

Blue Gold Program

Training on WMA Capacity Building & Catchment O&M Planning Process

Polder- 27/1&2 and 28/1&2

Date: Sep 1-5, 2019

Introduction

Training on WMA Capacity Building and Catchment O&M Planning Process for of ToF course for Catchment Committee Facilitators on Sluice Catchment O&M planning process for WMA EC Members and O&M Sub Committee Members for Polder- 27/1&2 and 28/1&2 (selected) was organized at Khulna on Sep 1-5, 2019.



These are 3rd phased polders where WMA formation completed in last 1.5 years back. They did not receive any formal/informal training for water management & organizational capacity development. The Polder Teams experience and assessment is 3rd phased polders WMOs have lack of knowledge and understanding on the above issues. Considering that WMA EC committee members are included in this training course with O&M sub-committee members and accordingly revised the training contents and outline. The 1st 2 days was conducted organizational and water management issues and remaining 3 days on polder water management, process and practice on O&M plan preparation.

The objective of the training course was twofold:

1. To develop the capacity of the Water Management Association & O&M Sub Committee Members on organizational management and water management for agriculture production;
2. To develop capacity on preparation, implementation of Catchment O&M Planning Process at the WMG and Catchment level involving farmers, UP and WMO representatives.

Training participants

According to the schedule the training on WMA Capacity Building and Catchment O&M Planning process has been started on 1st Sep 2019. The first 2 days O&M sub-committee and WMA EC committee (total 36 participants) members were attended the training at Ava Center, CSS, Khulna. We changed the venue from Ava center to Buro Bangladesh for the next 3 days as the participants were only 24 (O&M sub-committee members) where we do not need big venue. At Buro Bangladesh the cost of venue will be little lower comparing Ava-center and Buro Bangladesh also agreed to give 10% discount. Following are the details:

Training Date	Participants										36
	WMA		Total	O&M Sub Committee		Total	CDF's		Total	Total	
Sep 1-5, 2019	M	F	10	M	F	24	M	F	02	M	F
	6	4		20	4		1	1		27	9

Key content of the training course

1. Functional WMA and their roles
2. Bye-Laws & WMA roles and practice
3. Organizational Record Keeping
4. Organizing and conducting WMA meeting
5. Operation & Maintenance of Water Management Infrastructures
6. Partnership development for functionality & sustainability of the organization
7. Cropping System and Water Management
8. The process and techniques to prepare water management plans - O&M plans
9. Field practice on WMG wise data collection – O&M Planning process
10. Demonstration of WM planning process: WMG—Catchment—UP—UZP level

Field Practice & Demonstration

On 3rd day just before lunch two experienced Catchment Committee Facilitator from Khulna: Mr. Asim from Polder 22 and Ms. Parveen Sultana from Polder 25 attended the course and shared their experience, challenge and techniques to overcome which creates value of training and develop confidence of the Catchment Committee Facilitators. The resource persons have guided the teams at WMG level data collection and WM planning process. After field visit, the participants returned to the venue and prepared their presentation at night for the next day's morning presentation where the resources persons guided the participants.



Presentation of WMG O&M planning outcomes on 4 and 5th day

The participants presented their group outcomes - the WMGs maps, information of water management problems and solutions to potential crops and plan of actions. They also explained the potential challenges to accomplish Catchment O&M Plan preparation. The CDF and PCs were observations and experience at the end of each group presentations and recommendation for further improvement.



Based on the participant's field practice and demonstration, we observed participant's performance: confidence, their group outcomes, clarification, analytical skills on crops and water management analysis, identification problems & solutions and overall management in conducting catchment O&M planning process. The invited 2 resource persons from Khulna also explained their field observations on the groups and experiential techniques to overcome those problems.

Cultural Evening



The participants organized a cultural evening on the 4th day's night where all the participants and resources persons were actively participated in singing song, presenting jokes, modern dance, play dance and drama. The cultural evening was planned and facilitated by two catchment committee members which was exciting and enjoyable and energize the groups.

Overall observation and comments

The effectiveness of the training is depending on the participant's performance in the field means developed capabilities to apply the learning to the field and get result. So, we have to wait to find their application of knowledge & skills for final production of catchment O&M plans. But from the immediate result of training we can comment based on the overall participation of the participants throughout the training course - interaction & behavior in the training sessions, performance in the field practice & overall demonstration.

The overall comments and reaction of the participants were, this process become aware them about the importance of water management for agricultural production, the plan must be owned by the WMG as it will be their plan so they will be engaged and committed to implement. This is a sustainable process and they gained skills to prepare this plan.

Considering that we can say this team will be able to produce qualitative WMG and Catchment Maps and O&M Plans through involving the WMO members, farmers, UP, DAE and BODB officials as we expected. This performance indication & confidence is not the credit of training only rather it depends on how the participants were selected, how zonal and polder team/coordinator were really committed to identify the best potential participants from the catchments, on how we can create the best learning environment and commitment to achieve the ultimate target (catchment O&M plans) following the process (involving the farmers and other stakeholders) through the Catchment Committee Facilitators.

We would like to appreciate to the Khulna Zonal and Polder Teams who created this situation for implementing such an effective training course.

September 12, 2019