

Blue Gold Program



উন্নয়নে পানি ব্যবস্থাপনা

O&M Agreement Signing Ceremony for Polder - 47/3, 47/4, 43/2A, Kalapara OM Division and Patuakhali O&M Division, Patuakhali



Mr. Hasanuzzaman, XEN, Patuakhali, O&M Division is handing over the signed Agreement copy to WMA representatives



Khan Md. Waliuzzaman, XEN, Kalapara, WD, Division is handing over the signed Agreement copy to WMA representative

INTRODUCTION

O&M Agreement Signing Ceremony for Polder Water Management was held on 8th December, 2019 at Beach Haven, Kuakata, Patuakhali. The agreement was in between WMA representative of polder 47/3, 47/4 and 43/2A and BWDB representative of Kalapara OM Division and Patuakhali O&M Division, Patuakhali. Mr. Folkert De Jager, 1st Secretary, EKN, Dhaka, Amirul Hossain, PCD, BGP, BWDB, Muhammad Humayoun Kabir, PD BGP, DAE, Guy Jones, Team Leader, BGP, UP Chairmen's, BGP staff and BWDB representatives were present in the agreement ceremony.

The objectives of this program was to sign the O&M agreement by the Water Management Associations (WMAs) & Executive Engineer O&M Division, BWDB, Patuakhali and aware WMA participants about the importance of Water Management, Operation & Maintenance activities of water management infrastructures and roles of either parties in implementing the agreement.

In that program Mr. Amirul Hossain, Project Coordinating Director, Blue Gold Program, BWDB attended as Chief Guest. Mr. Humayoun Kabir, PD, (DAE Part), UP Chairperson's, three (47/3, 47/4, 43/2A) WMA representatives and electronic media were attended the program. As special guest Mr. Folkert De Jager, 1st Secretary, EKN, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Guy Jones, Team Leader, Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader, TA & BWDB Engineers and other national expatriate were attended the program.

The Executive Engineer, BWDB and Chairpersons of Water Management Associations were signed O&M agreement & handed over the documents to each other

THE PARTICIPANTS



Water Management Association - the Executive Committee Members of 3 Water Management Association's from three polders Polder 43/2A, 47/3 and 47/4. All the male and female members (30 male and 5 female) attended the program at 10.00 AM on 8 December 2019.

BWDB - the Project Coordinating Director, BGP & Project Director, Directorate Planning III, BWDB, Dhaka, Executive Engineers, Kalapara and Patuakhali, BWDB and other local BWDB Sr. officials attended the program as well.

DAE – Mr. Humayoun Kabir, Project Director, DAE and Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Kalapara, Patuakhali participated in this program.

UP – The Chairman of Baliatoli, Dalbuganj and Dulasar Union Parishad have participated in this program.

EKN & BGP Experts - the First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Team Leader, Deputy Team leader, Senior Experts from Dhaka HQ, BGP Zonal and Polder Teams of Blue Gold Program, Local and National Journalists around 80 participants attended the program at Hotel Beach Haven, Kuakata, Patuakhali.

THE AGREEMENT SIGNING PROGRAM



XEN, WD Division, Kalapara is signing the O&M Agreement

The Project Coordinating Director (PCD) Mr. Amirul Hossain presided over the program. Mr. Md. Hasanuzzaman, Executive Engineer (XEN) and Patuakhali O&M Division, BWDB, Patuakhali welcomed the participants and Mr. Khan Md. Waliuzzaman, XEN, Kalapara, WD, Division, Kalapara has clarified the importance of O&M

Agreement in between BWDB & WMA and Roles of BWDB to implement the Agreement.

The Executive Engineers, Patuakhali & Kalapara, BWDB and Chairperson of the Water Management Associations were signed O&M agreement and handed over the agreements. Following were the key session/activities of the program:

- Inauguration and introduction of the WMA participants and other guest;
- Video show on news compilation on BGP activities, which published in different Television Channels, National News Papers and Local News Papers;
- O&M agreement signing, handover documents and photographs;



XEN, Patuakhali O&M Division, Patuakhali is signing the O&M Agreement

- Key messages and comments on the purposes & importance of In-polder water management for crop production, agreement signing in between WMA & BWDB, specific roles of WMO and BWDB in O&M of water management infrastructures.
- An attractive social drama named “we can” played by the drama team along with WMA members which reflects the role of WMAs in building confidence on how to carry out the operation, repair and maintenance activities by the WMAs in improving in-polder water management, overcoming challenges, maximizing agricultural production utilizing modern technologies.
- Valuable message and impressive comments given by the First Secretary, EKN and Team Leader, Blue Gold Program;
- Program Coordinating Director summarized the key focus of the program and concluded with vote of thanks.

