

**Proceedings of the Workshop  
on  
Blue Gold Draft Inception Report Presentation**



উন্নয়নে পানি ব্যবস্থাপনা

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## **Introduction**

The Blue Gold Program is a Dutch-Bangladesh joint endeavor to support the people of Khulna, Satkhira and Patuakhali districts in water management for development. It is a six years program—from March 2013 to March 2019—the essence of which is to establish and empower community organizations to sustainably manage their water resources and make them more productive. A draft Inception Report was presented at a workshop at the BRAC Inn on 26 June of 2013 that proposed guidelines—strategy and activities— to direct the program’s implementation. The workshop was attended by 102 people from different government and non-government organizations having significant expertise in the area. The inception report was discussed and commented by the experts, which is recorded in this proceedings report.

This proceedings report was published in September 2013.

## **Inauguration**

Mr. Zahirul Islam, Chief Planning, BWDB chaired the meeting. The inaugural session began with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Mr. Kamruzzaman Khan, Sub-Divisional Engineer, DP-III, BWDB, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Masud Ahmed, Project Coordinating Director, Blue Gold Program welcomed all the guests and participants in the workshop. He described the objectives and background of Blue Gold Program in short. He termed the inception report as a *Road Map* for the project.

Mr. Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, BWDB was present in the workshop as chief guest. Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan, Additional Director General (Planning, BWDB) and Mr. Martin Bos, first Secretary (Water Management), Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bangladesh were the special guests of the workshop. Md. Azizul Haque extended his gratefulness to Government of the Netherlands for funding the project. He advised to take some lessons from the experience of IPSWAM project while implementing the Blue Gold program. He also emphasized on the integration of all partners who are directly or indirectly involved with execution of the project. Md. Abdul Mannan, Additional Director General also described the background of the Blue Gold Program in his speech. Martin Bos, on the other hand, termed the Blue Gold Program as an innovative project that has huge challenges to encounter. He hoped all the beneficiaries—men, women and children—will benefit from the program. He reiterated also by remarking that this benefit will be extended to other areas of Bangladesh.

After tea break Mr. Dirk Smits, Team Leader of Blue Gold Program, introduced the inception report. He presented basic information, duration and area of the project, funding agency, number of polders that will be undertaken, implementing partners, overall and specific objectives and lastly 6 steps approach which will be followed by the project. After his presentation component leaders and other experts notably Vicki Pineda, Mofazzal Ahmed, Hein Bijlmakers, Tanvir Islam, Abul Kashem and Kitty Bentvelsen presented their respective components through Power Point Presentations. At the end of the presentation, the participants, the experts and the officials

of the various departments presented their comments while written questions were collected that were given to the respective component leaders for answers and explanations.

## **Comments**

### **1. Mr. Sharafat Hossain Khan, Project Director, DIFPP & Project Coordinator, CEIP-1**

Mr. Khan extended his thanks to the presenter for their excellent presentation of the Inception Report; he also thanked EKN for their continued support and assistance to different water resource management projects of Bangladesh. He wondered that since WMOs are entrusted mainly with the responsibility of O&M of water resources infrastructure, then why they need to be registered by DoC. He stated that climate change in Bangladesh is an extremely crucial issue. Thus it is extremely important both for the Government and the project to address the climate change problem. But this critical issue is not addressed properly in the presentation of Blue Gold Program. He sought to protect the coastal population from natural hazards by upgrading embankment, water control structures for drainage and improvement of the early warning system. He urged in favor of various issues of climate change to be included in the Blue Gold Program.

According to him, the community participation, which is widely practiced in the development projects, will be a key element of the Blue Gold Program. Realizing community organization's importance, he emphasized to evaluate the WMO by involving a third party to get an impartial report. Blue Gold can draw on lessons from other projects regarding this issue. He is in favor of LCS work and hence he suggested providing 50% of earth work to the LCS group members. But he opined that women involvement in LCS earth work may be 30% instead of 50%. Lastly he expressed the difficulty to fully grasp the concept of Value Chains.

### **2. Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Project Director, CDSP IV**

CDSP project has generated significant experience and useful lessons in the development of rural infrastructure at the village level by diffusing new agricultural technologies, providing the poor with access to common property resources, and helping poor people improve their livelihoods. Specific lessons from CDSP project can be adopted by Blue Gold.

He also stated that Climate Change does not involve sea level rise and embankment raising only, rather it also includes many other adaptation issues, which should be included in the project. According to him, if fund becomes a problem, the number of polders should be reduced to better address the climate change problem.

He asked whether the presenter has any base line survey on existing value chains in the selected polder area. If not, then how the project will improve the existing value chains without any base line facts. He pointed out that lesson can be taken from other BWDB projects practicing value chain activities.

## **2. Mr. Zainal Abedin, Deputy Team Leader, CDSP.**

He emphasized on handing over of borrow-pit and other khas areas to WMOs to empower them. He also stressed on afforestation of fore shore of the polders to combat sea level rise and erosion hazard. Mr. Abedin advised to follow the national agriculture policy which is to make the nation self-sufficient in food through increasing production of all crops including cereals and ensure a dependable food security system for all. He also shared his observation that productivity training has not been included in the Value chain component. He also emphasized on the recruitment of more staff especially at the field level to strengthen the implementation progress.

