



# BLUE GOLD TRENDS WATCHER

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## SIGNING OF O&M AGREEMENT BETWEEN BANGLADESH WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS WAS A HISTORIC UNDERTAKING

The signing of agreement on operation and maintenance (O&M) of water structures between the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Water Management Associations (WMA) was a historic moment. The Water Management Organizations (WMOs) have achieved a legal basis through this very urgent agreement signing, whereby both the parties have pledged their commitment to the contractual obligations. This agreement would be the main guideline for WMOs in establishing as a sustainable water management organization. In view of this noble purpose of making the organization sustainable, on Sep 23, 2018, and January 23, 2019 respectively, this momentous agreement was signed in Khulna and Patuakhali.

In presence of senior officials from Bangladesh Water Development Board and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Project Coordinat-

ing Director of Blue Gold Program, representatives of EKN, Team Leader and others experts of

### Khulna



Blue Gold TA Team and local and national journalists, the concerned Executive Engineers and WMA representatives signed on the agreement document.

The PCD Mr. Md. Amirul Hossain presided over the programs while guests from BWDB, DAE, EKN, WMAs delivered speeches, and congratulated the team for organizing such an effective, meaningful and important event.

Following were the key sessions of the program:

- ◆ Inauguration and introduction of the WMA participants and other guests;
- ◆ Video show on summary of BGP success which was published in different Television Media;
- ◆ O&M agreement signing, handover documents and photographs; PLEASE SEE PAGE-3

### Patuakhali



**Blue Gold Program is Implemented by-  
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)  
&  
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)**

## PARTICIPATORY MONITORING RESULTS SHOW A POSITIVE TREND IN THE PROGRESS OF WMGs

*“Participatory Monitoring (PM) was conducted by Water Management Groups (WMGs) of 22 polders of Blue Gold Program (BGP) during April - May 2018. Through PM exercise the WMGs assess their own performance against some potential targets; since the last round of PM conducted in October-November 2017 the ‘indicators of functional WMG’ as defined by BGP form the essence of potential targets of WMGs. Based on the monitoring results, the WMGs can make their own plan of actions to sustain progresses achieved and to improve further.”*

Fifth round of Participatory Monitoring (PM) was conducted by Water Management Groups (WMGs) of 22 Blue Gold polders in October 2018. Through PM exercise the WMGs assess their own performance against some potential targets; the ‘indicators of functional WMG’ as defined by Blue Gold Program (BGP) form the essence of potential targets of WMGs. Based on the monitoring results, the WMGs can make their own plan of actions to sustain progresses achieved and to improve further.

In October 2018 a total of 506 WMGs participated in the monitoring exercise. Basing on the achievement levels they indicated by way of giving scores (on a scale of 0 – 3) against the potential targets, the WMGs have been ranked in 5 performance grades – ‘A’ if the overall achievement is => 80%; ‘B’ if the overall achievement is between 70% and 79%; ‘C’ if the

overall achievement is between 60% and 69%; ‘D’ if the overall achievement is between 50% and 59%; and ‘E’ if the overall achievement is =< 50%. As per self-assessment of WMGs about 65% of WMGs are ranked in the top 2 grades – about 40% WMGs in grade ‘A’ and about 25% in grade ‘B’.

The general trend is that the WMGs are gradually progressing; the trend of progress of WMGs has been shown in the following table. The results of self-assessment of WMGs have been used to draw the trend of their progress in performance. Here the average achievements of WMGs of individual polders with respect to 3 monitoring themes –of three monitoring periods for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase polders and of two monitoring periods for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase polders–have been considered.

