

Blue Gold Program, Bangladesh Innovation Fund: Call for Proposals

Introducing the Blue Gold Program

Bangladesh's economy largely depends on its water resources. This South Asian country occupies the largest river delta in the world, where land has been created over thousands of years from silt deposited by the hundreds of waterways that characterize the landscape. The annual monsoon season – an essential part of the country's ecology and a vital source of water for people, livestock, and crops – also results in flooding from the distributaries of the River Ganges (or the Padma, as the river is known after its confluence with the Brahmaputra River). These floods drain through the south-western coastal region.

Managing these floodwaters and dealing with cyclonic storms passing from the Bay of Bengal brings further pressures to communities in the coastal region. Almost 40 percent of the coastal population live below the poverty line and face food, income, water, and health insecurities, which are exacerbated by climatic factors such as floods, droughts, cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, and river siltation. Water – which has gained the epithet “Blue Gold” in reference to its crucial importance in development – is the basis for changing people's lives and can trigger socio-economic development if managed properly.

The Blue Gold program is a € 57.7 million joint initiative funded by the governments of Bangladesh and the Netherlands. The development project – which began in March 2013 and is scheduled to run until 2020 – aims to reduce poverty for 150,000 households in the Bangladesh coastal districts of Patuakhali, Khulna, Satkhira, and part of Barguna. It helps local communities stabilize their environments and pursue sustainable socio-economic development through participatory water management and diversified farming practices with an increased awareness of planning or profit.

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund is a tool created to accelerate the development process in the 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 impact is expected to be mostly locally or regionally centered.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 3.85 million, and has been divided into three separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 1.4 million (focusing on water resources management), the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.05 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security), and a separate water management action research fund of €1.4 million.

The Innovation Fund aims to establish linkages between Blue Gold and organisations based in Bangladesh and/or the Netherlands. Contributions to innovation within Blue Gold may emerge from a wide variety of knowledge centers, business enterprises, NGOs and Government Agencies, 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 assess relevant institutions and enterprises for emerging opportunities in specific technical fields.

Applications to the Innovation Fund are divided into two categories:

- (1) Solicited proposals, which have a budget ceiling of €133,000 and are initiated by Blue Gold through an international call for proposals, and have a separate TOR and guideline document that is published together with the call for proposals;
- (2) Unsolicited proposals, which have a budget ceiling of €50,000 and focus on smaller interventions such as feasibility studies or pilots.

Solicited Proposals - the Blue Gold Innovation Fund Call for Proposals

This document before you details the Blue Gold Innovation Fund's first Call for Proposals, from here on titled 'Funding Window 1'. This document is tied to the *Solicited Proposals* category and the Productive Sector Fund. In this document you will find all information needed to apply to Funding Window 1.

Short application summary Funding Window 1

- Topic: Improved information in agriculture
- Budget: €133,000
- Time frame: 18 months
- Type of proposals: innovative ideas to be piloted for proof of concept
- Applicants: public and private organisations in the ICT and/or agriculture and/or education sector, and Consultancies, NGOs and research organizations, from Bangladesh and the Netherlands, with more than one submission per organization allowed

Application procedure

The application process is divided into two rounds. In the first round applicants are requested to submit their concept notes for Funding Window 1. After the evaluation of the concept notes, the Blue Gold Program will short-list applicants to submit a project proposal that provides further details on the implementation of the previously submitted concept note. After the evaluation of the project proposals the Blue Gold Program will select up to three project proposals to receive an investment grant from the Innovation Fund for implementation.

Important dates

- 10th June: application round for concept notes opens – deadline for submission is 10th of August 2017
- August - September 2017: evaluation of concept notes and short-listing applicants for submission of project proposals
- 1st October: application round for project proposals opens for short-listed applicants – deadline for submission is 1st of December
- December 2017 - January 2018: evaluation of project proposals and short-listing applicants for project proposals implementation
- 1st February 2018: start of project implementation
- 1st September 2019: end of project implementation

Important application documents:

Annex 1: *Instructions to Service Providers*

Annex 2: *Terms & Conditions for Funding Window 1*

Annex 3: *Objectives, outputs and outcome of Funding Window 1*

Blue Gold Program, Bangladesh

Call for Proposals – Blue Gold Funding Window 1

Developing innovative concepts for the collection, accessibility and dissemination of information to Blue Gold farmers by using ICT

Agricultural extension, the application of scientific research and new agricultural knowledge & practices through farmer education, sits at the heart of the Blue Gold Program. As more and more agricultural knowledge and information becomes digitally available, the potential role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in agriculture extension also grows. Blue Gold recognizes that ICT can be complementary to the traditional field training activities of agriculture extension - and strengthen their impact. Besides making information available face to face, as traditional agriculture extension does, ICT allows to provide that same information via video, sim card, mobile internet etc.

