



## Blue Gold Program

### **Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) 01** Quarter 1 (January 01 – March 31, 2014)

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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

April, 2014



## Program Data

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Implementing Partners	Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
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Contribution GoB	BWDB: € 7,499,000 DAE: € 356,080
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# Issue and revision record

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01	24-04-2014	Blue Gold staff	Dirk Smits; Natasha Haider	Dirk Smits	First draft QPR 01, 2014
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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
CEGIS	Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
CEIP	Coastal Embankment improvement Project
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CO	Community Organizer
CSISA	Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia
CUB	Concern Universal Bangladesh
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoC	Department of Cooperatives
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DP III	Directorate of Planning III
DPP	Development Project Pro forma
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTL	Deputy Team Leader
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
FFS	Farmers Field School
FGD	Focus group Discussion
FO	FFS Organiser
FY	Financial Year
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GESAP	Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (of BWDB)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
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
IPSWAM	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management
IPSWARM	Guidelines for Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Resources Management
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWM	Institute of Water Modelling
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management

LCG	Local Consultative Group
LCS	Landless/Labor Contracting Societies
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
SAFAL	Sustainable Agriculture, Food security and Linkages
SDE	Sub-Divisional Engineer
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SSSWRDSP	Second Small-Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project
SSWRDSP	Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project
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	Upazila Agricultural Officer
UP	Union Parishad
VAP	Village 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)
ZSE	Zonal Socio economist



# 1. Program Highlights

## 1.1 General

### Blue Gold Program

- The Contribution Agreement between GoB (ERD, MoF) and Gon (EKN) was signed on 04 December 2013. At the end of the quarter the procedures to open bank accounts at BWDB and DAE were completed and the first instalments of GoN contribution were transferred. However, the transfer of EURO 1,216 mln from Bangladesh Bank to the BWDB account was delayed.
- Recruitment of TA team staff members progressed as planned. On 30 March 2014 123 staff were employed, of which some 70% in the Districts.
- Field work resumed at full speed as no hartals and blockades were organised since mid-January 2014.
- The first Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting was held on 27 January 2014 in the Office of Blue Gold at Motijheel.
- MoU's between BWDB and respectively DoC, DoF and DoL were prepared and discussed but could not yet be signed.
- The main Blue Gold office moved from Motijheel to Gulshan in February 2014. The Motijheel office will continue to be used for meetings. Also the library will remain in Motijheel.
- In January 2014 a start was made with Training of Trainers (TOT) for Construction Management for LCS. Subsequently, many LCS received practical training in February and March 2014.
- A first batch of 75 motorbikes was purchased in March 2014. The Training team will organise a motorcycle driving training course which is mandatory before motorcycles can be handed over to staff members.
- The first Blue Gold team retreat was held on 16 and 17 March 2014.

## 1.2 Field Visits and Missions

Table 1-1: Overview of external visits to Blue Gold during the period January – March 2014

No.	Organization	Name of visitor	Date	Comment
1.	Policy Evaluation Unit of GoN (IOB)	Jan Joost Kessler c.s.	26 January 2014	BRAC Centre Inn
2.	ISB (GoN auditors)	Reinout van Dijk (ISB), Carel Richter, Jan Willem Nibbering, Khaleduzzaman	01 February 2014	Khulna
3.	IOB	Jan Joost Kessler, Jetze Heun	05 March 2014	Workshop at EKN, Dhaka
4.	EKN	Carel de Groot, Jan Willem Nibbering, Khaleduzzaman	11 – 13 March 2014	Field visit to Patuakhali

Table 1-2: Overview of Blue Gold internal international missions during the period January – March 2014

No.	Name of visitor	designation	Purpose	Period
1.	Kitty Bentvelsen	Gender expert	Induction new gender expert, development Gender Action Plan	03 – 21 March 2014
2.	Geert Rhebergen	M&E expert	Introduction to M&E Manual	11 March – 03 April 2014
3.	Hero Heering	Project Director	Meetings BWDB, EKN	07 – 15 February 2014
4.	Karel T'Jonck	Comp 4 Leader	Management Comp 4; Preparation PDP Polder 22	15 Jan – 07 Feb 2014 06 – 27 March 2014
5.	Masud Ahmed (BWDB) Hero Heering	PCD Blue Gold Project Director	Water Integrity Network (WIN) seminar in the Netherlands	19-20 February 2014

Some pictures from the period January - March, 2014 are shown below-



TOT on Construction Management for LCS, Khulna, 22-23 January 2014



TOT on Construction Management for LCS, Patuakhali, 20-21 January 2014



TOT on Construction Management for LCS, Patuakhali, 20-21 January 2014



LCS group formation, polder 22, Khulna, 9 February, 2014



LCS training, Patuakhali, 12 February, 2014



LCS training, Patuakhali, 15 February, 2014



Blue Gold Program retreat, 16-17 March, 2014



Workshop on FFS Curriculum Development, 18 January 2014

## 2. Context

### 2.1 Program Rationale and Objectives

Bangladesh, the largest river delta in the world, depends largely for its economic growth on integrated and sustainable water resources management. The three major river systems of the country mark its physiography and life of its people. Its waters, its **Blue Gold**, have fundamentally shaped Bangladesh culture. Efficient management of this immense natural resource remains a continuing challenge and offers at the same time tremendous opportunities.

The essence 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 cooperatives 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.

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

The overall objective of the Blue Gold Program is:

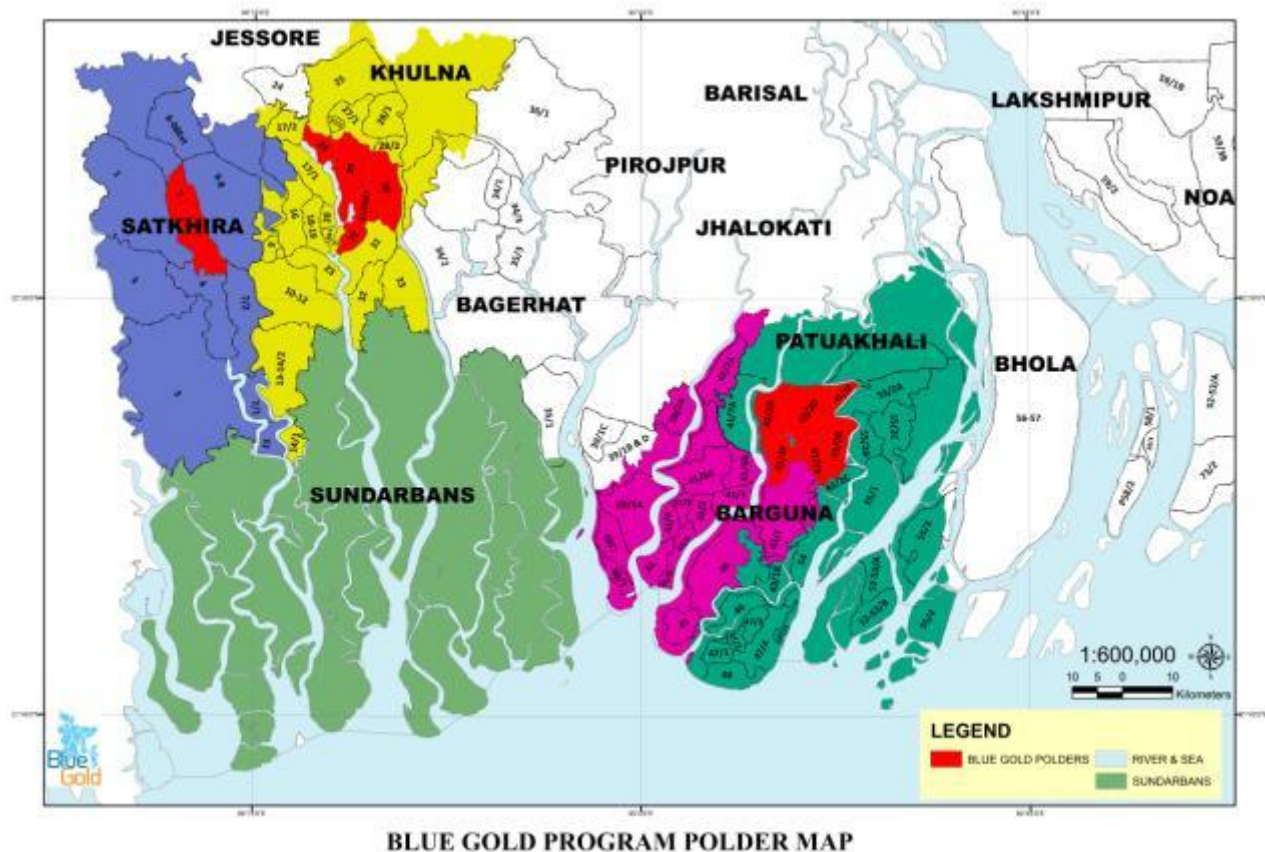
*“to reduce poverty for 150,000 households living on 160,000 ha of selected coastal polders by creating a healthy living environment and a sustainable socio-economic development”.*

The specific objectives of Blue Gold are:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. To increase the household income derived from the productive sectors.
- iv. To strengthen the institutional framework for sustained water resources development and related development services in the SW/SC coastal zones

## 2.2 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. The first twelve polders selected under Blue Gold, of which five polders are included in the first year program (season 2013-2014), are shown in red colour in the following map of Bangladesh South West and South Central coastal polders.



## 2.3 Program Components

- 1 - Community Mobilisation and Institutional Strengthening
- 2 – Integrated Water Resources Management
- 3 - Food Security and Agricultural Development
- 4 - Business Development and Private Sector Involvement
- 5 - Cross Cutting Issues: Gender, Governance, Innovation, Climate Change and DRR

In addition four 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 provides improved access for all to safe drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene in polders 22, 29 & 30 of Khulna District; and
- 4) Through UNICEF and Acacia Water additional innovative drinking water supply systems will be installed under the MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) project.

## 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 meetings with BWDB are held in the Motijheel office.

#### 3.1.1 Organizational Issues

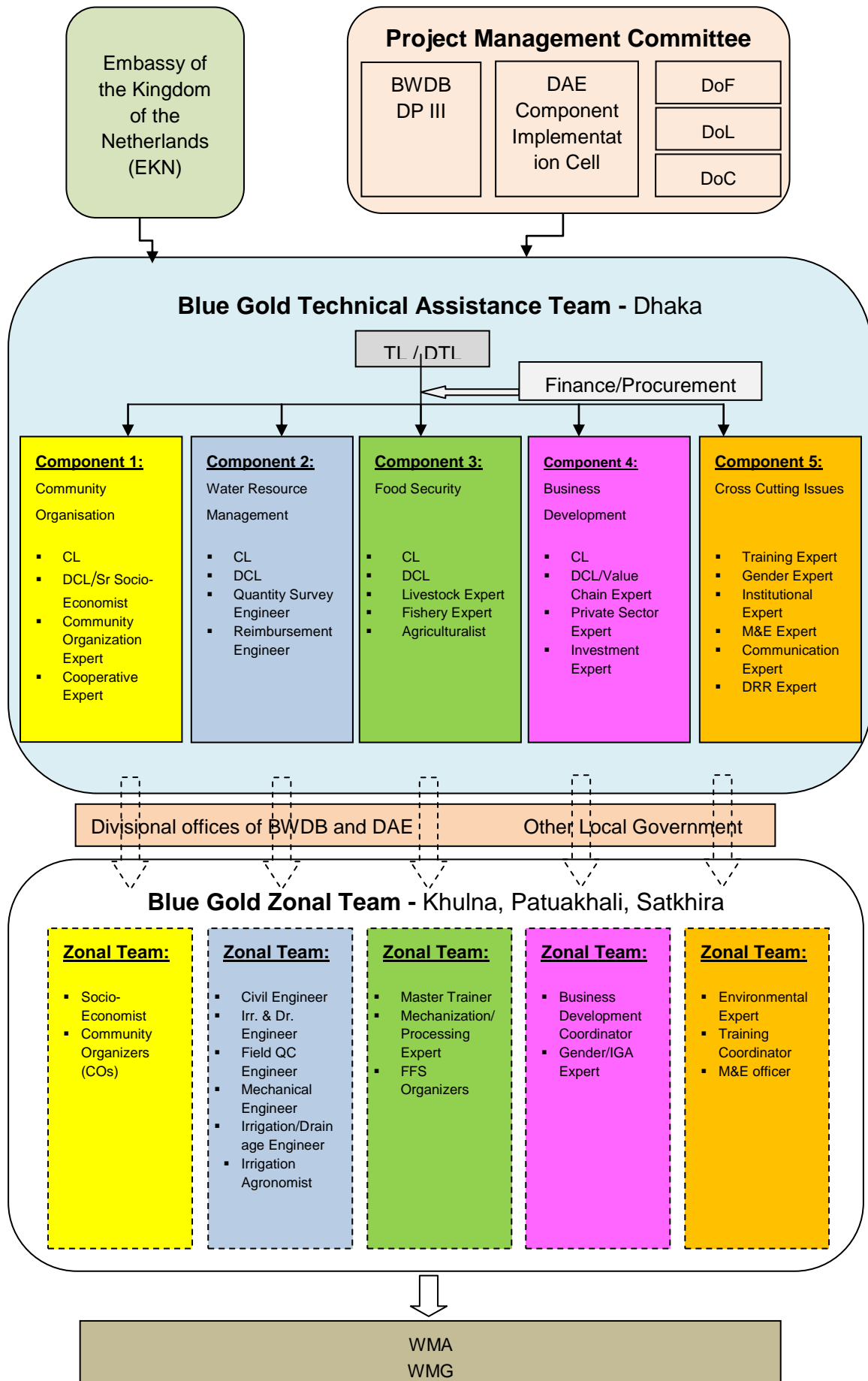
The Project Management Committee (PMC) is chaired by the Project Coordinating Director (PCD) of BWDB and consists of representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Planning Commission, IMED and from the four executing Departments (Agriculture Extension, Fisheries, Livestock and Cooperatives). 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 first PMC meeting was held on 27 January 2014. See Appendix 4 for the minutes of the meeting.

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 IMSC did not meet during the reporting period.

### 3.1.2 Organogram



### 3.1.3 Staffing

Following table shows the updates of staffing in different Blue Gold offices up till Dec, 2013 and March, 2014:

Table 3-1: Update of staffing in different Blue Gold offices up till Dec, 2013 and March, 2014

Date	Dhaka	Khulna	Patuakhali	Polder	Total
31 Dec, 2013	32	18	13	51	114
31 Mar, 2014	38	20	14	51	123

On 04 February 2014 Ms Showkat Ara left her position as gender expert to become cooperative expert with special attention for cooperation with DoC. At the same day Ms Khuku Chakraborty was appointed as the new gender expert, based in Dhaka. The appointment of a new environmental expert was postponed to Q 02.

Appendix 1 shows an overview of the current staffing status for the Blue Gold TA team (1-A) and the BWDB team (1-B).

### 3.1.4 Logistics

The procurement of eight 4WD cars (pick-ups and jeeps) could not yet start. The main reason is that the custom duties (CD) on imported 4WD vehicles amount to approximately 400%, depending on the duty free price of the vehicles. In the DPP under GoB contribution an amount of EURO 450,000 is budgeted for CD/VAT. At the current duty free price for Ford Everest 4 WD vehicles, the budget would allow Blue Gold to purchase not more than 3 or 4 cars. BWDB will include the amount EURO 450,000 for CD/VAT in the ADP allocation for the financial year 2014-2015. This money will not be available before October 2014. In the meantime the project will continue to lease several minibuses.

It was furthermore decided to purchase a first batch of 75 motorbikes, all duties paid. By applying rigorous tender procedures and negotiations the motorbikes (TVS Metro, made in India) could be purchased in March 2014 within the budget of EURO 1,250 per motorbike.

The problems surrounding the Blue Gold office in Motijheel (lack of fire escape, traffic jams, hartals) could not be solved. On 06 February 2014 the Blue Gold TA team moved to newly rented premises in Gulshan (Road 118, House 19). The Motijheel office will be used for meetings. Some support staff is available in this office on a permanent basis and running cost (mainly utilities) continues to be paid by Blue Gold. Also the library will remain in Motijheel, supervised by the librarian.

Installation of a solar panel system, air conditioners and fans in the Khulna office was slightly delayed because it was found that the existing wiring in the building had to be replaced. By the end of the quarter the new office was functioning well, with the exception of the training room at the first floor, for which furniture still has to be purchased.

A start was made with the repair and upgrading of several offices at the BWDB compound in Patuakhali to accommodate the ever growing staff numbers of Blue Gold in this District. The guesthouse – which also contains office accommodation – is functioning very well.