Table-1: Trend of Average Achievements by WMGs

Polder	Theme-wise Average Achievements of WMGs of Different Polders									Overall Average Achievement (%)		
	Agriculture and Economic Development (%)			Water Management (Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure)			Water Management Group and Water Management Partnership					
	Oct-Nov 2017	Apr-May 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct-Nov 2017	Apr-May 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct-Nov 2017	Apr-May 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct-Nov 2017	Apr-May 2018	Oct. 2018
22	80.6	92.1	85.3	76.9	84.7	81.9	81.3	88.2	81.3	79.4	88.6	83.2
30	85.0	82.7	83.8	80.7	80.6	80.3	88.6	86.3	87.5	84.4	82.8	83.4
43/2D	79.3	86.6	90.6	78.2	84.3	87.7	86.9	89.6	90.5	80.7	86.5	89.6
43/2F	78.3	82.2	85.9	74.1	80.5	84.4	85.8	86.7	88.6	78.6	82.6	86.0
43/2A	62.6	70.6	74.0	55.6	66.4	70.7	68.9	74.2	78.8	61.6	70.0	74.0
29	67.6	83.2	83.0	68.0	85.8	83.7	75.8	79.6	83.9	69.7	83.3	83.5
43/1A	75.2	83.7	86.7	52.4	77.0	77.0	72.0	81.5	82.7	66.4	80.8	82.4
43/2B	65.1	83.7	84.9	64.1	81.0	81.2	76.2	87.8	87.2	67.4	83.7	84.1
43/2E	69.0	82.9	84.9	51.4	74.5	76.9	79.9	89.6	88.9	65.4	81.5	83.0
26	76.5	86.0	85.7	59.6	70.4	71.1	76.7	81.1	78.3	70.6	79.3	78.8
31 part	65.1	71.0	70.6	60.2	67.1	64.8	72.9	75.0	75.0	65.2	70.6	69.6
2 & 2Ext.	63.8	73.8	80.4	46.1	62.2	68.2	54.6	72.5	79.8	55.4	69.4	75.9
55/2A	52.7	68.4	93.9	42.7	57.1	78.2	53.8	65.5	85.7	49.5	63.7	86.4
55/2C	71.7	89.0	90.5	54.2	81.3	80.9	71.9	89.6	90.6	65.6	86.4	87.1
47/3	-	42.9	53.7	-	33.3	46.8	-	51.2	79.8	-	41.5	57.4
47/4	-	48.1	55.3	-	40.7	42.3	-	43.1	62.0	-	44.3	52.3
25	-	30.2	52.2	-	20.8	39.1	-	30.3	53.8	-	26.9	48.0
27/1	-	24.1	58.5	-	14.4	16.7	-	31.7	42.3	-	22.5	39.9
27/2	-	49.2	58.7	-	15.7	30.6	-	48.6	70.8	-	37.3	51.6
28/1	-	47.6	53.8	-	22.8	23.9	-	53.3	60.0	-	40.2	44.7
28/2	-	44.4	62.7	-	24.1	27.3	-	47.2	57.6	-	37.9	49.0
34/2part	-	27.5	45.1	-	17.6	42.1	-	28.7	61.0	-	24.3	47.8

The trend of progress in performance is also reflected in the (higher) numbers of WMGs in top performance grades in October 2018 compared to those in the earlier rounds of PM. As per the PM results of October 2018, there are 327 WMGs in the top 2 grades as against 289 WMGs in April-May 2018. Most remarkable achievements are reported of the WMGs of polders 55/2A and 2 & 2 Ext. – the WMGs have shown enthusiasm and motivation to improve their situ-

ation and achieved good progress with respect to their targets; the motivating factor behind their enthusiasm – as reported by the polder teams – was (the start of) rehabilitation of infrastructures in these polders.

The following table shows the distribution of WMGs of 22 polders into different performance grades as per the PM results of three monitoring periods.

Table-2: Distribution of WMGs in performance categories in 3 monitoring periods-

Polder	Oct-18						April-May 2018						October-November 2017					
	A	B	C	D	E	Total	A	B	C	D	E	Total	A	B	C	D	E	Total
22	8	4	-	-	-	12	10	2	-	-	-	12	7	3	1	1	-	12
30	26	7	6	1	-	40	28	10	2	-	-	40	30	10	-	-	-	40
43/2D	22	6	-	-	-	28	20	7	1	-	-	28	14	10	4	-	-	28
43/2F	18	8	1	-	-	27	16	10	-	1	-	27	11	14	1	-	1	27
43/2A	7	7	6	2	-	22	6	5	6	5	-	22	1	2	11	6	2	22
29	35	18	3	-	-	56	32	13	11	-	-	56	5	22	23	5	-	55
43/1A	8	6	-	-	-	14	8	4	2	-	-	14	2	3	4	5	-	14
43/2B	19	8	-	1	-	28	20	6	1	1	-	28	7	4	10	3	4	28
43/2E	9	3	-	-	-	12	8	4	-	-	-	12	-	4	4	4	-	12
26	5	8	2	-	-	15	6	6	3	-	-	15	1	6	8	-	-	15
31 Part	-	8	4	-	-	12	-	10	2	-	-	12	-	2	8	2	-	12
2&2 Ext	21	30	9	3	-	63	8	33	11	5	6	63	1	3	16	20	18	58
55/2A	12	1	1	-	-	14	-	1	11	2	-	14	-	-	3	1	9	13
55/2C	12	4	-	-	-	16	13	3	-	-	-	16	-	4	7	5	-	16
47/3	-	-	2	5	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
47/4	-	-	2	7	9	18	-	-	-	3	15	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
25	-	6	4	12	39	61	-	-	-	-	55	55	-	-	-	-	-	55
27/1	-	-	-	1	13	14	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	15
27/2	-	-	1	3	2	6	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
28/1	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
28/2	-	1	1	2	8	12	-	-	2	-	10	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
34/2 Part	-	-	1	4	14	19	-	-	-	-	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>352</b>

