 240 WMGs in the 9 IPSWAM Polders has been challenging because of the poor financial transparency and very weak involvement of members in the overall affairs of the WMG. Mismanagement of funds collected from shares and savings and profits made from operation of agricultural machineries distributed by FAO surfaced in the process of reactivating existing WMGs. Key steps have been initiated to address this issue which are still being implemented i.e. assisting the WMGs update/install bookkeeping and accounting system, conducting general members' meetings to make as many members as possible become aware of the issues and motivate them to get involved in addressing the issue, widespread information dissemination of the by-laws highlighting responsibilities of leaders and members in the WMG, relentless discussion of this issue during the regular monthly meetings of the WMG Executive Committee and WMA meetings to implement steps to make those involved in the mismanagement of funds accountable. Many of those involved are former Executive Committee members and influential members of the WMGs.

2 Ensuring timely payment of LCS Groups

This has been a major challenge and it will remain as such unless measures are taken to ensure fund availability and timely fund releases to the concerned XEN Divisions. This should be given serious and urgent attention because the objective of Blue Gold to provide employment/livelihood to poor labourers is defeated when they are not paid on time.

3 Political Interference

This continued to be a major challenge in the strengthening of existing and formation of new WMGs in the 12 polders especially during formation of Ad Hoc Committees and election of Executive Committees during this quarter. There is a need to strengthen information dissemination and orientation of LGIs at district, upazila and union levels and get their positive support and cooperation in order to help overcome this challenge.

4.2 Component 2

- 1 Timely submission of design data by field offices.
- 2 Timely design of water management infrastructures by design offices.
- 3 Timely submission of estimates by field offices for vetting by TA Team.
- 4 Timely formation and training of LCSs.
- 5 Timely tendering and work award to Contractors and LCSs, including timely payment of LCS for work done.

- 6 Field quality control of implementation works as neither the LCSs nor the contractors are focused on quality improvement of implementation works.
- 7 Availability of land and soil for rehabilitation/ upgrading of embankment and re-excavation of canals.
- 8 Availability of proper set-back distance for construction of retired embankment.
- 9 Prior approval for implementation of rehabilitation works that are not included in the DPP.
- 10 Availability of additional funds for complete rehabilitation of Fine Tuning polders.

4.3 Component 3

No DAE activities can be planned at this moment as no funding is available. Two Statements of Expenditures (Jan-June 2014 and Jul-Dec 2014) are not yet approved.

4.4 Component 4

The process of Polder Development Planning has picked up momentum. While some PDPs are formulated the catchment level based planning for Polders 2 and 26 will start. This process is new and will undoubtedly pose several challenges to the staff. The final selection of the value chains should be fully aligned with the infrastructure improvements to show MFS participants the benefits thereof on their production systems. Besides selecting a commodity linked to water resource management and with broad impact potential, our portfolio approach foresees for value chains contributing to secondary objectives of Blue Gold.

The main challenge remains to link water resource management to present or potential production (agriculture/fisheries) systems on catchment level basis, and subsequently support those value chains whose productivity and profitability stands to benefit from improved water resource management and which will impact most on the economic development of the polder, and in turn on poverty reduction. Farmers appear aware that functional water resource management appears the binding constraints on agricultural productivity improvements.

The first season of MFS moved several smaller groups of farmers to cooperate on either land preparation, input purchases and/or produce selling. In Khulna, the coordination model was more based upon the introduction of a lead firm. Whatever the evolving model, there are dangers in these successes. Cooperation and coordination of farmers requires trust and transparency and must be guarded against adverse perceptions. In this second phase of MFS particular attention is needed to nurture the fragile producer groups towards maintaining trust and coherence. In addition, reactions by vested interests in the communities or amongst other market actors need to be monitored.

Our farmers (men or women) require the capacity to adapt to environmental and ever changing market conditions. Networking, and ways to introduce new technologies and information, is part of our exit strategy. Renewed efforts will be undertaken to bring DAE into the MFS programme. A study on the farmer information requirements, the available sources of information and the potential channels of delivery will be investigated.

The MFS being a three year involvement to allow producer groups to explore and develop collective efficiencies, is resource demanding. Spreading the available resources over more value chains (commodities) increases this demand. While the potential impact of Sesame and Mung bean value chain improvements might vary per polder, these remain the critical crops across the selected polders in the respective districts. We propose to remain with these crops instead of starting-up value chain improvements of crops with less impact potential. We do although foresee to take up diversification options from the second season onwards.

5. Financial Overview

The overall project budget as laid down in the Administrative Agreement (AA) of 20 February 2013 amounts to EUR 57,700,000 including the contribution of the Government of Bangladesh (BWDB and DAE) of EUR 7,855,000.

The following two tables provide an overview of the GoB and GoN (RPA and DPA) contributions and a budget overview of the TA contract at the end of June 2015.

Table 28: GoB and GoN contributions

Agency	Financial and TA Contribution			
	GoB Contribution (€ x 1,000)	GoN Contribution		
		RPA (€ x 1,000)	DPA (€ x 1,000)	PA (€ x 1,000)
BWDB	7,499	15,750	33,100	48,850
DAE	355	995	-	995
Total for Blue Gold Program (as per AA)	7,855	16,745	33,100	49,845

*100 Tk = 1 €

Table 29: Budget Overview 30 June 2015 – TA, Contracted Services & Equipment, Training and Operational Costs

Budget line	Total Budget	Expenses up to 31-03-2015	%	Expenses Q 2, 2015	Expenses up to 30-06-2015	Total spent %
TA contract						
TA team – Component 1	4,337,926	1,340,123	31%	188,934	1,529,057	35 %
TA team – Component 2	2,852,156	822,127	29%	126,485	948,612	33 %
TA team – Component 3	3,552,313	910,913	26%	128,426	1,039,339	29 %
TA team – Component 4	2,077,640	612,910	30%	83,849	696,759	34 %
Program Management	1,988,418	549,159	28%	78,602	627,761	32 %
Equipment	1,169,053	585,741	50%	19,878	605,619	52 %
Training	2,456,500	246,368	10%	181,925	428,293	17 %
Operational cost	1,272,600	556,429	44%	111,817	668,246	53 %
Contracted Services	7,542,000	787,282	10%	206,013	993,295	13 %
Water Management Innovation Fund	2,400,000	106,708	4%	15,878	122,586	5 %
Productive Sectors Innovation Fund	1,900,000	0	0%	13,926	13,926	1 %
SUBTOTAL TA contract	31,548,606	6,517,760	21%	1,155,733	7,673,493	24 %
GoN contribution to BWDB	15,750,000	1,216,000	8%	1,172,000	2,388,000	15 %
GoN contribution to DAE	995,000	257,000	26%	0	257,000	26 %
Total GoN contribution	48,293,606	7,990,760	17%	2,327,733	10,318,493	21 %

Appendix 1. Staffing Status

A-1 Blue Gold – Technical Assistance Team staffing as per June 30 2015

Designation	Name	Total planned input (days)	Inputs upto 31 December 2014 (days)	Input Q1 2015 (days)	Input Q2 2015 (days)	Cumulative input (days)	% of time utilized
Component 1							
International experts:							
Long term	Victoria Pineda	1,320	381	49	62	492	37%
Short term	Kitty Bentvelsen/ Geert Rhebergen	374	180	8	6	194	52%
National experts:							
Dhaka							
Development Planner/DTL	Alamgir Chowdhury	1,302	383	64	60	507	39%
Sr. Socio-Economist/DCL	John Marandy	1,302	400	49	54	503	39%
Sr. Sociologist/Cooperative Expert	Showkat Ara	1,085	216	64	55	335	31%
Community Organisation Expert	F.M. Shorab Hossain	1,302	432	64	55	551	42%
Gender Coordinator	Priodarshine Auvi	880	53	57	59	169	19%
Gender Expert	Khuku Chakrabarty	320	320			320	100%
Khulna							
Socio-economist 1, Khulna	M. Jashim Uddin	1,302	391	48	54	493	38%
Socio-economist 2, Khulna	Ummay Asma Khanam	1,223	328	59	59	446	36%
Socio-economist 3, Khulna	Md. Nazrul Islam Sarker,	135	52	57	26	135	100%
Patuakhali							
Socio-economist 4, Patuakhali	Mator Rahman	1,302	396	61	60	517	40%
Socio-economist 5, Patuakhali	Tahmina Akter	1,223	342	58	63	463	38%
Socio-economist 6, Patuakhali	Bithika Hazra,	868	53	58	59	170	20%
Socio-economist 7, Patuakhali	Ashik Billah	777	0	0	9	9	1%

Satkhira							
Community Organisers (Khulna 22, Satkhira 08; Patuakhali 20)	TBN	68,138	14,456	2,192	2,859	19507	29%
Subtotal TA team		82,853	18,383	2,888	3,540	24,811	135%
Component 2							
International experts:							
Long term	Dirk Smits/Guy Jones	1320	369	58	68	495	38%
Short term	Andrew Jenkins	330	6	0		6	2%
National experts:							
Dhaka							
DCL (Water Resource Management)	Mofazzal Ahmed	1,263	407	57	62	526	42%
Quantity Survey Engineer	Mahmudur Rahman Aveek	1,164	282	60	59	401	34%
Reimbursement Engineer	Farzana Rahman Moury	1,085	229	67	51	347	32%
Quantity Survey Assistant	Jinat Rehana	1,164	284	58	59	401	34%
Reimbursement Assistant	Tahmina Akter Tunny	1,085	225	60	61	346	32%
Khulna							
Civil engineer, Khulna	Mainul Islam	1,203	256	59	53	368	31%
Sr Field QC Engineer 1, Khulna	Azizur Rahman	1,263	410	62	63	535	42%
Field QC Engineer 2, Khulna	Moshiur Rahman/Abdul Hannan	1,164	401	148	128	677	58%
Sub-Assistant Engineer, Khulna	Md. Amanullah	1085	190	51	60	301	28%
ATO CAD Operator, Khulna	Sk. Abdul Alim	1164	290	67	60	417	36%
Environment Expert/ DRR	Kabil Hossain	967	124	55	53	232	24%
Mechanical Engineer, Patuakhali	S. M. Ahsan Ahmed Bapi	1,164	379	59	63	501	43%
Irrigation Agronomist, Khulna (3 districts)	Shahar Uddin	195	195			195	100%
Irrigation/drainage engineer, Khulna	Mustafizur Rahman	239	239			239	100%
Patuakhali							
Civil engineer, Patuakhali	Delower Hossain	1,164	259	63	60	382	33%

Field QC Engineer 1, Patuakhali	Shahidullah	1,164	379	58	64	501	43%
Jr Field QC Engineer 2, Patuakhali	S.M.Zakir Hossain	1,085	210	56	56	322	30%
Sub-Assistant Engineer, Patuakhali	Md. Nur Islam	1085	177	56	60	293	27%
Satkhira							
Civil engineer, Satkhira	S.M. Saiful Islam	1,164	276	65	52	393	34%
Sub-Assistant Engineer, Khulna (Satkhira)	Md. Sadeque Ali	1085	198	57	66	321	30%
Subtotal TA team		22,602	5,785	1,216	1,198	8,199	36%
Component 3							
International experts:							
Long term	Hein Bijlmakers	1,320	371	46	60	477	36%
Short term	TBN	330	0	0		0	0%
National experts:							
Dhaka							
Agriculturalist 1/ DCL	Muhammad Ashraf Islam	1,243	359	62	51	472	38%
Agriculturalist 2	Sumona Rani Das	1,184	276	60	59	395	33%
Fish Expert	Shamsul Huda	1,184	404	67	70	541	46%
Livestock Expert	Munir Ahmed	1,263	306	62	57	425	34%
Khulna							
Agriculturalist, Khulna	Md. Zahangir Alam	1,203	257	54	59	370	31%
TC/Master Trainer (OFWM Specialist), Khulna	Md. Abdullah Sani	1,203	268	64	59	391	33%
Patuakhali							
Mechanisation/ Processing Expert 1, Patuakhali	Anayet Hossain	868	379	61	22	462	53%
Mechanisation/Processing Expert 2	TBN	1,184	0	0		0	0%
Mechanisation/Processing Expert 3 -on farm mech.	TBN	1,184	0	0		0	0%
Master Trainer (Rice & Fish)	Md. Shameem Ahmed Yousuf	1,203	275	57	59	391	33%