In Bangladesh, a lot of information on best agriculture practices already exists and is made available to farmers in a variety of ICT-platforms, often established as part of the Government of Bangladesh' Access to Information (A2I) initiative. However, many of the ICT platforms used in agriculture extension services fail to recognize actual farmer demand for information, their present information seeking behaviour, their networks of sources of information and the practical constraints to access those. This has resulted in many ICT-approaches in agriculture extension focusing on supply driven information provision, operating under weak business models that depend heavily on donor financing and leaving a gap in recognizing farmer information needs.

Constraints farmers face when accessing sources of information:

- Lack of awareness of resources
- Poor knowledge sharing culture
- Personal traits (farmers are by nature risk averse and conservative)
- Accessibility and costs (distance and availability)
- Sources of information are often not reactive or have a poor response
- Trust or mistrust in the quality of information

The Blue Gold Program is looking for innovative ideas that offer effective solutions for distributing agriculture knowledge and information to farmers in more efficient and more accessible ways by using an ICT format. Such solutions would simultaneously provide government agencies and/or donors a way to communicate agricultural knowledge and information more widely than today, at smaller costs.

In order to facilitate the development of these solutions, Blue Gold has launched the Call for Proposals – Funding Window 1. , allowing the Blue Gold Innovation Fund to invest in the development of potential solutions. This document explains the Terms & Conditions for applying for investment from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund under Funding Window 1.

Annex 1: Instructions to Service Providers

A. General	
Applicable Law	Applicable law will be Laws of the Government of the Netherlands
Name of Client	Blue Gold Program
Name of Assignment	Innovation Fund – Improved Information in Agriculture Reference No. BGP/IF/2017/IIA
Method of Selection	Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Arrangements for Submission	<p>The Service Provider must submit:</p> <p>Concept Note: one (1) original and one (1) copy – as described in Section 3A (Step 1) of Terms and Conditions</p> <p>The Concept Note shall be submitted through the email address bluegold_innovationfund@bluegoldbd.org, and will include a front-page that displays the name of the firm, the name of the assignment and marked “INNOVATION FUND CONCEPT NOTE – IMPROVED INFORMATION IN AGRICULTURE”.</p>
Arrangements for Questions	Questions on the application process can be submitted in written form until 30 th June 2017 via email to bluegold_innovationfund@bluegoldbd.org . All questions will be answered by 14 th July 2017.
Information to be Provided for Proposal Preparation	Attached Terms and Conditions (Annex 2)

B. Preparation of Concept Note	
Language	The Concept Note shall be submitted in English language. All correspondence exchange shall be in the English language.
Facilities Provided by Blue Gold Program	Coordination
C. Submission, Opening and Evaluation of Step 1: Concept Note	
Date, Time and Place of Submission	<p>The Concept Note must be submitted no later than: Date: 31th July 2017 Time: 16:00 hours BST</p> <hr/> <p>The submission address for the Concept Note is: Team Leader - Blue Gold Program Karim Monjil House House 19, Road 118 Gulshan-2, Dhaka</p>
Criteria for Evaluation	Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of the Concept Note are given in Terms and Conditions, Section 13.
D. Shortlisting for Preparation of a Project Proposal	
Successful Applicants	Firms whose Concept Note(s) are ranked within the top ten of submissions against the agreed evaluation criteria will be shortlisted for the preparation of a project proposal. Successful applicants will be informed in writing on or before 30th September 2017
Advice to Other Applicants	Unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the outcome of the evaluation at the same time.

