



Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) Dhaka, Bangladesh



Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)



Progress Report Q4-2017

Blue Gold Innovation Fund

12 February 2018



Progress Report Q4-2017

October to December 2017

Blue Gold Program – Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

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Executive summary

This report provides a quarterly progress update of the period October - December 2017 showcasing the innovative approaches that have benefited, or are expected to have a positive impact on, the lives of the people in the polders under the Blue Gold Program. This progress reporting is part of the management of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund (BGIF). For more details on the scope and set-up the BGIF, please consult the BGIF Procedure Manual V7- August 2017.

Quick status overview of Innovation Fund Projects and Applications on 31st Dec 2017

Unsolicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the numbers of the total number of projects under implementation, completed, under review, under development and rejected:

Projects under implementation (Chapter 1)	Projects Completed (Chapter 2)	Proposals under review (Chapter 3)	Concepts under development (Chapter 4)	Concepts Rejected (Chapter 5)
5 (total)	21 (total)	1	10	48 (total)
Two new project contracts signed in Q4	Eight projects completed in Q4	No new proposals being reviewed in Q4	Five new concepts received in Q4	Eight concepts rejected in Q4

Further details are provided in Chapter 1-5.

Solicited Proposals - The table below provides an overview of the progress with solicited proposals (tenders).

	Planned Activities	Completion schedule	Remarks
1.	Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)	November 2019	The stabilisation of riverbank with geobags implemented in July 2017 and post-implementation monitoring took place, including the analysis of a river survey of the Lower Bhadra conducted by IWM in November 2017. The report on the surveys and intervention is being prepared by Jesper Matthiesen (NHC) - submission is expected in end of Feb 2018. PCD made additional funds available for riverbank protection in two separate locations in Polder 29 through emergency O&M funds, Works on almost the full length of Chadghar embankment (60-70%) in P29 has been finalised. PCD announced at the coordination meeting on 9th November that the implementation of P29 low cost erosion measures (semi-permeable groynes) will not be financed through FRERMIP because of budget limitations.
2.	Max. 4 projects concerned with "Improved Information for Agriculture"	September 2019	The tendering of the solicited call is in its final stage. Evaluation of both technical and financial proposals has been finalized. Contract negotiations are scheduled for February 2018.

Projects under implementation

At the moment, 5 projects are under implementation. Below the most interesting project updates are highlighted (for more information see chapter 1):

- **United Purpose – Women Business Centres (WBC)** finalised its feasibility study report on the WBC concept for polder 31-part and 28/2, which is a proven model of ‘Local Service Providers’ (LSPs) selected by the target communities and trained by the project to become community-paid agriculture and business advisors. Blue Gold Program awarded them a 12-month pilot contract to fully test the WBCs concept. This period the establishment of four centres started.
- **ProPortion and Grameen Intel (PP&GI)** has been continuing its feasibility study to develop a self-sustainable service and business model for a ICT-based agriculture advisory service. The investigation of PP&GI initially focussed on 4 services areas: soil nutrient testing, proper fertilizer application, accessing affordable high quality agri inputs and receiving fair market prices. PP&GI conducted consultation meeting with Blue Gold team at Khulna on 21 December and concept validation workshop at Botiaghata upazila, Khulna on 27 December. The outcome of this meeting was that most interest is there among WMGs and private sector to continue with the latter services areas. PP&GI will likely design a pilot project based on the outcomes.
- **BAU Germplasm Centre (BAU-GC)** is introducing new types of lean season fruits and vegetables through Participatory Action Research in 9 polders since May 2017. In this reporting period, BAU-GC distributed fruits and vegetable species to each farmer and established 40 trials plots of dragon fruits, and completed training for contact farmers at Khulna and Satkhira during November 2017. BAU-GC is planning to organize the same farmer training in February 2018 at Patuakhali. A new coordinator has been recruited in October, however his participation was not effective from the start. There were distribution problems and some sweet potato cuttings and strawberries seedlings died during transport.
- **United Purpose – Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology (SWIFT)** – Contact signing ceremony held on 12th December, 2017 and United Purpose field activities will start from 1st January, 2017.