## 3.2 Component 1: Community Mobilization and Institutional Strengthening

### 3.2.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below provides an overview of Component 1 activities carried out in the period January – March 2014:

Table 3-2: Status of Component 1 activities (Jan – March 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
Component 1: Community Organisation and Institutional Strengthening				
1.	Contribute to Baseline Study	Baseline study	Feb-March 2014	Zonal Socio-Economists conducted 2 sessions in the Baseline Survey training on March 24, 2014.
2.	Screening, Hiring and Orientation of COs	All polders	December 2015	On March 18-27, 23 new COs were interviewed and selected for new polders and replacement of two in Patuakhali. These new COs will attend training on April 6-16, 2014.
3.	Community Immersion, social investigation/ data gathering and village mapping	All Polders	December 2016	Completed in Batch 2 Polders (2015 implementation: Polders 43/2B, 43/2E, and 43/1A). On-going in Polders 26 & 29.
4.	Information dissemination/ campaigns	All polders	May 2017	Completed in Batch 1 polders including Polder 26. Still ongoing at WMG/ village level & informally at UP level in all Batch 2 IPSWAM polders.
5.	Household (HH) Survey	All polders	March 2017	HH Report completed for Batch 1 Polders except 43/2A. Completed actual survey in Polder 26 (new polder)
6.	WMO functionality assessment	All IPSWAM polders	March 2014	Actual assessment and review completed in 5 remaining IPSWAM polders.
7.	Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan Formulation (Options development formulation)	All polders	December 2017	Completed in Polder 22 and 43/2A. Ongoing in Polders 30, 43/2E, 43/1A, & 43/2B. Polder Development Planning (PDP) workshop for Polder 22 on March 9-

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
				10, 2014
8.	Assessment and validation of fine tuning works on water management infrastructure (joint activity with C2)	All Polders	December 2016	Completed in Batch 1 Polders. Polder 43/2A postponed
9.	Strengthening/ capacity building of WMOs	All Polders	December 2018	Still ongoing in Batch 1 Polders and Polder 29
10.	Formation of Water Management Committees (WMCs) and Monitoring Committees (MCs)	All Polders	December 2017	WMA meetings conducted to Identify WMC boundaries in Batch 1 Polders. Actual boundaries to be firmed-up with Comp 2. Formation of WMCs and MCs not yet started.
11.	Organize, train and register LCS groups and mobilize for earthworks	All Polders	December 2017	Formation and training completed in all Batch 1 Polders. Jointly done with Comp 2.

The major field activity during the first quarter for Comp 1 (jointly with Comp 2) was the formation and training of LCS groups in Batch 1 polders.

Strengthening and capacity building of WMOs also in Batch 1 polders is another major activity. Reformation of existing Water Management Groups (WMGs) and Water Management Associations (WMAs) with election of new Executive Committees is the focus of the strengthening activity. This process entails formation of Ad Hoc Committees which should be approved by the Department of Cooperatives (DoC). As expected, this is taking a lot of time and effort. Other WMO strengthening activities being undertaken by the COs in Batch 1 polders include the following: firming-up of membership and enrolment of new members; updating and maintenance of books of accounts and records; and strengthening of shares and savings collection.

Needs assessment and village action plan formulation is an on-going activity in Batch 2 polders which is a precursor to PDP planning activity and foundation for water management infrastructure assessment and validation activity for Comp 2. The first PDP workshop was conducted on March 9-10, 2014 focusing on Polder 22.

### 3.2.2 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 3-3: Component 1 cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact Made	Potential for collaboration
FAO	Enhancing Food Security	Program Officer and National Project Coordinator	Jointly with C4, discussed with EKN opportunity for Blue Gold to start business development activity with WMGs through the farm machineries distributed by FAO. Proper management of these will greatly enhance the process of strengthening the existing WMGs.

DoC, Khulna & Patuakhali		a) District Cooperative Officer b) Upazila Cooperative Officer c) District Inspector	Resource persons from DoC at the district and Upazila level were invited during staff development session of Community Organizers conducted in February 2014
Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)	GWAPB	a) Amita Dey (Team Leader), b) Dr. Rokeya Khatun (Training Coordinator), c) Runia Mowla (Specialist, Gender and Agriculture), d) Audity Falguni Gayen (Communications, Website and List-serve Manager)	It is the plan of EKN and GWA to strengthen the Gender Mainstreaming of the EKN supported programmes and other organisations in Bangladesh. C1 participated in earlier meetings with GWAPB Team and provided some reports.
Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB)		a) Ahmed Sufian, Assistant Manager b) Abdul Hamid, Head of Organizational Development and Education Unit	Patuakhali Zonal Socio-Economists with concerned COs organized meeting of Concern representatives with WMG on disaster management related programs and issues
Solidaridad Network Asia	SaFaL		Zonal Socio-Economists participated in Stakeholders' Workshop in Khulna on March 19, 2014
IRRI	On-Farm Water Management	Dr. Manoranjan and Field staff	IRRI is implementing on-farm activities to come-up with different cropping system options in coastal areas.
EKN	Inspection Mission from Netherlands	Chief Inspector	Participated in the visit together with Blue Gold Team Leader (TL) and DTL. Helped organize WMG meeting during the visit.

### 3.2.3 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

Table 3-4: Component 1 next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1.	Participate in Polder Selection	All Polders	Early 2015	New Polders in Sathkira and Khulna to be selected. C1 (Development Planner) participates in this activity
2.	Community Immersion, social investigation/ data gathering and village mapping	All Polders	December 2016	To be started in new polders once these are selected
3.	Community mobilization for identification and prioritization of fine tuning/ rehabilitation works (Assessment and validation by WMAs)	All polders	December 2016	Joint activity of C1 and C2. To be completed in Polder 43/2A and Batch 2 polders.
4.	Information dissemination/ campaigns	All polders	May 2017	To be started in new polders once selected
5.	Household Survey	All polders	March 2017	Data entry of HH survey data of Polder 26 completed.
6.	WMO Formation	New Polders		To be started in Polder 26

7.	WMO functionality assessment	All IPSWAM polders	March 2014	Report preparation for remaining IPSWAM Polders (Polders 29, 43/2A, 43/1A, 43/2B, & 43/2E)
8.	Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan Formulation (Options development formulation)	All polders	December 2017	For completion in Polders 30, 43/1A, 43/2B, 43/2E. To continue in Polder 29.
9.	Strengthening/ capacity building of WMOs	All Polders	December 2018	To continue in Batch 1 and 2 Polders
10.	Formation of Water Management Committees (WMCs)	All Polders	December 2017	To be completed in all Batch 1 Polders and started in Batch 2 Polders
11.	Organize, train and register LCS groups and mobilize for earthworks	All Polders	December 2017	Complete LCS group formation and training (for canal) in Polders 22 & 30. Start mobilization of LCS groups for earthworks once registration issue is sorted out.
12.	Form and train WMO Monitoring Committees	All Polders	December 2017	To be completed in all Batch 1 Polders
13.	Mobilize WMO Monitoring Committees for earthworks	All Polders	December 2017	Batch 1 Polders
14.	Registration of WMGs with BWDB	All Polders	December 2017	To be started once implementing guidelines and required BWDB staffing are in place

### 3.3 Component 2: Water Resources Management

#### 3.3.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below provides an overview of Component 2 Activities carried out in the period January – March 2014.

Table 3-5: Status of Component 2 activities (Jan - March 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
<b>Component 2: Water Resources Management</b>				
<b>1. Polder Selection</b>				
1.1	Selection of remaining 4 IPSWAM polders	Polder 43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, & 29	March-April 2014	Done
1.2	Final Selection of first 2 non-IPSWAM polders	Polder 2 & 31-part	March-April 2014	Preliminary assessment done.
1.3	Identification of next 2 non-IPSWAM polders	55/2C,55/1	March -April 2014	Expected by May 2014
<b>2. Physical Survey and Assessment of Rehabilitation Works</b>				
2.1	Assessment of rehabilitation works & costs for earthwork (retired embankment, 2 reaches)	Polder 43/2A	February-March 2014	Done
2.2	Physical survey of embankments & canals	Polder 43/2A	March-April, 2014	Delayed. Expected during May-June 14
<b>3. Preparation of Rehabilitation Budget</b>				
3.1	Preparation of rehabilitation budget for 2014 implementation works	Polders 22,30, 43/2D,43/2F & 43/2A (part)	March 2014	Done
<b>4. Design and Estimate Submission by BWDB Field Office</b>				
4.1	Design and estimate submission for earthwork (Embankment)	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A (part)	Feb 2014	Done
4.2	Design and estimate submission for earthwork (Canals)	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	February – August 2014	Done for 22 & 30
<b>5. Estimate Vetting by TA Team</b>				
5.1	Estimate vetting for earthwork (Embankment)	43/2F, 43/2A (part)	Feb 2014	Done
5.2	Design and estimate vetting for earthwork (Canals)	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	Feb- August 2014	Done for 22 & 30
<b>6. Fund Placement</b>				
6.1	Fund placement for Quarter 1&2	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A (part)	January 2014	Delayed. EKN fund was placed in Bangladesh Bank in March, but could not be released because of procedural problems BWDB arranged some loan

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
				in mid April 2014.
<b>7. LCS &amp; WMA Monitoring Committees</b>				
7.1	Formation of LCS & Monitoring Committees	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	January-March 2014.	Done for 76 LCS (about 5000 members). Delayed for Monitoring Committee.
7.2	Training of LCS & Monitoring Committees  (Remaining LCSs will be trained when work for canals starts)	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	January-March 2014.	Done for 57 LCS (about 3500 members). Delayed for Monitoring Committee.
<b>8. Field Visits</b>				
8.1	Field visit for identification of new polder	Polder 2, 31 part	January-February	Made reconnaissance visits and initial assessment.
8.2	Field visit for formation and training of LCS	Patuakhali & Khulna	February-March 2014	Done
8.3	Field visit to verify the alignment for retired embankment in 43/2A and stakeholder consultation.	Polder 43/2A	January 2014	Done and finalized for 2 reaches (Accompanied by TL & PCD)
<b>9. Other Works</b>				
9.1	Coordination with C-2 Zonal offices, Inter component meetings and discussion on issues related to polder development plan, implementation program.	Patuakhali, Khulna	January – March 2014	Done
9.2	Together with Comp-1 finalizing LCS guidelines and Monitoring Committee Guidelines.	Dhaka	February-March 2014	Done
9.3	PDP Brainstorming Session, PDP Workshop at Hotel Six Seasons	Dhaka	March 2014	Done
9.4	Blue Gold Retreat	BRAC, Gazipur	March 2014	Done

### 3.3.2 Implementation Works

Designs, field estimates, TA vetting, LCS formation and training for earthworks (embankment & canals-part) were completed in time but implementation could not be started because of delay in fund transfer. Account opening and fund placement procedures took more than expected time and therefore, money could not be made available for payment of 25% advance to the LCSs to start work. Moreover, confirmation of fund placement is also required for giving work order to the contractors. Therefore, contractors also could not start work in time. However it is expected that implementation of earthworks can start before the end of April 2014.

### 3.3.3 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 3-6: 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
IRRI, IWM	Challenge Program for Food & Water (CPWF)-Ganges Basin Dev. Challenges	Monoronjan Mandal, Zahir Uddin.	Potential pilot project on sub-poldering and on-farm water management.
Parasol Bangladesh	Renewable Energy Company	Mr. Robijn, Engr. Mahmud.	Regarding use of renewable energy like solar & tidal energy in Blue Gold polders.
Dhaka University, Acacia Water,	MAR Project	Dr. Matin, Albert Tuinhof, Prof. Sarmin	Potential cooperation in Managed Aquifer Recharge for drinking and irrigation water supply between Acacia and Blue Gold program.
Concern Universal	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Cornelis De Wolf, Country Director; Md. Abdul Hamid, Head Organizational Dev. & Education.	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR
Solidarites	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Regis Dantin, Program Coordinator,	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR
ACF	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Damien Joud, Department of Food Security, Livelihood and DRR	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR
Muslim AID	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Md. Alamgir Rahman, Program Manager.	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR
Concern Worldwide	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Bijoy Krisna Nath, Head Risk Reduction & Response.	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR
World Fish	Different programs on Food Security, Livelihood, DRR and Cash for Work	Kevin T. Kamp, Deputy Regional Director, South Asia	Potential cooperation in drainage improvement, earthwork for cash, livelihood improvement and DRR

### 3.3.4 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

Table 3-7: Component 2 next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Remarks
Component 2: Water Resources Management				
<b>1. Polder Selection</b>				
1.1	Identification of 2 New non-IPSWAM Polders	Polder 55/2C, 55/1	May 2014	-
1.2	Final selection of first 2 non-IPSWAM polders	Polder 2 & 31-part	May 2014	-
<b>2. Physical Survey and Assessment of Rehabilitation Works</b>				
2.1	Preparation of Polder Development Plan	Polder 22, 43/2F	April –May 2014	
	Topographical Survey, Analysis and Reporting (Embankment)	Polder 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, 29, 31-part, 26 & 2	May – September 2014	
	Topographical Survey, Analysis and Reporting (Canals)	Polder 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, 29, 31-part, 26 & 2	May- November 2014	
2.2	Assessment of rehabilitation works & costs for earthwork	Polder 43/2A	May 2014	
2.3	Assessment of rehabilitation works & costs for earthwork	43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, 29, 31-part, 26 & 2	May – October 2014	
2.4	Assessment of rehabilitation works for structures	Polder 43/2A, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 30	May – September 2014	
<b>3. Design and Estimate Submission by BWDB Field Office</b>				
3.1	Design and estimate submission for earthwork	Polder 43/2A, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, 29, 31-part, 26 & 2	May- November 2014	
	Design and estimate submission for structures	Polder 43/2A, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22, 30	May- October 2014	
<b>4. Estimate Vetting by TA Team</b>				
4.1	Design and estimate vetting for earthwork	Polder 43/2A, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2E, 43/2B, 43/1A, 29, 31-part, 26 & 2	June - December 2014	
	Design and estimate vetting for structures	Polder 43/2A, 43/2D, 43/2F, 22,30	June – November 2014	



No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Remarks
<b>5. Tendering by BWDB</b>				
5.1	Tendering for 40-50% earthwork	Not planned next QTR	-	
<b>6. LCS and WMA Monitoring Committees</b>				
6.1	LCS TOT Training	Not planned next QTR		
6.2	Formation & Training of LCS and Monitoring Committees	Not planned next QTR		
<b>7. Implementation of Rehabilitation Works 2014</b>				
7.1	Earthwork in embankment repair and construction	Polders 22,30, 43/2D,43/2F & 43/2A	April –June 14	
7.2	Earthwork in canal re-excavation	Polders 22, 30,	April-May 2014	
7.3	Monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation works	Polders 22,30, 43/2D,43/2F & 43/2A	April to June 2014	Final inspection in June.
<b>8. Fund Placement</b>				
8.1	Fund placement for Quarter 3	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	May 2014	
<b>9. Field Visits</b>				
9.1	Field visit for identification & selection of 4 new polders	31 part, 2 & others	May-June 2014	
9.2	Field visit for monitoring and quality control of rehabilitation works	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	April –June 2014	
<b>10. Others</b>				
10.1	Coordination with C-2 Zonal offices, Inter component meetings and discussion on issues related to polder development plan and implementation.	All	April –June 2014	
10.2	Staff recruitment for component-2	17 staff	Till March 2014	2 staff will discontinue after 31 May 2014

### 3.4 Component 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production

#### 3.4.1 Status Overview of Activities

The below table provides an overview of Component 3 Activities for the period January – March 2014.

Table 3-8: Status of component 3 activities

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
Component 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production				
1.	First cycle FFS vegetables, poultry, nutrition (44 FFS)	4 polders	June 2014	40%
2.	Curriculum development for fish and livestock	All BG Polders	Jan 2014	90%
3.	TOT for FFS Organizers (fish, livestock)	All BG Polders	Feb 2014	100%
4.	Second cycle FFS, fish and livestock (44 FFS)	4 polders	Nov 2014	10%
5.	Develop 18 Community health workers	IPSWAM polders	March 2014 (delayed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter)	10%
6.	Polder development plans	4 polders	May 2014	40%
7.	MOUs with DOF and DLS	All polders	Jan 2014 (DLS almost ready, DoF still in progress)	70%
8.	DAE TOT for 25 AEOs and 25 SAAOs	All polders	June 2014	60%
9.	DAE training for tag-SAAO and FFS monitors	All polders	Mar 2014 (delayed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter)	0%
10.	DAE purchase motorbikes, computers	All polders	Feb 2014 (delayed by fund placement)	0%

#### 3.4.2 Component 3 activities January to March 2014

In the reporting period (Jan-Mar 2014) Component 3 recruited 1 more technical staff, which brings the total number of C3 staff to 32 (22 FOs and 10 technical staff).

Table 3-9: Component 3 staff recruited between January and March 2014.

Name	Position	Starting date	Duty station (31-12-2013)
Alam Hossain	Master Trainer Rice & Fish	18/01/2014	Patuakhali

Main Component 3 activities during this period involved the ongoing first cycle of 44 Farmer Field Schools (homestead garden (vegetables and fruits), poultry and nutrition). A curriculum development workshop was organized (18-01-2014) to review FFS modules for fish, small and large ruminants. This was followed by a one-week Training of Trainers course (TOT) for the 22 FFS organizers (1-6 February) before they started organizing 44 new FFS (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle), which take place in the same 4 polders (22, 30, 43/2D and 43/2F). The 88 ongoing FFS have a total of 2200 participants of which 1531 are women (70%).

