



Blue Gold Program

Technical Report No. 16 - A

Field Trip Reports from 2014

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Dhaka Bangladesh

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

May 2015



Technical Report 16

Field Trip Reports from 2014

Date : 05/05/2015

Blue Gold Program

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Issue and revision record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
0.1	05/05/2015	Blue Gold Staff	Dirk Smits; Proteeti Masud	Dirk Smits	Final Report

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1. Field Trip Report 01

Period: 19th – 23rd January, 2014.

Participants:

- ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Development Specialist
- Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Specialist

Objective:

1. To visit the Khulna project area and learn more about ongoing project activities.
2. To attend WMG meetings to know about their organizational management, potential businesses, investment capacity, source of business capital and value chain activities.
3. Visit some MFIs to get an idea about their Savings and Credit management system and how they can provide financial assistance to the members of WMGs.
4. Visit some potential private partners and actors.
5. To validate previously collected information.

Methods: Field visit, meeting, discussion.

Program schedule and key activities:

Date	Program Schedule	Activities	Key findings	Remarks / Next steps
19 January, 14	Travel to Khulna	Reached Khulna at 5.30 pm	-	
20 January, 14	-Visit Polder 22 and Polder 30	-Meeting with Telikhali WMG members -Discussion with COs about knowledge gap for credit and savings	<u>Telikhali WMG (polder 22)</u> -Telikhali is relatively new (reorganized) WMG with 119 members (F-65, M-54) -Gender equity found. -Just have a newly elected body. -Members are participating actively. - It seems that the members of management committee are transparent. They shared different issues without any hesitation. -This WMG has received assets from FAO since they are a registered body. They have leased out two power tillers, at Tk. 23000 and Tk. 20000 respectively for the whole season by an open bid. Also this WMG has two low lift water pump (LLP) and one thresher. These machines were also leased out at Tk. 2,000 each for the season. - It seems that members are not fully aware about the terms and conditions written in the contract of power tillers. They are not sure if the terms are favourable or	-Awareness is important to motivate members of Telikhali WMG to save more -Record keeping system can be improved through introducing uniform system as

			<p>not.</p> <p>-At the WMG meeting, LCS members were present. According to their comments, they used the earning from LCS work properly in assets like sewing machine, purchasing cow or building a room, etc. They also spent the amount for meeting family need and children education.</p> <p>-This WMG had a share capital of Tk. 2380 and total savings of Tk. 11,000.</p> <p><u>Saving and Credit</u></p> <p>-Members are saving but some are irregularly depositing because they have unclear ideas about the benefit of savings and how the savings can be reinvested for making profit.</p> <p>-They maintain saving register but do not update regularly which is very important to generate trust among the members of WMG.</p> <p>-The Passbook has been introduced but is not updated yet.</p> <p>-Some members of this WMG are also active member of other MFIs. According to them, loan getting from BRDB is suitable for them compared to other MFIs. BRDB collects instalment monthly rather than weekly and also the interest rate is 11% which is lower than other MFIs.</p> <p><u>CO's Knowledge gap:</u></p> <p>- It came out while discussing about the saving and investment issues with COs that they have limited ideas about these issues and it will be helpful if they can have training on these issues. The training will enhance their capacity to motivate members of WMG to save more and think about investment opportunities.</p>	<p>per DoC requirement.</p>
		<p>Meeting with Management Committee of Gopipagla WMG</p> <p>-Discussion with COs about knowledge gap for credit and savings</p>	<p><u>Gopipagla WMG:</u></p> <p>-Had a meeting with management of Gopipagla WMG</p> <p>- It seemed that the management committee is very experienced and active.</p> <p>-Tried to understand their financial status and record keeping procedures.</p> <p>-It is a vibrant cooperative with sizable savings. The fund is being invested in providing loan to its members. Total savings is Tk. 139,000 and share capital Tk 39,500.</p> <p>-This WMG also received power tillers from FAO. They have rented out the power tiller. The service rate is Tk. 150 /hr.</p> <p><u>Savings and Credit</u></p> <p>- It seems that they have huge savings (more than the register reveal) but they do not invest the amount in</p>	<p>Record keeping system can be improved through introducing uniform system as per DoC requirement.</p>