Projects nearing completion

The following projects have finalised their field activities in Q4-2017, but are still working on their final report.

- **BMSR Agricultural University’s** pilot project “**Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas in southwest region of Bangladesh**” is almost completed. A presentation and discussion was held on December 11, 2017 at Program Coordinating Director’s Office, PCD Mr. Amirul Hossain, Focal Point of DoF Dr. Sainar Alam, District Fisheries Officer, and BGP TA Team experts attended the session. Another workshop will be conducted in January at local level to discuss the possible follow-up within polder 2. We are also in discussion with Dr. Jahangir Alam to evaluate other aquaculture interventions within the BGP area.

Projects completed

The following projects were fully completed in Q4-2017 (for more information see chapter 2):

- **WorldFish** successfully finalised its **EcoPond II** project
- **WorldFish** also successfully completed its **Tilapia Fish Feed** project
- **Aspire & Insects4All** finalised its feasibility study report on “**Insect larvae as fish feed**”. It is currently designing a pilot project, submission is expected in February 2018.
- **Social Business Youth Alliance** successfully rounded off its **Blue Gold Innovation Challenge** with Pitch event in Khulna, resulting in 3 entrepreneurial spirited youths to receive an award. PCD Mr. Amirul Hossain, BWDB, and Sarder Ferdous, DAE and Alamgir Chowdhury, DTL BGP were part of the jury.

Proposals in final stage of review

The following proposals are under review in Q4-2017 (for more information see chapter 3):

- For the solicited call for proposals “**Improved Information for Agriculture**” a special evaluation committee was again put to work to evaluate 9 proposals in December 2017. The contract awarding is expected to take place in February 2018.
- The number of unsolicited proposals that came in was unfortunately disappointing in Q4-2017. We have not conducted contract negotiations therefore in this period. However, the pipeline of concept notes coming in is substantial, so we expect more proposals in Q1-2018.
- **Light Castle Partners/Syngenta – Farmers’ Hub Model in Bangladesh** - aiming to assess the viability of marketing vegetables sampling has been technically approved, but due to the seasonal nature of the project, we will resume contract negotiations in August 2018 and start the project around September 2018 (just before the next Rabi season starts).

Concepts under development

We received about 5 new concept notes during Q4-2017 and stimulated the further concept note development of about 5 other organisations, who submitted earlier. Among the 10 concepts under development, the following can be considered as high potential to develop a full proposal (For more information see Chapter 4):

- **Action Aid** – Unpaid Care Work
- **FarmerTreeServices & Away4Africa** – Polder farm planner – a serious game on cost-benefit analysis for farmers
- **Aspire & Insects4All** – Pilot for Insect Larvae as fish feed

Concepts/proposals rejected

Unfortunately, we had to reject 8 concept notes under the unsolicited procedure (For more information see Chapter 5):

- One applicant (DoubenConsult) has been successfully referred to the WMKIP and another one did not submit an innovative concept compared to earlier work done for BGIF (NICE foundation). The 6 other concept notes rejected under the unsolicited procedure, concerned organisations we have been sending feedback and several reminders, but still did not reply after 6 months.

Promotion Activities

To ensure a continuous flow of applications and to demonstrate the effectiveness and possibilities of Blue Gold’s Innovation Fund, we introduced two following new activities (for more information see Chapter 6):

- For concept notes recently received under both solicited and unsolicited procedure, a number of Dutch applicants appeared to have limited understanding of the local context, while a number of local universities and grassroot NGOs lacked innovative ideas and quality work approaches and methodologies. We are investigating with the Economic Affairs department of EKN whether a **special mission to the Blue Gold Program for Dutch SMEs** and other interested organisations would be viable. That special mission would include a matchmaking event with local NGOs, research institutes, universities and private sector.
- As part of continuous effort of reaching appropriate practical-oriented researchers for unsolicited proposals, visits and meetings were arranged in December 2017 at Khulna University, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), BAURES and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh. They have all shown their interest in applying to the BGIF and promised to share the information with a wider audience. The professors at those universities/research institutes also wished to cooperate in case of any opportunity to collaborate with Dutch organizations/universities.