The figures in the above table clearly indicate that the WMGs have achieved a substantial progress over the period.

AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY..... FROM PAGE-1

- ◆ Key messages and comments on the purposes and importance of In-polder water management for crop production, agreement signing in between WMA and BWDB, specific roles of WMOs and BWDB in O&M of water management infrastructures;
- ◆ Socio-drama on the roles of WMA after O&M agreement signing;
- ◆ 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.

These are the significant milestones and great successes of Blue Gold Program, which indicate that WMOs are becoming self-sustaining organizations can take O&M responsibilities of water management infrastructures, handle In-polder water management with their own resources and expertise. They have proved their confidence/commitment and ownership on the water management infrastructures through signing of the agreement and through handing over the documents in presence of all the implementing partners, representatives of Donor and Media people. This is a step forward of successful phasing out (exit) of the program.

*“The trend of progress in performance is also reflected in the (higher) numbers of WMGs in top performance grades in October 2018 compared to those in the earlier rounds of PM. As per the PM results of October 2018, there are 327 WMGs in the top 2 grades as against 289 WMGs in April-May 2018.”*

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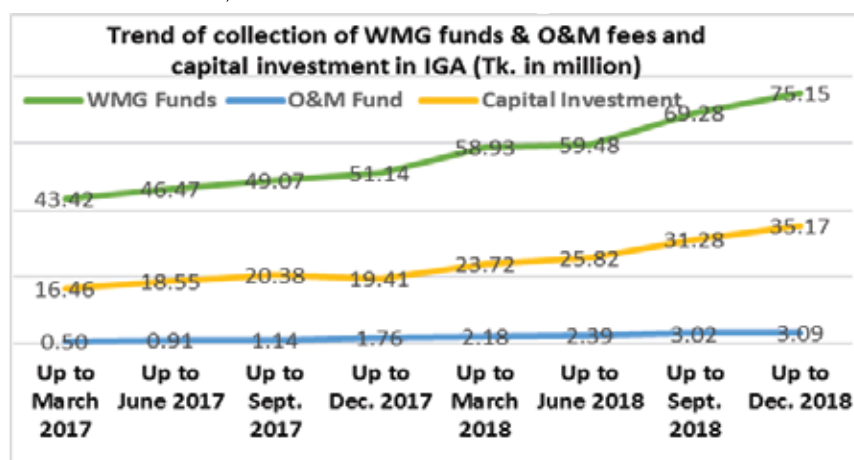
## WMG TRACKER ASSESSED PROGRESSES OF OUTPUT ACHIEVEMENTS UP TO DECEMBER 2018

In 22 BGP polders, 511 WMGs have been formed with members from 118,208 households out of the total 186,600 households living in those polders, i.e. 63.3% of the total households are represented in WMGs, which is higher than the project target (i.e. at least 55%). As reported, 136,533 members are enrolled in 511 WMGs (i.e. on an average 267 members in each WMG) where 77,621 are male members and 58,912 (43.1%) are female members (as against project target of 'at least 40%' female).