## **3. Dr. Mominul Haque, Deputy Executive Director, CEGIS**

Climate influences the water, vegetation, soil, and animal resources upon which people depend for food and other products. It is now a burning issue for the country. But this issue is not addressed much in the presentation. He mentioned that it would take long time to address sea level rise by raising embankments, however, other related issues of global warming need to be incorporated in the Blue Gold activities. Blue Gold should consider the level of protection of polder people from cyclone and storm surge. This program should upgrade the existing protection mechanisms.

## **4. Mr. Khaleduzzaman, EKN**

While forming WMG, the field staffs of Blue Gold are advised to be careful to select the members in the group. He suggested that a marriage registration document should be required for WMO membership, as an additional way to empower women.

He reiterated that transformation of a WMO into a cooperative association is an innovative and challenging job. Therefore, a lot of attention and support should be given to this aspect.

He pointed out that most of the presentation on food security and agricultural production covered only FFS. To achieve food security and increase agricultural production FFS is necessary but not sufficient. Other issues should be addressed in the food security component.

## **5. Mr. Zahiruddin Ahmed, ADB Resident Mission**

According to Mr. Zahiruddin, sea level rise is not an important issue, but other issues of global warming should be considered properly. Drainage system should be improved. According to him Value Chain is a new component which requires further explanation. He stressed on the establishment of cold storage and its management to reduce the post-harvest losses which will ultimately benefit the farmers and traders. He proposed the possibility of establishing cold storage through public-private partnerships.

#### **6. Dr. Monwar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM**

He commented that WMO issues are a long time practice, practiced over a span of 20 years, which has not produced much success. He also commented that FFS is an appreciable approach, but proper implementation may be problematic. An appropriate approach needs to be developed.

#### **7. Dr. M.A. Kasem, Water Management Expert**

He was involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> formulation phase of the Blue Gold program and expressed satisfaction on the presentation of draft inception report of Blue Gold.

#### **8. Ms. Tahmina Begum, Project Director, Blue Gold (Agriculture Component)**

She commented that the concept of FFS is a group approach, being successfully tested and practiced by DAE for about 2 decades. According to DAE, at least 30% of the FFS members are women. She suggested that male FFS members may participate in field crops, while women members will engage in homestead gardening as the main activity. She ended her comment with a question, whether there is any scope for overseas training of any DAE personnel in the project. She mentioned about a separate DPP of DAE, which is going to be approved soon.

### **Reply to comments**

#### **Dirk Smits, Team Leader, Blue Gold**

Mr. Smits stated that it is still early days for the Blue Gold Program. He expressed satisfaction that there were such a lot of questions during the workshop, although time was not sufficient to answer all the questions and queries.

He mentioned that Blue Gold Program is a BWDB project, with direct involvement of DAE through a separate DPP. Blue Gold also cooperates with other Government Agencies. Coordination is important for such a multi-party endeavor. Therefore, the project will be supervised by an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, chaired by the MoWR Secretary. It is also proposed to bring Blue Gold and other similar projects in the coastal areas under the umbrella of a joint GoB – donor community Local Consultative Group (LCG).

The effects of Climate Change are on the top of our minds and many things should and will be done. Several interventions, such as increasing the drainage capacity of the polders by pumping and studies to determine the ideal crest height of embankments are or could be included in Blue Gold. Regarding value chain development, the establishment of cold storage facilities is an excellent suggestion.

## **Vicki Pineda, Component 1 Leader, Blue Gold**

Ms Pineda pointed out that it is observed that some WMGs suspended conducting regular meetings after IPSWAM had pulled out. However, they still perform their O&M responsibilities. Since O&M is occasional and in fact seasonal, they see no point in conducting monthly meetings when there is no need for O&M. In IPSWAM project, there were only two components. But Blue Gold has 5 components where the WMOs, mainly supported by component 1, will be the cradle of socioeconomic activities. The activities that the other components will carry out are likely to strengthen WMOs. WMOs in Blue Gold will not simply be involved in water management but will discharge their capacity and strength on a wider horizon to accomplish a holistic development. WMOs will still continue functioning after the end of the project.

She further shared her observation that there is lack of political commitment to carry out O&M as well as collecting O&M fees from the beneficiaries which is critical to WMO sustainability. The IPSWAM WMOs in general do not have O&M fund but they contribute labor and collect cash donations from rich people in the polder for repair and maintenance works. In Blue Gold, it is hoped that the WMOs will be able to create their own O&M fund.

She also mentioned that evaluation of WMOs' functionality will be done by proper cross-checking to avoid any bias.

## **Written Comments and Questions and Answers**

### **Component-1**

#### **Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, SE Khulna O&M Circle**

**Question:** So far we heard that existing IPSWAM's WMO/WMAs are not functional due to resource constraints. Could we say that IPSWAM Program was not sustainable?

**Answer:** WMOS in IPSWAM polders need the additional components of Blue Gold (i.e. food security and business development components) to further promote sustainability of the existing WMOs. Several WMGs under IPSWAM have actually progressed into multi-purpose cooperatives performing both production and economic functions on top of water management chores.