			<p>other income generating activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They prefer providing loan to member of cooperative (WMG) with relatively high interest rate (Tk. 40 per Tk. 1000 per month). <p><u>CO's knowledge gap:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we were discussing on saving and investment issues with COs it seems that they need more ideas on savings and credit management. It will be great if they can have training on these issues. The training will enhance their ability to inspire members of WMG to save more and think about investment opportunities. 	
		<p>Meeting with HatbariUttorpara WMG</p> <p>-Discussion with COs about knowledge gap for credit and savings</p>	<p><u>HatbariUttor WMG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -HatbariUttor is also relatively new WMG with 50 members (F-25, M-25) -Gender equity found. -Just have an adhoc committee. -Members are participating actively. -This WMG has received assets from FAO since they are a registered body. They have received power tillers from FAO and have rented out the power tiller. The service rate is Tk. 240 /hr. It seems that members are not fully aware about the terms and conditions written in the contract of power tillers. -This WMG had a share capital of Tk. 6,500 and total savings of Tk. 29,500. They have deposited entire money in a bank account. <p><u>Savings and Credit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Members are savings but some are irregularly depositing because they might have unclear ideas about the benefit of savings and how the savings can be reinvested for making profit. - They maintain saving register but do not update regularly which is very important to generate trust among the members of WMG. -They have not introduced Passbook as yet for their members but they keep record through money receipts. -Some members of this WMG are also active member of other MFIs. <p><u>CO's knowledge gap:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It came out while discussing about the saving and investment issues with COs that they feel they have limited ideas about these issues and it will be helpful if they can have training on these issues. The training will enhance their capacity to motivate members of WMG to save more and think about investment opportunities. 	<p>Record keeping system can be improved through introducing uniform system as per DoC requirement.</p>

<p>21 January, 14</p>	<p>Meet Private Partners</p>	<p>Meeting with LalTeer (private seed company)</p>	<p><u>LalTeer</u> -A meeting was arranged with LalTeer officials at their office -Discussed about seed market situation in this region. -LalTeer is the market leader in vegetable seeds. They have a few branded seeds with high market share. They also sell imported seeds, mainly from India. They have dealer/retailer network at upazila level. They are willing to work with us to promote their seeds at polder level. - A brief overview on Blue Gold project and business development plans were presented and discussed. -They have shown interest to work with Blue Gold</p>	
		<p>Visit Sumaiya Seed (Agent/dealer)</p>	<p><u>Sumaiya Seed</u> -A meeting was arranged at Sumaiya seed (35% market controlling agent of big companies) to get a general overview of seed market actors, market share, distribution channels etc. and validate information collected from LalTeer earlier. -It was found that LalTeer, Metal, AR Mallik, United, Namdhari, Mollica, Brac, ACI seeds have a demand in the market as well as some local companies. Each has a few seeds for specific vegetables. But there is market share of local seeds at polder level. Distribution network of good companies can reach up to Upazila level. But every Hats will have retailers/vendors if there is demand.</p>	
		<p>Visit Batiaghata bazaar and met Seed retailers</p>	<p><u>Batiaghata Bazaar</u> Visited market actors (retailer and mobile seed vendors) to know market size, purchase behaviour and price/quality related issues. -The observation and discussion with mobile vendors reveals that purchasers often do not ask for seeds produced by renowned companies or branded items. Local seeds are popular as well. Buyers are not very conscious about quality or price of the seed at village market level.</p>	
		<p>Visit upazila BRDB office</p>	<p><u>Upazila BRDB (Batiaghata)</u> - It was found among the WMG members that they consider receiving loan from BRDB much favourable as rate of interest is comparatively low (11% flat) and payment mode is monthly rather than weekly. -Loan disbursement size is Tk 10,000 to 50,000 for one year. Group formation is must (25-30). -Most attractive scheme is a loan product for widow and divorced. The participants are given 3 days training on IGA and also receive Tk. 900 (Tk300/day) as participation benefit for 3 days. Loan disbursement size is Tk 10,000 to 35,000 depending on business (duration for one year).</p>	

		Meeting with Upazila Cooperative officials	<u>Upazila Cooperative office (Batiaghata)</u> - Had a good discussion on the rules of forming a cooperative and record keeping procedure for different cooperatives.	
		Meeting with SAFAL staff	<u>SAFAL</u> -A meeting was arranged with SAFAL program officials. Obtained information about their planned activities.	
22 January, 14	Attend LCS Training and Visit to potential Private-Public actors	Participated at LCS training program	We attended LCS training session at CSS Khulna organized by Blue Gold.	
		Visit Uttaran officials (MFI)	<u>Uttaran</u> Made a visit to Uttaran. Discussed about their MFI products and disbursement rates, interest rates. Interest rate is 13% flat, weekly payment, loan size Tk. 8000-50,000 yearly. -They have opened a new office in Batiaghata, there is opportunity for including new groups at this branch. Since our project beneficiaries will be living nearby, it can be a good opportunity.	
		Visit ASA office (MFI)	<u>ASA</u> -ASA has three branches in Batiaghata. -They provide loans only to members, to get a loan one has to become member of a group. Interest rate is 14% flat, weekly payment, duration one year, size Tk. 14,000-49,000.	
		Meeting with District Cooperative officials	<u>DoC (Khulna, District)</u> -Visited Department of Cooperative, Khulna district. Had a meeting with District cooperative officer. Learned about rules of forming new cooperatives, financial record keeping procedure and auditing methods.	
23 January, 14	Return Journey	Travel back to Dhaka		

2. Field Trip Report 02

Duration: January 20 to January 23, 2014

Team Members

1. Hein Bijlmakers, Component Leader, Food Security and Agricultural Production
2. Muhammad Ashraful Islam, Deputy Component-3 Leader

Objectives of the visit

Monitor and backstop ongoing training activities under Blue Gold program in Khulna district.