Table 3-10: FFS participants

FFS	Location	No. Of FFS	Male	Female	Total participants	Percentage Female
Vegetables, poultry, nutrition	Patuakhali	24	11	589	600	98%
Vegetables, poultry, nutrition	Khulna	20	68	432	500	86%
Fish, large ruminants, nutrition	Patuakhali	24	353	247	600	41%
Fish, large ruminants, nutrition	Khulna	20	237	263	500	53%
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>70%</b>

Component 3 field staff supervised and monitored the FFS activities and continued data collection about the polder areas.

DAE has started the season-long Training of Trainers (TOT) for FFS facilitators at the Daulatpur Horticulture Centre in Khulna. Participants are 25 AEOs (16 Male and 9 female) and 25 SAAOs (23 male and 2 female). As part of this training program the participants organize 8 FFS on Boro rice and homestead vegetable and fruits. Participants in these 8 FFS include 200 households (1 man, 1 woman per HH).

Three reports were completed during the reporting period:

1. Proceedings of Curriculum Design Workshop DAE (19-12-2013)
2. Proceedings Curriculum Design Workshop (18-1-2014)
3. Training report TOT for FOs (1-6 Feb 2014)

### 3.4.3 Cooperation with Other Projects and Organizations

Specialists of DLS, DOF, WorldFish, SEAF, IFMC, Land o Lakes, CVASU, and Practical Action participated in revising FFS modules for fish and livestock modules.

DLS and DOF specialists participated in the training for FFS Organizers.

WorldFish has started preparing a concept note for a pilot programme on continuous fish production in small women-managed household ponds (SHHP) to be funded under the production support fund.

Contacts were established with an expert of Mymensingh University for possible collaboration on introducing new fruits and vegetables varieties in the program area.

### 3.4.4 Next Quarter Planning (Apr-Jun 2014)

The following table shows adjusted planned activities of Component 3 for the second quarter of 2014.

Table 3-11: Component 3 next quarter planning

Task Name	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Component 3</b>			
<b>First cycle FFS</b>	x	x	x
Continue 44 FFS homestead garden poultry nutrition	x	x	x
Organize 44 field days		x	x

Task Name	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Second cycle FFS</b>	x	x	x
Continue 44 FFS fish livestock	x	x	x
<b>FFS Organizers 3rd TOT (Small ruminants, business idea development C4)</b>		x	
Travel and registration		x	
Train participants		x	
Planning session and closing		x	
<b>Community Animal Health Workers</b>	x	x	x
Prepare training curriculum	x		
Select participants		x	
Train 18 CAWS of 9 IPSWAM polders		x	x
Provide materials and mobilize CAWS			x
<b>Polder development plans</b>	x	x	x
Gather agricultural information	x	x	x
Work with C1, C2 and C4 to develop PDPs	x	x	x
<b>MOUs with DOF and DLS</b>	x	x	
Finalize MOUs	x		
Signing of MOUs	x	x	
Orientation workshop DOF and DLS in Patuakhali		x	
Blue Gold Orientation workshop DOF and DLS in Khulna		x	
<b>DAE</b>			
<b>Season-long TOT</b>	x	x	x
Run and complete TOT	x	x	
<b>Capacity building DAE</b>		x	
Train tag-SAAO		x	
<b>FFS T. Aman season</b>			x
Planning x T.Aman FFS in Blue Gold Upazilas			x
Provide budget and materials for x T.Aman FFS			x
<b>Implement demonstration trials T.Aman season</b>			x
Planning xx demo-trials for T.Aman FFS			x
Provide budget and materials for xx demo-trials			x
<b>Other</b>		x	
Purchase of Motorcycle, Photocopier, Computer & peripherals		x	

Activities during the next reporting period (April-June 2014) will include the continuation of capacity development of the FFS organizers for livestock modules. In collaboration with C4 they will be trained on new FFS sessions for business idea development. The ongoing 88 FFS continue. Of the 44 first cycle FFS, most will be completed and these will organize field days before the end of June.

TA staff will select candidates, and organize training for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) for the 9 IPSWAM polders.

Production related information collected in the first 4 polders will be used in the finalization of the development of Polder Development Plans together with other Blue Gold components.

MOUs with DOF and DLS will be finalized and orientation workshops for staff of these departments will be organized.

DAE will complete the season-long TOT and organize training for tag SAAOs and FFS monitors. This will be followed by preparing for T.Aman FFS and for organizing a number of demo-trials during T.Aman rice season.

### 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 implemented in the period January – March 2014. The activities relate to the first batch of selected polders, except if otherwise indicated.

Table 3-12: Status of Component 4 activities (Jan - March 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
<b>Component 4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement</b>				
1.	<b>Contribute to Baseline Survey</b>	Baseline Survey	March-April 2014	Completed.
2.	<b>Contribute to Household Survey</b>	Household survey	April 2014	Limited due to survey size, completed.
3.	<b>Selection of sub-sectors/products and value chains on a polder basis (Polders 22/30 &amp; 43.2F/43.2D)</b>			
3.1	Engage with communities to define broad development options	Support multi-disciplinary survey	May 2014	C4 monitoring of WMO functionality assessment and VAP completions, for options development
3.2	Develop regional development framework (RDF)	Define information, collect, liaise with other programmes and draft RDF	June 2014	Collection, recording (80%), improvement of polder master files, Liaison with SAFAL and PROOFS (on-going)
3.3	Select or prioritise value chains for analysis	Define criteria, collect and analyse data, & select.	Feb 2014	Criteria defined (100%), alignment of data with polder data carried over
3.4	Formulating PDPs	Assess polder info, develop scenario and draft PDP	Dec 2014	Polder information assessment (on-going), component coordination for PDP formulation. Other Polders to follow in sequence over 2014.
			June 2014	Draft Polder Development Plan Polder 22 Component 4 (75%)
4.	<b>Facilitate Value Chain Development</b>			
4.1	Influencing incentives by awareness	Facilitate Value Chain Development	On-going 2014	DLS, DoF, BWDB March Orientation workshop postponed
4.2	Enhancing skills by Capacity Development	Prepare Capacity Development for specific target groups	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities
4.2.1	WMO Skills Development	Cooperative skills development for WMO	On-going throughout project on issue basis	Developing mechanisation service as WMO business opportunity – WMO service curriculum (15%)

			June 2014	Assessment of Savings & Credit function – identification of DoC requirements (70%)
4.2.2	CO & FO Skills Development	VC and Business skills Development programme for CO and FO/DAE	Aug 2014	Identification of CO and FO, value chain skills development needs (100%), VC Curriculum development for CO/FO/DTs (100%)
			June 2014	Business Idea Generation module curriculum development started (20%)
<b>5.</b>	<b>Monitor and Evaluate Business Development Programme</b>			
5.1	Contribute to M&E plan	Define boundary partners, stakeholder engagement plan	Dec 2013	Boundary partners defined, Stakeholder engagement plan drafted (100%), contribution to M&E plan completed

The background work for the preparation of PDP is ongoing, including the familiarisation with the project area, stakeholders and related programmes. The Value Chain Selection framework was established. The first attempt to formulate a PDP (for Polder 22) across Blue Gold identified the need for further coordination and visioning. The first five PDPs will take us well into 2015.

For the CO/FO/DT staff a Value Chain Development Curriculum has been developed and finalised. The development of the first of two Business Development Curricula, namely the Business Idea Generation part has started along with a WMO Development Curriculum based upon the FAO Mechanisation assets. The aim is to introduce a first cooperative service.

Contacts were maintained with DANIDA IFMC, SAFAL, Samriddhi (HELVETAS), Innovision, SCITII and BRAC BCUP.

### 3.5.2 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 3-13: Component 4 cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
Solidaridad	SAFAL	Sela Rezim Hassan	Coordination requirement wrt value chain development
iDE	PROOFS	Gijs Herpers	Coordination requirement wrt value chain development.
FAO	GCP/BGD/050/NET	Ms. Rokhaya Ndiaye	Coordination requirement wrt mechanisation for coop development
Concern Universal Helvetas	Samriddhi	Annette Witteveen	Sharing experience on LSP and value chain development
DANIDA	IFMC (integrated farm management component)	Rilla Norslund	Joint development of FBS curriculum for FFS
BRAC	BCUP programme	Belayet Hussain	Explore appropriateness of agricultural finance

			programme (beyond MFI)
Innovision	EU IGA	Rubaiyath Sarwar	Explore IGA development approach for landless and women household heads
SCITI (Small and Cottage Industry Training Institute)	Enterprise Development	Abdul Wadud	Joint development of business development curriculum

### 3.5.3 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

Table 3-14: Component 4 next quarter planning

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1	<b>Selection of sub-sectors/products and value chains on a polder basis (Polders 22/30 &amp; 43.2F/43.2D)</b>			
1.1	Engage with communities to define broad development options	Support multi-disciplinary survey	May 2014	Monitor initial VAP/PDP options developments for first 5 polders
1.2	Develop regional development framework (RDF)	Define information, collect, liaise with other programmes and draft RDF	June 2014	Ongoing collection & recording to initiate Polder Scenario Workshop (Polder 43/2F) Liaison with SAFAL and PROOFS (on-going)
1.3	Select or prioritise value chains for analysis	Define criteria, collect and analyse data, & select.	June 2014	Apply ranking matrix in support of polder development option identification (Polder 43/2F)
1.4	Formulating PDP	Assess polder info, develop scenario and draft PDP	June 2014	Drafting of a polder growth scenario with other components following workshop (Polder 43/2F)
2	<b>Undertake in-depth Value Chain Analysis (specific to defined VC)</b>			
2.1	Consult the actors for VCA	In depth analysis of specific VC (Sesame – Polder 22)	June 2014	Develop map, actor baseline data, identify constraints and opportunities
3	<b>Facilitate Value Chain Development</b>			
4.1	Influencing incentives by awareness	Facilitate Value Chain Development	On-going 2014	DLS, DoF, BWDB Orientation workshop re-organised
3.1	Enhancing skills by Capacity Development	Prepare Capacity Development for specific target groups	On-going throughout project	See sub-activities below
3.1.1	WMO Skills Development	Cooperative skills development for WMO	On-going throughout project on issue basis	Develop Mechanisation Service curriculum as WMO business opportunity, organise CO orientation and WMG programme. Liaise with DoC on training needs related to S&C record keeping and overall



				bookkeeping. Initiate IGA development programme design
3.1.2	CO & FO Skills Development	Develop and Implement VC and Business skill development programme for CO and FO/DAE	June 2014	Training of CO/FO/DT in VC development. Evaluation of training.
			June 2014	Business Idea Generation curriculum development, and initiate CO/FO training on this module. Start-up Business Planning curriculum development.

The weight of the activities during the next reporting period is still on the joint development of Polder Development Plans. The Polder Scenario for Polder 22 still needs to be completed. Meanwhile the skills development programme for CO and FO/DAE staff will move beyond the development of curricula, with the first training on Value Chain Development planned in this reporting period. In this period we expect to see the completion of the first Business Development module (Business Idea Generation, BIG) and we are speeding up a WMO development programme on the basis of the cooperative service opportunity offered by the FAO Mechanisation.

## 3.6 Component 5: Cross Cutting Issues

### 3.6.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below provides an overview of Component 5 Activities carried out in the period January – March 2014.

Table 3-15: Status of Component 5 activities (Jan - March 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
<b>Gender</b>				
1.	<p>Support to all components from Gender point of view. A <b>Gender Approach of Blue Gold</b> has been formulated based on the Blue Gold Inception Report of November, 2013. Main purpose of this gender approach is to enhance the participation of women and men:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable men and women benefit more equally from the interventions by the program in terms of increased food security and livelihoods, increased socio-economic status and participation in decision-making.</li> <li>To improve the program's performance and increase the likelihood of sustainability. Additionally, Blue Gold aims to contribute to a more effective gender approach in the targeted sectors, promoting sharing and enabling replication.</li> </ul> <p>C1, C2 &amp; C3 to include gender in functionality assessments and needs assessments, and orientation for household survey; C4 includes gender as a criterion for Value chain selection.</p>	Support, promote and follow-up gender in all project activities with all components	Throughout project	Disseminated all concerned/Discussions with staff of all components
2.	Men and women consulted in C2 validation meetings	Gender	Throughout project	Done for the 43/2A, 43/2D, polders
3.	Increase proportion of female in Blue Gold staff	Gender	During recruitment of new staff	<p>International staff 75% male and 25% female, national staff 72% male and 28% female, in Khulna District 66% male and 34% female and in Patuakhali District 63% male and 37% female staff.</p> <p>There is good gender balance among Blue Gold's Community Organisers and FFS Facilitators (about 50:50).</p>
4.	Active Women Participation in WMG	Gender	In this period	Increasing participation of women in WMGs

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
5.	Support will be provided to Blue Gold staff with special focus at District office staff, on creating (more) awareness on Blue Gold's gender approach and inclusion into daily activities. Blue Gold's gender experts will monitor /follow-up on this	Gender	Throughout the program	Ongoing
6.	Cooperation with Comp 1 especially in elaborating the approach to formulate and implement Gender Action Plans (at WMG and at polder levels) and providing gender orientation	Component 1	February, 2014	Ongoing
7.	First steps in a consultations meeting was conducted on reactivating the implementation of the Action Plan of The Gender Equity Strategy of BWDB with the purpose of 'Water and Gender' BWDB perspective.	<u>Participants:</u> 1. BWDB representatives 2. Blue Gold Gender Experts <u>Location:</u> BWDB conference room	20 March, 2014  (Will be continued throughout the program)	Ongoing
8.	Contribute to a gender sensitive baseline survey and M&E, ensuring inclusion of gender indicators	M&E	March, 2014	Ongoing
9.	A 3-week visit of the international gender expert in March. Special attention was paid to the role of the new national gender expert.	Kitty Bentvelsen	March, 2014	Completed. See mission report
<b>Environment</b>				
1.	Follow up CEGIS's EIA proposal and activities for environmental clearance of Blue Gold Program	Environment ( <i>Environmental Clearance</i> )	April 2014	Contract with CEGIS will be signed early April 2014
2.	Recruitment of national Environmental Expert	Environment	January, 2014	Delayed in order to synchronize with CEGIS contract
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</b>				
1.	Translation of DRR hand-out into Bangla for COs	DRR	02 – 31 Jan, 2014	Completed
2.	Preparation of annual plan report for 2014	Program Management	15 Nov -06 Feb, 2014	Completed
3.	Preparation of progress report 2 (October – December, 2013)	Program Management	12 Jan – 26 Feb, 2014	Completed
4.	Meeting with Concern Universal, Bangladesh (CUB) to discuss about collaboration at the field level for DRR activities 1.	DRR <u>Topics:</u> - Type of activities implemented by CUB - Existing areas of	05 Feb, 2014	Completed

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
		implantation in Khulna, Patuakhali and Satkhira - How to link WMGs with CBOs - How to link with UDMC/WDMC		
5.	Field trip to Patuakhali to attend staff development session of COs	DRR	10 – 14 Feb, 2014	Completed
6.	Discuss with colleagues about working possibility with community radio's for DRR and other activities of Blue Gold	DRR	17 – 20 Feb, 2014	Ongoing
7.	1. Joint field visit to Patuakhali polder 43/2F with Concern Universal, Bangladesh (CUB) for possible collaboration at the field level for DRR activities	DRR	03 – 06 March, 2014	Completed
8.	Participate in the Polder Development Plan (PDP) workshop	DRR + Program Management	11 March, 2014	Completed
9.	Formulation of draft of Table of Contents (TOC) for PDP of Polder 22	Program Management	23 - 27 March, 2014	Ongoing

### 3.6.2 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 3-16: Component 5 cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
DRR			
Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB)	CUB and Blue Gold jointly submitted a proposal to ECHO for a project on DRR and earth works in polder 43/2F and 43/1A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Director</li> <li>Head of Organizational Development and Education Unit</li> <li>Local partner NSS representatives</li> <li>CBO members</li> </ul>	Linking DRR activities of Blue Gold with Concern's CBO and UDMC

### 3.6.3 Next Quarter Planning (April – June 2014)

#### 3.6.3.1 Gender Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1.	Cooperation with C1, Focus Group Discussion on Gender perspective for effective women participation in WMG along with EC committee	Component 1		Throughout the program
2.	Cooperation with Comp 2,	Component 2	-	Throughout the program

	especially on the planning for LCS formation with also women's groups			
3.	Cooperation with Comp 3 on gender in FFS, in particular via a gender session in the FFS organizers training	Component 3	-	Throughout the program
4.	2 <sup>nd</sup> steps in consultations with BWDB on the review and/or update of their Gender Strategy and Action Plan	With BWDB	-	
5.	Gender Network Meeting with other Dutch funded project on Gender		-	-
6.	Orientation on Blue Gold Gender Approach to the representative of Local Govt	UP Male /Female members	June	
7.	Finalisation of anti-harassment policy and dissemination, including appointing contact persons, translation into Bangla and dissemination	Especially among Blue Gold staff	June	All Blue Gold staff aware of this policy by June 2014.