**Question:** Why the name of the program is Blue Gold? What is the meaning of Blue Gold?

**Answer:** Blue represents water and if water is managed and used properly, it will promote economic development.

**Sharmin Farhat, Program Manager, BRAC, WASH Program.**

**Question:** Are there any way-out or conflicts created between WMO & LGIs during execution & other activities?

**Answer:** Proper and close coordination between WMO and LGIs should be established from the very start.

**Question:** In Khulna coastal area conflicts arise between agriculture & shrimp cultivation. Is there any scope during motivation time to resolve the issue?

**Answer:** It's difficult to manage this conflict. Dialogues can only work to a certain point. Getting the key players to meet and discuss is the first step.

**Md. Aminur Faisal, XEN, JMREMP, BWDB.**

**Question:** What is the role of Executive Committee of the WMO?

**Answer:** It is basically responsible for executing/implementing the laws and regulations of the organization which were formulated by the general membership.

**Question:** How are WMA and WMG linked with each other?

**Answer:** 2 member representatives (1 male and 1 female) from each WMG form the WMA and it represents all the WMGs in the polder. WMA basically oversees implementation of rules and regulations and activities by WMGs and provides support. Through the WMA, the WMGs are able to communicate to the service provider (BWDB for example) about what they plan to do and what support they need.

**Dr. Abdul Hamid, CEGIS.**

**Question:** Much good things said about strengthening of WMOs. But I do not find anything about the sustainability of WMOs. Our experience shows the WMOs are functioning well during project implementation. But after projects end the WMOs are seen to be inactive. So, what is planned for WMOs sustainability?

**Answer:** Blue Gold aims to strengthen WMOs that will enable them to perform production and economic functions/activities aside from water management which was not mandated in IPSWAM. Blue Gold also aims to establish strong partnership between WMOs and service providers (BWDB, DAE, DoC, partner organizations of Blue Gold and others). WMOs will need to pursue higher goals and objectives to become self reliant and self-sustaining organizations

**Md. Zainul Abedin , DTL, CDSP-V.**

**Question:** At the local level, WMG & WMA will be confronted with other overlapping sectors in this domain. As such, there is a need of involvement of local administration tiers like Upazila and Union Parishad to coordinate issues affecting the business of the



WMG/MMA's. How such conflict resolution will be solved without involving local administration in the coordination loop?

**Answer:** Strong LGI participation will be promoted in Blue Gold.

**Question:** How the linkage between the BWDB and WMG/WMA would be maintained regularly? Is there any plan matrix from BWDB?

**Answer:** WMGs/WMAs are created for sustainable water management. WMOs and the BWDB are working jointly and practically playing the complementary role in water management. The O&M agreement between WMAs and BWDB clearly defines the process to work together.

### **Mr. Riad, Country Director, Max Foundation**

**Question:** How resources like Borrow-pits and property like khals will be handed over to WMOs?

**Answer:** Government procedures will be followed and it is clearly indicated in the proposed DPP about the use of acquired land by BWDB. In the past certain khals and acquired lands were handed over for management to some WMGs in the IPSWAM polders under leasing arrangement for a period of time. The issue of public khals was perused and supported by the Executive Engineers of BWDB in IPSWAM. However, this needs to be discussed in the district coordination committee and negotiated with the DC (Administration).

**Question:** Why no EMG for embankment in the WMO?

**Answer:** WMOs are responsible for routine maintenance of all water management infrastructures in the polder and BWDB is responsible for periodic and emergency maintenance following the agreement between WMA and BWDB. Of course, WMOs should be financially stable to be able to support this activity. In Blue Gold, there is no provision for Embankment Maintenance Group.

### **Mr. Afsal, IDE**

**Question:** Is there any plan/action plan for coordination with other partners such as BRAC, Max Foundation at field level?

**Answer:** We proposed to have a Coordination Mechanism with BRAC and Max Foundation at the HQ and zonal level in the Blue Gold area. Regular meetings will be initiated to map out plans of action. EKN support for this mechanism will be sought.

### **Mahfuz Ahamed, Chief Agronomist, WMIP-PCU**

**Question:** BWDB intended to give registration of MWO's formed under different BWDB projects. Chief Water Management (CWM), BWDB in favor of Board drafted

*Bhidhimala* (Rules) for giving registration of WMOs and it is now under process of approval. If it is approved, then what will be the process of registration of WMOs (by DoC or by BWDB) under Blue Gold?

**Answer:** At the moment, Blue Gold will be registering WMOs with the Department of Cooperatives. Decision on whether or not to continue registration with DoC once *Bhidhimala* is approved should be made by Blue Gold with EKN and BWDB.

### **Kevin Kamp, World Fish**

**Question:** I do not understand how the basic infrastructure of the polders is financially sustainable at the WMO level.

**Answer:** WMOs are responsible for routine/preventive maintenance of all water management infrastructures in the polder and BWDB is responsible for periodic and emergency maintenance including dredging following the agreement between WMA and BWDB. Unless WMOs are assisted by BWDB in creating O&M fund for preventive maintenance i.e. handing over acquired lands to the WMOs for their management and revenue generation, water management infrastructure will not be financially sustainable. Moreover, preventive O&M funds must be allocated in BWDB budget and should be undertaken on a regular basis to prevent deterioration of infrastructure and avoid major rehabilitation costs.

