

Blue Gold Program

Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

Quarterly Report: April – June 2016

Innovation Fund: Scope and Purpose

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund is a tool created to accelerate the development process in the program area of the Blue Gold program, by financing innovative approaches and new initiatives to socio-economic development. Innovations submitted to the Blue Gold Innovation Fund are expected to contribute to the outcome / results of the Blue Gold program; the expected impact expected to be mostly locally or regionally centred.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 4.3 million, and has been divided into two separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 2.4 million (focusing on water resources management) and the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.9 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security).

The Innovation Fund is setup to utilize the establishment of linkages between Blue Gold and Bangladesh and Netherlands-based businesses / organisations. Contributions to innovation within Blue Gold may emerge from a wide variety of knowledge centres and enterprises, as long as the proposed activities fit within the framework of either the Water Management Fund or the Productive Sector Fund. The Blue Gold Program will scan relevant institutions and enterprises for emerging opportunities in specific technical fields.

1. Introduction

This report provides quarterly updates showcasing the innovative approaches that have benefited, or will have a positive impact on, the lives of the people in the polders.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 4.3 million, and has been divided into two separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 2.4 million (focusing on water resources management) and the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.9 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security). Applications to the Innovation Fund follow two routes:

- (1) **Unsolicited proposals**, which have a budget ceiling of €50,000 and focus on smaller interventions such as feasibility studies or pilots.
- (2) **Solicited proposals**, which have a budget ceiling of €500,000 and are initiated by Blue Gold through an international call for proposals (tender), and have a separate TOR and guideline document that will be published together with the call for proposals;

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund in the quarter April to June 2016 including:

Unsolicited Proposals: Chapter 2 Activities in the quarter; Chapter 3 Projects under implementation; Chapter 4 Projects under review; Chapter 5 Projects under development; Chapter 6 Projects rejected; and Chapter 7 Projects completed.

Solicited Proposals: Chapter 8 Status of solicited proposals.

Overview of Innovation Fund proposals – as at 30th June 2016

Unsolicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the numbers of applications in process:

Proposals under implementation (Chapter 3)	Projects under review (Chapter 4)	Projects under development (Chapter 5)	Projects Rejected (Chapter 6)	Projects Completed (Chapter 7)
5	4	3	6	9

Solicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the progress with solicited proposals (tenders). Further details are provided in Chapter 8.

	Planned Activities	Completion schedule	Remarks
1.	Small scale dredging/excavation of in-polder drainage <i>khals</i>	end-September 2016	Awaiting input from EKN and BWDB before finalizing tender
2.	Low cost embankment protection in coastal rivers	end-September 2016	Awaiting outcome of planning review by BWDB. Expected to move forward with tender development in September

2. Activities in the Quarter

Innovation in food security: aquaponics in the polder

The coastal area of Bangladesh constitutes 20% of the country. The construction of coastal embankments in 1960's resulted the formation of total 139 polders in coastal areas. These polders are supporting approximately around 8 million people living on 1.2 million hectares of land. However, with almost half of these polders affected by salinity, a different resource is needed to be better utilize improved food and livelihoods security of coastal poor people.

Sediment deposition and salinity are big problems in the polder system; they hinder crop farming and the production of aquatic animals. However, in polder canals and ponds salinity is lower during the rainy season (July – Sep). As cropping during the monsoon requires no irrigation (there is sufficient rain) this creates opportunities for the production of both fish and vegetables.

As during monsoon the low lands are flooded, vegetables can only be grown on raised dykes, hanging pots or floating pots/beds. The reduction in vegetable production in homestead gardens and crop lands during monsoon reduces the vegetable consumption of poorer households who cannot buy much from the market. Additionally, in the dry season the scarcity of suitable irrigation water and the low soil fertility hinder the farming of crops and vegetables in the polders.