1. Projects under implementation

The following Innovation Fund projects are under implementation as of 31 December 2017. Reports mentioned under deliverables can be delivered upon request.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
MetaMeta	Roads for Flood Protection and Water Management	Investigate the feasibility of integrated road planning with BWDB and LGED to reduce drainage congestion and enhance flood protection	1 Dec '16- 30 Nov '17 (1 year)	€ 30,970	MetaMeta is finalising its feasibility study and started to prepare for the next phase of designing a pilot. This expected to be a combination of testing and monitoring Roads for Water infrastructural works in polder 26 and initiating a policy dialogue and developing BWDB-LGED guidelines on Roads for Water Management and Flood Protection. Finance for this pilot will come partly from an already obtained fund from Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), and possible additional will be provided from WMKIP and local UP/Upazila funds.	Draft final report, incl. Pilot design	€ 21,042	€ 9,928
ProPortion Inc & Grameen Intel	Feasibility for Agriculture advisory services	Assessing whether a package of soil testing kits together with a number of other digital agriculture advisory services is attractive to WMG members in BGP area Khulna	1 May '17 - 31 Dec '17 (8 months)	€ 25,000	Proportion & GrameenIntel (PP&GI) published a 'Deep Dive' research report in Q4-2017 and visited BGP TA Dhaka office on 12 Oct 2017 to collect information for value chain analysis. On 21 December they came to Khulna BGP office and shared present status of implementation and plan with BGP experts. They talk to beneficiaries and incorporate their feedback in to the draft the week after. On 27 Dec they presented their final findings, in presence of DAE and BGP TA experts. PP&GI are	Deep Dive report	€ 6,244	€ 18,756

planning to finalise their feasibility report very soon. We will then discuss whether a pilot is feasible.

BAU Germ Plasm Center	Participatory Action Research on Fruits and Vegetables	Introducing new types of lean season fruits and vegetables in 12 different polder areas of BGP and researching the viability and uptake by WMG members	1 May '17 - 30 June '20 (3 years)	€ 48,194	In this reporting period, BAU-GC distributed fruits and vegetable species to each farmer and established 40 trials plots of dragon fruits, and completed training for contact farmers at Khulna and Satkhira during November 2017. BAU-GC is planning to organize the same farmer training in February 2018 at Patuakhali. A new coordinator has been recruited in October, however his participation was not effective from the start. There were distribution problems and a number of sweet potato cuttings and strawberries seedlings died during transport.	Monthly progress report Dec 2017	€ 24,317	€ 23,877
BSMR-AU Gazipur	Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas	Conducting participatory action research on site specific aquaculture interventions in polder 2 to increase productivity and nutrition	1 Jun '17 - 31 Dec '17 (6 months)	€ 41,289	In this reporting period, BSMRAU finalised its pilot project on pen culture in polder 2, with harvest of the fish in November and December. A presentation and discussion was held on December 11, 2017 at Program Coordinating Director's Office, PCD Mr. Amirul Hossain, Focal Point of DoF Dr. Sainar Alam, District Fisheries Officer, and BGP TA Team experts attended the session. Another workshop will be conducted in January at local level to discuss the possible follow-up within polder 2. We are also in discussion with Dr. Jahangir Alam to evaluate other aquaculture interventions within the BGP area.	Mid-term progress report	€ 39,225	€ 2,064
United Purpose	Women Business Centers	Pilot Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	21 Nov '17 till 20 Nov '18 (12 months)	€ 49,985	UP has started establishing WBCs at polder level. Four WBCs have been established in polder 28/2 and 31 part namely Choyghoria, Joykhali and Raypur, Bunarabad. Five women entrepreneurs from each WBC have invested BDT 50000 (BDT 10000 each) for their business center. 120 farmer groups already selected under this 4 WBC (Each group consist 20-30 farmers). WBCs are waiting to open bank accounts for transparency and the expectation they will have those by the end of January. They already started business in sapling production and selling, egg collection and selling, seed selling, cosmetics and	Advance claim	€ 17,495	€ 32,490

grocery items selling. WBCs are also making shopping bags by themselves and sell those. Linkages between entrepreneurs of WBCs and different government officials like Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Upazilla Livestock Officer, and Upazilla Fisheries Officers has been developed through value chain selection and value chain validation workshops. WBC members are communicating with government officials so that they can get different services from them. They are planning to collect vaccines from Upazilla livestock office for animals. Through vaccination women entrepreneurs would be able to earn good revenue.