### 3.6.3.2 Environment Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1.	Formulation of SEMP in the 2013-2014 polders	Polder 22, 30, 43/2D, 43/2F, 43/2A	May – September 2014	SEMP is part of PDP; start with Polder 22
2.	Guide and supervise CEGIS during implementation of the EIA required to obtain from DoE environmental clearance for the Blue Gold Program	Five polders of the 2013/2014 program	May - November 2014	
3.	Update Work plan 2014 in collaboration with international environmental expert	Environment	May – June 2014	

### 3.6.3.3 DRR Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress Envisaged
1.	DRR Orientation in training on "Water Management Organizations for Community Organizers"	DRR	7 April, 2014	Linked to Comp 1 plan
2.	CBDRR plan formulation for PDP of Polder 22	DRR	June, 2014	Linked to polder 22 PDP formulation plan

3.	Follow up discussion with Community Radio for possible collaboration to disseminate DRR information of Blue Gold	Communication, DRR	June, 2014	Linked to collaboration with Communication Expert and Institutional Advisor
4.	Discussion with architect to design disaster resilient WMG Centre	DRR, Comp 1, Comp 2	June, 2014	Linked to collaboration with Comp 1, Comp 2

### **3.6.4 Water Management Fund and Production Support Fund**

#### **1. Long term perspectives for WMOs / cooperatives as business organizations.**

The central purpose of the assignment is to study existing cooperatives to gain more insight and understanding of cooperatives in the Netherlands and in Bangladesh with attention for their governance principles, organizational and institutional arrangements as well as their performance and success or fail factors. The study is a first assessment, an exploration of this field which may be deepened later on if new challenges or specific questions arise. The results of the study of cooperatives will be utilized by the Blue Gold Program for the development of WMO's as cooperatives or for the development of WMO related cooperatives.

The study is scheduled to be completed in May 2014.

#### **2. Development and introduction of a web-based Information Platform**

The proposal submitted by N&S to develop an web-based MIS/GIS Information Portal for Blue Gold will be discussed in the EKN – Blue Gold coordination meeting of 06 April 2014.

On 29 March 2014 a draft proposal was submitted to EKN by NWP (Netherlands Water Platform) with a TOR for a consultant to assist in the development of a procedures manual for the management of the Blue Gold Funds. Some initial comments were forwarded to NWP. After receipt of an updated proposal a final decision will be taken in April 2014.

## 3.7 Training

### 3.7.1 Training Conducted (Jan – March 2014)

The following table gives an overview of the training conducted in this quarter.

Table 3-17: Overview of training conducted (Jan – March 2014)

No.	Training Title	Date(s)	place	Participants	Participants (number)		
					Male	Female	Total
Program Management							
1.	Blue Gold Retreat 2014	March 16 - 17, 2014	BRAC CDM, Razendrapur	Blue Gold Staff	45	14	59
2.	PDP Workshop	March 09-10, 2014	Hotel 6 Seasons, Gulshan, Dhaka	Blue Gold and BWDB officials	23	05	28
Component 1							
Component 2							
1.	ToT on Construction Management for LCS (2 days)	January 21-22, 2014	CODEC Training center, Patuakhali	BWDB & Blue Gold staff	10	24	34
2.	ToT on Construction Management for LCS (2 days)	January 23-24, 2014	CSS, Ava Center, Khulna	BWDB & Blue Gold staff	20	07	27
3.	Construction Management for LCS (1 day)	Mar 25-Apr 03, 2014	Polder 43/2A, Patuakhali	LCS members	566	224	790
4.	Construction Management for LCS (1 day)	Mar 01-11, 2014	Polder 43/2F, Patuakhali	LCS members	492	276	768
5.	Construction Management for LCS (1 day)	Feb 11-24, 2014	Polder 43/2D, Patuakhali	LCS members	647	360	1007
6.	Construction Management for LCS (1 day)	Feb 11-23, 2014	Polder 30, Khulna	LCS members	256	301	557
7.	Construction Management for LCS (1day)	Feb 18-19, 2014	Polder 22, Khulna	LCS members	55	55	110
Component 3							
Component 4							
Component 5							
Capacity Building Team							

- TOT on Construction Management for LCS:** According to the project document the Labour Contracting Society (LCS) will be involved in earthworks. To ensure the performance and quality of work a one day training was given on construction management, construction work measurement techniques, bill withdrawal procedure and distribution of wages among the LCS members, documentation etc. On the above issues a module is developed on “Construction Management for LCS” in simple Bangla. The Blue Gold and BWDB field staff will conduct this session in the field. To train the trainers on the above training module a 2-day ToT was organized at Patuakhali and Khulna where total 61 participants attended. The Blue Gold Training Team along with Component 1 & 2 conducted this ToT.
- Training on Construction Management for LCS:** Immediately after the ToT the trained staff started to implement the training at the Polder level at Patuakhali and Khulna in 5 polders. A total of 114 batches training were conducted in 5 polders. Total 3232 LCS members were trained where 2016 male and 1216 female LCS members participated.
- Blue Gold Retreat 2014:** The Blue Gold Retreat was organized in a workshop manner where each of the component activities, implementation methodologies of each component and strategic action plans were shared, interacted and identified the ideas, thoughts and suggestions to improve the coordination, collaboration among the component and partners of Blue Gold. In this 2 days retreat 59 Dhaka HQ and Field staff (Patuakhali and Khulna) attended. The participants had ample opportunity to share their views, ideas, and observations and provided their suggestions for improvement.
- Polder Development Plan (PDP) Workshop:** To develop a standard and unified format and methodologies for PDP each component presented their part of the Polder Development Plan for Polder 22. Each of the presented formats were reviewed, discussed and recommended to prepare unified format and process. In this workshop Blue Gold consultants as well as BWDB staff attended.

### 3.7.2 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

Table 3-18: Training next quarter planning

#### Comp 1: Community Mobilization & Institutional Strengthening

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Water Management Organizations for Community Organizers	Newly Recruited Community Organizers	10 days	1 batch	x			
2. Training Module on Community Development and Facilitation Skills	District Training Cells and Community Organizers	5 days	-		x		
3. Community Development and Facilitation Skills	District Training Cell (ZSE, TO, CO, G&IGA)	5 days	1 batch (Khulna & Patuakhali)			x	
4. Information Campaign and Awareness Raising using local Folk Song	WMOs, LGIs Polder level Community People	--	15-20 session All Polders			x	
5. Blue Gold Orientation and Roles of Partners in Project Implementation	BWDB, DAE, DoC, DLS and DoF	1 day	2 batches (Khulna & Patuakhali)	x			



Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
6. Module on Organizational Management	WMG & WMA	3 days	--		x		
6.1 TOT on Organizational Management	District Training Cell (ZSE, TO, CO, TC, G&IGA)	5 days	1 batch (Khulna)			x	
6.2 Organizational Management	WMG & WMA	3 days	44 batches (P-1584)			x	
7 Orientation on Village Action Plan and Polder Development Plan	Central and Zonal Teams from BWDB, DAE, DoF, DoL	--	--	x	x	x	
8 Planning Workshops at Village/WMG Level	WMGs	--	All Polders	x	x	x	
9 Planning Workshop at WMA/Polder Level to Develop the Polder Development Plan <sup>1</sup>	WMA	--	All Polders	x	x	x	

## Comp 2: Water Resources Management

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Orientation on Construction Management and Blue Gold Program Policies	District Teams	01 day	2 batches		x		
2. Orientation on Construction Management and Blue Gold Construction Policies	Contractors	01 day	2 batches		x		
3. Prepare Training Module on Construction Monitoring and Quality Control for WMC	Water Management Committee	01 day	--	x			
3.1 ToT on Construction Management and Quality Control	BWDB and District Blue Gold Training Team	01 day	2 batches (Khulna & Patuakhali)		x		
3.2 Training on Construction Management and Quality Control (CM&QC)	Water Management Committee (WMC)	01 day	WMC members in 5 Polders		x	x	

<sup>1</sup> Polder Development Plan includes: 1) Fine-tuning/Infra Rehab Plan; 2) O&M Plan; 3) SEMP and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan; 4) Agriculture/FFS Plan; 5) Business Plan; and 6) Gender Action Plan.

### Comp 3: Food Security and Agricultural Production

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	

### Comp 4: Business Development and Private Sector Involvement

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Training course on Value Chain and Agricultural Machineries	Community Organizer (CO)	03 days	02 batches (Khulna & Patuakhali)	x			
2. Training on Credit and Savings	WMO/Cooperatives	01 day	10 batches in Selected Polders			x	

### Comp 5: Cross Cutting Issues

#### Gender

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Orientation on Blue Gold Program	WMA UP Members	01 day	11 batches				
2. Workshop on Partnership Development	U/Z Administration and Local Partners	01 day	Selected U/Z under Khulna & Patuakhali				
3. Gender and Leadership Development Training Module	WMG	3 days	--		x		
3.1 TOT on Gender and Leadership Development	District Training Cell (SE, ZSE, TO, CO + FO, G&IGA)	4 days	1 batch				
3.2 Training course on Gender and Leadership Development	WMG	3 days	2 batches				
4. Savings and Effective Investment/IGAs/Livelihood Training for LCS Members	Women of LCS Members	--	All Polders				
5. Skills training (business development, simple accounting and record keeping and others)	WMG women members	--	All Polders				

## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	April-June 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. TOT on Climate Change, Natural Hazards and their impacts and Disaster Risk Reduction	Community Facilitators	01 day	2 batches			x	District Level (Khulna and Patuakhali)
2. Orientation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (2 days)	WMA & Union Parishad Representatives	02 days	10 batches (P-150)			x	
3. Awareness Building on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (02 days)	WMA Disaster Management Committee (WMA-DMC)	02 days	All Polders		x	x	
4. Awareness Building on Risk Preparedness/Contingency Planning	WMG/Community People (family and community level)	3-4 session/polder	All polder		x	x	

## Project Management & Capacity Building

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	Jan-Mar 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
1. Blue Gold Orientation	LGI Representatives (U/Z and UP representatives)	01 day	# U/Z		x		U/Z level
2. Blue Gold Program Orientation (Launching of Blue Gold)	BWDB, DAE, DoC, DoF, DoL, Other Groups and Program Support Staff	01 day	04			x	Need based 01 for DAE, 03 for others
3. Completion of Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for staff development	WMO, Blue Gold Staff, BWDB, DAE, DoC, DLS, DOC	--	---		x	x	
4. Advanced TOF course for District Training Team	District Training Cell (ZSE, MT, TO, CO + FO, G&IGA & BWDB Selected Officials)	06 days	01 batch			x	District Level
5. Workshop on Partnership Development	BWDB, DAE, DoC, DoF, DoL, Other Groups and Program Support Staff	01 day	3 batches			x	Central and District Level
6. Training on Data Collection of Baseline Survey <sup>2</sup>	Field Supervisors Enumerators	08 days	02 batches		x	x	Khulna & Patuakhali

<sup>2</sup> Can be done internally or outsource.

Training Course	Target Participants	Duration	# of Batches/ Participants	Jan-Mar 2014			Remarks
				01	02	03	
7. Training on Motor Cycle Driving	CO and FO	--	Khulna and Patuakhali	x	x	x	
8. Workshop on Institutional Issues in Water Management	BWDB Central and Zonal officials		--			x	
9. Exchange visit to successful Cooperatives	WMAs		Selected Polders			x	
13 Need based/Quarterly Staff Development Training	District and Field Staff	--0--	Khulna & Patuakhali	x	x	x	District Level
13.1 Component 1	District and Field Staff			x		x	Do
13.2 Component 2	District and Field Staff		--0--		x		Do
13.3 Component 3	District and Field Staff		--0--	x		x	Do
13.4 Component 4	District and Field Staff		--0--		x		Do
14 Gender in Water Management	District and Field Staff		--0--	x		x	Do

## 3.8 Communication and Knowledge Management

### 3.8.1 Status Overview of Activities

The below table gives an overview of communication and knowledge management activities implemented in the period January – March 2014.

Table 3-19: Status of Communication activities

No.	Planned Key Activity	Completion Schedule	Progress
1.	Finalizing revised folder	March	Completed (Procurement is in process)
2.	Developing new brochure	March	Delayed; now planned for May 2014
3.	Vendor selected for <i>popular theatre</i> and <i>Korcha</i>	March	Completed
4.	Mapping out local organizations—UP etc.-- and personalities for cooperation	March	Completed
5.	Information collection on rural media behaviour	March	Completed and being interpreted
6.	Community fair planning	Ongoing	Ongoing
7.	Website	March	Launched
8.	Digital library	March	In finalization stage

### 3.8.2 Cooperation with other projects

Table 3-20: Communication- cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact made	Potential for collaboration
Mass-line Media Centre	<i>Lokobeter</i> Community Radio Project	Station Manager, <i>Lokobeter</i>	Blue Gold can collaborate in disseminating information by airing program of different kinds while also using Lokobeter's studio for production.
DAE	<i>Krishi Beter</i> Community Radio project of Agriculture Information Service (AIS)	Director of AIS, Project Coordinator and Station Manager of <i>Krishi Radio</i>	Blue Gold can use studio facilities in Dhaka while airing radio program from <i>Krishi Radio</i> .

### 3.8.3 Next Quarter Planning (April – June 2014)

Table 3-21: Next quarter planning for communication

No.	Planned Key Activity	Completion Schedule
1.	Piloting community radio program	June, 2014
2.	Developing new brochure	May 2014

No.	Planned Key Activity	Completion Schedule
3.	Homework and vendor selection for video documentation	June, 2014
4.	Uploading digital documents to server	May, 2014
5.	Finalizing communication strategy	May
6.	Local stakeholder analysis	June
7.	Printing revised brochure and folder	May/June
8.	Preparing community fairs	Ongoing
9.	Connecting digital library to website	May

## 3.9 Monitoring & Evaluation

### 3.9.1 Status Overview of Activities

The table below gives a general overview of M&E activities carried out in the period January – March 2014.

Table 3-22: Status of M&E activities

No.	Planned Key Activity	Completion Schedule	Progress
1.	Set up M&E system	December 2013	Completed
2.	Carry out Baseline Survey in nine IPSWAM polders	June 2014	Finalized questionnaire and sample size, completed training for enumerators, on-going data collection
3.	Continuous Output Monitoring	Throughout program	On-going
4.	Continuous Outcome Monitoring (Mapping)	Throughout program	On-going

During this reporting period, M&E activities focused mainly on questionnaire development, sample design, survey implementation, finalisation of the outcome mapping methodology and set-up of implementation strategy, and the development of the output monitoring methodology. Blue Gold's M&E system comprises of the three pillars of Impact Measurement, Outcome Monitoring and Output Monitoring. In the following sections, the process and main results per each pillar are described.

### 3.9.2 Impact Measurement

Following field testing in Khulna and consultations with several Blue Gold team members, the baseline questionnaire was finalized after which the sample design was developed.

Overall, the sampling frame for the baseline survey was based on matching data regarding the WMG groups in the nine IPSWAM polders with official data on the number of households and population of the geographical units where each WMG is located. The final sampling frame consisted of 177 geographical units in the nine polders, including 62,710 households and covering a total population of 272,208 persons. Following a 2-stage cluster sampling approach, the sample size of 70 villages in total (polders in Khulna and Patuakhali) with 1,400 households was selected for the baseline survey.

For the remaining polders in the program, the same sampling procedure will be applied.

Following the questionnaire and sample design, a detailed planning for the survey implementation was developed. The paper questionnaire was converted into a digital questionnaire, using the online data collection method of ODK; training materials were developed; field enumerators were interviewed, hired and trained by experienced survey managers; additional field testing was undertaken and the survey implementation has officially started end March 2014. The table below provides a detailed overview of the impact measurement activities that have been taken place during this reporting period.

Table 3-23: Progress and Time schedule of Blue Gold baseline survey

No.	Planned Key Activity	Completed Schedule	Progress
1.	Compose Baseline Survey Team	February 2014	completed
2.	Make detailed Work Plan	January/February 2014	completed
3.	Make Sample Frame, stratification and sample size	February 2014	completed
4.	Design Survey methodology	January/February 2014	completed
5.	Make Final Questionnaire (Instruments)	February 2014	completed/ Finalized
6.	Recruit Enumerators	February 2014	completed
	Field visits Kulna and Pathuakali	February 2014	completed
	Training Planning (training manual, questionnaire manual,	February 2014	Completed

	tablet training manual, training work activity plan)		
7.	Design digital form, and data collection, aggregation and processing systems using ODK (digital questionnaire coding, tablet set-up, integration and testing)	February 2014	completed
8.	Train Enumerators/ Supervisors	February/March 2014	completed
9.	Purchase android mobile systems (Walton tablets)	January/February 2014	completed
10.	Carry out Pilot Survey	March 2014	completed
11.	Carry out Field work for data collection	March –May 2014	On-going
12.	General data aggregation, process and analysis	July 2014	-
13.	Final Report	July2014	-
14.	Detailed data analysis	July-Dec 2014	-
15.	Detailed reporting	Dec 2014	-

### 3.9.3 Outcome Mapping

During the third mission of the international senior M&E expert, the set-up for the outcome mapping methodology was further refined and finalised. Steps have been undertaken to roll-out the methodology and to start implementing related activities in the two Districts of Khulna and Patuakhali.