As a solution to these problems, Practical Action has introduced the concept of aquaponics on a floating cage system; an innovation that allows for simultaneously growing vegetable and fish in ponds and canals. The aquaponics system consists of a farming technique in which water from aquaculture is used to grow crops or vegetables, and in the process also purifies water for fish. Additionally, the waste produced by farmed fish supplies nutrients for plants growing hydroponically. Combining the growth of plants and fish in the water bodies of the polders could be a suitable solution for polder based farming systems.

The aquaponics pilot of Practical Action will pilot the business model of cage fish and vegetable production in polder canals and ponds, and apply tested principles and lessons of cage aquaculture and aquaponics system.

WorldFish continues with the EcoPonds project to empower women

The EcoPond project of WorldFish received support from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund for its innovative way in which it provides practical skill development for women, and simultaneously contributing to socio-economic development. The EcoPond project achieved considerable success in the production of fish from small homestead ponds by women. Based on the outputs and outcomes of the EcoPond project, WorldFish has proposed a follow-up project to the Blue Gold Innovation Fund, titled 'EcoPond II'.

As a follow-up, the EcoPond II project will study how to provide households with the right inputs (fish fry/fingerlings), and what strategies for stocking and conservation of fish can be used in order to allow continuous fish harvest over the years. The ultimate goal of EcoPond II is to involve women farmers in the commercial production of fish in comparatively large size ponds, scaling out to 3,000 women and by using 5,000 ponds. Additionally, WorldFish aims to include perennial ditches in open rice fields and *sorjan* system located close to homestead to include in the EcoPond II program.

State Minister Naryan Chandra Chanda, of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), learned about the success of the EcoPond research approach from Mr. MI Golder, Director of the DoF. In a discussion on the EcoPond project the State Minister expressed his interest in supporting the follow-up program EcoPond II through DoF, since it will benefit a large number of poor households, especially women in the southern region of Bangladesh.

FHRC introduces a new approach to community water management

Water management lies at the core of the Blue Gold Program - investments in improving coastal polder infrastructure and institutions focus on providing flood protection and water control works at the polder level, benefitting farmers and local communities.

One of the most difficult aspects of water management is addressing the complexities of planning and taking up local collective action to make the best use of water and land resources within the system. When there is a strong cooperation between local stakeholders on the sustainable management of land and water, constraints such as limited fresh water in the dry season and salinity issues can be addressed, and can have extended benefits such as improving local water management, promoting water efficient crops, restoring capture fisheries, improving operation and maintenance of water infrastructure and strengthen social capital. Additionally, these benefits can be directed to impact poor members of the community.

Eager to replicate successful approaches in community based integrated water management, Blue Gold is partnering with the Flood Hazard and Research Centre (FHRC) to pilot an innovative approach. This approach will stimulate collective action within Water Management Groups, aiming to improve the collective returns from water management.

3. Projects under implementation

Table 1 - Summary of projects under implementation

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date contract awarded	Amount paid	Amount Due	Deliverable
Consiglieri Consulting	Follow-up study on access to energy in the polders	Productive Sector Fund	€ 24,957	08 Feb 2016: Concept note received 11 Feb 2016: Comments from TA team shared 10 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received 11 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 19 May 2016: Contract signed 1 Jun 2016: Start of literature study	YES	DHAKA	€ 6,313	€ 18,644	ONGOING
FHRC	Collective action for improved water management	Water Management Fund	€ 49,731	27 Mar 2016: Concept note FHRC received 24 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared 24 May 2016: Concept note FHRC received 09 Jun 2016: Additional discussion on proposal 16 Jun 2016: Revised proposal received 27 Jun 2016: Draft contract shared 17 Jul 2016: Contract signed	YES	DHAKA	€ 14,999	€ 34,732	ONGOING
MetaMeta	Roads for Flood Protection and Water Management	Water Management Fund	€ 24,820	16 Aug 2015: Proposal received 21 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 26 Oct 2015: Revised proposal received 10 Feb 2016: Revision of proposal requested according to the new IF guidelines 01 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received 29 Mar 2016: Contract requested MMD Netherlands 18 May 2016: Contract signed by MetaMeta 8 Jun 2016: Start of field study preparations	YES	ARNHEM	€ -	€ 24,820	ONGOING