Visit to Season-long ToT Course, Horticulture Centre, Khulna

A season-long ToT course has been started from 19 January 2014 for the DAE officials at Horticulture Centre, Daulatpur, Khulna under Blue Gold Program (DAE part). 25 SAAOs are attending the course as participants for the first batch. Out of 25 participants 2 are female. The first batch will rotate with the 2nd batch after two weeks and cover the whole Boro season by completing 72 +72=144 days training program. Training for the 2nd batch would be started from 2nd February 2014.

We discussed with Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Horticulturist and inspected the upgrading work of the ToT venue, especially dormitory facilities and dining room. The Horticulturist informed us that he has renovated the centre based on our previous visit and discussion in November 2013. The fund which has been allocated through ToT budget is not sufficient, he mentioned. We also noticed that the floor of the dining room has been fixed with floor tiles but the kitchen floor is still unaddressed. We requested him to include budget for kitchen tiles and a kitchen cabinet which will improve dining facilities a lot particularly regarding hygiene. We asked him to send a proposal for the extra budget. The other improvements he made for the venue were found very good.

We talked with the Course Coordinator (CC) and facilitators about the ToT materials, practice FFS, field preparation and other logistics. They were asking for a printer and fund for making photocopies as there is no facility at the centre. We took quick decision and purchased a printer for the ToT course. After the training, the printer would be sent to Blue Gold office, Khulna and will be used there. Cost for ToT related photocopies would be borne by Blue Gold fund.

We are happy to get well experienced persons for organizing the SL-ToT especially the Course Coordinator and Assistant Course Coordinator. The performance of the facilitation team was found satisfactory and the ToT is running as per schedule. We introduced the zonal officers (Mr. Zahangir Alam and Abdullah Sani) of Component 3 with the ToT members. The zonal officers will guide and assist the ToT members in establishing practice FFS in polder no. 30 and establish links between the ToT participants and the Water Management Groups. Through our discussion and presentation in the classroom, the ToT participants got an orientation on overall Blue Gold program.

Visit to Farmer Field Schools

Blue Gold started 20 FFS in Khulna district (12 in polder 30 and 8 in polder 22). We have monitored two FFS (Hatbati dakhinpara FFS and Kholsabunia FFS) in polder 30 and Gopipagla FFS in polder 22. We met with the concerned FOs and the FFS participants at the FFS site. Introductory sessions of FFS have been completed and technical sessions would be started from the next week. Signboards of FFS have been fixed at the site. After discussion with the farmers, we found the FFS is running as per our expectation. The farmers were found very enthusiastic and cooperative. We advised them on setting trials and disseminating acquired knowledge to the other WMG members.

Meeting with FOs at Zonal Office

We attended the weekly meeting of FOs at zonal office, Khulna. All FOs and zonal officers of Khulna district attended the meeting. The meeting started with some agenda i.e. a) Discussion on first session of Homestead Garden Module, b) Progress report, c) Activity plan, d) Procurement of FFS materials, e) ToT on Fisheries and Livestock modules in Patuakhali, f) Group dynamics, g) Need assessment of FFS participants (input), h) Vegetable seed and fertilizers for FFS plot, i) Trial set up, j) AOB. The meeting was conducted in a participatory way and the FOs got clear understanding of their upcoming activities.

Besides these, the FOs highlighted the following points as they experienced from the FFS as strong sides: a) Got full cooperation from the COs and WMG members, b) Could organize Community Meeting nicely, c) Farmers have given enough time in spite of their work load for house hold activities and d) The FFS is being conducted in the areas where Hindu people are the majority; they are very sincere and cooperative. They also mentioned that selecting 25 participants for FFS from the whole community became very difficult job as many more farmers are interested to be FFS participants. In some places, the WMG members put pressure to ensure their names as FFS participants ignoring the other villagers. It was also mentioned that the WMA needs to be informed when selecting WMGs for the next FFS cycle.