TC/Master Trainer (High-value Cash Crops)	TBN	1,203	0	0		0	0%
Master Trainer (Rice Agronomist)	Md. Alam Hossain	1,203	367	51	62	480	40%
FFS facilitators (Khulna -10, Patuakhali-13)	TBN	22,805	5,351	1204	1724	8279	36%
Subtotal		38,580	8,613	1,788	2,282	12,683	33%
Component 4							
International experts:							
Long term	Karel T'Jonck	660	185	27	21	233	35%
Short term	Jaap de Heer/TBN	308	23	0		23	7%
National experts:							
Dhaka							
Value Chain Expert/ DCL	Tanvir Islam	1,184	406	57	61	524	44%
Private Sector Development Expert	A.S.M. Shahidul Haque	1,263	359	61	62	482	38%
Investment Expert	Ferdous Hasnain Ivan	817	0	0	40	40	5%
Investment Expert	Md. Anisur Rahman	267	248	19	0	267	100%
Khulna							
Business Dev. Coordinator 1, Khulna	Shusanto Roy	1,184	306	55	63	424	36%
Business Dev. Coordinator 2, Khulna	Md. Shamim Alom	1085	135	61	61	257	24%
Patuakhali							
Business Dev. Coordinator 3, Patuakhali	Abdullah Al Mamun	986	275	54	61	390	40%
Business Dev. Coordinator 4, Patuakhali	Md. Rabiul Alam	1,085	214	61	58	333	31%
Business Dev. Coordinator 5, Patuakhali	Md. Shaifullah	1085	67	61	57	185	17%
Gender/IGA Specialist	Jhorna Begum	1,203	281	59	60	400	33%
Good Governance	AKM Saifullah	594	0	0		0	0%

Subtotal		11721	2499	515	544	3558	30%
Program Management							
International experts:							
Short term	Hero Heering	132	72	11	7	90	68%
National experts:							
Dhaka							
National Project Coordinator	TBN	868	0	0		0	0%
Program Manager	Proteeti Masud	880	53	60	58	171	19%
Communication Expert	Anis Parvez	1,302	366	56	49	471	36%
Institutional/Legal Advisor	Aowlad Hossain	1,243	351	56	46	453	36%
M&E Expert	Shital Krishna Das	1,263	348	61	56	465	37%
Training Expert	Abul Kashem	1,302	405	63	63	531	41%
Training Coordinator Dhaka	Khairul Islam	1,243	289	61	60	410	33%
Disaster Risk Reduction Expert/ Program Manager	Syeda Sajeda Haider	258	258	0	0	258	100%
Khulna							
M&E Officer 2	Nurur Rahman	1,085	225	62	69	356	33%
Training Coordinator	Shamima Nasrin	1,085	127	0	61	188	17%
Training Coordinators	Fatema Tuz Johora	817	0	0	13	13	2%
Patuakhali							
M&E Officer 1	Zakir Hossain	1,243	274	58	55	387	31%
Training Coordinator	Atikur Rahman	1,085	127		61	188	17%
Satkhira							
Training Coordinator	Nripendra Chandra Das	922	18		53	71	8%
Subtotal		14,728	2,913	488	651	4,052	28%
Support Staff							
Dhaka							
Operation Manager	Shahanaz Jahan Pushon	213	213	0	0	213	100%
Finance Manager	AFM Hedayat-UI-AI-Arif	1,282	385	63	58	506	39%
Asst. Manager- (IT)	Shahabuzzaman	1,263	342	60	62	464	37%

Office Manager (Dhaka)	Abu Zahir	848	350	60	61	471	56%
Finance and Administration Officer	Naeem Farhad Islam	1,243	342	57	61	460	37%
Nayema Akter	Admin Officer	817	0	0	21	21	3%
Receptionist	Yesmin Akther	1,302	416	60	58	534	41%
Secretary	Yasmin Ara Rekha	1,302	367	60	60	487	37%
Khulna							
Manager/Account Assistant (zonal offices)	Rabiul Alam	1,263	365	61	60	486	38%
Finance Assistant	Humaira Sultan	1085	149	54	61	264	24%
Patuakhali							
Office Manager	Md. Moniruzzaman Patwary	1,263	366	63	60	489	39%
Finance Assistant	Shahabuddin Ahmed	1,263	241	62	61	364	29%
Data Entry Operator	TBN/ Md. Moniruzzaman	1263	247	60	60	367	29%
Support staff/office assistant	Mustafa/Uttam Kumar/TBN	3,906	782	61	61	904	23%
Drivers	TBN (12 drivers)	15,407	2041	666	622	3329	22%
Messengers/Cleaner	TBN	5,208	1359	136	125	1620	31%
		38,928	7,965	1,523	1,491	10,979	28%
TOTAL		209,412	46,158	8,418	9,706	64,282	31%

A-2 Blue Gold – Bangladesh Water Development Board staffing

The staffing situation of the BWDB Central Planning Unit (DP III) and the BWDB Zonal offices on 31 March 2015 is given below. Not all staff mentioned is assigned to the Blue Gold Program yet.

In the zonal offices there is a lack of qualified staff. In the next quarter when preparation of designs and cost estimates should be in full swing, a continued understaffing at zonal level would seriously hamper the implementation of civil works in the polders.

S.N.	Name of the Post	Qty.	Post filled (Y/N)? - Name	Remarks & Comments
Central Planning Cell Dhaka (planned: 19 staff)				
1.	Project Director & Program Coordinating Director (PCD)		Sujoy Chakma	
2.	Chief Agronomist		Md. Enamur Rahman	
3.	Executive Engineer (EE)		Md. Abul Kausar	
4.	Deputy Chief (Fishery)		Md. Rahmat Ali	
5.	Hydraulic Engineer / Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE)			
6.	Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE)		Nasrin Akhter Khan	
7.	Assistant Engineer Civil Engineer/ SDE AE		Md. Shahinur Rahman	
8.	Assistant. Chief (Sociology)		Shafiqul Islam	
9.	Assistant. Chief (Economics)		Shahnaz Akter	
10.	Assistant Engineer		Asif Ahmed	
11.	Assistant Engineer		Md. Shariful Alam	
12.	Sub-Assistant Engineer (Civil)/ Estimator		Md. Shalah Uddin	
13.	Draftsman (Gr-A)	2	Mr. Sunil Chandra Majumder Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain Khan	
14.	Stenographer		Mr. Prasanta Kumar Das	
15.	Draftsman (Gr-A)	2	Mrs. Pervin Mustary Mst. Soheli Pervin	
16.	LDA/DEO		Md. Rustom Ali	
17.	Tracer		Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin	
18.	Driver	4	Mr. Md. Mazibur Rahman Khan Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mr. Md. Abdul Matin Abdul Aziz	
19.	DMO		Mr. Md. Humayun Kabir	
20.	Guard cum Chowkider		Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam	
21.	Gate Operator		Mofizuddin & Abdul Hamid	
Zonal Planning cell South-Western Zone Khulna (planned 10 staff)				
22.	Executive Engineer (XEN)	2	Mojibur Rahman Division 1 Pijush Karishna Kunda, O&M Division 2;	
23.	Hydraulic Engineer / SDE	2	Pijush Karishna Kunda Division 2; Deboprotim Hawladar	

			Division 1	
24.	Civil Engineer / Asstt Engineer (AE)	1	Md. Ishak Ali	
25.	Account Clerk	1	Md. Hadisur Rahman	
Zonal Planning cell Southern Zone Barisal (planned 10 staff)				
26.	Executive Engineer (XEN)	3	Probir kumar , O&M (in charge) Division Patuakhali; Shahidul Islam , O&M Division Barguna	
27.	Hydraulic Engineer/ SDE	3	Md. Abdul Motalib Division Patuakhali; Shahanawz Talukder WDD Division Kalapara; Md. Abul Khaier, O&M Division Barguna	
28.	Civil Engineer/ Asstt Engineer (AE)	2	Shahidul Islam, WDD Division Kalapara Nurul Islam, O&M Division Patuakhali	
29.	Quality Control Engineer/ AE	2		
30.	Assistant Chief/ Research Officer (Econ)	1		
31.	Assistant Chief/ Research Officer (Socio)	1		

Appendix 2. Report Overview

No.	Name	Date
IR	Final Inception Report	31 Mar, 2014
AR	Annual Plan 2014	06 Feb, 2014
AR	Annual Plan 2015	29 April 2015
Quarterly Progress Reports		
QPR 01, 2013	Progress Report 2013, Q2+Q3 (April – September 2013)	10 Dec, 2013
QPR 02-03, 2013	Progress Report 2013, Q4 (October – December 2013)	26 Feb, 2014
QPR 01, 2014	Progress Report 2014, Q1 (January – March 2014)	15 May, 2014
QPR 02, 2014	Progress Report 2014, Q2 (April – June 2014)	04 August 2014
QPR 03, 2014	Progress Report 2014, Q3 (July – September 2014)	17 November 2014
QPR 04, 2014	Progress Report 2014, Q4 (October – December 2014)	15 February 2015
QPR 01, 2015	Progress Report 2015, Q1 (January – March 2015)	16 June 2015
Technical Reports		
TR 01	Proceedings of the Workshop on Blue Gold Draft Inception Report Presentation, 26 June 2013	Sep, 2013
TR 02	Health & Safety Measures	18 Dec, 2013
TR 03	WMO Functionality Assessment in four polders	12 Dec, 2013
TR 04	Introduction to the M&E Manual	17 Dec, 2013
TR 05	Geo information for Blue Gold: Inventory of needs, data collection and roadmap for implementation	01 Dec, 2013
TR 06	Household Survey Report – Polder 22, 30, 43/2D and 43/2F	31Mar, 2013
TR 07	Field Trip Reports 2013	31 Mar, 2014
TR 08	Operational Manual for Output and Outcome Monitoring	April, 2014
TR 09	Water Management Organisations - Comparative Analysis	April, 2014
TR 10	Outcome of WMO functionality assessment, Volume 2 (five polders)	02 September 2014
TR 11	Training Plan 2013-2019	15 January 2015
TR 12	Partnership Strategy 2014-2019 of Blue Gold Program	12 January 2015
TR 13	Engaging Local Government Institutions In Water Management – DRAFT Sourcebook	19 March 2015
TR 14	Baseline Survey Report	31 March 2015
TR 15	Communication Strategy	05 May, 2015
TR 16	Field Trip Reports of 2014	
TR 17	Semi Annual Outcome Monitoring Report	05 May, 2015
Workshop Reports		
	Orientation on Blue Gold Program for DAE Officials Khulna	16 Nov, 2013
Training Reports		
	Training of Trainers Course for FFS Organizers	02-14 Nov, 2013
Technical Notes		
TN 01	Cycle 3 FFS Report	17 May 2015
Field Trip Reports, 2015		
FTR 01	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali and Khulna Jan 13 to 23 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 02	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali and Khulna Jan 13 to 23	17 May 2015

	2015	
FTR 03	FTR of component 1, Gender in Patuakhali and Khulna Jan 26 to 29 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 04	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali and Khulna Jan 25 to 30 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 05	FTR of component 1 in Khulna Feb 07 to 13 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 06	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali Feb 07 to 13 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 07	FTR of component 1, Gender in Khulna Feb 22 to 27 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 08	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali Feb 21 to 27 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 09	FTR of component 1 in Khulna & Patuakhali Mar 7 to 13 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 10	FTR of component 1 in Khulna Feb 21 to 27 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 11	FTR of component 4 in Patuakhali Jan 18 to 23 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 12	FTR of component 4 in Khulna Feb 8 to 13 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 13	FTR of component 4 in Khulna & Patuakhali Feb 21 to 27 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 14	FTR of component 4 in Khulna Apr 18 to 23 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 15	FTR of component 4 in Patuakhali Apr 19 to 23 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 16	FTR of Team Leader in Polders 2, 23, 29 Apr 15 to 16 2015	17 May 2015
FTR 17	FTR of component 1 in Khulna & Patuakhali Apr 29 to 10 2015	14 June 2015
FTR 18	FTR of component 1 in Patuakhali Apr 19 to 23 2015	14 June 2015
FTR 19	FTR of component 1 in Khulna, Patuakhali & Satkhira May 2015	14 June 2015
FTR 20	FTR of component 4 in Khulna May 2015	14 June 2015
FTR 21	FTR of Gender Coordinator Khulna & Patuakhali May 4 to 14 2015	14 June 2015

Appendix 3. Gender in Aquaculture

Organized by : Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh – Centre for Sustainable Development (ULAB-CSD)
Notes by : Shamsul Huda, Blue Gold Fisheries Expert, Patuakhali
Venue : ULAB, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date : 15 April, 2015

Presentation for sharing of findings of a research work on “Women in Aquaculture” in the southwest region of Bangladesh involving various stakeholders such as the government departments of fisheries, agriculture, and planning commission as well as NGOs who are working for food security, aquaculture and women’s empowerment. The research was jointly carried out by GWA and ULAB-CSD in early 2015.