**Question:** Currently, WMG & WMO are often (always) hijacked by the elite & powerful people. How will this be addressed in Blue Gold?

**Answer:** This will require genuine community organizing process and a cadre of committed community organizers who can initiate consciousness-raising among the villagers on the need to select leaders who will serve for the benefit of the organization as a whole. This entails changing attitude and mind set which takes time and conscious effort.

### **Md. Rafiqul Islam, Joint Chief Planning Commission**

**Question:** You mentioned 50% of WMA members will be women. How and who will ensure 50% women members to be selected in the WMA?

**Answer:** 2 member representatives (1 male and 1 female) from each WMG form the WMA and it represents all the WMGs in the polder and this process of WMA formation ensure 50% women members to be selected in the WMA.

### **Mr. Zahirul Haque Khan, Director, Coastal and Estuary management division IWM**

**Question:** Community organizations WMO are essential for polder management. WMOs work well for polder management during project period. However, in the post project situation WMO does not work well. Will Blue Gold develop any strategy or policy for long term sustainability of WMO?

**Answer:** Blue Gold aims to strengthen WMOs that will enable them to perform production and economic functions/activities aside from water management which was not mandated in IPSWAM. Blue Gold also aims to establish strong partnership between WMOs and service providers (BWDB, DAE, DoC, partner organizations of Blue Gold and others). WMOs will need to pursue higher goals and objectives to become self reliant and self-sustaining organizations.

**Question:** There is a power politics between WMO and elected UP members & chairman. How this conflict will be resolved during formation of WMG and strengthening of WMO?

**Answer:** From the beginning of the program in the polders, orientation and consultation with the UP members and chairman will be done to make them aware of the Blue Gold goals and objectives and the role they will be playing including what support Blue Gold expects from them. In the same vein, the potential members of WMOs or the villagers will be made aware of the need for a WMO and the need to elect/select the right leaders for the WMO. The Zonal staff and the Community Organizers will work together with the people and the UP to avoid political conflict.

## **Component-2**

### **Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, SE Khulna O&M Circle**

**Question:** In coastal areas CEIP is going to address climate change effect. Local people also want that and in future all projects will show their interest to address climate change effect. Is there any scope to rethink the issues?

**Answer:** This issue is taken care of in the updated inception report. We have added a section on this important issue.

**Question:** What do you mean by temporary protective work?

**Answer:** Temporary protection means short term protections like bamboo/balli spurs, porcupines and sand filled gunny bags etc. No permanent revetment work will be done.

**Question:** WMA clearance needed for bill clearance, whether it will be by individual member of WMA or a resolution for WMA committee?

**Answer:** WMA clearance will be in the form of a resolution from WMA general/executive committee meeting as outlined in the main report.

### **Aminul Hoque,SE, JMREMP, BWDB**

**Question:** The polders are being selected on the criteria other than WRM issues. With these criteria we are going to address the polders not seriously affected by WRM issues. Is this plan intentional or not?

**Answer:** Since in the non-IPSWAM polders formation of WMAs and real participatory water management issues will take place only after selection of the polders, this issue was not given that much weight. However, it was covered under other criteria, willingness of people in forming WMA and participation in identification, planning, execution and O&M of WRM infrastructures/ activities.

**Mannan Khan, EE/ Satkhira**

**Question:** The khals and small rivers outside the polder area have already been silted out creating serious drainage congestion in the project area. Only re-excavation of outfall khal will not give the appropriate solution. It needs sediment management. What is the plan?

**Answer:** Blue Gold Program is mostly polder based and its scope outside the polders is very limited. However, innovative studies will identify these problems and refer them to other regional programs/projects of BWDB.

**Zainal Abedin, DTL, CDSP-IV**

**Question:** Has afforestation in embankment/foreshore been planned?

**Answer:** Afforestation is not planned under Blue Gold program. It will be linked to the respective government departments.

**Question:** How the existing long process for design work can be avoided?

**Answer:** This is also a concern of Blue Gold. We think it can be addressed to some extent through close coordination and monitoring by PCD, Chief Planning, respective BWDB field XENs, and support from the TA team.

**Question:** How civil and mechanical works will be coordinated?

**Answer:** We have identified it as a challenge. Need to solve this issue through discussion with BWDB and EKN.

**Md. Amir Faisal, Executive Engineer, JMREMP, BWDB**

**Question:** I don't find any safe guard element to the project affected people due to intervention of project, though there is some big construction work like construction of sluice gates and river protection work etc.

**Answer:** BWDB will follow standard government procedures to address related social safe guard issues.

**Sharmin Farhat, Program Manager, BRAC, WASH**

**Question:** As environment is one of the cross-cutting issues, climate change need to be considered from the beginning of the project for sustainability.

**Answer:** Climate change effects are obviously taken into account.

**Mr. Zahir, Director, Coast & Estuary division, IWM**

**Question:** What would be scientific basis and criteria for assessing the scopes of works and effectiveness?

**Answer:** Under IWRM Blue Gold will develop land use plan inside polders in low, medium and high saline zone since in the high saline zone Rabi and Kharif-1 crops are not feasible and farmers are practicing shrimp aquaculture. Main water management challenges of the polders are drainage management at present and the effects of the changing climate and proper operation of sluice gates.