Annex 2: Terms & Conditions for Funding Window 1

Blue Gold Innovation Fund Funding Window 1: Improved Information in Agriculture Term & Conditions		
1	Goal of the Improved Information In Agriculture window	<p>The Blue Gold Program (BGP)'s Innovation Fund is looking to invest in innovative concepts with the option of implementation, that enhance the identification of the information needs of farmers and increase the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers.</p> <p>Making use of innovative concepts in extension services can contribute significantly to the improvement of livelihoods of rural communities in Bangladesh. An innovative approach aimed at enhancing the information seeking behaviour and information retention of rural farmers would be beneficial to the support activities that BGP offers to farmers.</p> <p>Improved information in agriculture can not only contribute to make the content of the BGPs farmer support/extension activities more accessible inside the BGP area (e.g. in support of horizontal learning), but can also have an impact outside the BGP. For example by spreading agriculture information through the use of new technologies (for example ICT), making information more widely available and accessible.</p> <p>When it comes to agricultural practices, presently farmers rely primarily on their own experience, as per the traditional character of their subsistence farming. As a second source of information farmers often rely on fellow farmers, family and friends, and even less frequently on buyers, input providers and finally extension agents. Farmers' information seeking behaviour is marked by different information needs, but also by trust, availability, quality and accessibility of information.</p> <p>The Innovation Fund's call for proposals Window 1 brings together Blue Gold Program's interest in improving agriculture knowledge and information sharing. The goal of Funding Window 1 is to invest in the development of innovative concepts for addressing the agriculture information needs of farmers, by using appropriate (simple) innovative technologies and approaches that have the potential to be commercially viable and financially sustainable</p> <p>Innovative concepts developed for this call for proposals would be adapted to local demand and/or need for information and knowledge inside the BGP area, and would (1) provide farmers access to information in order to improve their decision making process, and (2) would enable them to</p>

		<p>make efficient use of this information in their decision making process.</p> <p>For the Innovation Fund’s Improved Information in Agriculture Window, Blue Gold invites the private sector, NGOs, community based organizations, research organizations or government institutions to submit concepts for the development of innovative solutions that enhance the identification of the information needs of farmers and increase the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers.</p> <p>Note: when referring to ‘agriculture information’ in this document, we broadly talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information on agriculture practices such as cropping, livestock and fisheries. ○ Information on cultivation practices (cropping systems, cropping technologies, crop varieties and when to plant them, quality seeds use, pest management, fertilizer use, harvesting techniques, value addition, etc) ○ Information on market prices, productivity and profitability of crops ○ Information on the availability and prices of inputs, services and products ○ Information on weather / climate conditions
<p>2</p>	<p>Scope of the Improved Information in Agriculture window</p>	<p>Developing innovative concepts for improving information in agriculture amongst BG farmers cannot take place outside of the living environment of BG farmers; the social and cultural context. The social aspect of information and knowledge dissemination, such as the knowledge network within villages or the cultural approach to information dissemination and retention within Bangladesh, should be the base enhancing the identification of the information needs of farmers and increasing the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers.</p> <p>Taking into account the social and cultural context of farmers inside the BGP area, Blue Gold believes that the scope of a successful innovative concept should consider, some or all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The information needs of farmers in the BGP area: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. analysing the demand for information relevant to key BGP processes b. analysing who requires what information related to agricultural production and water resource management 2) The information sources of farmers in the BGP area and how to improve the networking amongst these sources: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. recognizing and involving key individuals from the

		<p>community who are involved in knowledge dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. assessing who is the most appropriate ‘node’ in the information network (who provides what type of information and where/how, e.g. the Blue Gold Program works with farmers, Resource Farmers, extension agents, input providers, Water Management Organization executives, etc) c. mapping how to make use of existing networks within the local community, and how to expand the network and the sources of information d. stimulating horizontal dissemination of information in order to get more value out of the information that is already created by BGP (i.e. through Farmer Field Schools). <p>3) The constraints that farmers in the BGP area have to accessing sources of information, and how to overcome these constraints with help of new technologies (for example ICT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. assessing the availability of new technologies and user skills levels b. evaluating the user friendliness of existing sources of information c. analysing which type of training is necessary & who should be selected for participation <p>4) The financial sustainability of information provision and how to improve this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. contributing to the utilization of existing information platforms developed by INGOs / GoB b. developing partnerships involving private sector companies and not-for-profit organisations (Public Private Partnerships) c. contributing to business models that enhance the commercial viability of existing information dissemination initiatives
<p>3A</p>	<p>Application procedure for the Improved Information in Agriculture window</p> <p>STEP 1. Concept Note</p>	<p>Interested parties that wish to submit an innovative concept to the Improved Information in Agriculture window and as such wish to apply for an investment from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund are requested to follow a simple two-step approach:</p> <p>Step 1 Applicants wishing to submit their innovation are requested to draft a concept note. The concept note should describe the innovation and provide an answer to the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the problem statement that lies at the heart of the innovation?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. What does the innovation focus on and try to achieve? c. How does the innovation contribute to the Blue Gold Program? d. What are the potential gaps and risks of the innovation? e. What is needed to further develop the innovation? <p>Concept notes should be submitted from 10th June onwards, but before the deadline of 31st July 2017. Concept notes submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.</p> <p>Concept notes will be reviewed by the independent Fund Management Committee. The appraisal criteria for concept notes are explained under Point 13. The review will take place between August – September 2017.</p> <p>Short-listed applicants will be invited to proceed to step 2.</p>
<p>3B</p>	<p>Application procedure for the Improved Information in Agriculture window</p> <p>STEP 2. Project Proposal</p>	<p>Step 2</p> <p>Short-listed applicants are requested to submit a project proposal for implementation of their innovative concept within the BGP. The project proposal forms the ‘work-plan’ for the implementation, and should adhere to the following content guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The project proposal mentions the title of the project, the suggested geographic implementation area, and the total budget (with detailed breakdown of the requested Innovation Fund investment) and the timeline and duration of the proposed intervention(s) and provides a description of the various stadia of implementation. ii. The project proposal provides a description of the technical feasibility of the innovation and provides insight into the (potential) business case (e.g. by describing how the proposed revenue model will be worked out into a bankable business plan). iii. The project proposal provides an overview of the activities deployed to realize the expected activities, objectives and their outcomes set out against the timeline of the intervention (i.e. Gantt chart format). iv. The project proposal provides a detailed summary of the objectives, expected output and outcome of the innovation (See Annex 1). The guiding principles for this