2. Projects completed

The following eight projects were completed in Q4-2017. The final reports are available on request and will be published soon on the BGP website.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Costs (EUR)	Details
Aspire & Insects4All	Insect Fish Feed	Assessing the feasibility of producing Insect larvae as fish feed in BGP area	23 Mar '17 - 31 Jul '17 (4.25 months)	€ 8,000	Aspire/Insects4All finalised its feasibility study on "Insect Larvae as Fish Feed" by delivering its final report in November 2017. However, further approval from DoF is required to ensure that no further lab-based research is required before introducing the production of insect larvae at community level.
United Purpose	Women Business Centers	Assessing the feasibility of Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	1 July '17 - 30 Oct '17 (4 months)	€ 25,000	The feasibility study ended in November 2017 and included several union level workshops, focus group discussions and key information interviews to identify 4 market value chains (milk, poultry, fish and vegetables) as the main focus area of the WBCs. The WBCs will be piloted in polder 28/2 and 31-part to evaluate their potential. The establishment of these WBCs started from December 2017.
WorldFish	EcoPonds II and empowering of women	Upscale EcoPonds with leadership of women	16 June '16 - 15 June '17 (1 year)	€ 50,000	WorldFish has delivered the final report of the EcoPond II project in Q4-2018. WorldFish is currently producing a video demonstrate the success of EcoPond II. Blue Gold Program will not finance a further upscaling phase. This is also not necessary as WorldFish has been able to acquire other funds to continue up to June 2018 in BGP area and to also extent its approach to other areas in Bangladesh.

WorldFish	Tilapia fish feed improvement	Reduce the cost of fish feed while maintaining proper feed management and quality protein ratio.	1 Nov '16 - 31 August '17 (1 year)	€ 49,996	WorldFish developed its final project report in Q4-2018 and it has been published on the website. The project experimented with 8 different treatments of feed management and maintaining quality protein ratio to enhance tilapia production in homestead ponds. Treatment-3 (low protein feed, low feeding level and high stocking density) appeared to provide the best results.
Moringa Ltd	Moringa business market study	Assessing the feasibility of professionalising Moringa production and processing in BGP area	1 Jan '17 - 30 April '17 (4 months)	€ 3,438	Since Moringa Ltd. still has not delivered after 6 months a third revised final report, we decided to close this project off. Plans are under development to organise a seminar on Moringa for interested companies (supplier, producers, buyers), research institutes, government and NGOs. This hopefully will result in more promising feasibility studies/pilots in the future.
Deltares	Pump drainage Polder 2	Assessing the technical and socio-economic feasibility of pumped drainage in polder 2	1 May '17 - 31 Aug '17 (4 months)	€ 49,882	A part of this contract has been transferred to WMKIP budget under management of Deltares/IWM, this part is now considered as completed under the BGIF.
Social Business Youth Alliance	Blue Gold Innovation Challenge	Stimulating youth and students to come up with innovative business ideas for the BGP.	1 Dec '16 - 30 Nov '17 (1 year)	€ 39,435	The Blue Gold Innovation Challenge (BGIC) conducted its final activity in Q4-2018, namely The Pitch Day of the Khulna cohort, which took place at Tiger Garden International Hotel on October 22, 2017. The event was attended by 55+ people. The Jury panel had Mr. Amirul Hossain, Project Coordinating Director (PCD), BWDB, Mr. S.M. Ferdous, District Seed Certification Officer, DAE and Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader, TA team. In November-December 2018, the winners of the Pitch Day were coached to develop full-fledged business plans and submit a proposal to the BGIF.
Dutch Network Group	Marketing campaign BG IF	Promoting investments by Dutch SMEs in Bangladesh under the BGP	1 Jun '17 - 30 October '17 (4 months)	€ 15,450	The DNG campaign to attract Dutch SMEs to invest in Bangladesh under the Blue Gold Program area ended in September 2017. On its own initiative DNG continued the campaign for 3 more weeks to ensure all KPIs would be reached. In the end, the media outreach was very successful and more clicks to the website were made than expected. The targets to get at least 75 participants registered to the mini-course on Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh and about 20 requests (actual 17) for a feasibility study under the BGIF were met.