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date contract awarded	Amount paid	Amount Due	Deliverable
NICE Foundation	Kawra pig rearing Khulna	Productive Sector Fund	€ 49,967	<p>1 Aug 2015: Project started</p> <p>13 Aug 2015: Inception workshop</p> <p>11 Nov 2015: Quarterly report</p> <p>18 Nov 2015: Visit by FP DLS (Lutfor Rahman)</p> <p>22-27 Dec 2015: Knowledge-sharing visit to Vietnam</p> <p>31 Jan 2016: Half yearly report</p> <p>4 Apr 2016: Extension request received</p> <p>31 May 2016: No-cost extension approved till 1st July 2016</p>	YES	DHAKA	€ 45,776	€ 4,191	ONGOING
Practical Action	Aqua-geoponics	Productive Sector Fund	€ 44,317	<p>21 Mar 2016: Proposal received</p> <p>18 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared</p> <p>16 May 2016: Revised proposal received</p> <p>24 May 2016: Additional comments of TA team shared</p> <p>26 May 2016: Response on comments received</p> <p>01 Jun 2016: Contract drafted and shared</p> <p>08 Jun 2016: Contract signed</p>	YES	DHAKA	€ 12,702	€ 31,615	ONGOING
WorldFish	EcoPonds and empowering of women	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	<p>3 Apr 2016: Proposal received</p> <p>13 Apr 2016: Comments TA-team shared</p> <p>24 May 2016: Revised proposal received</p> <p>26 May 2016: Additional comments TA-team shared</p> <p>30 May 2016: Final proposal received</p> <p>06 Jun 2016: Contract drafted and shared</p> <p>12 Jun 2016: Contract signed</p>	YES	DHAKA	€ 14,999	€ 35,001	ONGOING

During the period April – June 2016, the Blue Gold Innovation Fund commenced with the implementation of five new projects:

- Follow-up study on commercial energy provision in polders, by Consiglieri Consulting
- Testing of a new approach on collective action in community water management, by FHRC (*described in chapter 1*)
- Research on the impact of roads on flood protection and water management, by MetaMeta
- Implementation of aqua-geoponics in the Blue Gold polders, by Practical Action (*described in chapter 1*)

- Follow-up on the women managed household fish-pond project, by WorldFish (*described in chapter 1*)

MetaMeta

Within the polders, rural transport structures such as roads, bridges and culverts strongly influence water flow and distribution. The different types of roads including village footpaths may in principle compartmentalize different sections of the polder, separating relatively higher and lower lands. Roads are however not necessarily constructed on this principle and culverts are not provided with gates that would make it possible to actively manage water tables between different sections of the polders. To the contrary, often, due to inconsiderate design, internal roads with inadequate cross-drainage obstruct the flow of water and exacerbate waterlogging problems (CPWF, 2014). The construction of new roads in the polder area has in several cases contributed to drainage congestion, as insufficient culverts have not been provided (BWDB, 2012). Failure to drain excess water and waterlogging hinders farming practices, causes serious damage to crops, and affects accessibility and livelihoods. At the same time, ill-designed roads that do not pay due consideration to drainage patterns are quickly damaged by erosion and subsidence. This may be turned around with polder internal roads turned into instruments for polder water management, by considering road alignment and cross drainage as a function of water level management, by providing gates on culverts and by considering additional cross-drainage structure where water logging occurs. This feasibility study aims to identify to what extent these roads actually form a problem for the drainage of the polder. Afterwards an approach for management of the culverts can be piloted based on the outcome of the study.