3. Field Trip Report 03

February 2-5, 2014 (KHULNA)

Objectives

1. To monitor Component 1 activities as follows: a) needs assessment and village action plan formulation and WMO strengthening and cooperative activities in Polders 22 and 30; b) household survey in Polder 26; and c) WMO Functionality Assessment in Polder 29.
2. To review raw data on outcome of WMO Functionality Assessment of WMGs and WMA in Polder 29 and discuss discrepancies/questionable data with concerned COs and ZSE.

Team Members:

1. Victoria Pineda, Component 1-Leader; and
2. Showkatara Begum- Cooperative Expert

Activities, Outputs and Observations

February 2

Arrived at 2pm in Khulna and had a brief meeting with ZSEs to firm-up field activities during the visit.

February 3

The team participated in the Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan (VAP) Formulation meeting of **Sukhdara (East) Water Management Cooperative Society** in Polder 30. The WMG has 85 members (47 Female + 38 Male) out of 187 HHs. This WMG was first registered in 2008 but registration was cancelled by DoC due to inactivity. A new election was held on Oct. 23, 2013 and at present the WMG is increasing its members. They are collecting a total of Taka 60/member (membership fee= Tk10; Shares= Tk20; Savings=20 and when needed, they collect Tk 10 for other expenses). During IPSWAM, the WMG deposited Tk 7,000 in its bank account which is kept until now. The Cashier of WMG is currently holding Tk 10,800 (amount of shares and savings collected recently from new members) which he could not deposit because the bank management needs clearance from DoC because WMG's registration has been cancelled. Component 1 Cooperative Expert requested the concerned District Cooperative Officer (DCO) to advise Upazila Cooperative Officer (UCO) to give the clearance so that the Cashier can deposit the cash on hand. DCO readily agreed to this request. Immediately, the DCO phoned back to advise the WMG representative to come to UCO office anytime so that he can sign the clearance.

The Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan (VAP) Formulation meeting of the WMG started at 10.40am and finished at 1pm. There were 71 (41 Female + 40 Male) WMG members who attended the meeting. The participants were divided into 6 groups i.e. farmers, fisherfolks, general women members, landless men and women, small traders and destitute women groups. The WMG Chairman and other members of the Executive Committee participated actively in facilitating the meeting. The participants were fully involved in the discussions and listened well during the presentation of each FGD output. Many of the presenters were a little bit shy and not confident at first but gradually overcame these as the presentation went on. One destitute woman stood out during the FGD output presentation. She appeared confident and smart.

After the FGD presentations, the WMG Chairman together with ZSE facilitated the overall priority ranking of needs/problems. After which, they formulated their initial VAP focusing first on WMG reactivating/strengthening activities.

The Community Organizers cooperated closely with the EC and mobilized successfully the majority of members to attend the meeting. In addition, they prepared well the venue and meeting materials.

Annex A presents the report on the Needs Assessment and VAP Formulation meeting outputs.

February 4

1. Participated in the WMO Functionality Assessment meeting of the S.S.S. WMA held at the WMA office (Polder 29). About 90 WMA and WMG members attended the meeting. Three (3) groups were formed for the WMA functionality assessment: 1) Executive Committee (EC) members; 2) general women members; and 3) general men-members.
 - This WMA covers 33 WMGs and the number of the WMA general members is 69 (36 Male + 33 Female). The EC members are 12 (including 4 women members who are not holding any post).
 - Re-election of EC members and office bearers was held twice since the WMA formation in 2005. However, the Chairman, Secretary and Cashier remained the same.
 - Overall, the 3 groups rated the WMA functionality to be good. The following were some of the findings: WMA EC meeting is held regularly and meeting of general members is also held regularly; the WMA EC effectively plays its role in settling conflicts within and between WMGs; and the WMA also was found to initiate maintenance (O&M) activities regularly.
 - Blue Gold team encouraged the WMA EC members to think about creating funds for organizational and O&M expenditures. WMA EC members requested Blue Gold team to help them in requesting BWDB to lease borrow pits, canals and land adjacent/beside sluice structure to enable them to raise funds for O&M and organizational expenses.

2. The team proceeded to Polder 26 in order to check on status of household survey and village mapping activities. Polder 26 covers 12 villages. Six village maps have been completed while 2,194 households have been surveyed out of 4,200 HHs. According to the COs, the villagers are busy with farm activities (mainly harvesting) in the last 2 months hence progress of the 2 activities is quite slow. When the team arrived at Shobna, the UP Chairman and members were present and the team had a brief meeting with them. The UP Chairman expressed his strong support and interest to cooperate in the implementation of Blue Gold and asked what type of support we need from him at this stage. He readily agreed to help facilitate household survey activity by enjoining household heads and key informants to be present when COs come to their respective villages, wards and paras for the household survey interviews. COs were advised by the team to furnish the UP Chairman with their work program and schedule on the household survey and village mapping.