Key findings

The study explores the role of women in household based aquaculture, which is significant part, but their work is remained unacknowledged. The women carry out the lion’s share of task in this sector. They perform aquaculture related task in addition to household work like cooking, cleaning of household utensil and nursing their children, Women shoulder tasks of aquaculture for economic benefits of their household and generating wellbeing of the family members, especially for the children. Women’s participation in aquaculture is never opposed by husbands and other male members of the family -, but women’s leadership, decision making power and control over assets are not recognized. The study indicated that women’s leadership and empowerment in aquaculture was hindered by several socio-economic factors and certain policy and infrastructure related issues. The study also gives an insight into whether the aquaculture sector can be considered as adding to women’s empowerment and providing a viable option for their sustainable livelihoods. It further assessed the context of women’s leadership in aquaculture, enabling the outsiders to arrive at some useful directions towards mainstreaming gender in the aquaculture sector in south west delta of Bangladesh.

Division of tasks and labour between men and women in a household having gher

In the study area (Khulna and Satkhira), the male head of the family is controlling directly the household administration and female members depend on the earnings of men. Traditionally, the task of women in the study area was mostly confined to the homestead.

The study indicated that men enjoy more leisure time, women work longer time than men, averaging 15-16 hours a day. Men work 7 hours per day. The finding revealed that both the men and women still believe in traditional gender division of labour in which men are responsible for work outside the household and women for household work.

However, with the introduction of small scale aquaculture activities in the area, there have been more recent changes in the attitude of the people towards the role of women in various aspects of household decision making, household management, economic decision, income generating activities, and increasing women’s participation have grown in a number of activities associated with aquaculture. Most women reported that they manage aquaculture activities regularly in two ways. Firstly, women manage most routine operation, such as fertilizing and feeding. Secondly they take leading role in day to day aquaculture activities operation, when their husbands are far away from home for other works.

The study findings highlight the deprivation of women and their exploitation in different forms in the aquaculture sector. One of these is women are paid low wages for their labour in shrimp gher. The gher owner set unequal wages among male and female labourers. The women informed that it is very normal for men to get higher wages than women just because they are men. The main reason for women to continue working in low wages is that there is more supply of female workers than the demand, and there is no other employment option for them.

Most of the male believed that the women's engagement in aquaculture process is very important to operate and manage the shrimp gher efficiently and promote aquaculture further and also added that gender issues should not be overlooked.

Government and NGOs need to support women empowerment projects and community based management of natural resources in such way that recognize women as major contributors to aquaculture.

Gender in the market chain

Women, men and children work throughout the chain, but women and children are located in different segments of the chains where employment is more flexible and insecure, most notably in fry catching and casual labour in farming and shrimp processing. Female employment is characterized by highly gendered and informal employment relations where women constitute the bulk of the casual and contingent labour supplied throughout the chain.

Empowerment or exploitation: unveiling the truth

Presentation indicated from the study that the gher owners prefer the women workers over male workers, it is because women can be paid less than the male workers and women usually do not resist such exploitation. Women continue to accept the low wages only because they have no other choice, there is no alternative work. They also informed that the work environment is not free of problems. Women have to encounter some problems while working in aquaculture activities. During shrimp collection from the river, especially young girls and women are harassed either physically or verbally. Local works informed that the insecurity among the vulnerable groups have risen. The majority of women responded that harassment and violence against them and the children is quite visible in the society. On the other hand, the prevailing social and cultural norms prevent women from having a public role. Therefore, there is no such incidence of women collectively protesting against low wages and sexual harassment.

Women are not aware of diseases that might be caused for being in the water for such long periods.

The status of women empowerment

Presentation indicated that men have the right to dominate and control the family decision. Men also think that their position is higher than the women's status. Therefore, men should play the principal role in maintaining the household income and making other important decision, buying, selling or leasing land, selling of cattle etc and even the marriage of children. But some families, both husbands and wives participate in the decision making process of the income and expenditure of the family but still the husband play a dominating role.

Economic empowerment

Almost all men and women think, girls should get education and parents should ensure higher education for their girl children. Both the men and women think educated girls who generally have jobs are comparatively happier in their conjugal lives. They also believed that educated daughters can be married off without dowry and can also take care of their parents in future.

But some parents do not agree to spend money for girl's education because as they do not get any return in the near future, if she does not get job. Some of the men and women passed their opinion that it is very difficult to get perfect matches for highly educated girls.

Presentation also indicated that men and women do not get the same wages for the same work (weeding, earth work), women perform like men and they even perform better than men do. However, they do not get same wages for the same work. Study also indicated that men have the responsibility to maintain their family, and the income of the women is treated as bonus.

Political empowerment

Male and female both take part in voting but the rate is not the same. Some women are casting their vote on their own will but most of them do so after discussing with their elder family members like father in law, mother in law, elder brother and their husband. Also informed about female UP members, most men said that women members should not attend public functions unless there is any special need or emergency meeting, if they need to attend, those that must be accompanied by their male members as a form of protection. They also added that women should not be involved in all kinds of activities though she is an UP member. The majority of both men and women think a political background are needed to take authoritative decision by the women. Some peoples also command that " Women are so simple that they cannot even maintain their households, how will they participate in a complex game like politics".

Myths regarding women in aquaculture

While women are involved in the aquaculture largely, mainly contentious issues have gradually become myths.

- Women are unable to do hard work
- Gher is a holy place, women should not do the work in gher during menstruation
- Women are low intelligent and intellectual, so it easy to cheat them in weighing of products
- Women should not go to the market place
- Women leadership is not good for the family and
- The man who takes suggestions from a women is of low intelligence.

The obstacles to women's participation in aquaculture

- Low literacy
- Lack of technical knowledge on aquaculture
- Lack of government strategies for addressing gender issues
- Women's work is not recognized
- Less experience in handling credit and finance
- Lack of women organizations and extension workers
- Lack of access to resources
- Men who harass women are left free whilst women are blamed "blame the victim".

Conclusion

Although the aquaculture sector has long been considered a male domain, and the contribution of women is far more significant than often assumed. This lack of understanding of the complexity of the gender dimension of aquaculture can result in policies program failing to create sustainable livelihoods. It has become clear that the challenges women face in aquaculture needs to be addressed at various levels.

Suggestion

- Success stories of women need to be documented and more research efforts on gender in aquaculture required
- Enabling policy environment must be in place to avoid gender discrimination in wages and the work environment.
- Gender-disaggregated data and information are essential to understand their importance in productive enterprises such as aquaculture or to promote equity and women's rights.

Appendix 4. Mission Report of International Gender Expert (March – April 2015)

1. Objective of the mission

This was the sixth visit of the international gender expert to the Blue Gold Program. The first and second visits, in March-April and June-July 2013, involved the development of the Blue Gold gender approach, also contributing to the inception report. The visit of October – November 2013 aimed at the operationalization of the gender approach into more concrete activities. The mission in March 2014 allowed the participation in key planning meetings (retreat and polder development plan) and involved much work with the new gender expert, who had joined Blue Gold in February 2014. As she resigned in September 2014, another national gender expert was contracted and the fifth visit (October 2014) focused on her orientation, as well as overall follow-up of the implementation of the Blue Gold gender strategy.

The main objectives of the March-April 2015 mission were:

- Support to the national gender expert;
- Follow-up of several specific topics, such as Vocational Training, BWDB's Gender Action Plan update, and gender in joint IRRI / WorldFish / Blue Gold research; and
- Follow-up on the integration of gender equality issues in other Blue Gold activities.

Annex 1 provides an overview of the itinerary and main activities, including persons met. This report describes the main activities of the international expert during the mission.

2. Main activities and issues

2.1 Work with the national gender expert

The national gender expert, who started her work with Blue Gold in October 2014, had made good progress in her first six months as also proven when reviewing her work plan for 2015. Many activities for 2015 were already ongoing or under preparation. Her main activities had been:

- Orientation of all Blue Gold staff, including support staff, on the Blue Gold anti-harassment policy was nearly completed (still to do for Production Group Facilitators (PFs) in Khulna);
- Gender Awareness workshop to Community Organizers (COs) was completed. Outcome: all COs will monthly conduct 2 Court Yard Sessions on gender issues in new WMGs (1 for women; 1 for men) to discuss the importance of equal participation of men and women in WMGs, with a special focus on constraints for meaningful women's participation and how to overcome these.
- Preparations for the Gender and Leadership Training, see 2.6.

During the mission a request of Mott MacDonald (MMD) was received to complete a questionnaire on the gender approach of Blue Gold. The questionnaire form was jointly completed and relevant documents attached, in particular Blue Gold's Gender Approach and its Anti-Harassment policy. Later MMD made these documents available in its knowledge library as an example to other MMD projects.

2.2 Vocational Training (VT)

The project document of August 2012 for the Blue Gold Program envisaged enhancing access to vocational training for youth in its polders, indicating UCEP at the potential training provider. In 2014 UCEP submitted a proposal for this purpose, which at that time was reviewed by the international

gender expert (see previous mission's report). Apart from the lack of a gender focus and other project design weaknesses, UCEP had proposed training in urban centres and in skills mostly relevant for "urban" (self) employment. This was not in line with the project document which foresaw that UCEP would expand its coverage to rural areas, serving construction, agro-processing and mechanised agriculture. Moreover, UCEP had not responded to Blue Gold's comments on the proposal. On the request of Blue Gold's Team Leader therefore also other vocational training options were explored.

This resulted in contacts with the EKN funded PROOFS-VET project (see Annex 2 for the minutes of the first meeting). This led to the following conclusions:

- i PROOFS-VET and Blue Gold have very similar needs regarding vocational training: cost-efficient VT training, enabling many students to benefit; a high proportion of girls benefiting; and practical VT training based on actual needs for vocational skills in the targeted rural areas. Ideally, also longer term access to VT should be achieved.
- ii PROOFS-VET and Blue Gold are working in similar areas: coastal areas, reaching out to beneficiaries through WMGs. Patuakhali is targeted by both Blue Gold and PROOFS.
- iii PROOFS-VET collected information on vocational training needs for rural areas and on VT providers which is also relevant for Blue Gold.
- iv PROOFS-VET has budget for needs assessments, developing VT approaches and new curricula (i.e. for various kinds of overhead costs), but does not have budget for actually providing VT training to youth. Blue Gold has budget for this. Hence there seems a good scope for complementarity.

PROOFS-VET already identified and screened potential VT providers, including UCEP. Of the three potential providers Caritas turned out to be most suitable for rural areas for several reasons, including because Caritas runs "mobile VT schools" suitable to reach out to youth in rural and more remote locations. It was agreed with PROOFS-VET that once their needs assessment for the coastal areas would be completed (possibly by June 2015) Blue Gold and PROOFS-VET will meet again to continue discussing a mode of cooperation. A new Blue Gold TA member, who is expected to join in June 2015, will be designated to follow-up on this.

