

Blue Gold Program
Bangladesh Water Development Board

Meeting date: 07 July, 2018

Meeting venue: Conference room- Blue Gold Office, Khulna

Participants: 14 nos

Meeting Agenda:

The meeting was facilitated by training & communication expert of Blue Gold program. It was started at 11:00 am and continued up to 1:30 pm by the active participation of CDF from different exit polder under Khulna region.

Advantages of the Optimized Approach for Sluice Catchment O&M Planning Process

1. The Facilitators are collecting information very specifically about crop & water management problems of WMG and preparing WMG O&M Plan which is appreciable. This is the first time that the WMG understood about the water management for better crops so that they become interested and actively involved in this process - Gusto Bihari Mondol
2. Without any financial support, the facilitators are facilitating the process of WMG based O&M action plan preparation involving farmers which is very exceptional to them. Even all the small issues related to crop & water management is identify and discussed by the WMG members. All the small water management problem they are bringing and identifying the solution - Md Uzzol Hossain
3. Being a local people, the WMG, Catchment Committee and Facilitator can easily identify the water related problems as well as root causes - Jotsna Khatun
4. As WMG people are identifying and analyzing their water management problem by themselves as a result it is more acceptable to them, taking necessary action for solution. Comparatively there is a maximum possibility to implement these actions. This is very good process to develop their ownership on the O&M planning process - Kumaresh Dam
5. The activities of WMG area mapping, identify the different type of land, crop & water management problem & solution and preparation of action plan have responded as earthquake for that many WMG members are actively involved in this planning process.- Md Uzzol Hossain
6. If anyone gives miss information, another one is making correction so, there is less chance to include wrong information in this plan - CDF Chandon Sarker
7. To organize such type of activities/process is easier to WMG Facilitator than the CDF. When they find the suitable time even in the evening or night they are seating together and discussing but to CDF, it is not possible, In many cases they observed the WMG are discussing this issue to the tea stall, bazar, under the tree in different places – Ramesh Chandra
8. The WMG Facilitator now realizing that how much difficult to organize this type of activities what CDF usually do that.
9. There is huge involvement of WMG facilitator for developing this O&M planning through the WMG. The same way, it is very difficult for CDF because of their lots work. On the other hand

without food or remuneration no any WMG members will involve and spent their time for this planning. During monthly meeting we find very few people (7-8) after a long follow up and they do not stay longer time for the meeting. But this process is amazing that very good numbers of people are participating in this planning process, no one is asking for food or remuneration and spending 3-4 hrs in one seating. In some cases they find more than one session they have spent for WMG plan preparation - Kumaresh Dam

10. The WMG facilitators are fixing activity wise date to implement the plan through discussion in the session, that was not possible for another person.-CDF Jesmin
11. One CDF is responsible to look after 15-20 WMG and have 22 working days and they (CDF) don't get more than one/two times to visit one WMG in a month. They can spend 5% time of their total time for WMG capacity building/follow up. In considering that, within very short time It was not possible to collect information and prepare plan which has been done by the WMG facilitator. Md. Uzzol Hossain
12. WMG people are now seriously realizing that is possible to develop higher crops through the proper operation and maintenance of water management infrastructures. So that they actively involved in this planning process. In many cases, they have started to communicate with UP Chairman for getting allocation -- CDF Rashida Akter
13. Through this process WMGs are able to understand the relations of crop and water management for higher production. - CDF Al Amin
14. CDFs are expecting that at least 50-60% activities will be implemented from the WMG and catchment O&M plan – Ramesh Chandra
15. Earlier WMG people did not prepare any O&M plan through analysis of cropping pattern and water management (present approach) - CDF Mottaleb

Some Challenges and recommendations

1. In new polder, we should take initiative to select good facilitator and start the this planning process as soon as early
2. The WMG facilitator need to sit with WMG/catchment committee at least once or twice time in a month
3. Honorarium is needed for the facilitator otherwise it will not possible to continue their activities (Implementation phase)
4. It should be specific how long the WMG facilitator will continue their facilitation process?

Recorded by:
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