		<p>overview are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the set criteria to which the innovation can be tested? b. How does the innovation guarantee an efficient use of resources? c. It is preferred that the objectives laid out in the work plan are explained by making use of the SMART criteria¹, meaning that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Objectives are stated in quantifiable terms – Objectives are stated in terms of outcomes, not process – Objectives should be translated into specific results of the activities – Objectives should identify the target audience or community being served – Objectives need to be realistic and capable of being accomplished within the grant period v. The project proposal includes a Monitoring & Evaluation structure that tracks the progress of the implementation activities and registers what works well and what goes wrong. The M&E activities described in the project proposal should revolve around evidence collection based on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the innovation indeed successful? b. Is there an understanding of the key factors behind this success? c. Is it possible to reproduce the innovation getting same or better results? d. Should the innovation be scaled up? <p>Project proposals should be submitted by short-listed applicants only, from 1st October onwards but before the deadline of 30th November 2017. Project proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.</p> <p>Project proposals will be reviewed by the independent Fund</p>
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¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART_criteria

		<p>Management Committee. The appraisal criteria for Proposals are explained under Point 14. The review will take place between December 2017– January 2018. Implementation of selected project proposals will start by 1st February 2018, and will run till 31st July 2019.</p> <p>Note: As the main focus of Window 1 Call for Proposals lies with improving the information in agriculture, it is expected that tender applicants come up with different innovative ideas, reaching from reflecting on felt and unfelt farmer needs for innovation, the accessibility of information, to innovative training approaches, to utilizing ICT approaches, to facilitating enhanced information seeking behaviour, to improving existing sources of information, to enriching business models for information outreach.</p>
4	Regions of implementation	<p>The Improved Information in Agriculture funding window concerns the Blue Gold polders in the three South Western districts of Bangladesh: Khulna, Patuakhali and Satkhira.</p> <p>Member firms of bidding entities should have experience in the area and focus the implementation of their innovation in these areas.</p>
5	Relevance	<p>Information is a critical element in the decision making process of market oriented farmers. The ability of farmers to access continuously updated information is a crucial aspect in creating a productive and effective agriculture sector. The Blue Gold Innovation Fund aims to stimulate the further enhancement of the Bangladesh agriculture sector by investing in innovative approaches that enhance the identification of the information needs of farmers and increase the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers.</p>
6	Sectoral / industry focus	<p>Agriculture ICT Education / training / extension</p>
7	Type of investment available	<p>Investments from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund for eligible organisations and their innovative projects. Investment decisions are made on a competitive basis by the independent Fund Management Committee.</p> <p>Making use of the two-step application procedure explained under Point 3, only the concepts with the best potential of implementation will be eligible for investment.</p>
8	Size of investment available	<p>Investment amounts available range up to a maximum of €133,000.</p>
9	Implementation period	<p>Projects can run for up to 18 months.</p>

