

## **UZ workshop on Partnership Development for Polder Water Management, Amtali, Barguna.**

Venue of the workshop: Upazila Auditorium, Amtoli Upazila  
January 28, 2020

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A workshop on “Partnership Development for Polder Water Management” organized on 28th January 2020 at Amtali Upazila Auditorium, Amtali, Barguna. The objectives of the workshop were to share the polder water management plans, achievements and Challenges by the Water Management Associations under Polder 43/2F and 43/1A to get support from the Union & Upazila Parishads, GoB Line Departments and other Private Sectors for higher agricultural production & sustainable organization.

Participants: In this workshop the Project Coordinating Director, BWDB, Upazila Nirbihi Officer, Upazila Chairman, Amtali Upazila, Barguna and Additional Director, DAE and other senior officials from LGED, BADC, DAE, DoF, DLS, UP chairman’s and the representatives of Water Management Associations.



The moderator welcomed the participants on behalf of BGP and invited Kaiser Alom to chair in the workshop. Then he invited Md. Amirul Islam, PCD of BGP-BWDB to take sit as chief guest. ADD of DAE and DTL of BGP and vice chairman of Amtoli Upazila take sit as special guest.

At the beginning of the workshop Mr. Siddiqur Rahman, Imam of Amtoli Upazila Jama Masque and Bibek Chakraborty, CDF of BGP for for recitation of holy Quran and Gita respectively.

“Welcomed everybody for attending the workshop. This is an appropriate initiative in right time. I hope the workshop will be successful. I am to grateful to Executive Engineer, Upazila administration, UPZ vice-chairman, UP chairman, Press club, BGP, WMA representative and others” Said Md. Azizur Rahman, Sub division Engineer of BWDB in his welcome speech on behalf of superintendent Engineer of Patuakhali Water Development circle, BWDB

“Welcomed to all including the participants came from three unions of Amtoli upazila. There are many sluices in two polders but some are not functioning properly. There are many projects working here but their activities are not performing in right ways. I am with you for the development of our Upazila” said special guest Mohammad. Mozibur Rahman, Upazila Vice Chairman of Amtoli upazila

Mr. Amirul Islam, Project Coordination Director, BGP Bangladesh water Development Board said in his speech as chief guest that BGP is a project of GoB and Netherlands Government. Bangladesh is a country in the world where per head land is the lowest. BGP is a first project under Delta plan. The project is almost ending. DAE is involved with the project and its ownership will be on WMA and WMG. Sluice, inlet, outlet, khal and embankment will have to keep well functional by their active involvement and management. WMA and WMG will take care of the infrastructures and he also advised everybody not to plantation of harmful trees at the embankment and not to culture fishes in the running khals.



Photo: PCD-BGP-BWDB delivered his speech

Advocate Nurul Islam, Chairman of Gulisakhali Union Parishad of polder-43/2F said during his speech that he was involved with BGP activities from very beginning, BGP has accomplished many activities including embankment re-sectioning & sluice construction/repair but some sluices are now not functioning properly as a result, excess water cannot be drained-out efficiently in time. Re-construction of 2 sluices have been completed. If, other inactive sluice would be repaired properly, the agricultural production would be increased definitely. In case of khal re-excavation, contracts of all works have been awarded to the Contractors of Patuakhali who rarely think benefits of the Polder dwellers, usually, the contractors dumping the soil at the Khal bank which ultimately create problems to the villager's movement. He also added that many assets of BWDB has under the control of influential persons. If, poor and extreme poor got access /scope of those assets for utilization, they would be benefitted.

Md.Borhan Uddin Musum Talukder chairman of Kukua Union Parishad in Polder- 43/1A said during his speech that all activities of Blue Gold program are well and known to me. I will with them for proper water management in my areas for the development of my union's inhabitants.

Md. Harun- Or Rashid chairman of Atharogachia Union Parishad in Polder-43/1A said during his speech that contractors/ BGP did not inform the chairman on repairing or re-excavation works that's why he is not involved with BGP activities and he has no ideas on quality of works.

Md.Nurul Alam Nabi, secretary of Amtoli press club said in his speech that Khal re-excavation is questionable? It would be better if statistical report of program is provided to the participants prior to the workshop.

Md. Harun-Or Rashid, President, Amtoli Press Club said in his speech that I have little ideas on BGP activities. Sluices in Amtoli and Taltoli are inactive and Amtoli lake is completely covered with water hyacinth. Khal re-excavation creates opportunities for contractors not for farmers.