Activities that were undertaken during the reporting period included:

- Review and identification of boundary partners;
- Review & description of outcome challenges and progress markers of the boundary partners;
- Preparation of scoring methodology of progress markers;
- Description of data quality of progress marker scoring;
- Description of ODK application and analysis
- Training of Blue Gold M&E staff on the methodology of outcome mapping

### 3.9.4 Output Monitoring

During this reporting period, the following steps have been undertaken for regularly tracking the progress of inputs, activities and outputs:

- Output Monitoring formats developed for component 1-4 based on the Annual Plan 2014 and submitted to component leaders for providing their comments/suggestions;
- Output Monitoring formats developed for DRR, gender, communication, training & institutional strengthening based on the Annual Plan 2014 and submitted to respective experts for providing their comments/ suggestions;

Additionally, the operational manual for Output and Outcome Monitoring has been developed, a document that focuses on the operational aspects of the outcome and output components of the Blue Gold M&E system. The document is included as an Annex to this report.

### 3.9.5 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

Table 3-24: M&E next quarter planning

No.	Activities	Timeframe	Responsible Person/s
1.	Coordinate and conduct Baseline Survey and reporting on progress	April-June	M&E Team
2.	Organize meeting with mPower to discuss cooperation in the area of ODK applications, data collection, analysis and GIS development.	April	M&E Expert



No.	Activities	Timeframe	Responsible Person/s
3.	If agreed, make ToR for Technical Assistance of mPower (framework contract)	April	M&E Expert
4.	Field testing of the scoring system for the WMG together with selected CO's	April	M&E team with Max .of 5 selected CO's
5.	Review and finalize output monitoring formats with components	April	M&E Expert
6.	Present to each component output monitoring sheet. Assure that workbook sheets with geographic and WMG names are protected.	April -May	M&E Expert
7.	Introduce the agreed output reporting formats to each component	May	M&E Expert
8.	Review and revise the progress marker scoring format	April-May	M&E Team
9.	Study Outcome Mapping methodology (manual, subscribe to outcome mapping learning community on <a href="http://www.outcomemapping.ca">www.outcomemapping.ca</a> )	April-May	M&E Team
10.	ODK programming course 2-4 days for Blue Gold Staff and selected BWDB staff	May-June	M&E Team with Mott /mPower
11.	Finalize progress marker scoring formats and make ODK forms for android tablets and integrate into GIS	May-June	M&E expert with Technical Assistance from mPower or other company
12.	Make list of all staff involved in Blue Gold of BWDB, Unions, and DAE and familiarize them with the monitoring program of Blue Gold	April-June	M&E officers Khulna and Patuakhali
13.	Collect GPS location data and photograph of each WMG	June-Sept.	M&E Officers

## 3.10 Institutional Strengthening

### 3.10.1 Status Overview of Activities

Table 3-25: Status of Institutional Strengthening activities (Jan - March 2014)

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
Institutional Strengthening				
1.	Updating of the draft Framework for Cooperation and Partnership between WMG and Union Parishad	Institutional	March 2014	Completed
2.	Elaboration of the draft Format for Key Stakeholders analysis and Action Plan	Institutional	March 2014	Completed
3.	Follow-up for signing of MoUs with DoC, DoF and DLS	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
4.	Meeting with concerned BWDB officials regarding review and updating of Gender Strategy of BWDB	Institutional	-	Two separate meetings held together with Chief Planning and PCD and one status and priority review meeting of Action Plan held
5.	Collect relevant organograms of BWDB, DoC, DAE, DoF	Institutional	March 2014	Completed
6.	Review of the status of WMG, WMA and Water Management Cooperatives	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
7.	Developing Archive of Acts, Policy, Rules and Procedures mentioned in the list of documents in the Inception Report	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
8.	Explore possibilities of community mobilization and information dissemination through Community Radio	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
9.	Explore possibilities of collaboration with Concern Universal Bangladesh regarding DRR activities	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
10.	Preparation of Fact Sheets on Blue Gold key stakeholders	Institutional	Continuous	2 Draft Fact Sheets prepared
11.	Explore possibilities of collaboration with Union Parishads regarding DRR activities and linkage with UDMC and WDMC	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
12.	Assistance for Cooperative Study	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing

No.	Planned Key Activity	Polder and/or Subject	Completion Schedule	Progress
13.	Linkage with Horizontal Learning Program	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing
14.	Provided inputs for preparation of M&E format	Institutional	Continuous	Ongoing

### 3.10.2 Next Quarter Planning (April - June 2014)

- Follow-up for signing of MoUs with concerned Stakeholders
- Follow-up and updating of the stakeholder analysis and Action Plan
- Preparation of Fact Sheets on Blue Gold Key Stakeholders
- Facilitation for briefing of WMG and UP on scope for cooperation
- Facilitation for preparation of joint work plan on cooperation including by the WMG and UP representatives through participatory workshop
- Follow-up for review and updating of Gender Strategy of BWDB
- Facilitate for cooperation with Concern Universal Bangladesh
- Facilitate for linkage and cooperation with Horizontal Learning program
- Facilitate for elaborating the M&E format for Union Parishad and briefing on data collection from Union Parishad
- Review status of O&M Agreements between BWDB and WMG
- Developing Archive of Acts, Policy, Rules and Procedures mentioned in the list of documents mentioned in the Inception Report.
- Facilitate for strengthening of Water Management Department of BWDB regarding registration of WMOs
- Facilitate for utilizing of Community Radio and organizing and Community fair involving WMG/WMA and UP
- Facilitate for establishing linkage of DRR activities with Union Disaster Management Committee
- Facilitating for piloting of Solar desalination/purification panel as alternative option for safe drinking water source.

### 3.10.3 Cooperation with Other Projects

Table 3-26: Cooperation with other projects

Organisation	Related Project/ Programme	Contact Made	Potential for collaboration
Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC)	Community Radio (Loko Betar)	Executive Director, Program Manager, Station Manager, Editor	Utilization of local level media for information dissemination and awareness raising and sharing of good practices related to Blue Gold activities.
Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)	Community Radio (Krishi Radio)	Farm Broadcasting Officer and Director, Station Manager	Utilization of local level media for information dissemination and awareness raising and sharing of good practices related to Blue Gold activities.
Department of Cooperatives (DoC), Patuakhali		District Cooperative Officer, Upazila Cooperative Officer,	Areas of potential cooperation, Problems facing by WMGs and remedial measures. Limitations of the DoC field level offices.

		District Inspector, Assistant Inspector	
Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Director</li> <li>• Head of Organizational Development and Education Unit</li> <li>• Local partner NSS representatives</li> <li>• CBO members</li> </ul>	Activities of CUB, potential areas of cooperation, linking DRR activities with UDMC
Union Parishad		Chairman, Member (Female and Male) UP Secretary	Possibilities of linking DRR activities and cooperation for implementation of other project activities
Horizontal Learning Program (HLP)		Focal Person, Senior Decentralization Specialist (WB) and other HLP partner's representatives,	Linking with Union Parishad Network, sharing of experience and good practices among the UPs, WMGs, CBOs
FCUBED Bangladesh	Solar Desalination/Purification Panel	Managing Director, Upazila Daridra Bimochan Karmakarta, User of the panel	Possibilities of piloting of alternative source of safe drinking water in water scarcity areas in Blue Gold polders.
Milk Vita	Bangladesh Milk Producers Cooperative Union	General Manager, Additional General Manager, Deputy General Manger	Cooperative study

## 4. Main Challenges

### 4.1 Component 1

The BWDB Guidelines for Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Resources Management (IPSWARM, September 2008) explicitly identify the village or a small hydrological unit as the unit of social organisation at which level the WMG is formed. However, EKN requested Blue Gold (see letter EKN of 17 February 2014) to carry out an analysis of the pros and cons of villages or bigger hydrological units as the basis for WMG formation. This comparative study will be implemented in the next quarter.

The transfer of registration of WMO's from DoC to BWDB was announced in the Bangladesh Gazette of 11 February 2014. Blue Gold has drafted a full translation of this important notification. According to the notification LCS (for earthworks) should not be contracted by BWDB directly as is the current practice, but BWDB should sign a contract with the WMG and the WMG should sign contracts with the LCS. To do this the BWDB now requires the WMG to be registered with BWDB. This change in procedure will result in a further delay in start of implementation of earthworks through LCS.

A second problem is the (lack of) capacity at the Water Management Department of BWDB. Discussion will have to be held with BWDB and DoC in order to ascertain a smooth transfer from DoC to the Department of Water Management.

### 4.2 Component 2

Due to the late fund placement no civil works could be carried out in the first quarter of 2014. Therefore, no new information could be gathered regarding the discrepancy between the budgeted cost of fine tuning of € 100 per ha and the actual cost.

### 4.3 Component 3

The DPP for DAE (*'Transfer of Technology for Agriculture Production under the Blue Gold Program'*) anticipates the implementation of 1000 FFS in 25 Upazila's (all Upazila's of the Districts Satkhira, Khulna and Patuakhali). Budgets are drafted accordingly (f.i. 25 motorbikes for the 25 Upazila's). Blue Gold will be working in maximum 10 Upazila's. As a consequence, 60% of the DAE budget will flow to areas outside the Blue Gold Program.

The DPP for DAE should be restricted to the Blue Gold Program area and therefore the DPP should be revised. This revision will be taken up in the next quarter but it will be a long process to complete.

### 4.4 Component 4

It remains to be seen if the sudden transfer of registration of WMO's from DoC to BWDB is a positive step towards the economic development of the polder or not. In fact Blue Gold (as IPSWAM before) creates a village development organization and calls it Water Management Group, which is all right if it not were under the BWDB. The latter's interest is obviously and rightly water resource management and not village development. They may unfortunately be the wrong driver of change at that level for an integrated Polder Development Plan approach. On the other hand, the involvement of the (non-technical) Department of Water Management of BWDB in Blue Gold may offer new opportunities.

## 5. Financial Overview

### 5.1.1 Project Financing

The overall project budget as laid down in the Administrative Agreement (AA) of 20 February 2013 amounts to EUR 57,700,080 including the contribution of the Government of Bangladesh (BWDB and DAE) of EUR 7,855,080.

The following tables give an overview of the financial and TA contributions and a budget overview of the TA, Contracted Services, and Equipment, Training & Operational Costs at the end of March 2014.

Table 5-5-1: Financial and TA 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	7499	15750	33100	48850
DAE	NA	995	-	995
Total for Blue Gold Program (as per AA)	7855	16745	33100	49845

\*100 Tk = 1 €

Table 5-5-2: Budget Overview March 2014 – TA, Contracted Services & Equipment, Training and Operational Costs (estimated)

	Original Budget	Claimed Q2/Q3 2013	Estimated Q4 2013 plus Q1 2014	Total cumulative 31 March 2014
<b>TA contract</b>				
TA team – Component 1	3,782,613	284,265	288,007	572,272
TA team – Component 2	2,996,412	152,922	206,314	359,236
TA team – Component 3	3,542,865	126,483	256,680	383,163
TA team – Component 4	2,127,315	107,404	155,572	262,976
Program Management	2,359,241	115,214	147,477	262,691
Contracted Services	11,842,000	20,947	120,820	141,767
Equipment, Training, Operational Costs	4,898,150	175,597	328,451	504,048
<b>SUBTOTAL TA contract</b>	<b>31,548,596</b>	<b>982,832</b>	<b>1,503,321</b>	<b>2,486,152</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL including Contingencies</b>	<b>33,100,000</b>	<b>982,830</b>	<b>1,503,321</b>	<b>2,486,152</b>
<b>GoN Contribution to BWDB</b>	<b>15,750,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,216,000</b>	<b>1,216,000</b>
<b>GoN Contribution to DAE</b>	<b>995,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169,000</b>	<b>169,000</b>
<b>Total GoN contribution</b>	<b>49,845,000</b>	<b>982,830</b>	<b>2,888,321</b>	<b>3,871,151</b>

# Appendix 1 Staffing Status

## A-1 Blue Gold – Technical Assistance Team staffing as per 31 March 2014

		Total planned input (days)	Input , 2013 (days)	Input Q1 2014 (days)	Cumulative input (days)	% of time utilised
<b>Component 1</b>						
<b>International experts:</b>						
Long term	Vicki Pineda	1,320	176	46	222	17%
Short term	Kitty Bentvelsen/Geert Rhebergen	374	139	26	165	44%
<b>National experts:</b>						
Community Organisation	Shorab Hossain	1,302	188	59	247	19%
Gender	Khuku Chakrabarty	1,302	184	46	230	18%
Development Planner	Alamgir Chowdhury	1,302	175	57	232	18%
Sr Sociologist/Cooperative Expert	Showkat Ara	1,085	0	49	49	5%
Jr Sociologist/Cooperative Expert	TBN	0	0	0	0	
Sr Socio-Economist	John Marandy	1,302	169	55	224	17%
Socio-economist 1, Khulna	M. Jashim Uddin	1,302	142	58	200	15%
Socio-economist 2, Patuakhali	Mator Rahman	1,302	134	76	210	16%
Socio-economist 3, Satkhira	TBN	868	0		0	0%
Socio-economist 4, Satkhira	TBN	868	0		0	0%
Socio-economist 5, Khulna	Ummay Asma Khanam	1,223	89	60	149	12%
Socio-economist 6, Patuakhali	Tahmina Akter	1,223	90	65	155	13%
Community Organisers (Khulna 13; Patuakhali 16)	TBN	68,138	2,985	1,747	4,732	7%
<b>Technical/administrative staff:</b>						
Data Entry Operator	TBN	3,472	0	0	0	0%
<b>Subtotal TA team</b>		<b>86,383</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>6,815</b>	<b>200%</b>
<b>Component 2</b>						
<b>International experts:</b>						
Long term	Dirk Smits	1,320	155	53	208	16%
Short term	Andrew Jenkins	330	6		6	2%
<b>National experts:</b>						
ST hydrologist	TBN	176	19	0	19	11%
irrigation/drainage engineer, Khulna	Mustafizur Rahman	1,046	150	55	205	20%
irrigation/drainage engineer, Patuakhali	TBN	1,164	0		0	0%
irrigation/drainage engineer, Satkhira	TBN	868	0		0	0%
Irrigation Agronomist, Khulna (3 districts)	Shahar Uddin	1,263	107	53	160	13%
Civil engineer, Khulna (1)	Mainul Islam	1,203	135	55	190	16%
Civil engineer, Khulna (2)	S.M. Saiful Islam	1,164	38	64	102	9%
Civil engineer, Patuakhali	Delower Hossain	1,164	38	59	97	8%

		Total planned input (days)	Input , 2013 (days)	Input Q1 2014 (days)	Cumulative input (days)	% of time utilised
QC Engineer/Deputy Component Leader	Mofazzal Ahmed	1,263	169	56	225	18%
Sr Field QC Engineer, Khulna	Azizur Rahman	1,263	160	62	222	18%
Jr Field QC Engineer, Patuakhali	Shahidullah	1,164	157	58	215	18%
Quantity Surveyor Engineer	Mahmadur Rahman Aveek	1,164	56	58	114	10%
Quantity Surveyor Assistant	Jinat Rehana	1,164	58	53	111	10%
Reimbursement Engineer	Farzana Rahman Moury	1,085	0	63	63	6%
Reimbursement Engineer Assistant	Tahmina Akter Tunny	1,085	0	60	60	6%
Field Mechanical Engineer, Khulna	Ahsan Ahmed Bapi	1,164	52	60	112	10%
Jr Field QC Engineer 2, Patuakhali	S.M.Zakir Hossain	1,085	21	19	40	4%
Jr Field QC Engineer, Khulna	Moshiur Rahman/Abdul Hannan	1,164	0	40	40	3%
Sub-Assistant Engineer	Md.Sadeque Ali		0	13	13	1%
<b>Subtotal TA team</b>		<b>21,299</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>196%</b>
<b>Component 3</b>						
<b>International experts:</b>						
Long term	Hein Bijlmakers	1,320	159	50	209	16%
Short term	TBN	330	0		0	0%
<b>National experts:</b>						
Agriculturalist 1/Deputy Component Leader	Ashrafal Islam	1,243	122	61	183	15%
Agriculturalist 2	Zahangir Alam	1,203	17	62	79	7%
Agriculturalist 3	Sumona Rani Das	1,184	51	58	109	9%
Fish Expert	Shamsul Huda	1,184	159	58	217	18%
Livestock Expert	Munir Ahmed	1,263	65	63	128	10%
Mechanisation/processing expert 1	Anayet Hossain	868	102	58	160	18%
Mechanisation/processing expert 2	TBN	1,184	0		0	0%
Mechanisation/processing expert 3 -on farm mech.	TBN	1,184	0		0	0%
Master Trainer (Rice Agronomist)	Md.Alam Hossain	1,203	0	54	54	4%
TC/Master Trainer (OFWM Specialist)	Abdullah Sani	1,203	60	67	127	11%
Master Trainer (Int Homestead Gardening)	Shameem Ahmed	1,203	58	57	115	10%
TC/Master Trainer (High-value Cash Crops)	TBA	1,203	0		0	0%
FFS facilitators (Khulna -10, Patuakhali-12)	TBN	22,805	880	1288	2,168	10%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>38,580</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>3,549</b>	<b>127%</b>
<b>Component 4</b>						
<b>International experts:</b>						
Long term	Karel T'Jonck	660	89	34	123	19%
Short term	Jaap de Heer/TBN	308	23		23	7%
<b>National experts:</b>						
Sr Private Sector Expert	ASM Shahidul Haque	1,263	117	60	177	14%
Jr Private Sector Expert	TBN	1,085	0		0	0%
Business Dev Coordinator, Khulna	Shusanto Roy	1,184	63	64	127	11%
Business Dev Coordinator, Patuakhali (1)	Abdullah Al Mamun	986	54	57	111	11%
Business Administration. Patuakhali (2)	Kazi Mozzammel Hossen	1,085	0	59	59	5%
Marketing Expert	Islam Chowdhury	1,085	0		0	0%