**Question:** How Blue Gold is going to address these issues?

**Answer:** Scope of fine tuning and new rehabilitation works are already detailed in the main report. Blue Gold will develop a land use plan as well as a gate operation plan. Saline/shrimp dominated areas will be brought under innovative study programs for appropriate action. Climate change issues have been taken in to consideration.

**Kevin Kamp, World Fish**

**Question:** Your selection criterion eliminates the polders which need the most help: siltation, declining infrastructure conflict etc. How will Blue Gold help? Polders were designed 50 years ago for an agriculture system that no longer exists. Are not major re-thinking and major change needed? I don't see these issues represented. Can't address climate change due to fund constraints? This is very short sighted! It might not be funds that are needed so don't dismiss climate change so easily. Climate change is the biggest issue- give it due focus.

**Answer:** Blue Gold cannot solve major conflicts in the polders. These have to be solved politically which is beyond the scope of the program. Blue Gold is a polder based program and not a regional program. It will address all siltation and infrastructure related problems inside the polders but has limited scope to solve major siltation and erosion problems outside the polders. These problems will be referred to other BWDB regional programs/projects. Notably, the Dutch-funded Delta Plan 2100 project will look into the options for much needed "major re-thinking and major change" with a much farther time horizon.

Blue Gold recognises that the effects of Climate Change are topmost priority for Bangladesh and together with BWDB we will certainly give it due attention within the scope of the project.

## Component 3

**Mr. Afzal, IDE**

**Question:** Is there any scope to focus on Quality food/ Safe food production along with crop production? Also focus on post-harvest technology?

**Answer:** Yes FFS pays attention to food quality for example when addressing issues such as pesticide contamination of food. FFS participants will be aware of the risks involving pesticide use (including risks for farmers and consumers). Post harvest issues are also addressed. Component 3 will have 3 mechanization/processing experts.

**Question:** What is the plan to make farmers a good facilitator? I agree with this concept but how to achieve?

**Answer:** It's already being done in other FFS programs, such as Danida's AEC project. Farmers who have first attended a FFS (as participants) are selected based on certain strict criteria. They then receive a 3-weeks Training of Trainers course where they learn facilitation skills and get more details on the FFS training curriculum (for example how to set up field experiments with farmers). Following this TOT they will be apprentice for one FFS season together with experienced FFS facilitators of DAE. After completing this they will be allowed to run their own FFS.

**Question:** Is there any plan to involve Local Service Providers (LSPs) in Component 3, how?

**Answer:** Component 3 together with Component 4 will develop a "business module" to be included in FFS to make farmers more market oriented. This will of course include issues related to local services. Component 4 will also work with local service providers in selected value chains in order to improve their services to producers.

**Mr. Zahir, IWM**

**Question:** Are you going to provide new cropping systems based on farmers practice for enhancing agriculture?

**Answer:** After rehabilitation of polders and/or fine-tuning the water management, there will be cases where new cropping systems become possible. In such cases, the FFS will include trials to test new cropping systems, for example by setting demonstrations that are managed and studied by the FFS farmers.

**Mr. Abdul Hamid, CEGIS**

**Question:** In the presentation, nothing was mentioned about the shrimp production in the project area which usually happens at the cost of rice production as well as the ecosystem. Further to that, it creates problems in management What are the initiatives of the Blue Gold approach to address this issue?

**Answer:** The conflicts between crop and shrimp production are well known and form a risk that has to be addressed at WMO level. Training programs for WMOs will pay attention to increasing their skills in conflict management.

**Mr. Partha Rathi Sarker, Director Extension, DLS**

**Question:** Is there any opportunity for Fodder cultivation in the Blue Gold Program?

**Answer:** Yes, if farmers are interested in fodder production we can develop special training modules for FFS. The FFS is a good tool to test new crops or cropping systems together with farmers and this can include fodder as well.

**Question:** Is there any scope of Livestock Shelter during disasters in the program?

**Answer:** At this moment it is not part of the program, but if farmers bring it up as an important issue we will look how this can be addressed.

**Question:** Is there any scope for livestock, medicine, vaccine, dry feed after calamities?

**Answer:** Blue Gold is a development program and not an emergency relief program. However, if any calamities take place during the program period, we will of course in consultation with EKN decide if emergency assistance can be provided.

**Mr. Zoinal Abedin. DTL, CDSP -Iv**

**Question:** What are the linkages between FFS and WMOs?

**Answer:** In Blue Gold the FFS will be organized as sub groups of the WMG. The FFS participants will be supported to share their new knowledge with other farmers in the WMG, for example through field days.

**Question:** What will be the role of SAAO?

**Answer:** SAAOs who have been trained to run FFS (season-long TOT) will be used as FFS facilitators, especially for crop related modules (field crops, rice, homestead vegetables and fruits). SAAO will also play a role in monitoring and backstopping FFS that are organized by farmer Trainers.