3. Proposals in final stage of review

Only one proposal is currently under review. The draft proposals are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Budget (EUR)	Current status
31/01/2017	LCP	Farmer Market Place	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	25,000	Negotiating financial budget. Contract agreements and signing postponed to August 2018.

4. Concepts under development

The following concepts are under development in Q4-2018. The concept notes are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
21/05/2017	SHARE Bangladesh	Women Empowerment in Agriculture	Roksana Begum	Productive Sector Fund	Received revised concept note, but concept lacked innovativeness. Feedback sent in mid-November 2017. Awaiting revision.
09/07/2017	WUR Plant International	Extra K+ fertilization for watermelon and mung bean	Shamim Alom	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Skype call with TA team in Khulna on 21 Aug 2017. Concept note received on 13 Sep 2017 and feedback provided by TA team in begin October 2017. Awaiting revised concept note.
08/08/2017	Huizing Harvest BV	Mechanisation solutions	Shaifullah / Karel T'Jonck	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Email exchanges with clarifications request and on 28 September Skype call with BGP TA team and CIMMYT. First concept received but poor Value-for-Money. HuizingHarvest decided to involve students to do a desktop research. We received the student report, but are still awaiting revised concept note. Huizing Harvest interested to attend special mission for Dutch SMEs.
27/08/2017	VSO	Youth Business Support Consultants	Judith de Buijne	Productive Sector Fund	VSO came initial to us for crab farming proposal, but that was not considered environmentally sustainable by the TA team. Requested them to focus on their core strengthen of empowering youth and business development. Awaiting first concept note. Reminder sent mid December 2017
30/09/2017	FarmerTree Services & Away4Africa	Polder Farm Planner	Karel T'Jonck	Productive Sector Fund	Submitted concept note as part of solicited call Improved Information for Agriculture. Concept note declined, but has potential if the approach would be less high tech. Discussions in Arnhem office took place to simply concept note and develop full proposal. Awaiting revised full proposal
12/09/2017	Seolfor	Moringa plantations	Karel T'Jonck	Productive Sector Fund	Skype call organised on 10 October 2017 were idea was presented. Feedback provided. Awaiting revised concept note.

20/09/2017	BioMyGreen	Organic seed coating with Mycorrhiza yeast	Sumona Das	Productive Sector Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual sent. Skype call conducted on 9 October. Awaiting draft concept note. Had plan to visit Bangladesh end of November, but cancelled travel. No follow up since then.
23/10/2017	Eijkelkamp	Soil testing kits	TBC	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting first concept note.
08/10/2017	Aspire & Insects4All	Insect Fish Feed	Tanvir Islam	Productive Sector Fund	Aspire & Insects4All successfully delivered a feasibility study on Insect Fish Feed, and BGIF is keen to continue with them for a pilot if they are able to meet governmental biological risk regulations and set up a partnership with an academic institution. They have established contacts with Patuakhali university and are currently developing a proposal.
18/12/2017	Action Aid	Unpaid care work	Roksana Begum	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting first concept note.