		Total planned input (days)	Input , 2013 (days)	Input Q1 2014 (days)	Cumulative input (days)	% of time utilised
Investment Specialist	Md. Anisur Rahman	1,085	21	59	80	7%
Gender/IGA Specialist	Jhorna Begum	1,203	38	59	97	8%
Value Chain Expert/Dty Component Leader	Tanvir Islam	1,184	165	60	225	19%
Good Governance	AKM Saifullah	594	0	0	0	0%
<b>Technical/administrative staff:</b>					0	
Administrative Assistant	TBN	1,203	22		22	2%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>12925</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>104%</b>
<b>Component 5</b>						
<b>International experts:</b>						
Short term	Hero Heering	132	17	6	23	17%
<b>National experts:</b>						
National Project Coordinator	TBN	1,243	0		0	0%
Institutional/Legal Advisor	Aowlad Hossain	1,243	120	60	180	14%
Training Expert	Abul Kashem	1,302	179	48	227	17%
Environment Expert		967	94	0	94	10%
M&E Expert	Shital Krishna Das	1,263	118	62	180	14%
M&E Officer 1	Zakir Hossain	1,243	59	44	103	8%
M&E Officer 2	Nurur Rahman	1,085	0	44	44	4%
Communication Expert	Anis Parvez	1,302	150	51	201	15%
Disaster Risk Reduction Expert	Syeda Sajeda Haider	1,085	133	57	190	18%
Training Coordinator Dhaka	Khairul Islam	1,243	48	60	108	9%
Subject matter specialists/Field Training Org.	TBN	14,026	0		0	0%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>26,134</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>127%</b>
<b>Support Staffs</b>						
Office Manager (Dhaka)	Abu Zahir	848	200	56	256	30%
Office manager (district offices)	Rabiul Alam/Monir U.Patwary	2,525	247	129	376	15%
Data Entry Operator	various	0	0	10	10	
Finance Manager	AFM Hedayat-UI-AI-Arif	1,282	152	61	213	17%
Operation Manager	Shahanaz Jahan Pushon	1,160	32	58	90	8%
Support staff/office assistant	various	3,906	412	213	625	16%
Receptionist	Yesmin Akther	1,302	186	60	246	19%
Secretary	Yasmin Ara Rekha	1,302	135	55	190	15%
Drivers	TBN (12 drivers)	15,407	294	238	532	3%
Messengers/Cleaner	various	5,208	302	679	981	19%
Finance and Administration Officer	Naeem Farhad Islam	1,243	110	59	169	14%
Asst. Manager- (IT)	Shahabuzzaman	1,263	119	58	177	14%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>35,446</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>169%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>220,767</b>	<b>11,164</b>	<b>7,661</b>	<b>18,825</b>	<b>924%</b>

## A-2 Blue Gold – Bangladesh Water Development Board staffing

Staffing at the BWDB offices was delayed because of late signing of the DPP and corresponding Government Order. The actual staffing situation of the Central Planning Unit and the Zonal offices on 31 March 2014 is given below. Not all staff mentioned is assigned to the Blue Gold Program.

SI No.	Name of the Post	Qty.	Post filled (Y/N)? - Name	Remarks &Comments
<b>Central Planning Cell Dhaka (planned: 19 staff)</b>				
1	Project Coordinating Director (PCD)	1	Mr. Md. Masud Ahmed	
2	Executive Engineer (XEN)	1	Mr. Md. Abul Kausar	
3	Executive Engineer (XEN)	1		
4	Chief Soil Scientist	1	Mr. Md. Enamur Rahman	
5	Assistant Chief (Sociology)	1	Mr. Shafiqul Islam,	
6	Sub-divisional Engineer (SDE)	1	Mr. Kamruzzaman Khan	
7	Sub-divisional Engineer (SDE)	1	Ms. Nasrin Akter Khan	
8	Assistant Chief(Economics),	1	Ms. Shahnaz Akter	
9	Assistant Engineer,	1	Mr. Md. Shahinur Rahman	
10	Sub-assistant Engineer (SAE)	1	Mr. Md. Saiful Alam	
11	Draftsman (Gr-A)	2	Mr. Sunil Chandra Majumder Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain Khan	
12	Stenographer		Mr. Prasanta Kumar Das	
13	Draftsman (Gr-A)	2	Mrs. Pervin Mustary Mst. Soheli Pervin	
14	LDA/DEO		Mr. Md. Salah Uddin Khan	
15	Tracer		Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin	
16	Driver	4	Mr. Md. Mazibur Rahman Khan Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mr. Md. Abdul Matin Abdul Aziz	
17	DMO		Mr. Md. Humayun Kabir	
18	Guard Cum Chowkider		Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam	
19	Gate Operator		Mr. Md Osman Ali	

SI No.	Name of the Post	Qty.	Post filled (Y/N)? - Name	Remarks &Comments
<b>Zonal Planning cell South-Western Zone Khulna (planned 10 staff)</b>				
1	Executive Engineer (XEN)	2	Md. Muzibur Rahman, O&M Division 2; Apurba Kumar Baoumik, O&M Division 1	
2	Hydraulic Engineer / SDE	2	Pijush Karishna Kunda Division 2; Deboprotim Hawladar Division 1	
3	Civil Engineer / Asstt Engineer (AE)	1	Md. Ishak Ali	
4	Account Clerk	1	Md. Hadisur Rahman	
<b>Zonal Planning cell Southern Zone Barisal (planned 10 staff)</b>				
1	Executive Engineer (XEN)	3	Md. Shafiuddin, O&M (in charge) Division Patuakhali;  Md. Saifuddin, WDD Division Kalapara;  Abdul Malek, O&M Division Barguna	
2	Hydraulic Engineer/ SDE	3	Md. Abdul Motalib Division Patuakhali; Shahanawz Talukder WDD Division Kalapara; Md. Abul Khaier, O&M Division Barguna	
3	Civil Engineer/ Asstt Engineer (AE)	2	Shahidul Islam, WDD Division Kalapara Nurul Islam, O&M Division Patuakhali	
4	Quality Control Engineer/ AE	2		
5	Assistant Chief/ Research Officer (Econ)	1		
6	Assistant Chief/ Research Officer (Socio)	1		

### A-3 List of C-2 staff with date of joining

Dhaka Office	Designation	Joining Date
Mofazzal Ahmed	QC Engineer/Deputy Component Leader	07.04.13
Mahmudur Rahman (Aveek)	Quantity Survey Engineer	03.09.13
Ms. Jinat Rehana	Quantity Survey Assistant	01.09.13
Ms Farzana Rahman Moury	Reimbursement Engineer	01.01.14
Ms Tahmina Akter Tunny	Reimbursement Assistant	01.01.14

Khulna Office		
Md. Mainul Islam	Civil Engineer (Water Infrastructure)	01.06.13
Md. Mustafizur Rahman	Irrigation/Drainage Engineer	01.05.13 (Will discontinue after 31 May 2014)
Shahar Uddin	Irrigation Agronomist	21.04.13 (Will discontinue after 31 May 2014)
Md. Moshiur Rahman	Quality Control Engineer	02.03.14
Md. Abdul Hannan	Quality Control Engineer	02.03.14
Md. Aman Ullah	Sub Assistant Engineer	01.04.14

Satkhira		
S.M Saiful Islam	Civil Engineer	31.10.13
Md. Sadeque Ali	Sub Assistant Engineer	11.03.14

Patuakhali Office		
Md. Delower Hossain	Civil Engineer	31.10.13
Md. Shahidullah	Quality Control Engineer	01.05.13
S.M. Zakir Hossain	Quality Control Engineer	02.03.14
Md. Nur Islam	Sub Assistant Engineer	01.04.14

Khulna, Patuakhali & Satkhira		
Md. Azizur Rahman	Sr. Field Quality Control Engineer	01.05.13
S.M. Ahsan Ahmed Bapi	Mechanical Engineer (Field)	01.09.13
Sk. Abdul Alim	AutoCAD Operator	15.04.14

# Appendix 2 Mission Report of International Gender Expert

By Kitty Bentvelsen, Femconsult  
04 – 20 March 2014

## 1. Objective of the mission

This was the fourth 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 as a cross-cutting issue in all Blue Gold components by the national and international gender experts, in close cooperation with relevant colleagues of each component. The visit of October – November 2013 aimed at the operationalization of the gender approach into more concrete activities.

The objectives of the March 2014 mission were:

- Work with the new Blue Gold national gender expert
- Participate in the meetings on the Polder Development Plan and in the Blue Gold retreat
- Follow-up on selected gender related activities of the Blue Gold gender strategy and the 2014 gender annual plan.

## 2. Itinerary

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 and presents the main issues for follow-up.

## 3. Main activities and issues

### 3.1 Further orientation of the new national gender expert

On 04 February 2014 Ms. Khuku Chakraborty started her work as Blue Gold's national gender expert replacing Ms. Showkat Ara Begum, who had taken up the position of Senior Cooperatives expert within component 1. In February Ms. Chakraborty had already made herself familiar with the Blue Gold program, its components and the Blue Gold Gender Approach, and had participated in first field visits and in LCS training. During this visit of the international gender expert the Blue Gold gender approach was discussed in more detail, including the underlying experiences of especially IPSWAM, the rationale for the selected activities, the implementation modalities of specific gender activities, the 2014 gender annual plan and its status so far. Towards the end of this mission, a list of issues and activities for follow-up had been discussed, see end of section 3.10 of this report.

### 3.2 International Women's Day Event on Gender, Nutrition and Agriculture

In the context of International Women's Day 2014, Helen Keller International (HKI) and WorldFish (WF) had organised a workshop titled "Inspiring Change: Institutionalizing Gender in Nutrition and Agriculture Interventions". This workshop was conducted on March 9 and was attended by both Blue Gold gender experts and the Agriculturalist of Component 3. Much of the content of the workshop was highly relevant to Blue Gold, see the box below, whereas the workshop also offered a good opportunity for networking. The workshop reinforced the intention of Blue Gold to integrate attention to nutrition especially within its Farmer Field School activities.

### **Some interesting findings presented at the workshop on Gender, Nutrition and Agriculture**

- There is some progress in Bangladesh regarding gender equality, e.g. currently even slightly more girls than boys are enrolled in secondary school, but other forms of gender discrimination persist e.g. as a major cause of malnutrition.
- Early marriage is still a major issue: 66% of all girls in Bangladesh marry before the age 18 and 45% of all girls between 15 and 19 have a child. Nutrition of adolescent girls is therefore not only of importance for themselves but also for foetal growth and for reducing the risk of stunting of their child.
- In Bangladesh the “double burden” of under- and over-nutrition is on the increase, meaning the persistence of under-nutrition, especially among children, along with a rapid rise in overweight, obesity and diet related diseases such as diabetes and coronary heart diseases. Therefore not only more food, but a more diverse and nutritious diet is vital.
- HKI emphasized the importance of involving husbands, mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law in nutrition-related interventions in addition to mothers. HKI developed the *Nurturing Connections* manual targeting all family members for behaviour change addressing gender constraints related to social change.
- Various practical examples were presented of women targeted technologies (such as cage aquaculture and pond polyculture) and of quick and locally produced solutions for improving nutrition, the latter by the production of fish-based complementary food for infants and fish chutney for pregnant and lactating mothers, also creating local IGA opportunities.

### **3.3 Gender Action Plan**

Blue Gold will support the development and implementation of Polder Development Plans for all polders as per Six Step Approach of Blue Gold. A Gender Action Plan (or Gender Development Plan) will be part of all Polder Development Plans. Possible steps to arrive at such a plan have been discussed, and the following issues arose:

- The Polder Development Plan (PDP) is expected to include polder specific background information (e.g. a Fact Sheet) and a SWOT analysis for each polder. Gender related information for these sections of the PDP can be derived from needs assessments and other data already collected for a specific polder, especially if analysed by gender. In coordination with the district level Blue Gold staff (e.g. the junior socio-economist and/or the gender and IGA expert) additional gender / women’s related information may need be collected.
- A Polder level Gender Plan as well as WMG or Village level Gender Action Plans will be supported, but focusing on the former.
- The Polder Gender Development Plan is expected to be based on gender-related issues from the needs assessments of that polder complemented by a consultation of WMA members, and reflecting relevant gender objectives of Blue Gold. The process, content and implementation modes needs to be refined through further consultations, especially with component 1 staff. The Polder Gender Plan will be validated by the WMA. It has been proposed that polder level gender plans will be translated into village level Gender Action Plans reflecting the needs and priorities of each individual WMG, during gender training imparted to selected WMG members, which thereafter will be shared with all WMG members in a general meeting.
- The content of the (WMG) gender development or action plans may be a mix of Blue Gold related gender objectives (such as active women’s participation in WMG decision-making) and priorities set by the community, such as addressing early marriage and/or preventing dowry payments. Though the latter do not directly reflect Blue Gold’s intended outputs or impact, they are clearly related, e.g. see the link between early marriage and the risk of stunting.

### **3.4 Anti-harassment policy**

As already foreseen during the previous mission, a draft anti-harassment policy for Blue Gold was developed, see Annex 2.

The following steps are still required:

- Finalize the process of identifying contact persons for reporting a case of harassment (a male and a female Blue Gold staff at Dhaka and district levels, hence 6 persons in total). They need to be consulted and briefed.
- In consultation with the team leader, finalize the anti-harassment policy and ensure translation into Bangla.
- Disseminate the policy among all Blue Gold staff members at all levels, and ensure that this policy becomes part of the induction process of new staff members. In particular, this policy should be disseminated during a specific gender session for Blue Gold staff (still to be planned).
- Whenever relevant, this policy should also be shared with third parties such as the Blue Gold partner companies and other service providers.

### 3.5 GESAP

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 became a stop and the committees became inactive. During the previous visit in November 2013 the Chief Planning of BWDB had been met to discuss the re-activation of implementing the action plan. It had been proposed to review the status of the action plan and recast the plan into a "rapid acceleration plan", better feasible for implementation within a period of a few years.

During the visit in March 2014 this has been taken up again by meeting the new Chief Planning of BWDB, Mr. C.S. Sutradhar, who suggested coordinating this through Blue Gold's PCD, who was very helpful in facilitating a first meeting on this GESAP, which was held on March 20 in Motijheel. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status quo of the implementation of the Action Plan of the GESAP and develop first ideas about priorities. Annex 3 provides the list of participants and an overview of the proposed actions of GESAP, including an indication of its importance and status, as discussed at the meeting.

Main outcomes of the meeting:

- The foreseen steps of going forward with the Gender Policy and Action Plan (see page 47 of GESAP) have hardly been implemented (this concerns translation into Bangla, dissemination, national rollout and review);
- Several of the proposed actions have been implemented or otherwise achieved to a certain extent, such as collection of gender-disaggregated data, recruitment of more female staff (quota of 10% largely achieved, but women engineers are less available); gender issues included in some training and attention to gender ratio in giving out LCS contracts.
- Field postings for women: most women staff are not willing to be posted outside Dhaka, though BWDB also lacks women or family friendly policies in this regards; a patriarchal attitude still exists.
- Next step: Blue Gold will contact Ms. Azizun Nessa, who was involved in the BWDB committees on GESAP in 2007, but who could not participate in the meeting of March 20 (was abroad). She is a key person for further reactivating the implementation of GESAP.

### 3.6 Research proposals AAS / WorldFish

#### **Concept Note for Small Pond Research**

During earlier visits staff was met of the Research Programme on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) of CGIAR, implemented by World Fish. During these meetings gender issues within aquatic system had been discussed, including research options that would (also) benefit women farmers. In particular the subject of small ponds had been discussed, also with Blue Gold's component 3 staff, as an option to be funded from Blue Gold's Production Support Fund.

By early March 2014 WorldFish had developed the first draft of a concept note titled "*Participatory Research on a Habitat Restoration Approach to Small Pond Fish Productivity, Diversity and Resilience*". This research concerns "ecosystem management" of ponds, eliminating the need for removal of "weed" fish and sterilizing the pond as well as the need for substantial financial resources and costly inputs. Instead natural habitats will be promoted as well as diversified fish species (e.g. by innovative methods to get entrance of fish in the ponds from outside sources), low use of external inputs and continual harvesting

of fish for daily consumption and for sales. WorldFish will work with women managed ponds of 200-500 square meters, which will also contribute to improved nutrition, income, and women's empowerment. During the mission comments were provided by Component 3 staff (especially by Blue Gold's fisheries expert) and the gender expert, and a final draft was submitted to Blue Gold's Team Leader for submission to EKN for final approval.