Consiglieri Consulting

This feasibility study is aimed at identifying potential renewable alternatives to power supply in the polder, keeping into account the limited timespan of any investment in such power supply, and the need for a business approach in such an investment. The study is expected to result in practical recommendations on improving the energy supply in the polders.

4. Projects under review

Table 2 - Summary of projects under review

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal title	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
16/06/2015	BARI	Hydroponics	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 20,333	23 Dec 2015: email to DG BARI requesting concurrence and signature on MoU. 17 Jan 2016: follow-up email to DG BARI 2 Mar 2016: visit to BARI headquarters	Waiting for BARI to confirm collaboration with Blue Gold
13/07/2015	Moringa Ltd	Moringa value chain development	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	29 Nov 2015: Meeting on concept development 29 Mar 2016: Proposal received 11 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 13 Jun 2016: Revised proposal received 28 Jun 2016: comments TA team shared	Waiting for revised proposal Moringa Ltd
23/12/2015	Witteveen & Bos	Scoping mission on small scale dredging	C2	Water Management Fund	€ -	27 Aug 2015: Proposal received 20 Sep 2015: Comments TA team shared 08 Feb 2016: Revised proposal received 09 Feb 2016: Proposal under review TA team 07 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared 19 May 2016: Revised proposal received 23 May 2016: Second revision received	Waiting for revised proposal W&B

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal title	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
10/02/2016	GIZ	Collaboration on improved cookstove dissemination	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 21,175	<p>10 Feb 2016: Proposal received</p> <p>25 Feb 2016: Comments TA team shared</p> <p>5 Mar 2016: Revised proposal received</p> <p>4 Apr 2016: Field visit to GIZ activities</p> <p>24 May 2016: workshop on GIZ activities at Khulna office</p> <p>28 May 2016: Revised proposal received</p> <p>2 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared</p>	Waiting for revised proposal GIZ
04/04/2016	Classical Handmade Products	Handicraft production Sathkira	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 21,490	<p>28 Mar 2016: discussion with CHP on proposal</p> <p>04 Apr 2016: Concept note received</p> <p>07 Apr 2016: Meeting with CHP on concept note</p> <p>31 May 2016: Concept note received</p> <p>27 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared</p>	Waiting for comments from TA-team on the CHP proposal

During the period April – June 2016 the Blue Gold Innovation Fund had no new project proposals under review. The above summary is identical to the summary in the report of Q1 2016. The development of the five project proposals in the above summary will continue; it is expected that the proposals of Moringa Ltd and Classical Handmade Products will be implemented in Q3 of 2016.

Both the GIZ proposal (cookstoves) and the Witteveen & Bos proposal (small scale dredging study) have been under review since Q4 of 2015; due to limited progress and a delay in response from the applicants it remains unclear if these proposals will reach implementation in Q3 of 2016.

There is a strong possibility that the BARI proposal will not be implemented at all, as the Blue Gold TA-team remains unable to reach an agreement with BARI on the implementation of the hydroponics proposal. The TA-team will search for other suitable implementing organizations to make sure the hydroponics technology can be piloted in the Blue Gold Program area.

5. Projects under Development

Table 3 - Summary of projects under development

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
08/02/2016	Grameen Intel	Piloting of agriculture software for farmers in BG	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	08 Feb 2016: Concept note received 23 Feb 2016: Comments from TA team shared 29 May 2016: Meeting with GI to discuss revised proposal 31 May 2016: Comments on proposal shared	Waiting for proposal
24/04/2016	Deltares	Waterapp	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 50,000	24 Apr 2016: Concept note received 27 Apr 2016: Concept note shared with PCD 03 Jun 16: Comments TA-team shared	Waiting for proposal
02/06/2016	Center for River, Harbor & Landslide Research	Climate based adaption against riverbank failure	C2	Water Management Fund	€ -	02 Jun 2016: Concept note received 06 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared	Waiting for proposal
01/08/2016	WorldFish	Tilapia fish feed improvement	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ -	12 Jun 2016: Concept note received 29 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared	Waiting for proposal