2.3 IRRI proposal

Blue Gold is contributing matching funds to a CGIAR pilot project titled "*Community water management for improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods in the polders of the coastal zone of Bangladesh*" (in short: "*Polder community water management*"). IRRI is the lead organisation; WorldFish will be involved for gender and participatory action research support. The pilot project is implemented in a sub-polder near Fultala village in polder 30. Blue Gold, through the engagement of an intern (Martina Groenemeijer), also contributed with a baseline study (draft presented 01.02.2015).

In February 2015 a workshop had been held by IRRI presenting this project; Blue Gold staff also attended. As the presented gender approach of this pilot was not convincing (proposing rather far-fetched activities for women instead of gender mainstreaming), Blue Gold's Team Leader suggested to have a meeting with the concerned gender specialist (Dr. Rita Sen of WorldFish). Dr. Sen appeared not yet well aware of the content of this pilot project. The section on "women" in the project proposal seemed to concern ideas for possible livelihood activities for women to be further explored rather than agreed activities. It was discussed with Dr. Sen that instead of (only) developing some new "stand alone" livelihood activities for women, it will also be relevant to strengthen women's involvement in water governance and to investigate how the efficiency of current agricultural tasks conducted by women (such as seed drying, cleaning and storage) can be increased, which is now often ignored.

As a result of this discussion the national gender expert has linked Dr. Sen with one of Blue Gold's component 4 staff members in Khulna with the purpose of possibly creating linkages on livelihood options. The national gender expert will remain in contact with Dr. Sen about the follow-up on gender issues in this pilot project.

2.4 Cooperation with the Gender and Water Alliance Project Bangladesh (GWAPB)

The national gender expert had participated in GWAPB's Capacity Building Workshop on Gender and IWRM held from 30 November to 3 December 2014, which targeted Gender Focal Persons. It was a good opportunity for the national gender expert to meet other Gender Focal Persons and learn from experiences of participants of other Dutch funded projects.

Since the start of GWAPB also several meetings had been held with GWA staff, but apart from some participation in capacity building workshops, no concrete cooperation had (yet) been initiated. This was partly due to the fact that Blue Gold has own gender expertise in place and already developed its Gender Approach right in the Inception Phase. In February 2015 a meeting was held with GWA staff and Blue Gold's Team Leader and national gender expert exploring a possible role of the GWA in supporting BWDB in updating its Gender Action Plan. During this visit of the international gender expert a follow-up meeting took place. Though GWAPB had expressed its initial interest to play a role in the process of updating GESAP, further consultations with BWDB led to the conclusion that Blue Gold would continue to support BWDB in this process (see also 2.5).

A role of GWAPB which would be well relevant to Blue Gold is sharing of information on events related to gender and water & food security. An example was the invitation to attend the presentation of findings of the Gender and Aquaculture research conducted by ULAB-CSD (the Centre of Sustainable Development of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh) and commissioned by GWAPB. Blue Gold's Fisheries Expert participated in this event and prepared an interesting report –disseminated within Blue Gold - with the following conclusion:

“Although the aquaculture sector has long been considered a male domain, and the contribution of women is far more significant than often assumed. This lack of understanding of the complexity of the gender dimension of aquaculture can result in policies program failing to create sustainable livelihoods. It has become clear that the challenges women face in aquaculture needs to be addressed at various levels.”

From: Notes on Gender in Aquaculture, by Shamsul Huda, Blue Gold Fisheries Expert

2.5 BWDB's Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan

BWDB's Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2011 (GESAP) was developed with support of IPSWAM and approved by BWDB in December 2006. In 2007 several actions were actually implemented, facilitated by two committees on Gender Equity within BWDB. After the end of IPSWAM, the purposeful implementation of GESAP stopped and the committees became inactive. In 2013 and 2014 several meetings were held with BWDB to discuss the update of the Action Plan of GESAP, by simplifying it, setting realistic priorities and reactivate the implementation of the Action Plan. A first achievement was that in September 2014 an Office Order was issued by Mr. Obaidul Islam, Deputy Secretary, BWDB, Dhaka, to reorganize the Gender Equity Committee (Memo no. BWDB (Sec)/Board-2 (Planning-3), dated 02.09.2014). This memo includes the ToR of the Committee as well as the list of the 15 members of the committee. During the visit in October 2014, an approach for reactivating the committee and updating the Gender Action Plan was discussed with Blue Gold's Deputy Team Leader and a first draft of a concept paper for this approach was prepared as a follow-up.

On April 2, 2015, a meeting was held with the PCD of Blue Gold (Mr. Sujoy Chakma) and several of his team members (Ms. Nazreen Akhter Khan, Mr. Md. Rahmat Ali, and Mr. Abul Kauser Rumi) on the approach for updating GESAP. Based on this meeting and in consultation with Blue Gold's Team Leader, the Concept Paper was refined (See Annex 3) and the ToR for the TA person supporting this process was finalized. A senior national expert with working experience within GoB and insight into government organizational structures has been identified. It is expected that she will start her work to support the updating GESAP in June 2015.

2.6 Gender and Leadership Training

From the start of Blue Gold, Gender and Leadership Training was included in the Training Plan prepared by Blue Gold's training experts. The Gender and Leadership training will be provided for selected male and female members of the Executive Committees of all WMGs that were strengthened or established under Blue Gold, starting with the WMGs in the IPSWAM polders. These training workshops will have the duration of 3 days, and will include the preparation of a gender action plan by the participants for their own WMG.

Before the arrival of the international gender expert, the national expert had already reviewed the IPSWAM training module Gender and Leadership to assess its usefulness for Blue Gold. During the mission, further discussions were held with the national gender expert and the Training Expert. With their input (and also others) a final draft of the Gender and Leadership module was completed in April. Interesting features of this module, apart from the preparation of WMG level gender action plans, include the emphasis on also male leadership –as male leaders need to create space for women leaders - and the session on creating awareness on relevant government regulations, such as the Dowry Act, Early Marriage Act, Women's Rights and Violence Against Women Act, as well as disseminating information on the National Helpline Number 10921. Union Parishad members, especially those from relevant Standing Committees (see also 2.10), will be invited to participate in this training.

Blue Gold's training expert and/or coordinators will organise this training, including identifying suitable and experienced trainers / facilitators for conducting this training. It is foreseen that the first Gender and Leadership Training workshops will be conducted in the second semester of 2015.

2.7 Follow-up Small Household Pond Research by WorldFish

In April 2014 Blue Gold awarded an Innovation Fund grant to World Fish for a research project titled: "*Participatory Research on a Habitat Restoration Approach to Small Pond Fish Productivity, Diversity and Resilience*", also called "eco-ponds" or Small Household Ponds (SHHP). This research focused on household ponds, managed by women for "high spatial quantity and diversity of natural fish habitats". This approach was expected to result in increased fish productivity, diversity of species and allowing for a continual harvesting of fishes compared to unmanaged ponds, thus making positive contributions to improved nutrition, income and women empowerment.

During this mission the progress of this research was discussed with WorldFish staff and Blue Gold's component 3 staff. A meeting was held with Dr. Benoy Kumar Barman, Senior Scientist WorldFish, who is responsible for the scientific oversight of this research. This research was also discussed with Dr. Rita Sen (gender expert of WorldFish, involved in gender impact data collection) and Mr. Kevin Kamp, AAS Country Manager in Bangladesh (AAS = Aquatic Agricultural Systems program of CGIAR). Though overall progress was also addressed, gender issues were especially focused. Main findings:

- Data collection on impact on gender relations / women empowerment is still ongoing, hence there are no final conclusions yet.
- However, there is already anecdotal evidence that the Participatory Action Learning (PAL) contributed to women's empowerment. The women learned about the basic science of this approach, e.g. by looking at plankton under a microscope, and are now able to explain the improved SHHP concept to others. This increased knowledge and status appears to have

empowered them. The fact that women achieved that previously abandoned ponds started to produce fish also enhanced their position within their household / community. There was no indication yet whether the decision-making power of women (a common indicator of empowerment) has been improved.

- The first research findings seem to demonstrate that there is a significantly higher production of fish in ponds with fish habitat arrangements than in unmanaged ponds without such habitats. The consumption of fish by the households seems also significantly higher, enriching nutrition of the household members. Due to the small size of the ponds, the net amount of fish produced is relatively small; apparently there was hardly sale of surplus fish production.
- A concern, also expressed by Blue Gold's component 3 staff, is the fact that this research was foreseen to take place in year-round ponds, whereas actually most involved ponds were seasonal. This fact not only affects the annual production of fish, it also challenges the restocking mechanism in the new season. Dr. Sen reported that in one village women were eager to dig their ponds in order to make at least part of the pond year-round.
- Mr. Kamp observed that this research is unique for WorldFish in the sense that it brought an alternative way of looking at aquaculture production, i.e. different from only focusing on monoculture / monosex fish production, instead also focusing on "system resilience" and contributing also to biodiversity.

The end date of this research has been extended until June 2015, by when the (draft) report is expected to be submitted to Blue Gold.

2.8 Blue Gold's Innovation Fund

Early March 2015 Blue Gold's Innovation Manager –a new position in the team- had started his work. Several meetings were held with him with as main issues:

- Briefing on the Small Household Pond research of WorldFish (see above), as well as a joint meeting with Mr. Kamp.
- Briefing on the background of the Nice Foundation proposal for a research grant from Blue Gold's Innovation Fund with as topic improving pig rearing among Kawra women (a marginalized Hindu minority). Nice Foundation is currently in the process of reformulating their proposal.
- Follow-up discussions on possibly promoting the installation and use of Improved Cooking Stoves (also a GoB priority) in the Blue Gold polders. Improved stoves significantly contribute to improved health of the women who do the cooking, but also of children and other household members. The improved stoves require less fuelwood and emit less greenhouse gasses. A challenge is the acceptability of ICS by the women.

Some explorative work has already been done last year, especially by Blue Gold's environmental experts, including contacting GIZ, which is promoting in Bangladesh an ICS model produced of concrete, which can be locally manufactured (e.g. in sani-shops). Blue Gold's Innovation Manager also organised a meeting with Eco Stories, a Dhaka based innovative company working towards "impactful solutions for energy efficient technologies" (see www.ecostoriesbd.com). Eco Stories has developed and tested a portable and smart looking improved stove ("Apon chula"), and has already some experience with its actual use and marketing. The topic of ICS will be followed up by Blue Gold's Innovation Manager and Environmental Expert. Input from Blue Gold's gender expert(s) may be useful when discussing the approach towards creating awareness and demand among the women of the Blue Gold target group, in particular to overcome the (often initial) reluctance of women to switch to a stove model different from traditional cooking.

2.9 Blue Gold retreat

The national and international gender experts participated in the Blue Gold retreat of 23 and 24 March, which was a good occasion to stay informed of recent Blue Gold developments, including on the new approach towards the development of Polder Development Plans. Apart from (informal) discussions with other Blue Gold staff members, also touching upon gender issues, the gender experts supported the four Blue Gold components to include gender-related activities in their activity timelines presented during the second day of the retreat.

2.10 Meeting with Blue Gold's Institutional Advisor

An extensive meeting was held with Blue Gold's Institutional Advisor discussing the importance of cooperation between WMOs with Local Government Institutions (LGIs), in particular Union Parishads (UPs), while focussing on gender issues. LGIs have potential to play a useful role in supporting WMOs, and even could contribute to their sustainability. Constructive engagement of LGIs means "*making friends before you need them*". In practical terms this means that relevant UP members need to be briefed on Blue Gold activities in their area and invited for or involved in relevant activities.