### WMG Funds and Investment in Business:

Positive trends can be observed as regards collection of WMG funds, O&M funds (cash) and investment in business; however, a reason of fund increase from March 2017 to December 2018 is the increase in the number of WMG members in new polders. The investment in IGAs/business is increasing slowly because (i) a number of WMG members are not interested to get involved in IGAs, (ii) difficult to maintain account books and other documents regularly. The

correlation between amounts of WMG funds, O&M fees, investments and intervention time period is relatively progressing which value is close to 1.00 (Correlation value for WMG funds = 0.9506, for O&M = 0.9850, for capital investment in IGA = 0.9142)\*\*

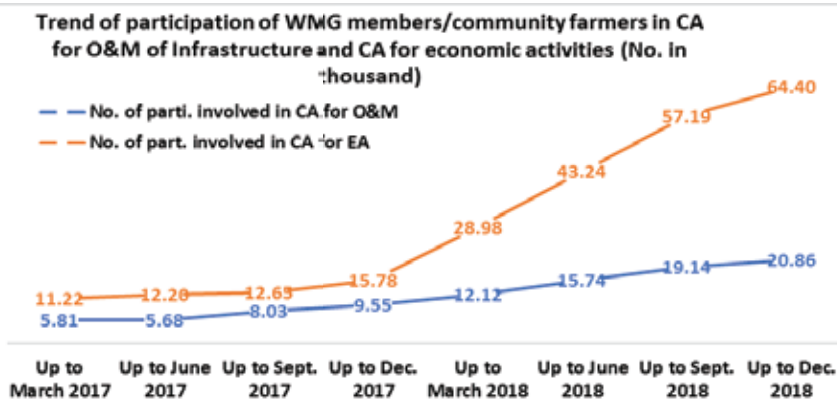


*“63.3% of the total households are represented in WMGs, which is higher than the project target (i.e. at least 55%). As reported, 136,533 members are enrolled in 511 WMGs (i.e. on an average 267 members in each WMG) where 77,621 are male members and 58,912 (43.1%) are female members (as against project target of 'at least 40%' female).”*

### Collective Action (CA):

The trend of participation of WMG members as well as other community farmers' in collective actions (CA) for economic activities and collective action for O&M of Infrastructure shows a positive upturn in each quarter from March 2017 to December 2018. This advancement in participation of WMG members in CA for economic activities and CA for O&M have been ensued due to constant motivation works by Blue Gold staffs among the WMG members & community farmers. The correlation between the number of participants of collective action activities and the

intervention period is significant because it is relatively progressing and its value is close to 1.00 (Correlation value of CA for EA is = 0.8981, Correlation value of CA for O&M of Infrastructure is = 0.9622). \*\*



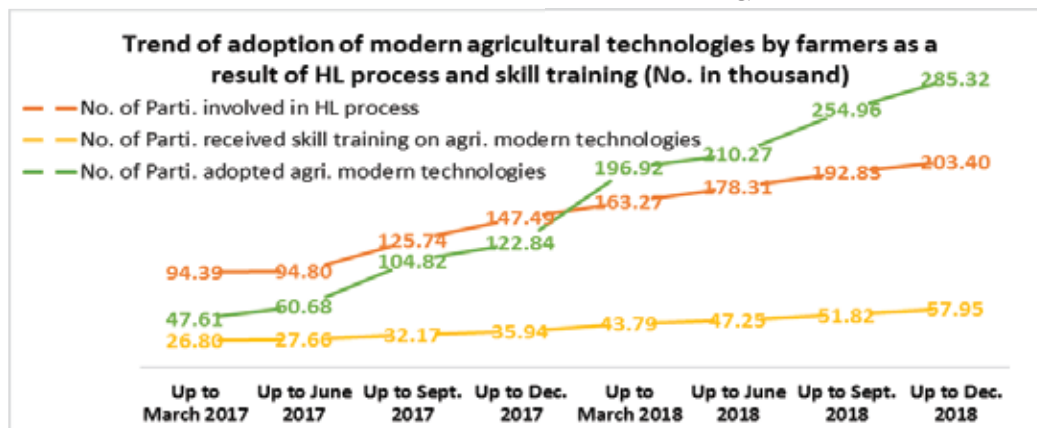
### Agricultural Modern Technology adopted

A significant achievement has been made as regards adoption of modern agricultural technologies by WMG members as well as farmers. An increas-

ing trend can be observed in the number of farmers adopting modern agricultural technologies in every quarter from Mar-2017 to Dec-2018; ➡

a remarkable number of farmers received trainings on different modern agricultural technologies, and some also learnt through horizontal learning process and demonstration/trial plots on crops. The correlation between number of WMG members

and community farmers who adopted technologies and *intervention time period* is significantly progressing, which value is close to 1.00 (Correlation value for HL process = 0.9737; Correlation value for skill training = 0.9814; Correlation value for technology adopted = 0.9813.



## SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH IMPROVED WATER MANAGEMENT: THE ROLE OF WATER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION(WMA)

Blue Gold Programme is working to sustain economic growth by using available local resources for enhancing polder water management through strong and functional WMA. WMAs – being composed of representatives from their constituent WMGs – have a leadership comprised of able and committed individuals who already play an important role in civic society. Blue Gold aims for the WMAs to take over Blue Gold Program’s role in promoting better in-polder water management well before the time of the closure of the BGP (June 30, 2020). BGP has made the following description of a functional WMA-

- It maintains communication and linkage with BWDB, DAE, DoF, DLS, local government agencies and other service providers; as well as with their constituent WMGs.
- Its Catchment O&M sub-committees develop and implement the O&M plan.
- It settles conflicts among the WMGs and mitigates obstacles to the implementation of the catchment O&M plans.
- It coordinates among the WMGs and develops leadership at polder level.
- It looks after and monitors all the activities of WMGs.
- It is able to develop a realistic annual work plan and ensures its implementation.
- It mobilises internal and external resources for investments by the WMA, as well as for the WMA’s running cost.

- It is able to implement the O&M Agreement; and goes beyond that if and when necessary.
- It undertakes horizontal learning and other activities to stimulate WMG performance.

BGP is pursuing that WMAs are becoming functional and can take over their responsibilities before June 30, 2020. Every WMA faces unique circumstances with unique challenges, there is therefore no detailed blueprint to assist. However, BGP is taking the following general steps:

- Support WMAs to pursue their registration (if still needed).
- Inform – where possible with the help of concerned BWDB staff – the WMA of the contents and function of the O&M Agreement. Stimulate the WMA to go if necessary, beyond the letters of the O&M Agreement to ensure good and undisrupted water management in the polder;
- Provide – where possible with the concerned BWDB staff - an orientation workshop on the role and responsibility of a functional WMA;
- Diagnose with the WMA its present abilities and the unique opportunities for enhancing its role and capacity;
- Providing support to the development and implementation of the WMA annual Plan;
- Support the review of achievements under the WMA Annual Plan and help the WMA adjust their plans periodically.

*“WMAs – being composed of representatives from their constituent WMGs – have a leadership comprised of able and committed individuals who already play an important role in civic society. Blue Gold aims for the WMAs to take over Blue Gold Program’s role in promoting better in-polder water management well before the time of the closure of the BGP (June 30, 2020).”*

## LANDLESS POOR WOMEN SET AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE OF COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR OTHER WMG MEMBERS

Polder-2, Satkhira:

Members of Suparighata Sanapara Water Management Group (WMG) of Dhulihar Union under Polder-2, Satkhira have put up a vegetable-shop for selling vegetables that they produce in their own homesteads. Sixty seven poor and landless female WMG members are cultivating vegetables in their homesteads and two female members are collecting and selling vegetables.

At the very beginning the WMG was relatively weak and inactive. Blue Gold Program provided farmer field school on the module of homestead

WMG in September of 2017, 30 landless poor women started collective actions in vegetable cultivation in two small groups. Later, 30 more women expressed their interest in the same initiative, and therefore the total 60 women were divided into 4 small groups. Each member contributed Tk. 50 to purchase vegetable seeds. The total cost of purchased seeds was Tk. 3000. WMG members volunteered to make one shed for selling their vegetables in a land owned by one of the members, Minoti Roy.

They are now selling their produced vegetables from this shop.



The Women Entrepreneurs are Selling Vegetable from their Business Centre

Seeing their success, 7 more members participated in this

garden. Since then, the interest of organizational activities increased among the members of the WMG. The WMG started income generating activities among the poor and landless members and provided agricultural loans. Later, the WMG, in cooperation with the concerned BGP field staff, initiated collective action in cultivating vegetables with landless women members. As per the decision of the General Meeting of the

collective activity. At present, 67 poor and landless women members are cultivating vegetables in their homesteads by adopting modern agricultural technologies like vegetable bed technique and applying organic fertilizers. Production is also good. The WMG has now become optimistic. In future, the activities will continue in greater area and the poor landless peasants will find their way of earning income.