Monira Parvin, UNO of Amtoli Upazila said in her speech as special guest that It is true that there are many houses near sluice gate areas, illegal obstacles in khals. It creates problem of smooth flow of water movement and sustainability/life cycle of sluices. She advised that if somebody wants to build houses near sluice gate areas and set up illegal obstacles, WMA/WMG has to be protected first. My office (UNO) will take



Photo: Monira Parvin, UNO of Amtoli UPZ delivered her speech

necessary steps/actions to evict illegal structures from embankment or from sluice gate if WMA properly notify us. The WMA has to be collected subscription for regular operation and maintenance of structures. Here is an office of BWDB but no staffs in the office. If SD level staff would remain here, we could inform the problems.

Md. Kaiser Alom, Executive Engineer of BWDB, Barguna presented water resource management activities. He presented the activities; progress and plan of BGP in these two polder areas. [For details please see the attachment.](#)

SM Badrul Alam, ADD, DAE, Barguna presented accomplished activities in these two polders including others activities of DAE. He also discussed the impact on production and productivity by the BGP. [For details please see the attachment.](#)

Md. Shahidul Islam, president of Gozkhali Sluice WMA in Polder-43/2F and Md. Habibur Rahman, president of Amtola-Chawla sluice WMA under polder-43/1A presented the O&M accomplished activities and challenges in the polder areas and expected active cooperation of relevant departments to overcome the challenges.

The main challenges:

- Fish culture in Dalachara khal in polder 43/2F
- Illegal control of khal and set up net, Patta in khal
- Lease of khal
- Misuse of sluice gate
- Illegal structure on embankment, nearby sluice
- Siltation
- Lack of operation and maintenance fund

### **Question and answer session (Panel discussion)**

Md.Nasir Uddin, president of Kewabunia-Mohiskata Golbunia sluice WMA in polder 43/1A asked that three out fall khals are silted. We have applied to BWDB but still we did not get any measure and also asked there is no out let in Khakdan khal. So, water cannot drain-out properly.

Ans. In response of these problem Mr. Chair of the workshop said that we have plan to re-excavate Kukua river if the project is approved then problem will be solved. The PCD of BGP-BWDB added that BGP has no scope to work out side polder areas. It will be done if it is possible under the project otherwise, we have to find out alternative options.

Shahid Altaf Mahmud president of Haridrabilia-Solohawlder Sluice WMA in polder-43/2F asked that two new construction of sluice is running but there is no signboard. When the signboard will be hanged. Vertical gate of haridrabilia sluice is not properly working though it has been repaired recently.

Ans. In response of the problem Mr. Chair of the workshop said very soon sign board will be there and regarding haridrabilia sluice problem, he suggested to communicate with TA team.

Md. Abdul Wahab Mia, president of Gulisakhali sluice WMA in polder-43/2F said that there are some problems in sluice and in khals. UP chairman and UNO can play vital role to solve the problem. He also made a proposal that there are four big markets in Polder-43/2F and the income comes from the market goes to district parishad fund. If some portion of income goes to WMA, it would accelerate our regular operation and maintenance activities.

Ans. The PCD said that sluice management committee should be strong. Many problems have been solved those are operated and maintenance by the WMA.

Md. Shahidul Islam, president Gozkhali Sluice WMA in polder 43/2F asked whether they have scope for tree plantation and fish culture in embankment and in khal respectively for IGA as WMA is a registered organization?

Ans. In response of the problem Mr. Chair of the workshop answered that if WMA applies, we will consider in future and also PCD of BGP-BWDB said that it is possible for plantation. Forest Department, BWDB and WMA can make a triparty agreement for planation (Social forestry). Leasing of khal is a common problem. No khal will be leased out.

Md. Habibor Rahman president of Amtola-Chawla sluice WMA in polder- 43/1A said that the main khal of chawla sluice is almost silted, need to re-excavation of Charabunia khal. We took initiatives of removal of illegal structure but failed. If Upazila administration assists, it will be easier.

Chair of the workshop said in his closing speech that operation and maintenance work of sluices and khals are not properly doing due to leasing problem. It is not true that polder dwellers are not getting benefit of khal re-excavation. Of course, polder dwellers are getting benefit by the re-excavation of khal, so we

are doing. If re-excavation of khal are not bringing any fruit, you inform us formally, we will stop it. If a khal is re-excavated, it goes a series of process. Then went for final work order. Finally, he thanks and acknowledged every bodies effort to make the program very successful and closed the workshop.