Union Parishads have 13 Standing Committees, several of which are relevant to Blue Gold and/or are addressing gender / women's issues. For Blue Gold's core themes the Standing Committees such as "Rural Infrastructure development, protection and maintenance" and "Agriculture, fisheries and livestock" are important. For the promotion of gender equality and improving women's situation there are also others, for example:

- The Standing Committee on Education, Health and Family Planning. Each UP has at least 3 community clinics with health workers, especially addressing the needs of poor women and children (as middle class people tend to visit doctors in towns). WMGs may be a channel to create awareness among the (poor) members to make use of the clinics.
- The Standing Committee on Maintenance of Law and Order. This committee should also address topics as domestic violence, dowry and early marriage.
- The Standing Committee on Birth and Death Registration. Relevant for preventing early marriage and promoting school enrolment.
- The Standing Committee on the Resolution of Family Conflicts, Women and Children. In Bangladesh there is also a national helpline for providing support in case of domestic violence (10921), which information needs to be disseminated.

Though maybe not considered as a core task of Blue Gold, supporting the functionality of UP Standing Committees will improve local governance in Blue Gold's polders, also contributing to Blue Gold's overall objective of poverty reduction. Strengthened relationships between WMOs and UPs are likely to contribute to increased sustainability of Blue Gold's achievements. UP members can use WMGs to reach out to communities and relevant UP members should be invited to participate in Blue Gold activities. With regards to gender related activities it is foreseen that members of relevant Standing Committees (such as the one on Law and Order) participate in the Gender and Leadership training, also to explain current regulations, promote the use of existing facilities also by women and promote gender equality, as also per Bangladeshi law, in general.

2.11 Gender issues in Blue Gold's Communication Program

A meeting with Blue Gold's Communication Expert focused on the pilot radio programs that Blue Gold is facilitating making use of community radio stations. There is some concern about (i) the extent that also women are targeted and reached by these programs and (ii) the attitude of the program makers towards women. In particular, a small survey by Blue Gold's M&E officer on the outreach of the pilot radio broadcasts in Patuakhali only interviewed men, and hence there is no information on the extent that women are possibly listening (e.g. is the timing right for them?) and how they value the programs. Regarding the second issue: this concerns both the question whether the radio programs address topics of interest to women and the attitude of the program makers towards women. For example, it

should be avoided that the programs only make fun or even humiliate women; instead, women need to be taken seriously and as equal to male listeners.

The following was agreed: in any future surveys among listeners women will be explicitly targeted as respondents; topics that are of special interest to women and/or promote gender equality should also be included (e.g. interviewing a woman WMG president, a woman entrepreneur or a woman farmer); and gender aspects should be integrated in all programs whenever relevant (e.g. when discussing disaster preparedness). Moreover, no program should violate women's dignity, instead treating women with respect. Last but not least, the option of providing gender awareness training to program makers was also discussed. This could be gender training organised by Blue Gold and/or gender training especially for community radio makers, e.g. see BNNRC (Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication, see www.bnnrc.net). The option of supporting (local) women journalists becoming involved in making community radio programs should also be explored.

2.12 Women as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

One of the many activities of Blue Gold's Component 3 is the training of and support to Community Animal Health Workers. The Inception Report foresees the training of at least 52 CAHWs. In December 2014 and January 2015 the training of 20 Community Poultry Workers (CPWs, all female) and 20 Community Livestock Workers (CLWs, 2 female, 18 male) took place. Blue Gold's Livestock Specialist provided the following details of the achievements up till the end of March.

The training of the CPWs and CLWs was conducted jointly by the Department of Livestock and Blue Gold (10 days for the CLWs and 5 days for the CPWs), with also a session on gender facilitated by Blue Gold's national gender expert and one on business development by Component 4. All CAHWs received a toolkit with basic materials, an apron, vaccination cards and (only for the CLWs) a bicycle.

First results demonstrate a good performance of the women CPWs, who all had received 250 vaccination cards, which were jointly developed by Blue Gold and DoL and are considered an innovative improvement. The role of CPWs is to vaccinate poultry and provide advice in case of poultry health problems. There is good acceptance in the communities and a lot of demand for the services of the CPWs (though with one problem: some other donors (such as WorldFish) sometimes provide free vaccinations). The CPWs charge a small amount per vaccination: 1 – 3 Taka, depending on the type of vaccination. The CPWs are requested to keep records. The analysis of the expenditure and income of one CPW is found in the below box.

From the records of one of the Blue Gold supported Community Health Workers:

Number of days worked in the first three months of 2015: 24 halve days (= 12 full days)
 Number of cards distributed: 215
 Vaccinated: 1099 ducks, 2409 chicken and 1032 chicks (=4440 vaccinations in total).
 Gross income from the vaccinations: Tk 6955
 Cost (especially buying vaccines): Tk 2700
 Profit: Tk 4255 in 3 months, which corresponds to Tk 355/ full working day.

The impact of the CPWs (and similarly of the CLWs) is thus twofold: providing income for the workers and improving the productivity of poultry and livestock. More CPWs and CLWs are expected to be trained.

2.13 Women's participation in MFS

Component 3 of Blue Gold is organising Farmer Field Schools (FFS), in many which women form the majority of the participants. By the end of 2014 the third FFS cycle was ongoing. Of the 4400 participants, 79% were women. Apart from these FFS, Component 4 is organising Market-oriented

Farmer Field Schools (MFS) involving crops that have good potential as cash crops (i.e. not for home consumption). In Patuakhali this is mung bean; in Khulna sesame. 40 MFS groups were formed with mainly male participants. This is largely linked to the traditional role division in Bangladesh where men are more involved in field (cash) crops and make decisions regarding investments in inputs crops, whereas women deal with poultry and homestead gardening. However, women do participate –as unpaid family labour or day labourer- also in certain tasks in cash crop production, such as harvesting and post-harvest activities as drying.

The field staff of component 4 (PFs and BDC) has been organising weekly MFS sessions since the start of the sesame and mung bean season. Discussions were held with Dhaka based component 4 staff on a special MFS session with the wives of the male farmers, with the following objectives:

- To inform them on the main issues discussed during the previous MFS sessions, including on the purpose of the MFS groups;
- To create awareness on the impact of improved cultivation practices and higher productivity on (family) labour requirements, including on their own labour contribution to mung bean or sesame production.
- To create awareness on the “new” decisions that have to be made regarding mung bean or sesame production, and the associated potential benefits and risks.

These sessions are currently (May / June) being implemented with the intention to cover all 40 MFS groups. First results demonstrate a clear interest of women in improved agricultural practices. Component 4 is also starting tilapia and poultry MFS groups, in which a much larger proportion of women are targeted. Lessons learnt from this season, also with regards to women’s participation and interest, will be considered in the planning for next year’s MFS sessions.

2.14 Discussions with other Blue Gold components

Throughout the mission discussions were held with many of the Blue Gold colleagues of other components on gender issues within their component or work area. Apart from the issues already addressed above, the following was also discussed:

Component 1:

- Joint contribution to the Quarterly Report for January-March 2015 and the Work plan April-June, especially regarding gender activities, including a discussion on more gender disaggregated reporting.
- The need for a study on the impact of Labour Contracting Societies (LCSs) on women and women’s empowerment was discussed, as also negative aspects are observed, such as the heavy work and the potential overburdening of women. Moreover, due to the temporary and seasonal nature of this work it is worthwhile investigating to what extent LCS work contributes to sustained poverty reduction. This issue gained importance also because the Aide Memoire of Blue Gold’s Annual Review Mission 2014 recommended an increased engagement of LCSs (from 50% to 75%) and with a stronger bias to female LCSs. It was agreed that the international gender expert would prepare a brief concept note for such a study.

Component 3:

- A brief discussion was held on the nutrition modules in the FFS, possibly with a view of reducing the number of modules and/or integrating attention to nutrition in other modules. These modules were originally developed by DANIDA, but in 2014 DANIDA’s Senior Advisor (Ms. Norslund) of the IFMC programme (large scale FFS program) had already announced her intention to have the FFS nutrition modules reviewed and updated. A meeting with her was unfortunately cancelled, and this subject will possibly be followed-up during a next mission.

M&E Expert:

- Several discussions with the M&E expert took place about M&E topics, focusing on gender indicators from the logframe and the gender approach, as well as a further analysis of gender related information from the baseline study. This will be further followed-up.

Polder Development Plan:

- A brief meeting was held with the Blue Gold expert (Judith de Bruijne) who had started supporting the development of Blue Gold's Polder Development Plans. In particular, gender issues in PDPs and gender related targets for WMOs were discussed. Gender issues will be integrated in the overall analysis of each polder. For example: in the SWOT for Polder 42/2D a section "Social & Gender" is included under all four SWOT elements (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Moreover, also under other headings (such as "Production" or "Business") also gender specific information is provided, where relevant.

Next mission:

The international gender expert will follow-up several issues from the Netherlands. A next mission will be planned in coordination with the national gender expert and the team leader, and may take place in October 2015.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Itinerary Mission of International Gender Expert 18 March – 7 April 2015

Annex 2: Meeting Notes - PROOFS-VET – Version: 27 March 2015

Annex 3: Concept Paper for Updating the Gender Action Plan of BWDB

Annex 1: Itinerary Mission 18 March - 7 April 2015

Date	Main activities and people met
18 March	Briefing with the Team Leader; meeting with national gender expert, including review of gender activities implemented since last visit and preparing agenda for the current mission; collection of relevant documents.
19	Meeting with Manager Innovation Fund of Blue Gold, Mr. Boudewijn Sterk and follow-up; Meeting with BG Training Expert and Coordinator on retreat program; Discussion with national gender expert and TL on skill development / vocational training approach for Blue Gold and follow-up (collection of information; requesting for meetings).
20	Follow-up on issues discussed with BG's Innovation Manager; Review of documents.
21	Meeting with Fedde Potjer, Manager PROOFS-VET; review of documents and presentation for retreat.
22	Office: planning of work and meetings; discussions with national gender expert; start writing meeting notes on PROOFS-VET meeting; travel to Manikganj (retreat).
23	Blue Gold Retreat
24	Blue Gold Retreat; return to Dhaka
25	Follow-up on BWDB Gender Committee; arrange several meetings and collect relevant documents, email Ms. Rilla Norslund on update FFS nutrition modules; meeting with Munir on gender issues in CPWs and CLWs; reading background materials; meeting with Dr. Benoy Barman of WorldFish on women-managed small household pond research.
26	Complete meetings notes on PROOFS-VET; prepare excel file for processing data from assessment forms completed during the retreat; reading various docs in preparation of meetings for next week.
27	Meeting notes WorldFish SHHP; review of the latest logframe and the QPR-Q4 2014
28	Reading documents, various emails (Kabil, Aowlad)
29	Finalize and distribute WorldFish minutes; prepare for GWA meeting; read docs received from Auvi and others (e.g. Aowlad); first discussion with Shital on LF indicators and baseline report issues; discuss with C1 on possible LCS assessment.
30	Update Auvi with pending issues and agenda; discussion on ICS approach as agreed with the Blue Golds environmental specialist (Kabil); review IRRI-proposal for meeting with WorldFish; meeting with GWA (Joke Muijlwijk, Rokeya Khatun and Nazmun Naher).
31	Meeting with PROOFS-VET (Fedde Potjer, Erica Burggraaff and Kate Czaplicka), follow-up of several issues; and meeting with Dr. Rita Sen, gender expert of WorldFish, on Small Household Pond

	research and gender issues in IRRI proposal “Polder Community Water management”.
1 April	Complete Gender Fact sheet of MMD with national gender expert, including preparation of Annexes; meeting with the institutional development specialist (Aowlad) on linkage WMOs and Union Parishad, especially as relevant for gender issues; meeting with Judith on gender in PDP.
2	Meeting with component 4 (Karel and Tanvir) on various gender issues in C4 activities, including the planned involvement of the national gender expert in MFSs on mung bean and sesame cultivation; Meeting with the PCD of Blue Gold (Mr. Sujoy Chakma) and several of his team members (Ms. Nazreen Akhter Khan, Mr. Md. Rahmat Ali, and Mr. Abul Kausem Rumi) on the approach for updating GESAP.
3	Review of Baseline; follow-up on various issues, incl correspondence with Shamsun Nahar on LCS
4	Work on mission report Oct 2014; some data analysis of assessment during the retreat
5	Meeting with TL on BWDB’s update; updating Concept Note on this and preparation of draft ToR for a senior gender expert, brief meetings with several colleagues (Asraf, Boudewijn, Anis, C1, etc), contribution to quarterly progress report Q1 2015; coordination / planning with Auvi.
6	Meeting with C4 on planning of MFS/FGDs; meeting with Communication Expert on gender issues especially in relation to community radio programming; selected gender sensitive indicators on the request of GWABP; finalize first draft of ToR, meeting with Training coordinator on Gender and Leadership training.
7	Meeting with Blue Gold’s M&E Expert (Shital); meeting with Eco Stories about their ICS approach; last discussion with the national gender expert; debriefing with the Team Leader.