## WHEN NEEDFULNESS PROVOKES; INITIATIVES BECOME INEVITABLE

Polder-47/4, Patuakhali:

The area of Varanir Khal Water Management Group (WMG) is surrounded by a river named Ramna Bandh. The WMG is located in Polder 47/4 under Kolapara Upozilla of Patuakhali District. In this WMG area there are 12 culverts and varanir khal culvert is one of them. For last five

years, the culvert has remained non-functional. WMG collected money (Tk. 35000) from its members and made wooden gate to control flushing in and drain out water. Thus, the WMG became successful in solving waterlogging problem in their area and growing field crops in all seasons.

*“As per the decision of the General Meeting of the WMG in September of 2017, 30 landless poor women started collective actions in vegetable cultivation in two small groups. Later, 30 more women expressed their interest in the same initiative, and therefore the total 60 women were divided into 4 small groups. Each member contributed Tk. 50 to purchase vegetable seeds. The total cost of purchased seeds was Tk. 3000. WMG members volunteered to make one shed for selling their vegetables in a land owned by one of the members, Minoti Roy.*

## ANNUAL REVIEW MISSION 2018 OBSERVED POSITIVE RURAL TRANSFORMATION

### Introduction

The Annual Review Mission (ARM) to the Blue Gold Program (BGP) that took place from 9 November to 20 November 2018. The ARM consisted of Frank van Steenberg (as Mission Leader), Jetze Heun, Wais Kabir, Nowsher Sarder, Professor Abul Fazal M. Saleh and Abul Kalam Azad. The aim of the mission was to guide the implementation of the project against its objectives and see if it can be completed within the time and resources available.

### Short assessment of impact and progress

#### Impact

The very positive rural transformation that was observed in last years has continued. Several analytical studies have become available, that put numbers to the agricultural change. The Water Management Groups that reported to be free of severe water problems (either water logging, water shortage or flooding) increased from 8 to 55%. This impact may be expected to increase further if the water control infrastructure component will get closer to completion.

Based on the data from the DAE the crop intensity has increased with 18%. A special validation study was done by one of the mission members, confirming this figure. The impact study undertaken based on a large number of focus group discussion with Water Management Groups (WMO) puts the increase in crop intensity even higher: at 36%. Besides the increased crop intensity, crop yields have increased as well.

This significant increase in crop coverage is driven by better water management and the introduction of high value crops (HVC) like water melon, mung-bean, sesame, brinjal, chili, peanut, bitter gourd, cucumber after the aman rice harvest. Translated into cost/benefits analysis the payback period for the investments in better drainage/water storage and WMO capacity building is less than three years. This is remarkable for any water resource and agriculture development investment.

The increase in agricultural production (including poultry and small livestock) has also created much social change. Anecdotal evidence suggested how the increased wealth changed the quality of life. The additional income earned was invested in improved housing, children's education, agricultural assets and better food. These

expenditures further boost the local economy: house construction gives rise to more local employment and the purchase of agricultural assets (livestock, seedlings etc.) pushes agricultural development further up. The increased availability of land to cultivate because of multiple cropping and the removal of drainage congestion has changed labour markets, though in some polders more than in others. It has given more opportunity to landless people in leasing land. In the first group of twelve polders improved under BGP the median increase in land being leased is 15%. A second but very important effect has also been the changed family relations with more family stability and respect for women. The BGP has also made much strides in improving gender equity with women now often in formal and informal leadership roles and taking part in project activities, with all targets that were set on women participation being met. The increased intensification of farming has resulted in the increased engagement of women in agricultural activities in addition to their largely under-recognized household and care work. The present and future role of women in economic and social activities is an important



area of interest for DAE under the broader theme of the feminization of agriculture. To contribute to this theme, we plan to carry out an overall assessment of how the wellbeing for women in landed and landless households has changed and how it may evolve in the future (ARM 2018 Recommendation 0.1).

#### Progress

Steady progress has been made in the last year. Almost all WMOs originally envisaged are now formed and registered. The different agricultural extension activities have reached almost 25% of farm families in the area directly with a wider group reached through horizontal learning. Some important points are the operationalization of polder water management and the close cooperation between BWDB and DAE. The mission, however, observed two main areas of concern. The first is the construction progress. Though the volume increased over the previous year, it is far behind from what would be required. The second concern is the WMOs of which 30 now are formed (out of the 39 planned). Despite the signing of the first O&M agreement, the vision and operationalization of what the WMO would look like and how they will operate are not yet crystallized.