### **Potential gender analysis by AAS/World Fish**

AAS/WorldFish has developed a Gender Transformative Approach in recent years, which is currently being applied in WorldFish (research) programmes. In this context the WorldFish international gender expert, Ms. Paula Kantor, submitted a research concept for applied gender analysis, see below box.

#### **First proposal of AAS / WorldFish on Applied Gender Analysis to address social and technical constraints to water management and agricultural productivity:**

"Gender and wider social inequalities are barriers to poor and marginalized women's and men's abilities to participate in and benefit from development interventions. A lack of understanding of the underlying causes and the consequences of these inequalities can mean development actions are less effective and equitable than they could be. The CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) proposes to conduct a gender analysis in Southern Bangladesh, including the polders in which Blue Gold is operating, and to use the results to collaborate with Blue Gold and others working in the region to design or improve practical interventions that address both social and technical constraints to achieving effective and equitable water management and agricultural development outcomes. As part of this collaboration, AAS also proposes to foster co-learning through jointly assessing how these interventions work and what outcomes are achieved for whom. The resulting evidence and learning will be used to inform gender integration efforts in future water management and agricultural development programming in order to enhance the inclusiveness and sustainability of their outcomes".

Considering the emphasis on gender within Blue Gold and the absence of a proper gender analysis, this research would well fit into the research portfolio funded by the Water Management and/or Production Fund of Blue Gold. After consulting with Blue Gold's team leader, it was agreed that AAS/WF go ahead developing a proper Concept Note, including a budget. A first draft is expected to be available by the end of April for comments. It has been communicated with AAS/WF that also final approval of the Netherlands Embassy will be required.

### **3.7 Meeting with SaFaL**

A meeting was held with two staff members of the SaFaL project: Dr. Nazmun Naher, Horticulture Officer and Gender Focal Point, and Ms. Fatema Begum, Communication Officer. The purpose of the meeting was to better get to know each other's projects, focusing on gender issues. During the meeting the Blue Gold program was explained, especially sharing Blue Gold's Gender Approach. The SaFaL visitors provided more insight into their project and the current status. The below box summarizes the information received on the SaFaL project, including some gender related data.

#### **The SaFaL project (Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages):**

- SaFaL addresses three value chains: aquaculture (Bagda, golda, tilapia, pangas); dairy production; and horticulture (vegetables and/or fruits) in 5 districts including Satkhira and Khulna. Current geographic overlap with Blue Gold: Polders 22 and 29.
- SaFaL works through 2 NGOs, who formed 1000 producers groups with 56,000 members in total (50- 60 per group); on average 35% of the members are female.
- In polders with WMGs producer groups were formed through these WMGs and in total 11,400 members of producers groups are also WMG member.
- The proportion of female group members varies per VC: in aquaculture groups: 7.5%; horticulture: 43% and dairy: 73%. In Satkhira the proportion of female group members is lower than average due to communities being more conservative.



- Producers group have executive committees of 7 members each, of whom at least 3 are required to be female, with at least one woman in a leading position.
- For every 2 producers' groups, one Lead Farmer is being selected (→ 500 in total). This process was still ongoing at the time of the meeting → no data yet available about the proportion of males and females among the Lead Farmers.
- SaFaL will support the Lead Farmers by training, initial financial support and provision of a toolkit (e.g. a pesticide sprayer or a water tester). Lead Farmers will disseminate their knowledge in the two groups and provide services, for which they eventually will be paid by the other group members.
- SaFaL will also support 1300 (landless) entrepreneurs, targeting at least 300 women among them. For example: home-based post-harvest processing, selling inputs as seeds and/or vegetable collectors.
- The nutrition component will target women and children and is to be implemented by community nutrition volunteers, who will organise so-called courtyard meetings, also addressing gender and social rights issues.

SaFaL has not (yet) a gender approach elaborated. Soon an Australian volunteer will join SaFaL as Gender Inclusion Officer in charge of gender issues for a period of one year. For example, she is expected to conduct an analysis of existing market systems and how these are working out for women.

Conclusions:

- Coordination is especially important in polders where both Blue Gold and SaFaL work;
- Information, lessons learned and successful approaches need to be shared, e.g. the gender-based market analysis which will be conducted by the new Gender Inclusion Officer of SaFaL;
- Blue Gold's national gender expert will maintain contact with SaFaL e.g. by visiting their Khulna office. A meeting with the new Gender Inclusion Officer will also be useful.

### **3.8 Visit to the Gulshan Office of GWAPB**

In January 2014 the former GWAPB team leader, together with other team members, had paid a first visit to Blue Gold. Due to staff changes, both in GWAPB and Blue Gold, and the presence of GWA's international director and Blue Gold's international gender expert in Dhaka, a new meeting was very appropriate. Present of GWAPB were Ms. Joke Muylwijk, Ms. Rokeya Khatun, Ms. Runia Mowli and Ms. Safania Naznin. From Blue Gold side a briefing was given on the Blue Gold program, its status and its gender approach, a copy of which was also shared.

The GWAPB team presented the status of their project, which was signed mid-2013. For various reasons the inception phase had been extended and work on it was in progress. The purpose of GWAPB is to support Dutch financed projects in the water and related sectors (18 in total) to improve effective gender mainstreaming. In consultation with EKN, the number of Dutch projects that might be effectively supported by GWA was reduced, e.g. by dropping the FAO and UNICEF projects. EKN had also suggested to drop the Blue Gold Program for GWA support or give it a low priority due to gender already being well integrated in Blue Gold.

Conclusions:

- It was agreed that Blue Gold indeed should not have a high priority for GWA support; however, coordination and cooperation whenever relevant should be pursued.
- At the time of the meeting GWA was developing a questionnaire to identify the needs of Dutch projects, and will also send one to Blue Gold to be completed<sup>3</sup>.
- GWA will remain on the list for the gender network on water management and food security (see also next section).

<sup>3</sup> By the time of completing this report, the questionnaire has been received and completed.

### **3.9 Gender Network**

Networking with other gender experts working in similar projects or programs was envisaged in the Inception Report as part of the Blue Gold Gender Approach. A first network meeting on gender in water management and food security was held in November 2013. A next meeting was foreseen to be held in early 2014 organised by IFMC (Integrated Farm Management Component, Danida funded). At the start of this mission a meeting was held with Ms. Rilla Norslund, TA of IFMC, to explore the planning of a new meeting before the departure of the international expert. However, due to delays in the start-up of IFMC, this was not yet possible; IFMC will organise such a meeting at a time when most IFMC staff has been recruited, including their gender expert.

### **3.10 Discussions with other Blue Gold components**

Throughout the mission discussions were held with Blue Gold colleagues of other components on gender issues within their components and/or work area. During these discussions, including during the retreat, emphasis was put on the responsibility of all component staff for integrating gender issues in their own components, though with support of the gender expert(s) where needed and possible.

Below the main issues are summarized which have been discussed with Blue Gold components:

#### **Component 1:**

- Gender issues in the needs assessment and the analysis of the household surveys are already in place; draft report on household survey will be reviewed by gender expert(s) for comments.
- Main need for input of the national gender expert:
  - Contribute to gender training (e.g. in the orientation session for new COs (April 2014) and prepare gender training for WMGs)
  - Participate in the sensitization in new polders (currently polder 26) on the importance of women participating in WMGs, e.g. by conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The national gender expert should especially show COs how to do FGDs to both female and male groups.
  - Participate in needs assessments in new polders, with a special eye to gender needs.
- Support to the development of the Polder Development Plan, in particular to the development of Gender Action Plans (GAPs).
- Attention to gender issues in the analysis of surveys, such as the household survey.

#### **Component 2:**

- Component 2 technical staff at Dhaka level has achieved a good gender balance due to recently recruiting a female Reimbursement Engineer and a female Reimbursement Assistant, resulting in 3 of the 5 Component 2 staff members being female. The component leader is also searching for women engineer candidates for district level positions whenever vacancies occur. However, finding female engineers for field positions is more difficult because women engineers usually do not apply for such postings. A link has been established with Ms. Terwisscha of WUR who offered to disseminate any vacancies within DUET.
- Component 2 hopes to achieve to work with also female contractors.

#### **Component 3:**

- The comments on the Concept Note of AAS/WorldFish were coordinated with component 3 staff (see above).
- 90% of the 1100 participants in the first cycle of (44) Farmer Field Schools are women. This high proportion of women is due to the focus of this first cycle of FFS: poultry and homestead gardening, often seen as women's responsibility. In the second cycle, focusing on fish and beef fattening, a greater male participation is expected.
- Nutrition is being addressed in the current FFS -targeting men and women- but still using the module of previous Danida projects (AEC and RFLDC) which are somewhat outdated. Updating is ongoing and the intention to collaborate with the SPRING project on nutrition (implemented by HKI, USAID funded; with Reja Ali as Deputy Country Director) was repeated.
- A Concept Note on the research on pig raising is foreseen, with the Nice Foundation in Daulatpur, benefiting especially Hindu (and Christian) small male and female farmers.

**Component 4:**

- The position and job description of the gender and IGA expert in Patuakhali was discussed.
- Gender is rightly included in the criteria for Value Chain selection. A higher score is given to those value chains where women have the potential to generate own income and/or contribute to decision making, as compared to value chains where women are only involved as unpaid family labour.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- A meeting of the gender experts with the new national M&E expert and the international expert was held to (1) get more insight into M&E planned for Blue Gold and (2) to discuss the importance and need for gender within M&E.
- Comments have been provided on the draft baseline questionnaire, which already included questions reflecting the outcome related gender indicators of Blue Gold.

**Training:**

- Cooperation regarding the preparation of the Blue Gold Retreat in Razendrapur, including an exercise on Blue Gold's organogram and internal coordination (especially of importance for all Blue Gold staff responsible for cross-cutting issues as gender and DRR).
- The Blue Gold national gender expert will provide input on gender in training programmes for COs and enumerators; the Blue Gold training experts will facilitate any gender training.

**Institutional Development:**

- The Blue Gold institutional advisor participated in the meeting with BWDB staff on their Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan. He will continue to support follow-up.
- A discussion was held with the institutional advisor on the role of the Union Parishads in the implementation of Blue Gold, including in contributing to the sustainability of WMGs. The discussion focused on gender issues, for which UPs also have responsibilities. Examples are their responsibility in preventing early marriage and addressing women development.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:**

- The training manual for DRR already includes gender issues, e. g. considering the increased vulnerability of women in times of disasters. The need to see women also as agents of change for disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation –and not only as victims- was reiterated.

**Environment:**

- During the time of the visit there was a vacancy for Blue Gold's environmental expert. But it was agreed with the team leader to keep the issue of improved cooking stoves on the agenda.

**Blue Gold Operations and staffing:**

- In all contracts issued by Blue Gold to subcontract services a clause will be added regarding the engagement of a gender balanced team to implement that contract. In case of the outsourcing of the baseline study this issue came up. Now 5 of the 20 enumerators are female (25%).
- There is good gender balance among Blue Gold's Community Organisers and FFS Facilitators (about 50:50). Of the newly recruited COs (22 in total) 10 are female.
- Within Blue Gold's technical staff (Dhaka and districts) the proportion female staff increased from 8.7% in July 2013 (at the time of the Inception Report) to 16.2% (per 18 October 2013). Per 13 March 30.4 % of the Dhaka technical staff were female and 11.5% of the district level technical staff. The weighted average is 20.4%, which is an increase since last October.

**Selected specific issues for follow-up by the national gender expert:**

- Participate in training of new COs and enumerators to provide gender training
- Cooperate with component 1 staff, including COs, especially on needs assessment and to motivate women's participation in the establishment of new WMGs.

- Plan for gender training to WMGs (and some UP members), including preparing / updating training materials (with training experts and C1 staff)
- Plan for gender training for (1) district level staff of Blue Gold and partner organisations as BWDB and DAE.
- Follow-up on anti-harassment policy
- Follow-up on the reactivation of the Gender Action Plan of BWDB, in coordination with the institutional advisor and relevant BWDB staff.
- Development of the Gender Action or Development Plan for polders and WMGs as part of overall Polder Development Plans (to start with polder 22).
- Cooperate with the organisation of meetings of the gender network on water management and food security (the next one will be organised by IFMC, but any Blue Gold support may be useful, if needed).
- Maintain contact with other projects similar to Blue Gold on gender issues, such as SaFaL (e.g. after their new gender advisor arrived), GWA and/or CDSP.
- Comment on any Blue Gold reports concerning the inclusion of gender issues and/or the gender sensitive analysis of data.
- Overall: it is expected that the national expert supports all components and other cross-cutting topics, spending part of her time in the districts and in Dhaka.

The international gender expert will follow-up any issues when needed and at an ad hoc basis 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 the third or fourth quarter of 2014.

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Itinerary

Annex 2: Draft anti-harassment policy

Annex 3: Participants of the meeting on GESAP of March 20 2014 and Status of the Gender Action Plan of BWDB

# Appendix 3 Environmental Mission Report

By Kim Janssen  
29 October to 13 December 2013

## Mission Objectives & Activities

### Mission objectives

From 29 October to 13 December 2013, a variety of activities were undertaken to assist Blue Gold in the set-up of a comprehensive Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system, environmental activities related to the project, as well as Project Management.

As for M&E, the main objectives were to support the international M&E expert with reviewing and updating the M&E introductory manual, to develop the baseline survey questionnaire, discuss the organisation of the baseline survey, and to recruit the national M&E team. The results of this input are integrated in the M&E mission report "Blue Gold Report No. 04: Introduction to the M&E Manual" dated 17 December 2013.

For Environment, the main objective of the mission was to support with activities leading up to obtaining environmental clearance from the Department of Environment, which is needed in order to start-up implementation works in de Blue Gold polders.

### Mission activities and timeframe

The table below describes the activities undertaken during November-December 2013:

Activity	Timeframe
<b>Program Management</b>	
Establish template for quarterly progress reporting & support with progress report no. 1	2 days (November 2013)
<b>M&amp;E Support</b>	
Review & update of M&E manual	Throughout November
Establish baseline survey questionnaire and organisational matters for its implementation	Mid November – Mid December
Recruitment of national M&E team and start-up support to National M&E Coordinator	December
<b>TA - Environment</b>	
Organising Environmental Impact Assessment arrangements for gaining Environmental Clearance	November – Mid December
Recruitment of national Environmental Expert	December and ongoing
Initiate activities to promote Environment as a cross cutting issue throughout Blue Gold	Throughout November and December

Regarding project management activities, support was given to the setup of a quarterly progress reporting template, and the development of the first quarterly progress report (March-September version). Based on information available from our project financial administration, a chapter was drafted for the progress report, which gives a concise overview on the main aspects of the project's financial status to date. For the

TA-Environment activities during the mission, the following chapter describes the activities and their outputs in detail.

## **TA - Environment**

### **Environmental Clearance**

#### The need for an Environmental Clearance

Any planned development activity with potential environmental impacts in Bangladesh, is by law obliged to undergo environmental scrutiny in the form of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), either preceded by Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) or not. The Bangladesh Department of Environment (DoE), under the Ministry of Forest and Environment, is responsible for monitoring the environmental compliance.

Various environmental Policies, Acts, Rules, and Guidelines have been declared by the Government of Bangladesh, amongst which the Environmental Conservation Acts (ECA, 1995) and the Environmental Conservation Rules (ECR, 1997) and Amendments. According to the latter, Flood Control and Drainage projects, such as Blue Gold, are categorized as 'Red'. For Blue Gold, this means that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed in order to obtain Environmental Clearance to allow for project activities to take place.

#### Activities Undertaken November-December 2013

During November/December, several discussions with project staff took place in order to discuss:

- The urgency to obtain Environmental Clearance (keeping in mind that Component 2 construction activities are to start early next year)
- The several available options for obtaining Environmental Clearance (either go through procedures and EIA preparations and application for Environmental Clearance ourselves, or outsource the activity)

It became clear, that the fastest option to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) would by far be to engage CEGIS in preparing the EIA and arranging for the EC with the Department of Environment. Therefore, CEGIS was invited to prepare a proposal for EIA preparation and EC support, which they provided to the Blue Gold team. Consequently, we organised two meetings with CEGIS representatives; the first meeting took place as to discuss the scope of the EIA (i.e. whether there would be one EIA for the overall project or a range of phased EIAs for selected polders), and whether an IEE should be performed as well. It was agreed that the EIA will be developed in phases for polders as selected at certain points in time.

The second meeting served to discuss the content of the EIA; an analysis was made of the proposed activities by CEGIS, previous EIAs they had prepared for similar projects, and the relevancy of proposed activities compared to Blue Gold planned interventions. Based on the meeting, the ToR for EIA and EC services was updated, which was consequently presented to CEGIS.

#### Next Phase activities

Based on the revised ToR, a contract needs to be negotiated with CEGIS, and the EIA/EC procedures for the first selection of polders will be started up at their earliest in 2014. Alongside the contract, discussions with CEGIS will need to take place to obtain a temporary Environmental Clearance which would allow us to start works in the polders as to minimize losing time. CEGIS has indicated during our previous meetings, that such temporary EC should be possible to obtain.

For the implementation of the EIA, support to CEGIS will be given as far needed (i.e. with providing relevant information, and potentially organising joint fieldtrip missions).