**Question:** Is it linked with National Agriculture Extension Policy of GOB?

**Answer:** Yes, the FFS approach is a group-based training approach according to the NAEP and is already being used for many years in several DAE implemented projects

**Component-4**

**Mr. Afzal, IDE**

**Question:** We need to keep eye on the enabling environment of value chains but what is the mechanism?

**Answer:** The Business Enabling Environment (BEE) is an important element for the sustainable implementation of a value chain program in a particular area. Also the local culture and norms must be considered for getting success. The enabling environment impacts on the achievement of the goals and objectives of the program and a contribution to the improvement of the BEE will in turn facilitate future business development. The mechanisms are as follows:

Engaging Business Membership Organisations (BMO) /Community Based Organisations (CBO) in Advocacy and Lobbying Role:

In value chain development, we support value chain actors to form different Business Member Organisations (BMOs) or Community Based Organisations. At the local level the Water Management Organisations and Producer Groups are the primary level of representation for the producers. The representation role is one of the core roles of cooperatives. Other value chain actors are represented in a variety of business associations and federations. During Blue Gold's Value Chain Development activities, constraints in the BEE will be identified and brought to the attention of the representatives, who in turn place it on the agenda of public-private sector business forums.

Using Responsible Regulatory Bodies:

In the value chain BEE, the public sector regulatory bodies play an important role. Regulatory bodies develop rules, norms and standards to regulate business activities for a particular industry or sector. During the value chain strengthening process, we will identify the regulatory bodies and side by side, rules or regulations that hinder the value chain performance within the subsector. We will involve the regulatory bodies in the process of value chain upgrading, and discuss the prospects of regulatory reforms and modifications to facilitate value chain development. The above described representative bodies will take the lead to place the necessary reforms on the agenda and pursue their implementation.

It should be noted that Blue Gold can only contribute to the improvement of the BEE on the basis of its implementation experience. BEE reforms are not a primary objective of the Blue Gold program. The primary objective will be to increase the awareness of constraints and strengthen the representation role of WMO's, in order to enhance the public-private business forum agenda.

**Mr. Partha Rathi Sarker, Director Extension, DLS**

**Question:** Is there any scope of or support for capacity development of DLS staff in respect of value chain from the Blue Gold program?



**Answer:** Blue Gold will enhance the understanding of value chain development amongst the field staff of a variety of public service providers in the business environment of the respective value chains. See envisaged Value Chain awareness programme.

**Mr. Abdul Hamid, CEGIS**

**Question:** As a value chain establishment hindrance, don't you think that the local market broker and hoarders would be a considerable factor? Could you please clarify the standing of Blue Gold in this respect?

**Answer:** Local broker and hoarders are presently actors in the market system and will be given considerable attention when we analyse the respective value chains. They are important actors in the rural area value chains. They may act as service provider and sources of primary information for designing interventions and upgrading present value chains. We refer in this regard to our discussion in paragraph 3.4.2 Approach and Methodology.

**Chair's comments**

**Mr. Zahirul Islam, Chief Planning, BWDB**

Mr. Zahirul Islam emphasized the need for assessing WMOs by a third party, which had already been done according to the Coordinating Project Director. He also commented that, in some cases, embankments are overtopped during tidal surges, requiring raising of embankment height. In this regard he stressed on drainage improvement. He also pointed out that for embankment raising we have to wait for the recommendation of the Design office of BWDB.

In line of his experience in SAIWRPMP, Mr. Islam suggested that WMOs be formed in one go before they will be registered, as WMO should have substantial amount of share and savings for registration. In replying to one comment that transforming WMG into cooperative is a big challenge, the chair thinks that it is not at all a challenge if they follow the norms of mobilization of share and savings within two months of the WMG formation. From previous experience it was shown that it took one year to collect the subscription money. Delayed collection of subscription money will delay registration.

He also emphasized on size/composition of WMG in relation to the number of households and magnitude of area. He pointed out that number of households should be determined at the initial stage of the project. Mr. Islam suggested collecting data for household survey through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method. He felt the necessity of plantation along the foreshore of the embankments.

He stressed about the approval of the LCS policy before start of the work. He continued that in SAIWRPMP, 85% of the earthwork was carried out by LCS in 2012, although it was much less in the earlier years. He opined that even 100% of the earthwork can be given to LCS, if the LCS is composed of true landless people in order to reduce poverty.

Mr. Islam suggested for introduction of high value crops in the Blue Gold Program areas. He also opined for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the concerned organizations like BADC, DoC, LGED, DoF and DoL.

Mr. Islam also opined that the formation of FFS will not be enough to materialize Blue Gold objectives; rather it should be supplemented by demonstration crop plots (for agricultural development) and demonstration pond (for fishery development). He also emphasized on supplying soil test kit and water test kit to the WMOs.

### **Significant recommendations**

1. Climate change measures needs to be addressed with effective activities.
2. Measures should be taken to ensure WMG's sustainability when the project will end.
3. Pragmatic plan is required to hand over borrow-pits and other khas areas to WMOs for financial empowerment.
4. Establishing cold storage will reduce post-harvest losses.
5. Value chain will benefit from incorporating existing market actors like broker and hoarders.