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details
10/06/2016	Next Billion	Mobile movies platform or Blue Gold	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	10 Jun 2016: Proposal received 28 Jun 2016: Comments TA-team shared	Waiting for comments from TA-team on the CHP proposal

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund currently has 5 different projects under development. These consist of concept notes and proposals sent to the TA-team of Blue Gold for review and feedback purposes. It is expected that the below mentioned proposals will be implemented during Q3 of 2016:

Grameen Intel

During Q4 of 2015, Grameen Intel submitted a concept note to test if their idea for the development of a farmer based software system, providing information on fertilizer, pesticide and market prices, would qualify for the Innovation Fund. The TA team received the concept note with interest, but noted that the market linkage strategy and the business model of the proposal should be further developed before Blue Gold would consider a pilot. The feedback of the TA-team has been shared with Grameen Intel, who are currently working on a revised proposal.

Deltares

The Netherlands based water research institute Deltares has approached the Blue Gold Innovation Fund with a proposal to develop a 'water app'; a decision tool that will allow for better communication and information sharing between the many different stakeholders within a polder. The water app will be tool for the planning of short and longer term interventions in the water system, and to develop scenario based strategies which can be used in daily water management practices. The tool that will be developed is a basic, robust and simple to use 'water-app' decision tool that routes water flows through a polder area. The 'water-app' can be used by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Water Management Organisations (WMOs), but also by local communities and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). The tool will be operable for all stakeholders, including those with a low literacy level. Visualisation of results on maps, icons and stoplights is a key feature.

Center for River, Harbor & Landslide Research

The CRHLSR, a component of the Department of Civil Engineering from the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), has submitted a concept note to assess the application of conventional river training (tetrapod breakwater, permeable spurs, groynes) for bank protection in tidal river environments. Blue Gold is interested to see the effectiveness of this solution for different type of erosions that is faced in the BGP area – especially bank erosion due to undercuts and deep thalweg channels near the outer river bends. The TA-team has asked the CRHLSR to revise the concept note and submit a full proposal for a research on a possible way to combine tetrapods and geobags at affordable costs for erosion problems.

WorldFish

Aquaculture (fish) feeds are important for increasing the productivity of smallholder fish farms. Although these fish feeds are developed to be directly eaten by the fish or shrimp, only 20-30% of feed becomes fish biomass. To counter this loss in fish-feed efficiency, WorldFish has submitted a concept note for an action based research project that seeks to develop efficient feeds and feeding systems for small-scale aquaculture that optimize the requirement of both the fish and the pond. WorldFish is currently developing a project proposal which will be submitted to the Innovation Fund in Q3.

Next Billion

The Next Billion concept uses ‘video ladies’ to broadcast messages to rural communities. Blue Gold is interested to use this concept to spread program related content throughout the existing Blue Gold polders, as well as inform communities living in the ‘new’ polders of the BGP about the activities of Blue Gold. Next Billion is currently developing a project proposal which will be submitted to the Innovation Fund in Q3.