Furthermore, the contract with CEGIS will need to be updated once more polders are definitely selected under Blue Gold, as they consequently need to go through the same processes for obtaining Environmental Clearance.

## **Sustainable Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs)**

### Activities Undertaken

In November, the SEMPs as performed under IPSWAM were discussed with the national Environmental Expert, and the need for updating those SEMPs, as well as the SEMP framework – (integration of component 3 activities), was also discussed. However, during the first week of the mission in Bangladesh, the national Environmental Expert resigned from his position, and instead of further planning SEMP integration into project activities, a focus was given to drafting a ToR for the Environmental Expert position, and the search for a new candidate.

### Next Phase activities

We have received a number of CVs for the Environmental Expert position, and plan to recruit the new expert in early 2014.

After contracting the new Environmental Expert, we will organize an introduction into Blue Gold, including a number of field trips, so that the expert gains an in-depth insight into the project and its relevant environment-related issues and activities.

Core activities for the Environmental Expert will include:

- Collaborate with CEGIS for the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment and to apply for Environmental Clearance;
- Sustainable Environmental Management Plans (SEMP): review and update the framework for SEMP, and develop/ organize a work plan for implementation of activities related to SEMP. The workplan has to synergize with Component activities that relate to the establishment of the Polder Development Plans (PDP). It is understood that first, new committees will be established in the polder structures (WMOs – which will happen based on, and after, the functionality assessment which is being produced by Component 1)

## **Environment – cross cutting issue**

### Cross cutting?

Environment plays a pivotal role throughout the Blue Gold program, first of all because the program targets a number of activities which have (potential) effects on the environment. For instance, if farmers in a certain village are specifically trained (through the Component 3 farmer field schools) on intensification of cropping on their available lands, this will likely lead to an increase in use of pesticides and fertilizers, which consequently will have negative effects on the quality of the soil (especially over the longer term – a number of case studies and academic articles are available on these specific environmental effects<sup>4</sup>). Second of all, 'environment' as a cross cutting issue should be seen as a window of opportunity to integrate practices and innovation into Blue Gold that enhance the environmental sustainability of specific project interventions. Ensuring the integration of location-specific environmentally sound interventions will ideally minimize or avoid negative environmental effects that would otherwise have taken place under 'normal' project circumstances.

To ensure that, throughout the program, 'environment' is similarly understood amongst all project team members (including team members from implementing partners), I suggest to define 'environment' as follows:

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<sup>4</sup> For example: P.A Matson, W.J Parton, A.G Power, M.J Swift, 1997. Agricultural Intensification and Ecosystem Properties. Science 277, 504 (1997)

*“the landscape which houses all living organisms and abiotic natural resources, including natural and man-made resources, that are all interacting and influencing each other in a complex web of ecosystem functioning” [own definition]*

#### Activities Undertaken

During the November-December mission, a number of consultations with project team members were conducted (i.e. the national environmental expert, several colleagues within the Components 2 and 3 teams) as well as with external specialists (i.e. from institutes such as WorldFish). During those consultations, environmental pressures were discussed, as well as the need and potential for a number of environment-related activities under Blue Gold.

The following presents a non-exhaustive listing of some of the pressing environmental issues in the Blue Gold project areas, which were discussed during mentioned consultations:

1. Experiences from other interventions in the agricultural sector indicate that there is a serious **challenge in targeting increased crop intensification along with ensuring environmental sustainability on the longer term**. Various (academic) studies<sup>5</sup> have concluded that there are indicators that show how agricultural intensification, if not carefully managed, on the longer term potentially leads to increased erosion, lower soil fertility (due to increased use in chemical fertilizers), and reduced biodiversity, as well as pollution of groundwater (due to increased use in chemical pesticides). It is known that **in our Blue Gold project areas, water pollution is already a major issue**, which is caused by improper operation and maintenance of existing infrastructures, improper disposal from sanitary latrines and usage of chemical pesticides. Increased cropping in the Blue Gold areas may potentially lead to environmental sustainability challenges over the longer term, if not well managed.
2. **Scarcity of safe drinking water** is currently a problem in many of our targeted polder areas, especially in Sathkira and Khulna. There are a variety of causes for drinking water scarcity, including i.e. arsenic contamination, high salinity levels (as mentioned in previous point), and competitive usage of fresh water (irrigation, drinking water).
3. The **salinity level of soils**, which is an increasing problem, is a limiting factor for crops cultivation, and hence the maintenance of livelihoods of the polder population.
4. There appears to be a competition in **use of cow dung**; currently, it is mainly used as fuel for household stoves, whereas it has major potential for use as organic fertilizer (in specific for homestead gardening, and in case sufficient quantity is available, also for field cropping);
5. **Water hyacinth** is a problem especially in Pathuakali, where the species is an infestation in many water bodies and hard to control; it negatively affects water bodies in a way that it causes a reduction in light and oxygen in the water, it changes water chemistry, it affects flora and fauna and causes significant increase in water losses due to evapotranspiration;

In relation to the abovementioned list, a number of potential innovation pilots, studies and surveys were initially discussed during the consultations. These ideas could possibly fit under the Water Management Fund, Productive Sector Fund or project budgets for studies and surveys:

- Under component 3, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is already taken up as a topic that will be tackled in (a variety of) Farmer Field School (FFS) courses. Parallel to this (and other) course(s), it may be interesting to conduct a number of studies and pilots on topics such as the **effect of crop combinations (in multiple cropping systems) on the rate of insect infestations**, or studies on the **potential use of natural insecticides**. A potential field for innovation is what is so-called **“soilless agriculture”**; these include techniques which allow for crops cultivation without needing fertile soil as an input. Options for a pilot on the aquaponics technique (which refers to soilless

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<sup>5</sup> An example of such article is “M. Alauddin & J. Quiggin, 2008. Agricultural intensification, irrigation and the environment in South Asia: Issues and policy options. Elsevier Ecological Economics, 65 (2008) 111-124”, which amongst others states that “The increased intensity of cropping, including multiple cropping, has led to declining soil fertility [in Bangladesh]”



agriculture) were initially discussed amongst team members (see also next chapter on activities for a follow up mission). Furthermore, one of the discussions with a representative from WorldFish led to an idea for a **pilot (research) trial on so-called ‘challenged ponds’**, which focuses on targeting food security on household level by creating environmentally sustainable, small-scale, and diversified food production systems. WorldFish has now been requested to write up a concept paper for a research trial on this topic under Blue Gold.

- Component 2 has already started discussions on potentially integrating options for innovation that ideally lead to tackling the water scarcity challenge; one of those options is the **aquifer recharge technology developed by Acacia Water, with whom the Team Leader had various discussions**. Furthermore, there may be options to study and improve rainwater harvesting techniques, and water conservation techniques, which need to be further investigated.
- There have been numerous studies on the development and introduction of saline-tolerant agricultural crops species; I suggest to, in collaboration with the Component 3 team members, **produce an inventory of studies to date regarding salt-tolerant species**, and from there select a list of relevant species which have specific potential in our project areas. We may **request institutes such as IRRI, or Wageningen UR, to produce proposals for conducting further studies** (under the Productive Sectors Fund)
- Our international Gender Expert **Kitty Bentvelsen identified an ongoing large-scale GIZ funded initiative in Bangladesh to distribute improved stoves to households** (see annex 3 for more information). These improved stoves are said to be much more fuel efficient, hence this could possibly mean that more organic matter would remain available for use in agricultural activities. It may be worthwhile to contact GIZ and establish a meeting as to find out exactly how fuel efficient the stoves are and whether they have already researched the implications of these stoves on the use of organic matter (including cow dung).
- It may be advisable to make an overview of the severity and scale of the water hyacinth infestations in the project areas (specifically Pathuakali), as it depends on these factors which kind of techniques are suitable for removal and/or species management. When the infestation is severe and large scale, manual removal techniques may be too inefficient, too costly, and too labour intensive (even though this, from an environmental point of view, may be the preferred option). Depending on the outcome of the overview exercise, it may be decided to initiate studies on environmentally-friendly removal techniques.

#### Next Phase activities

Next phase activities should focus on establishing ‘environment’ even more as a cross-cutting theme throughout all Blue Gold activities. The activities as described in the previous paragraph are only scratching the surface in the potential to pro-actively take up activities in Blue Gold that target sustainable environmental management practices.

Together with the (new) national Environmental Specialist, a workplan for ‘Environment’ will be drafted, which includes activities that follow up on the activities done to date.

### **Next mission – proposed activities**

#### TA – Environment

For the next mission, first and foremost, it is important to align with the new national Environmental Specialist, and together make an activities and action plan for ‘environment’ under Blue Gold.

Per subject area, the following suggested activities include:

**Environmental Clearance:**

Together with the national Environmental Specialist, collaboration with CEGIS will be followed up for the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment and to apply for Environmental Clearance, and possibly make a joined field trip with CEGIS experts to Blue Gold polders.

**Sustainable Environmental Management Plans (SEMP):**

With the national Environmental Specialist, and in consultation with a number of experienced team members (in specific from Component 1), we will review and update the framework for SEMP, and develop/ organize a work plan for implementation of activities related to SEMP. The workplan has to synergize with Component activities that relate to the establishment of the Polder Development Plans (PDP), hence we will update the workplan as such that it fits the PDP workplan(s).

**Environment as cross cutting issue:**

It is proposed to, in close collaboration with the national Environment Expert, continue to identify potential topics and ideas for projects that target sustainable environmental development, and would potentially fit the Water Fund or Productive Sectors Fund in the form of contracted studies and/or pilots. Once a topic or idea is identified, the next step is to establish contacts with relevant institutes and/or companies to encourage application for funding.

Some of the topics/ideas that were identified in November/ December are suggested for follow up during the next mission. These are as follows:

- Challenged Ponds: as explained in the previous chapter, this is an idea for an upscaled research trial by WorldFish. WorldFish has now been requested to write up a concept paper, as to apply for funding under the Blue Gold 'Productive Sector' or 'Water' funds. During the next mission, this will be taken up further, and discussions will take place with the WorldFish representatives; possibly a meeting may be organised with the Team Leader and/or Embassy to discuss further processes for the application of funds.
- Aquaponics: it is suggested to, in collaboration with Blue Gold team members (in specific Mofazzal Ahmed and Hein Bijlmakers), start-up activities concerning the conduction of a (feasibility) study for a small-scale pilot on aquaponics; this basically concerns "soilless agriculture" systems that provide chemical-free small scale agricultural produce and fish, without the need for much external input (such as fertilizers). A team led by Professor Dr. M.A. Salam at the Department of Aquaculture of Bangladesh Agricultural University is already working on prototypes for low-cost aquaponics systems in Bangladesh, and we may potentially encourage their collaboration in conducting this study.

Time Schedule – next mission

As is understood from the Blue Gold brainstorm meeting on the Polder Development Plan (PDP) processes (end November), the PDP visioning and drafting will be taking place from March/April onwards; it would be the right timing to be in Bangladesh around/during this time as to ensure proper integration of SEMP activities into the PDP.

Therefore, it is suggested to plan a next mission of a few weeks in March/April (i.e. 3 weeks), to conduct the activities as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: TOR for EIA Blue Gold Polders

Annex 2: TOR National Environmental Expert

Annex 3: GIZ Improved Stoves Project

Annex 4: TOR for International Environmental Specialist

# Appendix 4 Minutes of the Blue Gold Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting

27 January, 2014 in the office of Blue Gold Motijheel

## Present:

BWDB:	Mr. Masud Ahmed, Project Coordinating Director (PCD); Mr. Abul Kawsar, Executive Engineer (XEN), Md. Sajidur Rahman, XEN; Kamruzzaman Khan, SDE; Md. Shafiqul Islam, Sociologist
DAE:	Mrs. Tahmina Begum, Project Director (PD)
MoWR:	Md. Nazrul Islam, Assistant Chief
Planning Commission:	Md Faridul Islam, Sr. Assistant Chief
DoLS:	Dr. Alamgir Shafiul Alam, Deputy Director
DoF:	Dr. Md. Sainar Alam, Assistant Director
FAO:	Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye, Operations Officer; Dr. Mazharul Aziz, NPC
Blue Gold:	Dirk Smits, Team Leader; Alamgir Chowdhury, DTL

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> PMC meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 10:30 in the Office of Blue Gold at Motijheel. Mr Masud Ahmed, PCD of the Blue Gold Program chaired the meeting, welcomed the members of PMC and initiated discussion.

He explained the composition and role of PMC in the Blue Gold Program with reference to the DPP. The PCD distributed all available documents to the PMC members, which include the copies of approved Inception Report, DPP, Project brochure, Project brief, Polder map of the coastal area and some communication materials of Blue Gold.

2. Mr Dirk Smits, as Member Secretary of the PMC presented a short brief on the five components of Blue Gold. His presentation included three sections – Background, achievements and challenges & opportunities. Mr Dirk Smits highlighted the major achievements of Blue Gold so far, i.e. completion of Inception Report, draft training plan, deployment of the TA team, status of assessment of WMOs in 4 polders, completion of technical assessment of 5 polders, draft M&E manual, draft plan on stakeholder engagement, contact established with all major organisation and departments, etc.

In addition, he presented some of the challenges and opportunities of Blue Gold. Some of the most important issues are: late signing of Contribution Agreement resulted in the late placement of funds; existing list of polders in the DPP which is not enough because of overlap with other projects resulting in delay in polder selection. Unit cost per hectare for fine tuning is much higher than the budget, etc.

Mr Dirk Smits informed the PMC about the availability of funds in the project for Innovative Activities in Blue Gold, notably the Water Management Fund and the Agricultural Production Support Fund. These funds will be utilised during the whole project period. In the meantime some organisation/research institutes have submitted proposals for innovative activities. However, it is also open for our partner organisations and departments.

3. Mrs Tahmina Begum raised an issue that the opening of bank account for Blue Gold (DAE part) is getting late. They need some amendment in the Contribution Agreement and presently it is under process in ERD. Mr Masud Ahmed shared his experience in opening of Bank Account for BWDB part and offered his support to expedite the issue, if PD Blue Gold (DAE part) needs it.
4. Mr Faridul Islam inquired about the status of the Inception Report and Mr Alamgir Chowdhury replied that the Inception Report has been approved in November 2013 by EKN. PCD responded on the question that Blue Gold invited all the concerned organisations and departments to attend the presentation workshop on draft IR in June 2013. Representatives from most of the organisations attended in the presentation and commented on the draft report. All the comments were noted and they were incorporated accordingly.

Mr Alamgir informed the PMC that the unit cost per hectare for fine tuning is much higher than the budget and that has to be considered soon. PCD explained the reason for increased cost in detail and asked the support of the Planning Commission in reviewing the DPP. However, PCD further explained the importance of DPP revision for other reasons also.

Mr Faridul Islam explained the process and procedure of DPP revision and the time requirement for the purpose.

5. Mrs Rokhaya and Mr Aziz presented the activities of FAO-BD. The distribution of Agricultural Machineries and inputs to the WMGs under project GCP/BGD/050/NET in Patuakhali Sadar, Golacipa, Amtali, Dumuria, Batiaghata and Paikgacha upzilas is completed by FAO through DAE. Now FAO are planning to build 6 or 7 nos of Training Centres and drying yards in the Blue Gold project area. They asked PCD about the procedure of land availability from BWDB and time requirement. PCD explained the procedure of land transfer from BWDB and how to involve EKN in this process.
6. Dr Sainar Alam asked about the formation procedure and ToR of PMC. PCD explained the issue in detail referring to the DPP. Mr Alam asked further clarification on Food security, FFS for fish and livestock. PCD distributed the copies of the Inception Report and DPP to all participants for detailed information.
7. Mr Dirk Smits presented the status and position of the proposed MOU with DoC, DoLS and DoF and appreciated all the concerned departments for their keen interest in active cooperation with Blue Gold. He asked all concerned for their extended support in finalizing the documents as quickly as possible.

PCD Mr Masud concluded the meeting at around 12:00 hrs and thanked all the participants for their contributions.

## Appendix 5 Reports Overview

No.	Name	Date
IR	Final Inception Report	31 Mar, 2014
AR	Annual Plan 2014	06 Feb, 2014
Progress Reports		
QPR 1, 2013	Progress Report 2013, Q2+Q3 (April – September 2013)	10 Dec, 2013
QPR 2-3, 2013	Progress Report 2013, Q4 (October – December 2013)	26 Feb, 2014
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
Field trip Reports, 2014		
FTR 01	Comp 4 to Khulna	19-23 Jan, 2014
FTR 02	Comp 3 to Khulna	20-23 Jan, 2014
FTR 03	Comp 1 to Khulna	2-5 Feb, 2014
FTR 04	Comp 4 to Patuakhali	26-30 Jan, 2014
FTR 05	Comp 3 to Patuakhali	27-31 Jan, 2014
FTR 06	Comp 1+C5 to Patuakhali	1-5 Feb, 2014
FTR 07	Comp 5 to Patuakhali	10-13 Feb, 2014
FTR 08	Comp 1 + 5 to Patuakhali	08-13 Feb, 2014
FTR 09	C1 + C2 + BWDB to Khulna and Patuakhali (TOT for LCS)	08-18 Feb, 2014
FTR 10	C1 + C2 LCS Training in Patuakhali	08-18 Feb, 2014