10	Innovation Fund and applicant investments	<p>Applicants are encouraged to invest own resources to the implementation of the innovative project. These investments can be made both in cash and in-kind.</p> <p>Applicants who invest own resources will receive additional points during the proposal evaluation (also see Point 13 – Appraisal criteria for Concepts).</p>
11	Concepts and Projects eligible for Innovation Fund investments	<p>To be eligible for investments, projects must be fully compliant with the requirements as set out in the Terms & Conditions of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund’s Call for Proposals – Funding Window 1.</p> <p>Duplication of existing initiatives funded by the Government of the Netherlands will not be accepted under Funding Window 1: Improved Information in Agriculture. This is especially relevant to projects that fall under the Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) program². Applications seen under the G4AW program will be excluded from further consideration at any time under the application process.</p>
12	Entities eligible to apply	<p>The Improved Information in Agriculture funding window is open to public and private organizations in the ICT and/or agriculture and/or education sector, consultancies and research organizations, from Bangladesh and the Netherlands; with more than one submission per organizations allowed.</p> <p>To be eligible to apply for funding, the applicant / lead applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be registered and operating in either Bangladesh or the Netherlands (whether domestic or foreign owned or a joint venture) in compliance with relevant business licensing, taxation, employee and other regulations in the country of registration • be in satisfactory financial health (in terms of being a “going concern” as defined by the Innovation Fund), and be able to show at least 2 years of unqualified audited accounts • have adequate internal capacity to undertake the project within the agreed timeframe • must submit evidence of the above eligibility criteria along with their first stage application • be willing to participate in lesson learning and lesson sharing activities, monitoring and evaluation activities, and share project data with the Innovation Fund.

² More information on the G4AW project can be found via <https://g4aw.spaceoffice.nl/en/>.

		<p>Pass/fail: application will not be considered further if the above eligibility criteria are not met.</p> <p>Consortia can incorporate a cost item for backstopping, research and impact evaluation support by a third party, but this cannot exceed more than 10% of the cost.</p> <p>Blue Gold would like to see a combination of Dutch and Bangladeshi expertise and entrepreneurial mindset tackle the identification of the information needs of farmers and increase the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers within the Blue Gold Program.</p>
13	Appraisal criteria for Concepts	<p>Concepts are first screened for eligibility by the independent Fund Management Committee. Only Concepts for eligible projects will be appraised on the extent to which they satisfy the below mentioned criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The concept is innovative: it concerns an approach and / or technology that has not yet been implemented in the Blue Gold Program area (20 points) ✓ The concept enhances the identification of the information needs of farmers and increases the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers (20 points) ✓ The concept shows potential for improving the performance of agriculture in the Blue Gold Program area (20 points) ✓ The concept shows potential for financial sustainability and/or commercial viability (20 points) ✓ The concept shows potential for replication outside the BGP area (20 points) <p>In order to be able to score and prioritise the Concepts, each criteria has a weighing factor of 20 points.</p> <p>Applicants can score extra points (5 points) by contributing to the Concept budget in cash or in-kind.</p> <p>The Concept weighing maximum is a total of 105 points.</p> <p>The evaluation committee will decide on the maximum number of Concepts to be short-listed. It's up to the evaluation committee to make a selection based on the best fit for the Blue Gold Program.</p>
14	Appraisal criteria for Proposals	<p>Proposals are first screened for eligibility by the independent Fund Management Committee. Only Proposals for eligible projects will be appraised on the extent to which they satisfy the below mentioned criteria:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have relevance for the beneficiaries in the Blue Gold Program area, and for the implementing organisations Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and/or Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) • contributes to the objectives and the sustainability of the Blue Gold Program • contributes to improved employment and income opportunities for low-income groups in the Blue Gold program area • involves a product, service, system or procedure that is innovative, and is unlikely to be addressed by the public / private sector without the support of the Innovation Fund – for example because of sector inertia or perceived risk/opportunity cost • results in improvements in the performance of the agriculture and/or water management sector • demonstrates a sustained impact and show how results will last beyond the lifetime of the project funding • the project is unlikely to be supported by other commercial sources of finance. • does not create unfair competition or otherwise distort markets • utilises the funding provided by the Innovation Fund within 18 months, other than in exceptional circumstances • have the prospect of upscaling the innovation in order to have significance for the development of Bangladesh • where possible, show case the technology of the Dutch private sector • have the prospect of establishing a sustainable support base for the innovation concerned (viability of the business case, transfer of knowledge, establishment of a maintenance and support structure) • the project will measure impact against targets, and have a method of forecasting and setting targets – for example, the number of women reached by the project. <p>The evaluation committee will decide on the maximum number of Proposals to be short-listed for investment. It's up to the evaluation committee to make a selection based on the best fit for the Blue Gold Program.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Budget availability and eligibility of costs</p>	<p>The Improved Information in Agriculture funding window is made possible through investments from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund. Investments from the Innovation Fund will be administered in accordance with the requirements of the European Union, and the donor, the Embassy of the Kingdom</p>