*“The very positive rural transformation that was observed in last years has continued. Several analytical studies have become available, that put numbers to the agricultural change. The Water Management Groups that reported to be free of severe water problems (either water logging, water shortage or flooding) increased from 8 to 55%. This impact may be expected to increase further if the water control infrastructure component will get closer to completion.”*

### Editorial Note

Blue Gold Program already reached at its concluding phase. Therefore, the activities at the last days carry special significance. Blue Gold Program wants to give the most priority and focus on making successes long-lasting and sustainable. At the center of this attention is WMOs. There are WMGs and more significantly the WMAs, which are playing the coordinating role as an apex body of WMGs. So, the most important now is to increase skills and capacities of WMAs. Consequently, WMA registration at BWDB and completion of O&M agreement between BWDB and WMA is at the top of priority list of activities. Up to now, 24 WMAs have signed O&M agreement, which is released as the lead news on this issue-V. The WMA successes, as example of functional WMAs, have been narrated herein. The comments of latest Annual Review Mission of Blue Gold Program are particularly significant, which have been highlighted here also.

We always want to hear from you to incorporate your valued suggestions. Please write us-

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## AMODKHALI KHAL SLUICE WMA: A NAME OF TRUST AND DEPENDENCY OF WMGs

### Polder-2, Satkhira:

The Amodkhali sluice WMA, comprising of 23 WMGs with 92 general members, started its journey on 15 December, 2015. The executive committee consists of 12 members who are well represented in terms of knowledge about water management, willingness to ensure voluntary works, etc. WMA leaders are also socially acceptable, male and female, and chosen from among EC members of WMGs. The WMA is facilitated by a team of 5 CDFs who have different backgrounds of expertise, motivation and working experiences. The organizational management including regular meetings, generation of O&M fund, linkages with UPs and other service providers, capacity of leadership and conflict management, record keeping etc. are just exemplary. In question of water resource management, they are very active specially in catchment level O&M planning and implementation, implementation of small-scale infrastructures etc. For agriculture and economic development activities they already have demonstrated their capacity to provide support to WMGs for different collective actions; i.e. negotiating and building linkage with Square Medicine Company for Bashak value chain where 285 female are engaged for green leaf collection, drying and selling,

The WMA successfully motivated the Chairman of Fingri UP for using a room of UP Building as WMA office and where they do regular meetings. They

have also very good linkages with BWDB, DAE, DLS and other private sectors which they utilize for better supports to their WMGs.



WMA is using a room of UP Building as their office.

In case of conflicts within the WMGs or, if required, for implementation of water resource management, they pro-actively provide supports. Recently they organized annual general meeting on 13 January, 2019 where they presented their last year's income (Tk. 62,900) and expenditure (Tk. 54,415); the remaining amount is deposited at their bank account. As a dynamic and motivated WMA, they also extend their support to other WMAs if they call for supports like mitigating conflicts, organizing, planning and/or implementing critical activities.

## DIHIBURA KHAL WMA ESTABLISHED AN ENTHUSIASTIC LINKAGE WITH UNION PARISHAD

### Polder-22, Khulna:

Dihibura Khal Water Management Association (WMA) is an apex body of 12 Water Management Groups (WMGs) in Polder-22, Paikgachha, Khulna. The WMA executive committee members are dynamic and innovative and have been playing a prominent role since its formation in organizing water management activities and increasing agricultural production, and in establishing effective linkages and relations with Bangladesh Water Development Board, Department of Agricultural Extension and Deuluti Union Parishad. On behalf of WMGs, WMA submitted an application to the UP Chairman for founding an Agricultural Market. UP Chairman accepted the idea very enthusiastically and granted Tk. 500,000.00

from UP fund. UP Chairman also forwarded the application to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Department of Fisheries for additional grants. Department of Fisheries granted Tk. 650,000.00 and UNO committed to grant Tk. 500,000.00 for the same purpose. Now the construction work of the market 'Deluti Krishi Biponi' is being started. The objective of this unique initiative is to bring market at the door step of farmers of Polder-22, so that they can sell easily agricultural productions. In addition, with the support of neighboring Surkhali UP, the Chairman constructed 20 km brick soling link road between two UPs, so that farmers can transport products and the proposed market can get more vendors, that will be supportive to its sustainability.

#### Contributors

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