5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

The following projects have been rejected in Q4-2017.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
12/03/2017	Nice Foundation	Developing pig-mear value chain	Munir Ahmed	Productive Sector Fund	The newly submitted concept note by NICE foundation for another pilot was not innovative compared to the previous IF project already executed.
06/03/2017	Aid Environment	Feasibility study on enhancing water availability	Judith de Bruijne	Water Management Fund	Additional suggestions and linkages with research institutes provided in June 2017. Awaiting for more than 6 months on revised proposal, therefore rejected
25/05.2017	BOP Inc	VR in training	TBC	Productive Sector Fund	Awaiting for more than 6 months on revised proposal, therefore rejected
29/08/2017	Edam Kistemaker	Windmill for polder areas	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual and clarification questions sent and left message on voicemail. No response after more than 4 months.
05/09/2017	Silverpit Port Maritime	Maintenance and repairs maritime/technical equipment	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Procedure Manual sent. Awaiting email response already for 4 months. Concept note theme does not seems to fit well BGIF. If interest is still there, applicant will be brought in touch with WMKIP.
19/06/2017	CDR International	MAR upscale for agriculture irrigation	Aveek Rahman	Water Management Fund	Discussions held on 29 August 2017. Awaiting for more than 5 months for revised proposal, therefore rejected.
11/07/2017	Geophix	Fish friendly treatment pumps to improve water quality of surface water bodies	Robbert Huizinga	Water Management Fund	Email communication and Procedure Manual sent. Awaiting concept note. Has being pending for 6 months but no response, so rejected.
09/09/2017	DoubenConsult	Low-cost water level monitoring network	Robbert Huzinga/ Aveek Rahman	WMKIP	Request for feasibility study via DNG. Full concept note received, but appeared that theme would better fit under WMKIP. Feedback on concept note provided during Skype call on 23 October 2017. DoubenConsult successfully submitted concept note to WMKIP

6. Promotion activities

To ensure a continuous flow of applications to and to demonstrate the effectiveness and possibilities of Blue Gold's Innovation Fund (BGIF), we are undertaking the following activities:

SBYA / YY Goshti - Blue Gold Innovation Challenge

The Blue Gold Innovation Challenge (BGIC) was organized during 2017 by SBYA/YY Goshti to inspire youth and students to develop innovative business solutions to the water resource management and agriculture problems faced by inhabitants of BGP polder areas (Patuakhali and Khulna). Top 20 applicants have received training, mentorship and resources to build their business model. The rewards for the top 7 participants included mentorship and opportunity to apply to the BGIF, start-up accelerators and social business funds.

The Blue Gold Innovation Challenge (BGIC) conducted its final activity in Q4-2018, namely The Pitch Day of the Khulna cohort, which took place at Tiger Garden International Hotel on October 22, 2017. 7 finalists were invited to give a 5-minute speech to present their business plan and 2 minutes for Q&A session. The event was attended by 55+ people. The audience included students, teachers, stakeholders, innovators, entrepreneurs, NGOs and local people. The Jury panel had Mr. Amirul Hossain, Project Coordinating Director (PCD), BWDB, Mr. S.M. Ferdous, District Seed Certification Officer, DAE and Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader, TA team. The winners are following:

- ALOE FARM - With a motto of "everyone deserves to drink organic", the entrepreneur Rajoana Jannat will produce organic aloe vera juice for the people of Khulna region.
- REGEN - Fahim Uddin Shuvo produces best quality vermi-compost by collecting and recycling food waste concentrating on commercial kitchens aiming to contribute towards a clean and better city and providing low lying land farmers better fertilizers
- SMART POULTRY FARM - Abdullah Al Musabbir wants to start a poultry consultant and service providing company, Tech-Gen, which will launch smart poultry farm service providing bio-gas based electricity production plant, fertilizer production system, automatic temperature and humidity controlling system to the poultry farmers at the cheapest cost.

In November-December 2018, the winners of the Pitch Day were coached to develop full-fledged business plans and submit a proposal to the BGIF. REGEN and SMART POULTRY FARM did so, but we considered their idea not mature enough yet, so we brought them in touch with other organisations/experts to continue development of their concepts.

Dutch Network Group (DNG)/No.9– Dutch SME campaign

Since the roll-out of the Innovation Fund in 2015, the applications to the fund have been characterized by a relatively small participation of Netherlands based enterprises. The majority of applications came from Bangladesh-based enterprises. As the Innovation Fund is aimed at giving practical implementation to the 'Aid to Trade' policy of EKN in Bangladesh, a larger involvement of Dutch enterprises within the scope of the Innovation Fund is desirable. Not only for the development of Dutch business in Bangladesh, but also for the opportunities that this provides for collaboration between the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

Together with DNG/No.9, the Innovation Fund has finalised a marketing campaign, titled 'Ondernemen in Bangladesh', using email, social media (LinkedIn, Twitter) and a website (www.oibd.nl) to target SMEs and

entrepreneurs from the Netherlands. The marketing campaign was launched on June 1st, 2017 and ran till mid October 2017. It resulted in 17 requests for feasibility studies by Dutch organisations. In the meanwhile, all applicants have been reviewed and number already rejected (see also previous chapter). The high potential ones have been invited for a special Blue Gold mission for Dutch SMEs, tentatively planned for 8 to 13 April 2018.