6. Projects rejected

Table 4 - Summary of rejected projects

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details	Amount paid
08/03/2015	Acacia Water	Feasibility study Aquifer Recharge for Agriculture and Proposal for Pilot Project	C2	Productive Sector Fund	€ 5,000	5 Apr 2015: Draft feasibility proposal received 25 May 2015: Proposal rejected by EKN; business model remains unclear. 1 Sep 2015: Business case calculations received by BG 3 Nov 2015: Business case of proposal rejected by BG 14 Jan 2016: Payment €5,000 on concept note work approved	Both the EKN and the BG IF found that the commercial viability of using water for irrigation during the dry season is not sufficiently proven.	€ 5,000
24/03/2015	EcoStories	Improved Cooking Stoves	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 30,500	16 Jun 2015: Received draft proposal 31 Aug 2015: Received revised proposal 6 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 25 Feb 2016: No follow up	After 5 months of inactivity from the applicant the BG IF decided to reject the proposal.	€ -
22/06/2015	Winning Agro	TA on calf rearing and product placement	C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ -	15 Jun 2015: Meeting with Winning Agro and Sloten 22 Jun 2015: Concept note presentation by WA 02 Sep 2015: Comments TA team on concept note shared 08 Dec 2015: WA withdraws proposal	WinningAgro did not see a possibility to introduce their livestock feed product without the BG IF directly subsidizing the price of the product. Therefore the BG IF rejected the proposal.	€ -
22/07/2015	Twijnstra Gudde	Study wind and tidal energy	C2 + C5	Water Management Fund	€ 125,000	23 Jul 2015: Proposal received 14 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 14 Sep 2015: Proposal declined by BG	The TG proposal does not fit within the funding structure of the BG IF. The proposal focuses on research only and has a budget of €125,000.	€ -
17/09/2015	MetaMeta	Biological rodent control	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 84,500	15 Sep 2015: Proposal received 21 Sep 2015: Comments from TA team shared 26 Oct 2015: Revised proposal received 10 Feb 2016: Proposal declined by BG	As the Blue Gold polders are not experiencing any hindrance from rodents the BG IF declines the proposal for biological rodent control.	€ -

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Details	Amount paid
03/12/2015	Matrix Consultancy	Strengthening cattle supply chain	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	03 Dec 2015: Concept note received 14 Dec 2015: Comments from TA team shared 30 Juni 2016: No follow up on meeting, no response. Proposal is removed from application status.		€ -
01/03/2016	Patuakhali University	Carp & Tilapia hatchery	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	1 Mar 2016: Proposal received 29 Mar 2016: Comments TA team shared 26 Apr 2016: visit to Patuakhali University for on site discussion 30 Juni 2016: No follow up on meeting, no response. Proposal is removed from application status.		€ -
21/03/2016	Practical Action	Crab market study	C3 + C4	Productive Sector Fund	€ 24,963	21 Mar 2016: proposal received 18 Apr 2016: Comments TA team shared & proposal rejected	The TA-tam is of the opinion that there is currently no scope for commercial & sustainable crab production inside the BG program area.	€ -
07/05/2016	Dutch Water Partners	Feasibility study on commercial water filtration	C2	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	07 May 2016: proposal received 08 May 2016: Comments EKN shared & proposal rejected	EKN not convinced that proposal offers or promises anything very different from what other similar studies/projects (Sujol, MAR, etc.) have offered/tried out – and which did not, thus far, yielded any sustainable successes in terms of introducing sustainable models for commercial water vending (i.e., others than already exist locally....).	€ -

Matrix Consultancy

The Matrix Consultancy proposal on strengthening the online cattle supply chain was initially well received by the Blue Gold TA-team. Comments on the proposal were shared in December 2015, and Matrix Consultancy was invited to submit a revised proposal. However, by June end 2016 Blue Gold had not yet received a new application from Matrix Consultancy. On this basis it was decided to shift the proposal to the ‘rejected’ category.

Patuakhali University

After their concept note had been submitted to the Innovation Fund (IF), the TA-team visited Patuakhali University (PU) for an on-site discussion on the proposal. Having explained the structure of the IF, the process for application and having shared comments on the concept

note, the TA-team invited PU to submit a revised proposal to the IF. However, by June end 2016 Blue Gold had not yet received a new application from PU. On this basis it was decided to shift the proposal to the 'rejected' category.

Practical Action

Simultaneously with their proposal for a pilot on aqua-geonics, Practical Action submitted a proposal for a market study on crab production. Having reviewed the proposal, the TA-team came to the conclusion that there is currently no scope for commercial & sustainable crab production inside the BGP area. On this basis it was decided to shift the proposal to the 'rejected' category.