Annex 2 Meeting Notes - PROOFS-VET – Version: 27 March 2015

Date: March 21, 2015

Present: Fedde Potjer, PROOFS-VET Manager
Kitty Bentvelsen, Blue Gold

The purpose of the meeting was to explore options for vocational training for youth (M/F) in Blue Gold polders, including possible options for cooperation, if considered relevant.

In particular, insight in the following questions was pursued:

- What vocational training would be useful for youth (boys and girls) in the Blue Gold polders?
- How can such training be best provided in a most effective and cost-efficient way?

Additional questions concerned:

- Should vocational training lead to wage employment and/or to self-employment?
- Would vocational training leading to wage employment outside the polders also be an option?
- What are the (self) employment options in rural areas like the Blue Gold polders?
- What provider(s) would be suitable to provide flexible vocational training for the Blue Gold target group?
- And ideally: can we contribute to more structural access to vocational training for youth in rural areas / Blue Gold polders?
- Note: Training in primary agricultural production and in handicrafts is not to be considered.

Findings from the meeting:

1. The main characteristics of Blue Gold were explained, including the background of the request for this meeting.
2. About PROOFS: PROOFS is a follow-up of the Gaibandha Food Security for the Ultra-Poor project (FSUP), which was implemented between 2009 and 2013 by ICCO, funded by the EU. FSUP was a successful project and therefore EKN Dhaka requested the formulation of the PROOFS project (Profitable Opportunities for Food Security) building on the successes of FSUP and expanding the project area to also three southern districts: Patuakhali, Barisal and

Bhola. In contrast to the Northern target areas, where PROOFS works with Farmer Business Groups formed during the FSUP project, PROOFS works with WMGs in the Southern target areas.

3. PROOFS aims to improve the sustainability of food security improvements by promoting that all value chain actors –from farmer to market- are motivated to continue the uptake or application of improved practices also after the project has come to an end. In concrete terms this will be achieved by ensuring that all VC actors' profit is increased, resulting in improving food security. The focus of PROOFS is on providing advice on market structures and profit making.
4. PROOFS¹ is being implemented since 2013 by a consortium consisting of ICCO, iDE and BoP Innovation Centre (BoPInc) and funded by EKN Dhaka. iDE's expertise lays in dysfunctional markets in developing countries; BoPInc's strength is in innovative market research among the poorest of the poor (the "base of the pyramid"). BoPInc also conducted innovative market research based on the "sense-maker" concept, showing pictures to their respondents and asking them for the associations evoked by these pictures. This approach leads to considerable richer information than when administering formal questionnaires or by FGDs.
5. Examples of business models promoted by PROOFS are the Farm Business Advisors, providing advice and linking the primary producers to the market (by providing inputs and buying produce) and the JITA Sales Ladies, see box below:

The JITA distribution model through JITA Sales Ladies:

The JITA distribution model is based on hundreds of small distributor shops in different territories known as JITA Hubs. Hub managers, local entrepreneurs, work as JITA distributors for each hub. A hub manager of a JITA territory collects products from private companies upon a viable distribution commission structure. These multi-company products are then delivered by two JITA delivery persons to 30-40 local women working as JITA sales ladies known as Aparajita. Aparajita means woman who never accept defeat. Upon a sales commission each of these Aparajitas carry a product basket with goods for health, hygiene, nutrition and agricultural inputs, door to door to 200-300 households in underserved areas.

Source: www.jitabangladesh.com

JITA Social Business was one of the three recipients of the SEED Gender Equality Awards, supported by UN Women and UNIDO, presented on 10 September 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. JITA Social Business was presented as an innovative rural distribution network that provides jobs and a regular income for poor women across Bangladesh, who gain a commission for selling products ranging from solar lamps to food and sanitary items door-to-door.

Source: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/9/seed-gender-equality-awards-2014>

6. In January 2014 a parliamentary resolution / amendment was adopted ("*amendement Voordewind*") in the Dutch Parliament to channel funds from the Dutch Good Growth Fund to alternative related topics as Vocational Education and Training (VET). In this context EKN Dhaka requested PROOFS to add a VET component for a duration of 13 months (13 November 2014-30 November 2015). This has recently expanded with 2 months by EKN until end January 2016. Edukans, a Dutch development organisation focused on education, was added to the PROOFS consortium to implement PROOFS-VET. Apart from Fedde as manager of PROOFS-VET, two other international experts are (part-time) involved in this

¹ See the PROOFS flyer for some more information on PROOFS: <http://www.proofsbangladesh.org/>

component addressing curriculum development (Wilco) and management of vocational training (Erica Burggraaff).

7. The parliament resolution requested that VET services be addressed as a business model for students and/or for the VT providers. PROOFS-VET therefore promotes that the provision of vocational training² (VT) becomes (gradually) financially self-sustaining, i.e. independent of external subsidies or grants. This could be achieved by students and/or future employers paying for the costs of VT. This approach may be ambitious as parents seem less inclined to pay for vocational education / training for their children than for secondary or higher education.
8. In the Southern districts PROOFS works with the Executive Board of WMGs; PROOFS-VET aims to reach out to the children of the WMG-members, i.e. rural youth, especially school drop-outs between 15 and 22 years of age, including at least 50% girls. Vocational training is expected to focus on food processing skills and suitable off-farm employment through courses of about 4 weeks duration, possibly followed by an internship of several months.
9. Since its start about 3 months ago, PROOFS-VET focused on the collection of information: (1) inventory of vocational skills needed in their rural target areas and (2) identifying suitable VT providers. The inventory on needed skills is still on-going but nearing completion. The main VT providers were found to be BRAC, Caritas and UCEP³. BRAC and UCEP turned out to be unsuitable for the purpose of PROOFS-VET: (1) BRAC is market leader in VT training, but does not provide tailor-made VT training in other projects; and (2) UCEP provides high quality training, but not in rural areas, whereas its training is at a high costs, highly dependent on external donors.
10. Caritas has experience with a financially self-supporting VET model through its flag-ship school in Mirpur (MAWTS⁴), where 400 students (300 interns) receive high quality technical education, and where the “profit” made from selling the products (such as chairs and agricultural equipment) manufactured by students in year 3 and 4 covers the costs of the entire institution. At district level, Caritas runs fixed and mobile schools for VT. The fixed schools offer 6 months VT for students groups of 28 students/class; the mobile schools offer shorter VT courses for small groups of 12 students by deploying vans with VT equipment in villages. The duration of the latter courses depends on the subject. The most common courses are: house-wiring, mechanics and dress making/tailoring. The cost of the VT training per mobile van are Taka 6000 per month per student. Students are requested to contribute Tk.75 per month; the village is expected to contribute in kind, e.g. by providing a venue, electricity, drinks and food / snacks. These mobile schools seems the best option for PROOFS-VET (and probably also for Blue Gold).
11. PROOFS-VET has already agreed to cooperate with Caritas. Caritas will provide the field staff required for the implementation of PROOFS-VET. As Caritas is currently offering only a limited number of VT courses, new options will be developed, taking into account the findings of the inventory on vocational needs in the target areas. PROOFS-VET will develop new curricula, including on food processing skill development. Other options will also be considered, for example, installing/maintaining solar panels and/or maintenance of outboard engines (for fishing boats).

² Vocation education can be defined as more institutionalized education over a longer period (e.g. 3 -4 years), whereas vocational training is of a short duration (several weeks or months) usually is more flexible and focussed on one particular industrial / vocational skill.

³ PROOFS-VET also considered government training suppliers, but government training institutes have a standard curriculum without flexibility. Moreover, cooperation is complicated by the fact that VET schools are organised per line ministry of the concerned industrial sector.

⁴ Market oriented technical education and training, see also: <http://www.mawts.org/>

12. Options for Blue Gold – PROOFS-VET cooperation and synergy:

- i. PROOFS-VET and Blue Gold have very similar needs regarding vocational training: cost-efficient VT training, enabling many students to benefit; a high proportion of girls benefiting; and practical VT training based on actual needs for vocational skills in the targeted rural areas. Ideally, also longer term access to VT should be achieved.
- ii. PROOFS-VET and Blue Gold are working in similar areas: coastal areas, reaching out to beneficiaries through WMGs. Patuakhali is targeted by both Blue Gold and PROOFS.
- iii. PROOFS-VET has collected (or is still collecting) information on vocational training needs for rural areas and on VT providers which is also relevant for Blue Gold.
- iv. PROOFS-VET has budget for needs assessments, developing VT approaches and new curricula (i.e. for various kinds of overhead costs), but does not have budget for actually providing VT training to youth. Blue Gold has budget for this. Hence there seems a good scope for complementarity.

13. Decisions: A follow-up meeting with PROOFS-VET has been planned, including to further explore a more formal (or “smart informal”) way of cooperation between PROOFS-VET and Blue Gold for mutual interest to achieve that youth (M/F) from Blue Gold polders and PROOFS target area actually receive needs-based and flexible vocational training, also contributing to more cost-efficiency (and ultimately self-sufficiency) in VT training approaches for rural areas.

Kitty Bentvelsen
Blue Gold
March 27 2015

Annex 3. Concept Paper for Updating the Gender Action Plan of BWDB - Version: Final (May 7 2015)

Background

The Gender Equity Strategy and Related Action Plan 2006-2011(GESAP) of the Bangladesh Water Development Board was approved in December 2006 by BWDB’s Director General. This gender strategy and action plan had been prepared with support of the IPSWAM project and addresses gender equity as enshrined in the Constitution of Bangladesh and the National Policy for the Advancement of Women (1997). In 2011 the National Women’s Development Policy was adopted, which replaces the 1997 national policy. The national women’s development policy requires that ministries and other government bodies -such as BWDB- have their own gender policy and gender action plan.

Goal of BWDB’s Gender Equity Strategy:

BWDB will work to ensure gender equity in the efficient development, conservation and management of water resources and in its activities through the empowered participation of staff and communities. This strategy addresses both men and women.

Definition of **Gender Equity**: *Fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men. This concept recognizes the different needs of men and women, and the fact that women have been disadvantaged due to past inequities and may require additional support to rectify existing gender imbalances.*

A gender equity approach is a means to achieve **Gender Equality**: *The absence of discrimination on the person of a person’s sex in opportunities and the allocation of resources or benefits or in access to services.*

Source: BWDW Gender Equity Strategy & Related Action Plan 2006-2011, December 2006

Through the adoption of this Gender Equity Strategy, BWDB committed itself to ensure that gender equity is effectively integrated and in all activities and regular functions of BWDB. For this purpose an Action Plan was developed as an Annex to the Strategy. To facilitate the implementation of this action plan, a Gender Equity Committee was founded in February 2007⁵ to assist BWDB to mainstream gender in its activities such as planning, design, research, O&M, monitoring, administration, finance and audit. This Committee held regular meetings in 2007 and several elements of the Gender Action Plan were implemented such as inclusion of gender in BWDB's Foundation Training for new BWDB staff and in other training organized by BWDB, posting of women in some important positions in BWDB Headquarters in Dhaka, and provision of support facilities, such as separate prayer rooms for women and men. However, after the completion of the IPSWAM project the Gender Equity Committee became inactive.

Activities related to GESAP in Blue Gold's first year

Blue Gold, as foreseen in its Inception Report of November 2013, aims to provide support to BWDB in reactivating the above mentioned Gender Equity Committee in order to facilitate the further implementation of the Action Plan of BWDB's Gender Equity Strategy, in particular by reviewing and updating the Action Plan and providing selected support towards its implementation.