		<p>of the Netherlands in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The investments of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund will be output based – with investments made available on the basis of tangible and measurable milestones, and upon completion and acceptance of these milestones:</p> <p>The investment is structured accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10% upon the positive assessment of the Proposal and the signing of the Grant Contract ✓ 30% upon submission and acceptance of mid-term report and completion and acceptance of pre-defined outputs and milestones ✓ 30% upon submission and acceptance of dissemination outputs and milestones ✓ 30% upon submission and approval of the final report. <p>It should be clear that the investment is intended in principle as a contribution to the development of innovative solutions for Improved Information in Agriculture in the Blue Gold Program area.</p> <p>Proposals tapping into multiple sources of funding are welcomed, provided the different funding of items is made transparent and that the funding does not include additional financial support from the Netherlands government³.</p> <p>The following costs are eligible for investment from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study costs, consumables and equipment - Study implementation, local workshops and travel - Exchange meeting between project partners - Workshop/dissemination costs - Staff time - Contribution to the use of office space and basic facilities <p>The following costs are NOT eligible for investment from the Blue Gold Innovation Fund grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depreciation costs - Taxes - Costs for bank transfers - Interest - Exchange losses <p>Budgets need to be submitted by the project lead organization in the standard budget format, which will be sent to interested parties on request. As the activities will concern organizations from more than one country, part of the budget</p>
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³ 'Accumulating' different subsidies originating from the Netherlands government on a single project is prohibited as per subsidy regulation of the Netherlands government.

		during implementation of the grant can be transferred directly by the BGP to the organization(s) in Bangladesh and the Netherlands.
15	Fund Manager	Mr. Boudewijn Sterk
16	Contact Details	bluegold_innovationfund@bluegoldbd.org

Annex 3 – Objectives, output and outcome of the Improved Information in Agriculture window

When developing a proposal for submission to the Improved Information in Agriculture window, applicants should satisfy one or more of the below mentioned objectives, outputs and outcomes:

Objectives	Expected output	Expected outcome
<p><u>Objective 1</u> Make agriculture information accessible to farmers inside the BGP area by adapting or applying innovative technologies and / or approaches</p>	<p><u>Output 1</u> Innovative tools and skills to Blue Gold farmers or other actors that improve the accessing and utilisation of information sources on agriculture, or remove other constraints to do so</p>	<p><u>Outcome 1</u> Reduced poverty and enhanced food security in the BGP area</p>
<p><u>OB.2</u> Improve agriculture knowledge sharing amongst farmers in the BGP area by adapting or applying innovative technologies and / or approaches</p>	<p><u>OP.2</u> Easily accessible knowledge is available for farmers by:</p> <p>A) Transforming analogue information (training curricula, best practices, role models) to digital information in a form accessible and effective to Blue Gold beneficiaries</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and/or</p> <p>B) Enhancing existing information platforms with a focus on improved relevance and accessibility ('farmer friendly')</p>	<p><u>OC.2</u> Increased agriculture production amongst local farmers in the BGP area</p>
<p><u>OB.3</u> Enhance the decision making ability of farmers in the BGP area by adapting or applying innovative technologies and / or approaches</p>	<p><u>OP.3</u> Farmers able to make decisions on an improved basis which continues operation after the BGP comes to an end</p>	<p><u>OC.3</u> Increased economic and/or business opportunities for local communities in the BGP area</p>
<p><u>OB.4</u> Establish skillsets that stimulate information seeking behaviour , facilitating the demand for information by overcoming constraints to access sources of information</p>	<p><u>OP.4</u> Farmers better equipped to actually seek information from appropriate sources</p>	<p><u>OC.4</u> Increased resilience amongst local communities in the BGP area</p>

<p><u>OB.5</u> Implement a sustainable business model</p>	<p><u>OP.5</u> A feasible agricultural information service to farmers directly or indirectly through other actors</p>	<p><u>OC.5</u> Capacity building amongst Bangladesh ICT sector practitioners to enable local implementation of the ICT-based extension services for agriculture in the BGP area</p>
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