Dutch Water Partners

Together with Max Foundation, the Netherlands based producer of water filtration equipment Dutch Water Partners submitted a proposal for a feasibility study on commercial drink water provision in the BGP polders to the Innovation Fund. This proposal was reviewed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh (EKN), who concluded that the proposal offers or promises anything very different from what other similar studies/projects (Sujol, MAR, etc.) have offered/tried out – and which did not, thus far, yielded any sustainable successes in terms of introducing sustainable models for commercial water vending (i.e, others than already exist locally). On this basis it was decided to shift the proposal to the 'rejected' category.

7. Projects completed

Table 5 - Summary of completed projects (no change from Q1 Jan-Apr 2016)

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Component	Fund type	Budget	Status	Contract signed	Date Contract Awarded	Contract office
01/04/2014	WorldFish	Women-managed small household ponds (SHHP)	C3	Productive Sector Fund	€ 45,000	05 Apr 2014: Start of project 08 Mar 2015: No cost extension June 2015 18 Jun 2015: No cost extension Dec 2015 28 Dec 2015: Final report received	YES	05/04/2015	DHAKA
01/05/2014	Neelen en Schuurmans	Development and introduction of a web-based GIS information platform	C2	Water Management Fund	€ 48,000	01 May 2014: Start of project 22 Aug 2015: Training mission BG staff completed 03 Sep 2015: Final report received	YES	21/05/2014	ARNHEM / DHAKA
01/07/2014	IMARES	Pearl cultivation	C4	Water Management Fund	€ 10,000	01 Jul 2014: Start of desk study 01 Jan 2015: Final report received	YES	01/07/2014	ARNHEM
11/03/2015	DWA - YEP	YEP consultant via DWA Rijnland	C2	-	€ -	11 Feb 2015: Start of YEP recruitment procedure 09 Sep 2015: Contract signed with DWA 17 Sep 2015: Start date Ruud Leibbrand	YES	-	-
10/04/2015	GreyShack	Scoping study on energy use in BG area	C5	Productive Sector Fund	€ 7,316	25 Aug 2015: Start project 11 Dec 2015: Initial study report received 14 Jan 2016: Workshop and discussion on report conclusions 25 Feb 2016: Received the revised final report	YES	11/08/2015	DHAKA

8. Status of solicited proposals

Small-scale dredging/excavation of in-polder drainage *khals*

A draft proposal is to be submitted to EKN and BWDB for approval. It is expected that this tender will be launched at end-September 2016.

Tender on low-cost embankment protection in coastal rivers

Based on the outcomes of a study on river bank erosion management in Polder 29 (Chandgor, Khulna) by the institute of Water Modelling (IWM), it is proposed that the permeable groynes recommended in IWM's report will be piloted to assess their suitability as a low cost form of protection of coastal river embankments. A presentation to BWDB on the outcome of the IWM study was held on 23rd June, as a result of which the chair of the meeting appointed a BWDB committee to look at the technical design of the groynes and the modalities for implementation, with PCD as Member Secretary, Blue Gold Program TA team providing assistance, and IWM offering technical advice.

After completing designs and cost estimations, tender documents will be prepared for a civil engineering contract for the construction of the groynes. To comply with requirements of the Innovation Fund, a number of Dutch-Bangladesh contractors will be shortlisted for the civil works. The modality for implementation is aimed to include: (a) Dutch specialist skills - alongside IWM - in reviewing design criteria, monitoring during construction, and monitoring the impact of the measures; and (b) Dutch contracting skills in advising on construction methodologies, and contract management. Finance will come from the TA Budget of the Blue Gold Program under the Innovation Fund. It is expected that tenders will be invited in October/November 2016 with the aim of awarding a contract in January 2016, for completion by end-June 2016. The impact of the groynes will be measured for a period of 18 to 24 months, including at least one full flood season.

Currently the BG TA-team is awaiting the outcome of the technical design review by BWDB. It is expected that this tender will move forward for publication in September 2016.