After the inception phase of the Blue Gold Program the following steps regarding GESAP were undertaken:

- Meeting held in November 2013 by Blue Gold's gender experts and the former Chief Planning, Mr. Jahirul Islam, to discuss the reactivation of the Gender Equity Committee. Considering the huge number of activities in the original action plan of GESAP, including the very high ambition level, it was discussed that a workable approach might be to select priority activities from the existing action plan and recast these into a "rapid acceleration plan", feasible for implementation within a period of several years.
- The need for summarizing the gender strategy and action plan in easy to understand language (both in English and Bangla) was also identified, to facilitate dissemination of the strategy and action plan at Dhaka and Zonal levels.
- Meetings were held with Chief Planning G.C. Sutradhar and PCD Blue Gold Masud Ahmed of BWDB in Motijheel on reactivating the implementation of BWDB's Gender Action Plan in March 2014 (by Blue Gold's gender experts and institutional expert). The latter was very supportive in organizing a brief and informal workshop with selected BWDB staff members to discuss the status quo of the implementation of the Action Plan of the GESAP and discuss first ideas about priorities.
- A letter was sent by Blue Gold's Deputy Team Leader to PCD formally requesting the reorganization of BWDB Gender Equity Committee (Reference BG-1.4/115, dd 06.08.2014), with a draft ToR attached.
- An Office Order was issued by Mr. Obaidul Islam, Deputy Secretary, BWDB, Dhaka, to reorganize the Gender Equity Committee (Memo no. BWDB (Sec)/Board-2 (Planing-3), dated 02.09.2014. This memo includes the ToR of the Committee as well as the positions or names of the 15 members of the committee, including Chief Planning as Chair Person and Director, Planning-3, BWDB, Dhaka, as Member Secretary. The concerned memo, including the ToR of this Committee, is attached as Annex 1.
- During the visit of Blue Gold's International Gender Expert in October 2014, an approach for reactivating the committee and updating the Gender Action Plan was discussed and a draft concept note was prepared.
- Mr. Sujoy Chakma, PCD of Blue Gold, issued a meeting notice (dd 23-02-2015) to all members of the "Reformed BWDB Gender Equity Committee", including the Team Leader and Gender experts of Blue Gold for a meeting on February 26th 2015. The agenda was:

⁵ Memo no. 90-BWDB (Secretary)/Board-1/dated: 27.02.2007

1. Review of Gender Equity Strategy & Related Action Plan 2006-2011.
2. Preparation of new Gender Equity Strategy & Related Action Plan 2016-2021.
3. Any other Business.

On 24 February 2015 a Corrigendum was issued postponing this meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

- During the monthly coordination meeting of the Blue Gold Program held on 5th of March 2015 Ms. Nazrin Akter Khan, SDE Planning III, stated that the first meeting of the reformed Gender Committee of BWDB would be held soon. It was decided that such a meeting was to be held after the arrival of the International Gender Expert of the TA team.
- After the arrival of the International Gender Expert in the third week of March 2015, the PCD was duly informed. Since it was not possible to convoke a meeting of the Gender Committee during the stay of the international expert, instead a meeting was held (April 2, 2015) with the PCD, the national and the international gender expert, and the following BWDB staff members present: Ms. Nasrin Akter Khan, Mr. Md. Rahmat Ali and Mr. Md. Abul Kauser. From Blue Gold site the following approach was proposed: the involvement of a national senior gender expert (with BWDB experience) to facilitate the review and updating of the existing gender action plan in a participatory way. Considering that members of the reformed Gender Equity Committee might not be available for regular consultations during this process, a special task force (or working committee) was proposed to facilitate the update of the Gender Action Plan by providing suggestions and feedback. Major decisions, including the final approval, will remain the responsibility of the Gender Equity Committee. It was agreed that Blue Gold would proceed with the development of a ToR for a senior gender consultant.

Proposal for support to BWDB to update its Gender Action Plan and facilitate its implementation

It is proposed that Blue Gold supports the update of BWDB's Gender Action Plan through the following steps:

1. Provide appropriate TA support to the reformed Gender Equity Committee of BWDB for the implementation of selected activities of the ToR as in the above mentioned Office Order of 02.09.2014.
2. In particular, support and facilitate the review and update of the existing Action Plan of BWDB's Gender Equity Strategy, taking into consideration current priorities, the feasibility of implementation considering a realistic time frame, but also accepting a certain level of ambition and challenge. This process will be participatory and interactive, i.e. in close cooperation with selected BWDB staff, e.g. through a special Task Force to be established for this purpose.
3. A draft update of the Gender Action Plan, including an implementation plan, will be presented in a workshop with a larger audience, including members of the reformed Gender Equity Committee. The suggestions forthcoming from this workshop will be incorporated into the final draft.
4. Finalization (by the TA in consultation with the Task Force), followed by official adoption / approval of the updated Gender Action Plan by the reformed Gender Equity Committee.
5. Support to the implementation of the Action Plan. This may include support to and participation in the regular meetings of the Gender Equity Committee, the organisation of gender orientation for BWDB staff, the development of a (Bangla) summary of BWDB's gender strategy and updated action plan for BWDB staff, etc.
6. Support to the review of the implementation of the updated policy, about two years after its approval, to assess the achievements and constraints and to provide recommendations for further implementation and overcoming the identified constraints.

Approach to implement the above steps:

It is proposed that the implementation of the above steps is supported by Blue Gold TA through the input of (a) senior national Bangladeshi expert(s) with authority acceptable to both BWDB high level staff and within the donor community and in close cooperation with Blue Gold's gender expert. A more detailed ToR is attached to this concept note as Annex 2. The duration of the input of the senior expert(s) is foreseen as several months, to be confirmed when the ToR and work plan are finalized. It is expected that the input is intermittent over a longer period of about 9 months.

As a first step of this process the reformed Gender Equity Committee should meet to approve this approach and provide their suggestions and recommendations, as per their own ToR.

Tentative Work Plan (to be refined and finalized when the senior gender expert is ready to start her/his work):

1. Meeting of the Gender Equity Committee to approve this process, and provide suggestions and recommendation; formation of a Task Force consisting of designated BWDB staff members who will provide input in the process and act as a sounding board for the TA (June 2015)
2. Start work by the expert(s) and the Task Force (June / July 2015)
3. First draft of updated gender action plan ready and organization of validation workshop, including the members of the Gender Equity Committee (October / November 2015)
4. Incorporating suggestions from the workshop and finalizing the updated gender action plan; Final Approval by the Gender Equity Committee (January / February 2016)
5. Leaflets available in English and Bangla summarizing BWDB's Gender Equity Strategy and the updated action plan: by March 2016
6. Support to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan: 2016 until the end of Blue Gold
7. Review of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan: Early 2018.

The input of the senior national expert(s) will especially concern activities 1 to 5. Support to implementation (activity 6), including attending the regular meetings of the Gender Equity Committee, may be provided by Blue Gold's regular gender and/or institutional staff. For the review (activity 7) an external consultant is expected to be hired.

The following two annexes are attached to the original Concept Paper, but are not included in this Mission Report:

ANNEX 1. Notice for the reorganization of BWDB's Gender Equity Committee

ANNEX 2. ToR for Senior National Expert(s) (TA) to facilitate the update of BWDB's Gender Action Plan

Appendix 5. Accident Report Until June 2015

No.	Date of Accident	Name of Staff in the Accident, Designation	M/ F	Place of Accident	Type of Vehicle	Brief of the accident	Status of Injury	No. of Staff Injured	Absent Working Day (s)	Remedial Action (s)
1	08/09/2013	Provati Roy, Community Organizer	F	Khulna Polder - 29, Dumuria to Sharafpur Main road	Van	Van was crushed with a vehicle carrying iron rods	Severe leg fracture was hospitalized for 4 days	1		
2	05/11/2013	Dirk Smits, Mofazzal Ahmed, Alamgir Chowdhury, Azizur Rahman, TL, DTL,CL,DCL	M	Khulna	Easy Bike	The team met an accident when their easy bike hit face to face with two motorbikes. Both the drivers of the motorbikes were severely injured.	No project staff was injured	None	NA	Easy bike are not safe to use
3	23/09/2014	Yesmin Akter Fatema ,Community Organizer	F	Patuakhali	Motorbike	Motorbike slipped and she fell off the bike	Head was damaged severely and was traumatized also. Immediately hospitalized and stayed in hospital for 13 days.	1	33	Need to put helmet while riding on a motor bike
4	24/10/2014	Kumaresh Chandra Dam, Community Organiser	M	Khulna (Gobra,Narail)	Easybike	Fell from easy bike	RTA; Hospitalized for 4 days	1	18	
5		Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader	M	Dhaka, Mojheel Office	NA	He was using the lift to go ground floor and the doors of the lift was open but the lift was not there. He was about to fall from 8th floor.	Mentally traumatized			Motijheel Lift needs to be repaired.
6	26/10/2014	Abul Kashem, Training Expert	M	Khulna	Motorbike		Injured in legs and hands and took first aids	1		
7	03/11/2014	Md. Abdul Jabber, FO	M	Mohishkata , Barguna	Motorcycle	Fell from motor bike	Finger crack and hospitalised for 6dys	1	2	
8	15/01/2015	Roksana Parvin, Community Organiser	F	Polder 30, Khulna	Hired Motor Bike	She travelled by hired Motor Bike, After	Injured her lip and face seriously, both	1		Wearing helmet

						reaching to Titukhali bazar, suddenly a child (Age 03) crossed the road running, and the Motor Bike failed to stop and knocked the child. The child was injured seriously. Rokhana Parvin dropped from the Motor Bike and slipped few feet's on the carpeting road. The Motor Bike also got a hit from back side by a Nosimon (Rural motorized vehicle).	knees, palm, little & thumb finger			
9	09/02/2015	A.K.M. Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Community Organiser	M	43/2F	Official Motor Bike		Hospitalized	1		
10	10/02/2015	Abul Basar, FO	M	Patuakhali	Motor Bike		Got injury in his legs and hand, instantly Hospitalized.	1		

Appendix 6. PMC Meeting Minutes

Minutes of 4th meeting of the Program Management Committee (PMC) of Blue Gold Program (BGP) held on 30th April, 2015 in the conference room of Program Coordinating Director's (PCD) office.

The 4th meeting of the Program Management Committee (PMC) of Blue Gold Program (BGP) was held on 30 April, 2015 at 10:30 am in the conference room of Program Co-ordinating Director's (PCD) office (23/1, Motijheel, Hasan Court, 8th floor) under the chair of Mr. Sujoy Chakma, Program Co-ordinating Director (PCD), Blue Gold Program (BGP) in presence of PMC members, officials from BWDB and TA team. The list of the participants is in **Annex 'A'**.

1. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants at the outset of the meeting. Firstly he informed the house about the following action against the decisions taken in the 3rd PMC meeting:

- Participatory Water Management Rules 2014 (PWMR 2014) was shared with all PMC members.
- Progress report and work plan was shared before starting 4th PMC Meeting.
- Working paper for IMSC was prepared by PCD office and forwarded to MoWR for IMSC meeting.
- The Chief water Management was invited to attend the PMC meeting as observer.
- PMC meeting is being arranged regularly.

2. Then the PCD mentioned according to the Inception Report selected polders for Blue Gold Program (BGP) are required to be confirmed by BWDB. For this purpose a Polder Selection Report has been prepared by Central Planning Team BWDB, Dhaka and TA Team of Blue Gold Program for total 12 nos. polders selected within March, 2015 for implementation of program activities during 2014-2015 and was forwarded to BWDB for approval. But BWDB advised to get the consent of PMC for approval. He presented the Polder Selection Report for Polder No. 43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2E, 43/2F, 22, 29, 30 as fine tuning and Polder No.02, 26 & 31-part as rehabilitation to PMC.