## **Appendix 1: List of Participants**

### **Name of Guests:**

Chairperson: **Mr. Zahirul Islam**, Chief Planning, BWDB

Chief Guest: **Mr. Md. Azizul Haque**, Director General, BWDB

Special Guests:

1. **Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan**, Additional Director General (Planning), BWDB
2. **Mr. Martin Bos**, First Secretary (Water Management), Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bangladesh

### **Participants:**

<b>SL No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Organization</b>
<b>Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</b>	
1.	<b>Mr. Rathindra Nath Roy</b> Assistant Chief MOWR Bangladesh Secretariat
<b>Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</b>	
2.	<b>Mr. Rafiqul Islam</b> Joint Chief Programming Division
3.	<b>Mr. Faridul Islam</b> Sr. Assistant Chief Irrigation Wings (PC) Ministry of Planning
<b>Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)</b>	
4.	<b>Mr. Md. Azizul Haque</b> Director General
5.	<b>Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan</b> ADG, Planning
6..	<b>Mr. Sunil Baran Deb Roy</b> ADG, Eastern Zone
7.	<b>Mr. Zahirul Islam</b> Chief Planning

8.	<b>Mr. Md. Masud Ahmed</b> Project Director & Program Coordinating Director (PCD) DP – III
9.	<b>Md.Abul Kalam Azad</b> SE, Sylhet
10.	<b>Dhali Abdul Qaium</b> Ex. Chief Training
11.	<b>A.M. Aminul Haque</b> SE
12.	<b>Mr. Md. Khalekuzzaman</b> Director, BWDB Contract & Procurement Cell
13.	<b>Mr. S.M. Shahidul Haque</b> Chief Staff Officer (CSO)
14.	<b>Mahfuz Ahmed</b> Chief Agronomist
15.	<b>Mr. Kudrat Ali</b> Superintending Engineer(SE) Design – 5
16.	<b>Mr. Abul Kalam Azad</b> SE Khulna, O&M Circle
17.	<b>Md. Shahidullah Talukder</b> SAE, Khulna
18.	<b>Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam</b> Superintending Engineer Patuakhali O&M Circle.
19.	<b>Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Akhanda</b> Director Planning – I
20.	<b>Mr. Gopal Chandra Sutradhar</b> Director Planning – II
21.	<b>Mr. Md. Akmal Hossain</b> Director Programme
22.	<b>Mr. Hafizur Rahman</b> Director, Evaluation
23.	<b>Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan Khan</b> Executive Engineer Sathkhira O&M Division- I

24.	<b>Mr. S.M. Shahidul Islam</b> Executive Engineer Sathkhira O&M Division- II
25.	<b>Mr. Md. Ashikul Islam</b> Assistant Director Directorate of Finance
26.	<b>Mr. Ziaul Amin</b> Assistant Chief Office of the Programme
27.	<b>Ms. Nurun Nahar</b> Research Officer(Economics) Planning-2
28.	<b>Mr. Md. Mohsin</b> Joint Chief
29.	<b>Mr. Apurbo Kumar Sarkar</b> Director Office of the Chief Planning
30.	<b>Mr. Shamsul Karim</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Monitoring
31.	<b>Mr. K.M. Humayun Kabir</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Monitoring
32.	<b>Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Monitoring
33.	<b>Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Monitoring
34.	<b>Dr. Shamol Kumar Das</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Planning
35.	<b>Mr. Md. Samiul Islam Khan</b> DS (Planning)
36.	<b>Mr. Kishoar Jahan</b> Research Officer (Economics) Office of the Chief Planning
37.	<b>Mr. Mahfuz Ahmed</b> Chief Agronomist
38.	<b>Mr. Fazlur Rashid</b> Executive Engineer

	Planning – I
39.	<b>Mr. K.M. Jakeer Hossain</b> Assistant Chief (Soil) Planning – I
40.	<b>Mr. Enamul Islam</b> Executive Engineer Planning – II
41.	<b>A.K.M. Shamsul Alam</b> Executive Engineer
42.	<b>A.K.M. Waheduddin Chowdhury</b> Executive Engineer
43.	<b>Mr. Amirul Hossain</b> Executive Engineer Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre.
44.	<b>Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman</b> Project Director, CDSP
45.	<b>Ms. Jannatul Nayma</b> RO (Economics)
46.	<b>Mr. Zainul Abedin</b> Deputy Team Leader CDSP
47.	<b>Mr. Md. Sorafat Hossain Khan</b> SE, Ganges Berrage & Coordinator of CEIP
48.	<b>Mr. Amir Faisal</b> Executive Engineer JMREMP
49.	<b>A.K.M. Shariful Islam</b> STIFPD-II,
50.	<b>Mr. Pijush Krishna Kamal</b> SDE
51.	<b>Mr. Md. Abul Kausar</b> XEN, DP – III
52.	<b>Mr. Iqbal Hossain</b> XEN, DP – III
53.	<b>Mr. Kamruzzaman Khan</b> SDE, DP – III
54.	<b>Mr. Md. Shahinur Rahman</b> Assistant Engineer DP – III