After the meeting with the UP Chairman, the team briefed the COs together with ZSEs to start the process of identifying WMG boundaries. It was agreed that during the month, a polder walk-through will be initiated jointly by the key informants/village leaders, UP representatives, BWDB field staff, Blue Gold Zonal team members (C1 and C2) to identify WMG boundaries.

3. Upon return to office from Polder 26, the team started reviewing with the ZSEs the completed WMG Functionality Assessment reports of Polder 29. This polder covers 56 WMGs and 2 WMAs. Functionality assessment has been completed in all 56 WMGs and one WMA.

February 5

The team reviewed 20 completed WMG Functionality Assessment reports before travelling back to Dhaka on the same day.

Annex B shows pictures taken during the visit of the team.

Annex A

Sukhdara (East) Water Management Cooperative Society

Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan Formulation Meeting Outputs

A. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION OUTPUTS

a. Fisherman Group

Participants: Female-1, Male-5

Dream/Vision:

1. Strong, active and registered WMG
2. Availability of sweet water in 'gher' throughout the year
3. Availability of fingerlings of improved variety at a fair price
4. Availability of improved fish meal at a fair price
5. Training on technology and improved methods of fish cultivation
6. Good marketing system and getting fair price of fish

Needs/Problems:

1. Strengthening the WMG (need to enroll members from different occupational groups, there is a need to register the WMG, establish linkage with other relevant organizations/agencies)
2. Shortage of safe drinking water, need to install deep tube wells (DTWs) in the village
3. Shortage of water supply for fish cultivation during dry season, need to supply water in 'gher'
4. Non availability of fingerlings of improved variety, no accessible center selling fingerlings
5. Non availability of fish meal at fair price, absence of shops nearby selling this
6. Lack of training on fish cultivation
7. Not getting fair price of fish, need to have good marketing facility

b. General Women's Group

Participants: Female-5

Dream/ Vision:

1. Regular electricity supply in the village
2. Availability of safe drinking water
3. Regular water flow in the canals throughout the year
4. Support for WMG members in fish cultivation, poultry and livestock rearing
5. Employment opportunity for all especially for women
6. Equal treatment for both female and male

Needs/Problems:

1. There is electricity supply in west side but no electricity supply in the east side of the village
2. There is shallow tube well but it is dry
3. Katakhal and Magurkhal canals have been silted up, need re-excavation
4. WMG is not registered (registration cancelled earlier which prevents the WMG to make bank transactions e.g. withdraw/deposit money from their bank account and to avail of the FAO farm machineries)
5. WMG does not have enough capital for income generating activities (IGAs), need for regular collection of shares and savings

6. Poor participation of women in WMG activities
7. Provide employment opportunities for women, need LCS work and provide them training on poultry and livestock rearing, sewing, cottage industries (handicraft)

c. Small Traders Group:

Participants: Female-4, Male-4

Dream/Vision:

1. Strong and registered WMG
2. Opportunity to be self reliant through business
3. Build up cooperative-based business activities

Needs/Problems:

1. Lack of capital for business
2. Lack of marketing facility. Need for cooperation and training on marketing system
3. No own transportation system, arrangement for own(WMG) transportation system
4. Shortage of safe drinking water, need to install DTWs in the village
5. Lack of electricity supply (east side of the village)
6. No storage facility
7. Political instability
8. There is no registration of WMG, weak WMG, all prospective male and female should be enrolled in the WMG
9. Share and savings are not deposited regularly, so the amount of capital is small. Need to increase and regularize collection and deposit of shares and savings from members.

d. Destitute women:

Participants: Female-5

Dream/Vision:

1. Want to see the WMG more active
2. Employment opportunity for destitute people throughout the year
3. Fair wages for destitute women
4. Want supply of safe drinking water in the east side of Sukhdara
5. Want proper justice to the destitute women

Needs/Problems:

1. Registration of WMG has been cancelled
2. There is no scope for employment of destitute women
3. There is no fair wage rate for destitute women
4. Shortage of safe drinking water
5. Destitute women are neglected in the society
6. Could not send children to school

e. Land less Group

Participants: Female-15, Male-2

Dream/Vision:

1. Want to see WMG registered, strong and active Sukhdara East Water Management Society
2. Want to see more enrolment of members in the WMG
3. Want to get credit from WMG
4. Arrangement for getting work through WMG
5. Transparency among the members of WMG
6. Employment opportunity for landless throughout the year
7. Provide VGD card to the landless and destitute family
8. Opportunity for schooling of the children of landless family
9. Electricity supply

10. Availability of safe drinking water
11. Good road communication inside the village
12. Hygienic toilet in each household of the village
13. Opportunity for LCS work

Problems:

1. WMG is weak and needs new registration with the DoC because previous registration was cancelled
 2. The number of WMG members is low
 3. There is not much scope for employment of landless people
 4. There is opportunity for getting VGD card
 5. No electricity supply
 6. Landless people are unable to send children to school
 7. Scarcity of safe drinking water
 8. Internal road communication is very bad
 9. No hygienic toilet in most of the households
 10. No scope for LCS work
- f. Farmers Group

Participants: Female-10, Male-20

Dream/Vision:

1. Availability of water for irrigation in dry season
2. Availability of safe drinking water
3. Efficient water management system (no water logged areas, well maintained sluice, natural flow of water on canals and rivers)
4. Availability of seed of saline resistant variety and high yielding variety
5. Efficient marketing system
6. Sufficient agricultural tools and equipment
7. Strong and active WMG organization
8. Training center adjacent to Water Management Organizations (WMOs)
9. Good relation of WMG with Union Parishad
10. Availability of fertilizer and insecticides

Needs/Problems:

1. Need to strengthen WMG
2. No arrangement for supplying water for irrigation during dry season
3. Scarcity of safe drinking water
4. Water logging in 500 acres of land due to siltation in river
5. No arrangement for soil test
6. Lack of training on modern method of cultivation
7. No modern tools and equipments for cultivation
8. Need for soil test of agricultural field
9. Management and control of insecticides
10. Training on agriculture specifically of modern methods of cultivation
11. Remove water logging through re-excavation of canals and de-silting Amtala and Hapjhapia river
12. New sluice gate in Khejure Tala Doan
13. Re-excavation of canals by the LCS

B. OVERALL RANKING OF PRIORITY NEEDS/PROBLEMS

1. New registration for WMG and strengthen Sukhdara Purbo (East) WMCS
2. Availability of safe drinking water
3. Electricity supply

4. Training on modern methods of cultivation
5. Good condition of water management infrastructure
6. Availability of agricultural tools and equipments
7. Employment opportunity through LCS
8. Availability of fertilizer and insecticides
9. Facility for getting capital with easy terms and conditions
10. Availability of good quality fish meal and fingerlings
11. Hygienic toilet for each household
12. Employment opportunity for destitute women throughout the year

C. INITIAL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN (VAP)

Sl.No	Activities	Time frame	Responsible Persons	
			Main Responsible Persons	Others
1.	Reactivate WMG and WMA			
	Handling Bank accounts and share and savings money deposit in the Bank	2 nd week February 2014	Chairman, Secretary and Cashier	Other members of EC of WMG
	Registration of the society (WMG) and related activities	Feb.-June 2014	Chairman, Secretary and Cashier	Other members of EC of WMG
2.	Water Management O&M			
	Water management infrastructure renovation and construction	Initiative will start within Feb. 2014	WMG and WMA	BWDB & Blue Gold Staff
3.	WASH Concerns	Feb,2014 will be started and it will continue		-
	Safe drinking water (contact with BRAC Wash)	Will be initiated in Feb. 2014	Ananda Mohon Mandal and members of Executive Committee of WMG	With assistance from Blue Gold
	Hygienic toilet facility	Will be initiated in Feb,2014	Managing Committee of WMG	With assistance from Blue Gold
4.	Agriculture			
	Request for FAO agricultural tools and equipments	After WMG registration	Managing Committee of WMG	With assistance from Blue Gold
5.	Training on different topics	Will coordinate with Blue Gold on schedule	Blue Gold, DAE, Livestock, Fisheries,	District Team of Blue Gold

Annex B
Field Visit Photos



Courtesy meeting with Shobna's UP Chairman and members, Feb. 4, 2014



FGD with the Executive Committee of S.S.S. WMA on Functionality Assessment of WMA facilitated by the Community Organizer, Feb. 4, 2014



Shobna Union Parishad Map



Opening session of the WMA Functionality Assessment meeting of S.S.S WMA, Polder 29. Feb. 4, 2014



WMA general men-members' FGD on functionality assessment of S.S.S. WMA facilitated by the COs, Feb. 4, 2014



WMA general women-members' FGD facilitated by CO and ZSE on functionality assessment of S.S.S. WMA, Feb. 4, 2014



Presentation of FGD Output-Sukdhara Purbo Needs Assessment, Feb.3, 2014



Zonal team and COs facilitating problems/needs prioritization after FGD output presentation during Sukdhara Purbo WMG's Needs Assessment Meeting, Feb.3,2014



Sukdhara Purbo WMG Chairman discussing the WMG-Village Action Plan, Feb.3, 2014.