3. Then the PCD invited the Team Leader, TA Team, Blue Gold Program to present the work plan of Blue Gold Program for next IMSC meeting, status of Blue Gold Program during 2014-15 and also the tentative program for 2015-16. The Team Leader, TA Team explained the issues briefly one by one through a power point presentation.

He mentioned in review of 3rd PMC meeting; revision of DPP (BWDB part) should be raised in next IMSC meeting and consequences of PWMR 2014. He submitted thirty nine recommendations of First Annual Review Mission resulting in an action plan to all PMC members and recommended to include proposal to have one single IMSC for Blue Gold Program (BWDB+DAE) in next IMSC meeting. He submitted work plan of Blue Gold Program for next IMSC meeting to all PMC members. Then he presented component wise status;

Component-1: Community organization

- 233 out of 242 WMGs in 9 IPSWAM polders are registered; strengthening and capacity building of WMGs advancing well.
- 51 out of 88 proposed WMGs formed in 3 new polders; 15 WMGs are registered.
- Average membership of women in WMGs is 39% and average women representation in Executive Committees is 30%.
- 13 out of 27 proposed WMAs formed in 9 IPSWAM polders.
- 27 Monitoring Committees (MCs) in 9 IPSWAM polders and 4 MCs in new polders formed at WMA level.
- 54 WMGs formulated WMG Action Plan (WAP).
- By-laws of PWMR 2014 have already been prepared for WMGs.

Component 2: Water Resources Management

- Incomplete earthwork in 2013-14 has been taken up for 2014-15.
- Provided support to XENs of Patuakhali and Barguna in collection of design data for 2014-15 implementation works.
- Benchmarks established for rehab polders (by IWM).
- EIA for 5 polders almost completed by CEGIS and ongoing for 7 other polders.
- No LCS could be formed in polder 31-part because WMGs are not yet registered.
- Study for pilot pumped drainage in polder 2, Satkhira and polder 31-part, Khulna done by Deltares.
- Morphological study by IWM to combat river erosion in polder 29 is ongoing.
- Study by IWM to delineate hydrological boundaries for polder 2 in Satkhira, polder 26 and 31-part in Khulna under process.
- Three new polders in Patuakhali visited for selection. Two of them identified for selection (55/2A & 55/2C).
- Work started in almost all the polders
- LCS works were emphasized for earth works.

Component 3: Agricultural Production

FFS and MFS (TA)

- Third cycle 88 FFS winter vegetables, poultry, nutrition completed including field days (2,200 farmers, 89% women)
- Fourth cycle 40 FFS summer vegetables, poultry, nutrition started in Khulna
- Fifth cycle 48 FFS fish (including Tilapia), poultry, nutrition started in Patuakhali
- 20 Market Oriented FFS (MFS) sesame started in Khulna
- 20 MFS mung bean started in Patuakhali

DAE activities

- DAE reported that 75 FFS on T.Aman rice were completed including field days (3,750 farmers, 50% women)
- DAE reported that 16 demos summer tomato were completed
- DAE has started 50 FFS Boro and Rabi crops
- DAE has started 60 demonstrations on various topics (floating gardens, mushrooms, mung bean, drumstick, etc.)
- The FT-TOT for 50 FTs, scheduled for Feb-March, has been postponed

Other TA activities

- Participatory Research on SHHP (World Fish) has been extended 3 months until June.
- Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW):
 - 20 Community Poultry Workers (all women) were trained and are providing services
 - 20 Community Livestock Workers (18 men, 2 women) were trained and are providing services.

Component 4: Business development and private sector involvement

Value Chains Development Activities

- Sesame in Polder 22 & Polder 30 going on.
- Mung Bean in Polder 43/2D & Polder 43/2F going on.
- Backyard Poultry in Polder 22 & 30 and Tilapia in polder 43/2D & 43/2F will start soon.
- Value Chain Analysis on Moringa has started.
- 10 Producer Group Facilitators (PF) capacity building will continue



WMO Capacity Building

- Management of Agriculture Machinery (MAM) Training is going on (57 completed).
- Developed curriculum for Savings and Credit Training. Training programs will commence soon.
- Background analysis going on for launching Business Planning Training for different IGA.

Market Oriented Farmer Field School (MFS)

- MFS program going on for Sesame (20 MFS with 500 farmers) at Khulna region
- MFS program going on for Mung bean (20 MFS with 500 farmers) at Patuakhali region
- MFS program on Tilapia and backyard Poultry will start soon.
- Prepared master file for preparing PDP for Polders 22, 30, 26, 31part, 29, 2, 43/2F, 43/2D, 43/2A, 43/2E

The Team Leader, TA Team also mentioned DPP revision to include:

- Retired embankment for fine-tuning polders
- Temporary protection / erosion control
- Provision for emergency repairs
- Increased unit costs:
fine-tuning polders: 250 euro/ha instead of 100 euro/ha
new rehab polders: 500 euro/ha instead of 300 euro/ha
- Inclusion of role of Chief Water Management office and cancellation of DoC role
- Land acquisition for retired/ upgraded embankment
- Flexibility in polder selection both in area & number
- Cooperation with CEIP and/or others (sharing of activities in a polder)

4. Mr. Md. Faridul Islam, Sr. Assistant Chief, Irrigation Wing, Planning Commission, Dhaka emphasized on working paper to distribute before each PMC meeting. He wanted to know about Multi Criteria Analysis in case of polder selection and fine tuning and rehabilitation works for polder.

Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader, TA team, Blue Gold Program replied that Multiple criteria are selected to weight the suitability of polders. Each criterion is given a weight and then evaluated against a logically assessed score. A polder is considered as suitable for selection if the weighted average score is more than or equal to 80. About fine tuning works he replied the minor repair and maintenance works taken up for polders which polders were previously included in other projects. He also mentioned Rehabilitation works are major construction, repair and maintenance works for those polders which polders were previously not included in other projects.

Mr. Md. Faridul Islam also added that during revision of DPP reasons of DPP revision and increasing unit cost should be reflected.

5. Dr. Md. Sainar Alam, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka mentioned he is the focal point from DoF for BGP and in 3rd PMC meeting he wanted to know detailed work plan and allotted budget for the Department of Fisheries (DoF) but he didn't yet receive any feed back from TA team. The Team Leader, TA Team replied they should submit detailed work plan and allotted budget for the two Departments DLs & DoF to concerned focal point of those Departments.

6. The Chief Water Management, BWDB, Dhaka emphasized on sustainability of WMO under BGP. He recommended including WMG members for FFS. Ms. Tahmina Begum, Deputy Director (Water Management) & PD, BGP (DAE Part), DAE replied WMG members are already included in FFS.

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7. The Chief Water Management, BWDB, Dhaka emphasized on fixing the no. of WMGs. In reply Ms. Victoria Pineda, Deputy Component Leader, Component-1, TA team, Blue Gold Program stated that for new rehabilitation polders for Polder-2 and Polder-31 (part) fixing nos. of WMGs will be done with the consent of concerned DCEO's, BWDB.

8. Dr. Md. Lutfor Rahman, Upazila Livestock officer, Department of Livestock Services (DoL) proposed to organize an orientation program in Blue Gold program area. Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader, TA team, Blue Gold Program replied that an orientation program will be organized with DLS, DoF and DAE in Blue Gold program area.

9. The PCD, Blue Gold program stated that according to Inception Report TA Team will submit to EKN and the PMC the following report:

- Annual plans
- Six-monthly progress reports (technical and financial)
- Annual Audit reports
- Baseline survey report
- Village action plan
- Polder development plan.

But PMC did not receive any such report from the Team Leader, TA Team. Recently PCD has received a Base Line Survey Report through e-mail. Then he requested Mr. Dirk Smits, Team Leader, TA Team to inform the committee regarding submission of all the reports.

Mr. Dirk Smits, Team Leader, TA Team replied that he has no document with him. So, it may be discussed later on.

10. Mr. Rothindra Nath Roy, Assistant Chief, MoWR, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka mentioned that reducing of budget repeatedly for the Blue Gold Program will obstruct to achieve goal of Blue Gold Program. He emphasized to utilize the budget fully to achieve goal of Blue Gold Program.

After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken unanimously:

1. The PMC recommended the Polder Selection Report of Polder No. 43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, 43/2D, 43/2E, 43/2F, 22, 29, 30, 02, 26 & 31-part for BWDB approval.
2. The TA Team will update the work plan to be presented in the next IMSC meeting.
3. Detailed work plan and allotted budget for the two Departments DLs & DoF should be submitted by TA Team to concerned focal point of those Departments.
4. For new polder selection it is required to expedite the selection process.
5. Reasons and explanations for DPP revision should be incorporated by TA Team to be presented in IMSC meeting.
6. The Reports to be submitted to PMC according to Inception Report will be discussed by the Team Leader, TA Team in the next PMC meeting.

As there was no other agenda the meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.


10.05.15
(Sujoy Chakma)

Program Coordinating Director
Blue Gold Program
BWDB, Dhaka.

Distribution: Copy for information & necessary action to: (Not as per seniority)

1. The Chief Planning, BWDB, Dhaka.
2. The Chief Water Management, BWDB, Dhaka.
3. Ms. Tahmina Begum, Deputy Director (Water Management) & PD, BGP (DAE Part), DAE, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka & member, PMC.
4. Mr. Rothindra Nath Roy, Assistant Chief, MoWR, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka & member, PMC.
5. Mr. Md. Faridul Islam, Sr. Assistant Chief, Irrigation Wing, Planning Commission, Dhaka (Block 17, 2nd floor) & member, PMC.
6. Ms. Lasmi Chakma, Assistant Director, IMED, Planning Commission (Block 12, 2nd Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka.
7. Dr. Md. Sainar Alam, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka & member, PMC.
8. Dr. Md. Lutfur Rahman, Upazila Livestock officer, Department of Livestock Services (DoL), Khamarbari Road, Farmgate, Dhaka & member, PMC.
9. Mr. Dirk Smits, Team Leader, Blue Gold Program, BWDB, Dhaka & Member-Secretary, PMC.
10. Md. Abul Kausar, Executive Engineer, Central Planning Team, Blue Gold Program, BWDB, Dhaka & member, PMC.
11. Mr. Carel de Groot, First Secretary, Water Sector, EKN, Dhaka.
12. Mr. A.T.M. Khaleduzzaman, Senior Advisor (Water Management), EKN, Dhaka.
13. CSO to Director General, BWDB, Dhaka.
14. PA to Additional Director General (Planning), BWDB, Dhaka.

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Attendance Sheet

4th PMC Meeting

Date: 30 April 2015

Venue: Conference Room of PCD of Blue Gold Program office.

Chaired by: Sujoy Chakma, PCD, Blue Gold Program.

Sl. No	Name & Designation	Organization	Telephone NO. E-mail Address	Signature
1	Dirk Smiths	Blue Gold TA Team leader		
2	Dr. Md. Sainar Alam Assistant Director	Dept. of Fisheries	01716 730666 sainardof@yahoo.com	 30.04.15
3	Shafiqul Islam	BGP, BWDB	01916-823589 shafiqulb@gmail.com	
4	Nasibuddin Khan.	BWDB	01819157404 nuk.bwdb@yahoo.com	 30/04/15
5	Nasrin Akter Khan, SDE	BWDB	01715-012524 kakoli49@yahoo.com	 30/04/15
6	Md. Abul Kausar EE	BWDB	01712-962502	 30/4/15
7	Alamgir Chowdhury	Blue Gold	01711833212	
8	Tahmina Begum DD(WM) & PD, TTAP-BAP (DAE-comp)	DAE	01716481517 kbtahmina@gmail.com	
9	Lasmi Chakma Asst. Director	IMED	01556746985 lasmi_chakma@yahoo.com	 30.04.15
10	Dr. Md. Entofur Rahman.	DLS	01711-341086 md.entofur60@gmail.com	
11	VICTORIA PINEA	BG TA		
12	Md. Fariedul Islam SR. ASIA chief	Planning Commission	01929205780 9117541	

13. RATHENDRA NATH ROY, MOWR 01723270216