55.	<b>Mr. Shafiqul Islam</b> Assistant Chief (Sociology) DP – III
56.	<b>Ms. Shahnaz Akter</b> Asstt. Chief (Economics) DP – III
57.	<b>Mr. Md. Saiful Alam</b> SAE, DP –III
58.	<b>Mr. Saleh Ahmed</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Planning
59.	<b>Mr. A.K.M. Wahiduddin Chowdhury</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Planning
	<b>Mr. Shajahan Siraj</b> Executive Engineer Office of the Chief Planning
60.	<b>Mr. Musa N. Rahman</b> Executive Engineer Planning – 1
<b>Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)</b>	
61.	<b>Ms. Tahmina Begum</b> Project Director Blue Gold (Agriculture Part)
62.	<b>Ms. Rilla Norslund</b> Senior Advisor (AEC)
<b>Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</b>	
63.	<b>Mr. Martin Bos</b> First Secretary (Water Management)
64.	<b>Mr. Khaleduzzaman</b> Advisor (Water Management)
65.	<b>Mr. Jan Willem Nibbering</b> First Secretary (Food Security)
66.	<b>Mr. Carel de Groot</b> First Secretary (Water Management)
<b>Department of Livestock</b>	

67.	<b>Mr. Partha Rathi Sarkar</b> Director Extension (DLS) Livestock Department Dhaka
<b>Other Organizations</b>	
68.	<b>Md. Shahidullah</b> SSO WARPO, Dhaka
69.	<b>Dr. Nilufa Islam</b> (for) Director (Tech) WARPO, Dhaka
70.	<b>Md. Ataul Haque</b> DTL WARPO, Dhaka
71.	<b>Mr. Md. Ekram Ullah</b> PSO WARPO, Dhaka
72.	<b>Mr. Quashem</b> Ex. DG WARPO, Dhaka
73.	<b>Mr. Zahiruddin Ahmed</b> Project Officer (Water Resources Management) ADB, Dhaka
74.	<b>Mr. Indu Bhushon Roy</b> Project Coordinator Solidaridad, Dhaka
75.	<b>Sharmin Farhat</b> Program Manager BRAC, WASH Program
76.	<b>Mr. Riad Imam Mahmud</b> Country Director Max Foundation Bangladesh
77.	<b>Mr. Craig Meisner</b> Country Director World Fish Center Dhaka
78.	<b>Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain</b> Executive Director IWM Dhaka
79.	<b>Mr. Abu Saleh Khan</b> Deputy Executive Director



	IWM Dhaka
80.	<b>Zahirul Haque Khan</b> IWM Dhaka
81.	<b>Mr. Md. Wajiullah</b> Executive Director CEGIS Dhaka
82.	<b>Mr. Mominul Haq Sarker</b> Deputy Executive Director CEGIS Dhaka
83.	<b>Managing Director</b> Socioconsult Ltd. Dhaka
84.	<b>A.F.M. Farooque</b> BETS Consulting Services Ltd. Dhaka
85.	<b>Managing Director</b> IDE Bangladesh Dhaka
86.	<b>Gijs Herpers</b> IDE Bangladesh Dhaka
<b>Blue Gold Program</b>	
87.	<b>Mr. Dirk Smits</b> Team Leader & Water Resources Specialist
88.	<b>Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury</b> Deputy Team Leader & Development Planner
89.	<b>Ms. Vicki Pineda</b> Community Mobilization & Institutional Expert
90.	<b>Mr. Hein Bijlmakers</b> Productive Sector Specialist & Agriculturist
91.	<b>Ms. Kitty Bentvelsen</b> Gender Expert
92.	<b>Natasha Haider</b>

	DRR Expert
93.	<b>Shorab Hossain</b> Community Organization Expert
94.	<b>Showkat Ara Begum</b> Gender Expert
95.	<b>Mr. John Marandy</b> Sr. Socio-Economist
96.	<b>Mr. Mofazzal Ahmed</b> QC Engineer/Deputy Component Leader
97.	<b>Mr. Abul Kashem</b> Training Expert
98.	<b>Mr. Anis Pervez</b> Communication Expert
99.	<b>Mr. Tanvir Islam</b> Value Chain Expert
100.	<b>Mr. Shamsul Huda</b> Fisheries Expert
101.	<b>Mr. Abu Bakr Siddique</b> Environment Expert
102.	<b>Mr. Md. Shahjahan Miah</b> Monitoring & Evaluation Expert

## **Appendix 2: Program**

- 9:30am : Registration
- 10:00 am : Chairperson, Special Guests and Chief Guest take seat
- 10:05 am : Recitation from the Holy Quran
- 10:10 am : Welcome address and introduction by  
Mr. Md. Masud Ahmed, PEng  
Director, Planning III, BWDB; Project Coordinating Director, Blue Gold Program
- 10:20 am : Address by Special Guest  
Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan  
Additional Director General (Planning), Bangladesh Water Development Board
- 10:25 am : Address by Special Guest  
Mr. Martin Bos  
First Secretary (Water Management), Embassy of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands, Bangladesh
- 10:30 am : Address by Chief Guest  
Mr. Md. Azizul Haque  
Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board
- 10:40 am : Tea break
- 10:55 am : Report presentation (Component-wise) led by  
Mr. Dirk Smits  
Team Leader, Blue Gold Program
- 12:30 pm : Open discussion
- 1:00 pm : Address by Chairperson  
Mr. Zahirul Islam  
Chief Planning, Bangladesh Water Development Board
- 1:15 pm Lunch and Close