Local promotion

As part of continuous effort of reaching appropriate practical-oriented researchers for unsolicited proposals, visits and meetings were arranged in December 2017 at Khulna University, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU). Information related with BGIF was shared with senior professors at different departments of those universities with a view to attract relevant proposals. There were also meetings arranged with director BAURES (the apex body for research at BAU) and director research of BSMRAU. Also meeting with scientists of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh, took place to discuss BGIF opportunities.

They have all shown their interest in applying for BGIF and promised to share the information with a wider audience. The professors at those universities/research institutes also wished to cooperate in case of any opportunity to collaborate with Dutch organizations/universities.

Production of projects video

Broadcasting the activities of the Innovation Fund can stimulate adoption and replication, and even form the motivation for the development of new innovative approaches. In order to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund is currently developing project videos for all of the implemented innovation activities.

The project videos are produced by the implementing partners of the Innovation Fund and targeted towards people generally interested in development. These could be citizens from the Netherlands or Bangladesh, academicians, development practitioners, donors, government agencies or partner organizations. The project videos' primary focus is the innovation itself: how did the idea for the innovation came up, where and how has it been implemented, what went well and what went wrong during implementation, what are the lessons learned, and what kind of future is there for this innovation? The take-aways of the video are: (1) highlighting the spirit of innovation in development, (2) showcasing how innovation in development can benefit the local people, and (3) creating a sense that learning from innovation includes sharing mistakes and successes.

In this quarter, the video of BSMRAU on Pen culture in polder 2 was launched:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqDBkPYyu6M>

All videos can be viewed via <http://www.bluegoldbd.org/innovationfund/project-video/>.

Development executive summaries

The development of executive summaries of Innovation Fund projects can stimulate adoption and replication, and even form the motivation for the development of new innovative approaches. In order to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund has developed executive summaries for all (almost) completed innovation activities. The summaries are 2 pages highlighting the project objectives, activities (expected) impact, lessons learnt, sustainability and upscaling potential. All summaries have a similar format and include photos and visuals. The cover of the summary booklet is currently being designed and publication is expected in Q1-2018.

7. Financial report

Unsolicited Procedure

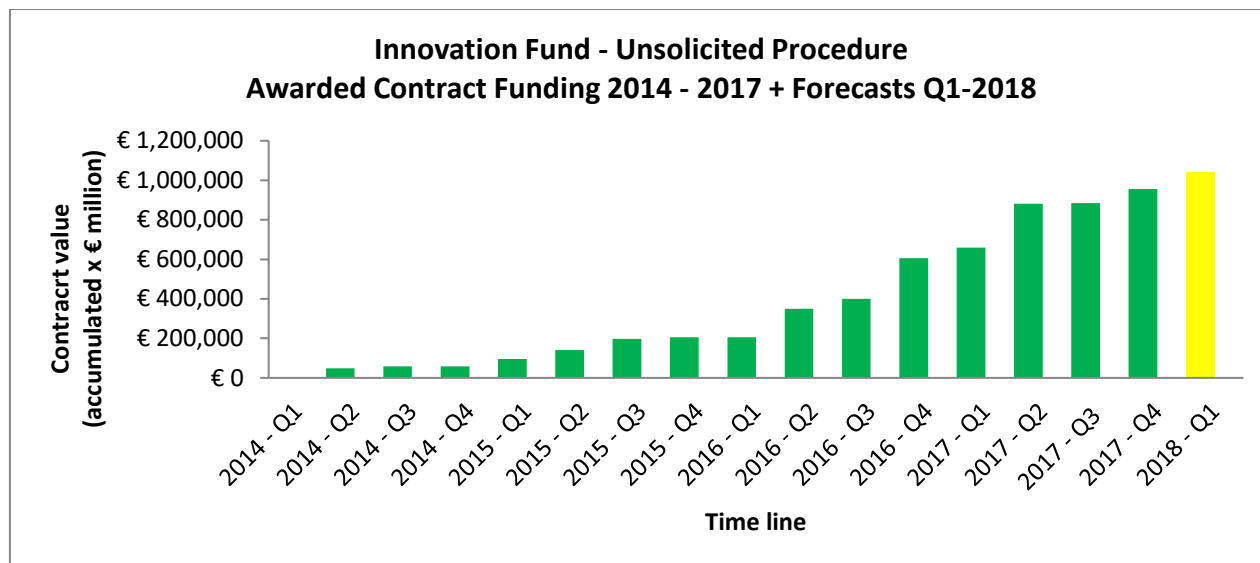
The table shows the awarded contracts so far under the unsolicited proposal procedure. See also the graph on the next page:

	Number of Contracts Awarded	Value of Contract Award	Cum Value of Contract Awards	
2014 - Q1	0	€ 0	€ 0	Actual
2014 - Q2	1	€ 48,000	€ 48,000	
2014 - Q3	1	€ 10,000	€ 58,000	
2014 - Q4	0	€ 0	€ 58,000	
2015 - Q1	1	€ 38,000	€ 96,000	
2015 - Q2	1	€ 45,000	€ 141,000	
2015 - Q3	2	€ 57,283	€ 198,283	
2015 - Q4	1	€ 7,200	€ 205,483	
2016 - Q1	0	€ 0	€ 205,483	
2016 - Q2	5	€ 144,094	€ 349,577	
2016 - Q3	1	€ 49,996	€ 399,573	
2016 - Q4	5	€ 207,000	€ 606,573	
2017 - Q1	4	€ 51,888	€ 658,461	
2017 - Q2	5	€ 223,298	€ 881,759	
2017 - Q3	1	€ 2,500	€ 884,259	
2017 - Q4	2	€ 70,785	€ 955,044	
2018 - Q1	5	€ 87,500	€ 1,042,544	Forecast

Although it was forecasted that 5 unsolicited projects would be awarded a contract in Q4 2017 with a value of EUR 98,000-, the total number of contracts awarded in Q4 was two with a value of EUR 70,500. To realise full-fledged proposals, the new concepts under development took more discussions with the applicants than expected. Also, the contract negotiations with LightCastlePartners (LCP) were more challenging than expected. This resulted that the project has been delayed to the next year, as they could not anymore start before the Rabi season. The two contracts signed were for United Purpose, and these were already longer under discussion and well worked out.

In this quarter, IF manager also made a financial correction for Q2 and Q3 in 2017. Contracts signed for video productions were not incorporated in the overview before. Now they are an integral part.

It is expected that five new contracts will be signed in Q1-2018 with a total cumulative value of EUR 87,500.



Solicited Procedure

Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)

For the “Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)” activities an amount of EUR 325,972 has been disbursed up to 31 December 2017. This is above the original allocation of EUR 300,000.

The involved contractor, LA-TTSL Joint Venture, had additional work, due to 1) emergency revetment sand volume discrepancies and 2) necessity to dump more bags by positioned and anchored country boat. The difference between the final revised and original contract is BDT 1,502,250.

We are also expecting still invoices from NHC amounting to a maximum of EUR 32,500. One of their experts, Jesper Matthiesen, is developing a final report to compile all monitoring results. Publication is expected in end of February 2018.

Below an overview of the various contracts under this project:

Company	Activity	Invoices paid
Deltares	Workshop support P29	€ 2,278
Active Survey Eng.	Float tracking lower Badra river	€ 1,341
LA-TTSL	Geobag revetment	€ 248,959
IWM	Riverbank erosion study in P29	€ 37,191
IWM	Emergency Survey River Badra P29	€ 14,944
IWM	Post-monsoon survey River Badra P29	€ 16,682
NHC	Compilation and analysis of survey data	€ 4,576
TOTAL		€ 325,972

Improved Information for Agriculture

For the “Improved Information for Agriculture” projects, the expectation is that contracts will be signed in February/March 2018. From next quarter onwards, financial figures can be expected.