REMERK & COMMENTS

UP CHAIRMAN

Mr. Humayun Kabir, Chairman, Baliatoli UP and Most. Nazma Begum, Chairman Dalbuganj UP , Mr. Absul Jalil Akon, Chairman, UP Dulasar, Kalapara delivered their valuable comments and shared their experiences how Blue Gold helped the polder people for improvement of water management systems and agricultural production. They emphasized that since beginning of the project how Blue Gold worked at the community level with the farmers which is an example of real change and economic development from the grassroots. This program has created the realizations of importance of partnership relations among the UP & WMA for in-polder water management, operation & maintenance of WM infrastructures for agricultural development. They declared to continue their support in implementing the O&M actions plan as per the agreement signed.

WMA REPRESENTATIVES

The WMAs Chairpersons have shared the benefits of Blue Gold Program in economic development through improvement of water management and agricultural production. They have explained on what extent Blue Gold Program has contributed to improve their agricultural production as well as to make them confident in the preparation of O&M plans, generate O&M funds, involved in collective actions, developed linkages with the UP and private sectors which make them self-dependent. They also emphasized that how Blue Gold Program encouraged and supported women members for their empowerment through engaging in the economic development activities.

EKN & BLUE GOLD TEAM LEADER

Mr. Guy Jones, Team Leader, Blue Gold Program delighted to see the partnership relations and valuable comments of UP & WMA representatives in this program. He has referred WMA and UPs valuable comments that convinced him so confident that the economic development has boosted significantly due to efficient water management system established under Blue Gold Program. The Team Leader expects that these three WMAs will ensure and support in the operation and maintenance under these polders, agricultural production, and economic development/change the civil society. In the concluding session, he thanked to all the participated members in this wonderful program.



Mr. Guy Jones, Team Leader, BGP is sharing his feeling for the Agreement between BDWB and WMAs

Mr. Folkert De Jager, first Secretary, EKN, Dhaka, Bangladesh congratulated the team for organizing such an effective program. He expressed his



Mr. Folkert De Jager, 1st Secretary, EKN, Dhaka is addressing in the Agreement Signing Ceremony

happiness to participate in such a wonderful program on O&M Agreements signing in between three WMAs and BWDB. The inclusion of DAE, BWDB, UP at the ending stage of the project and the positive comments from the WMA and UP Chairman's on how this program affects for economic changes. He thanked to the Blue Gold Team for creating opportunity to participate such a wonderful event''

PROJECT COORDINATING DIRECTOR

Mr. Amirul Hossain, PCD, Blue Gold Program, BWDB has delivered valuable comments in his closing address. He thanked BWDB Executive Engineer(s), WMA(s), up Chairman's and Blue Gold Teams in



Patuakhali for organizing such a wonderful O&M Agreement Signing Ceremony. He inspired to see and listened to the valuable comments from the WMAs and UPs in water management and economic development through Blue Gold Program in this southwestern zone. He mentioned that the report says the average rate of income and economic development in this zone increased significantly.

Bangladesh Government has special attention for the economic development of southwestern zone. He mentioned the name of some water management infrastructures constructed through Blue Gold Program, how these contributing to improve water management systems, agricultural production and changed the lives of the community people. He also mentioned that now BWDB is not much worry about how sluice gates would be operate, managed since WMAs have become confident enough to carry out the operation & maintenance water management infrastructures.

The PCD found the program was highly participatory where the WMAs, DAE, BWDB, UP, Blue Gold Team and other partners involved in organizing this event in a festive mood. He again thanked to the organizers, the BWDB Divisions and the Technical Assistance Team of the Blue Gold Program for their hardworking and efforts without

which it could not have brought the flavor of success under this program.

PROJECT DIRECTOR, BGP-DAE



PD, BGP, DAE Part is giving speech on importance of water management for agriculture

Mr. Humayun Kabir, Project Director, DAE expressed his happiness to participate in this program and stated that the Blue Gold Program is an integration of Water resources and Agriculture to make best use of water to optimize the production. These three polders has been pioneering the crop diversification with new and improved varieties in the polder under Blue Gold Program. He suggested WMAs to keep in touch with SAAOs, DAE Kalapara, Patuakhali for any agricultural support in future. Even after Blue Gold Program DAE always with them for agricultural Production.

DRAMA ON POLDER WATER MANAGEMENT

At the end of the agreement signing sessions, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy a socio-drama on “Amrai Pari” where this drama focused on what are the possible challenges and ways to overcome those for improved in-polder water management. In the middle of the drama, the players interacted with the audience and inspired the people to prevent those sinister/harmful things & actors for effective water management. The



WMAs representatives are playing a Drama on Water management issues

drama played as a powerful tool to increase the motivation of the participants for preparation for any unwanted situation against effective water management.

CONCLUSION

This is one of the greatest successes and milestones of Blue Gold Program, which indicates that WMAs are demonstrating as self-sustaining organization and capable to carry out the O&M responsibilities of water management infrastructures, manage In-polder water management with their own resource and expertise. They have demonstrated their confidence, commitment, and ownership on the water management infrastructures through signing of the agreements and taking over the responsibilities in presence of all the implementing partners, donor and media people. This is an important indicator to step forward of successful phasing out of the program.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