4. Field Trip Report 04

Date	:	January 26-30, 2014
Places	:	Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing outline for C4 activities 2. Review of the information collected for preparing presentation for PDP and validating data & information already collected for that purpose. Deciding on presentation outline. 3. Explaining VC selection matrix and preparing guideline for scoring. 4. Working on VC curriculum for preparing CO training manual
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karel T'Jonck, Component Leader C-4 2. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader 3. ASM ShahidulHaque, Private Sector Development Specialist 4. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Specialist 5. Abdullah Al-Mamun, Business Development Coordinator, Patuakhali 6. Kazi Mozammel Hossen, Business Development Coordinator, Patuakhali 7. Shusanto Roy, Business Development Coordinator, Khulna 8. Jhorna Begum, Junior Gender and IGA Specialist, Patuakhali

1. Presenting for C4 activities

The Component Leader had a meeting with C4 staff. New staff members were formally introduced. A work schedule was prepared for the next three days.

2. Review of PDP presentation 43/2F

A presentation was done on Polder 43/2F by the BDC of Patuakhali. The participants provided feedback on the presentation. Data and information provided in different slides were discussed and suggestions were made for additional information needs, modification of information, means to improve the presentation. There were also presentations on different potential Value Chains (VC) in polder 43/2F, identification of market actors, market linkages, problems and opportunities. The presentation was followed by a discussion on information which needs to improve our ideas for selecting Value Chains for polder 43/2F and to be included in PDP.

Actions:

Modification in PDP presentation will be done as per discussion and decision.

Field staff will prepare presentations as per feedback from this discussion session. Senior C4 staff will assist and provide further guidance during next visits.

3. Discussion on VC Selection Matrix:

A detailed discussion took place on the criteria for VC selection. As per discussion some criteria were rearranged in the draft VC selection matrix. For some criteria the weight was reassigned. There were discussions on how to score (set rating) for each criteria for every crop/service for selection of VC. Trials were undertaken for a series of crops. Based on the discussion a guideline for scoring the selection matrix was prepared.

Action:

The final VC Selection Matrix and guideline for scoring will be circulated to all in support of field activities. The Matrix is given in Annex 1.

4. Review of PDP presentation for Polder 22:

Presentation on polder 22 on different potential Value Chains took place. Discussion initiated about proper identification of market actors, market linkages, problems, opportunities of different potential VC (similar to Polder 43/2F).

Action:

A presentation outline was decided upon. It will be circulated to all C4 staff as guideline for preparing PDP. For details see Annex-2

5. Manual development based on Curriculum for CO training on Value Chain Development:

The Component Leader provided guidance on how to write down detailed text for VC training manual for CO training. The desired flow of thoughts in the sessions was analyzed. The participants were divided into two groups to complete session 2 and 3 of the curriculum manual. After that two groups presented their work. Discussion was held to modify the texts and improve training methods. The participants were divided into 4 groups and were asked to write down text for sessions 4, 5, 6&7 and make a presentation. The process was repeated for preparing and presenting text for sessions 8 & 9.

Action:

Participants will work and modify the text as discussed throughout the day and will submit final texts for review by next Monday. So that next week there will be another session to finalize the text.

Annex-1

VC Selection Matrix

Criteria →	Indicate market level (Local, District, Regional, National, International)	Growth Potential (32)					Impact (31)					Structure of the Industry (15)				Gender & Employment (18)		Collective Action(4)	Risk	Total Weighted Value	Rank
		Market Size	Unmet market demand	Potential productivity improvement	Expansion of area / capacity	Value adding to raw materials	Current production	Number of households involved	Contribution to HH income and wealth	Short or longer production/harvesting season	Food Security	Forward / backward linkages conducive to market based approach	Existence of service providers	Favourable business environment	Other programme interests	Involvement of women	Employment generation	Collective Action Opportunities	Major risks (No, High, Medium, Low) green, yellow, red		
Weight →		7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	5%	4%	4%	2%	10%	8%	4%			100%	
<i>Food</i>																					
Boro Rice	National																				0
T Aman																					0
T Aus																					0
Wheat	National																				0
Maize																					0
Lentil/ Musur																					0
Dal																					0
Pelau Dal																					0
TI (Sesame)																					0
Mung bean																					0
Soybean																					0
<i>Non Food</i>																					
Jute																					0
Coire																					0
Flower																					0
Fodder crop																					0
<i>Aquaculture</i>																					
Golda																					0
Bagda																					0
Tilapia																					0
Pangas																					0
Carp																					0
<i>Livestock</i>																					
Poultry (Meat)																					0
Poultry (Egg)																					0
Duck Rearing																					0

Annex-1 a

VC Selection Criteria:

W %	component	%	Criterion	Type of info	Source
32	Growth potential		Indicate market level	End consumers sought to satisfy at International, National, district, regional or local market, polder's/district's share of the market	Reports
		7	Market size	Volume, consumption, value,	Reports/interviews
		6	Unmet market demand	demand trend, growth %, potential for expansion, buyers seek more than supply available	Reports / insights
		6	Potential productivity improvement	Accessible Technology improvements, simple single improvement or requiring extensive package of improvements, understanding of present constraints to accept them.	Expert insights
		7	Potential to expand the area of a crop or the capacity of a livestock/fishery product	Ease of expansion of a crop by extending the area under cultivation (cropping intensity) at present technology, or extending the capacity of water bodies for fish, ducks, or infrastructure for livestock	Expert insights
		6	Value adding to raw	Potential for Small Enterprises to	Expert insights

			materials	add value and gain higher earnings	
31	Impact	6	Current production	% area of cultivation, volumes produced	Reports/databases
		6	Number of households involved	Number or % (>70 = 5, 40-50% = 3, <10% = 1, 1 or 2% = 0)	Reports/databases
		6	Contribution to HH income and wealth	By surplus, food availability, potential for increased earnings, sales & profits, share in household income (linked to area they can afford to dedicate to this)	Field visits/insights
		6	Seasonality / Short or longer production/harvesting season	Short peak harvesting window, in combination or not of being perishable, or yearlong production with regular income (stability of the income this gives over the year, consider also the variability of the access to markets due to bad roads in certain season)	Expert insights
		7	Food security	Increase local availability of food presently in shortage/contribution to food diversification	
15	Structure of industry	5	Forward / backward linkages conducive to market based approach	Existence of lead firms, in either inputs, processing or marketing, SWOT of actors, type of training needs assessment	Reports/ Expert insights
		4	Existence of service providers	Existence and performance of public and private services to the value chain actors, SWOT of actors, type of Training needs assessment	Field visits
		4	Favourable business environment	(absence of) Constraints to doing business, extent of government involvement (supportive, subsidies,) or meddling (negative), tolls and taxes, bureaucracy,	Interviews
		2	Other programme interests	Opportunities for coordination, complementary action and synergy with other NGOs, programmes in the region	Reports/ field visits
18	Gender & Employment	10	Involvement of women	Type of involvement, timing and hh impact, extent this contributes to empowerment, adding just more labour to her already full daily shores is not recommendable without an increase in empowerment.	Interviews

		8	Employment generation	Numbers and type, timing, rates higher if it is women employment opportunities (complements gender criterion which explicitly excludes this)	Interviews
4	Collective Action	4	Collective action opportunities	Business ideas for cooperatives, producer groups benefitting of doing these collectively,	Field visits/insights
	Risks*		Major risks (absence of, High, medium, low) mark high = red, medium=yellow, low=green	Weather, natural disasters, biological and environmental, market related, logistics and infrastructure, management & operational, public policy, political	Reports

Annex 2:

Polder Presentation guideline:

1. Geographic location and relations: Map of the polder within the District – connectivity, others polder around it, markets outside the polder, inside the polder etc.
2. General statistics of the polder: Total area, road, road density, % of all-weather roads of all roads, HH, literacy rate, number, general ownership of land, etc.
3. Agricultural Production: Seasonal aspects, major cropping patterns, HH labour & expenditure/income situation, (across the season), and farmers categories (typical seasons)
4. Average household/farm picture: Assets/production/income situation, pond, vegetables garden, poultry, land sizes, crops producing, calculation for yearly income (product wise), source of income, source of credit, picture of HH financial situation.
5. In contrast, how does the commercial farmer look? Commercial vegetables farmer, poultry farmer, etc.
6. Markets: market geography, information on availability of Input & Output, market actors, market hierarchy, primary use of market, price relationship between markets, market ownership, infrastructure, who comes here, which product they sell.
7. MIS: Connectivity, Mobile coverage, BKash transactions, how do people know prices,
8. Preliminary Value Chain maps: product specific- problems & opportunity identified
9. VC selection scoring
10. Gender issues: criterion VC selection, empowerment, microfinance, marketing, role of women and man in agriculture.
11. Collective Actions issues: Storage, Post-harvest, Processing, Mechanization etc.

5. Field Trip Report 05

27-31 January 14, Patuakhali

Team Members

1. Shamsul Huda, Fisheries Expert
2. Munir Ahmed, Livestock Expert
3. Sumona Rani Das, Agriculturalist

Objectives of the visit

- Monitor the FFS activities
- Communicate with local DLS and DOF official for ToT (Livestock and Fisheries)
- Select farmers field for ToT practical (Livestock and Fisheries Module)
- Collect input/materials for ToT

Day wise activities at Patuakhali Visit

Date	Activities	Status
28.01.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited Patuakhali Blue Gold Office • Visited CODEC center • Visited local DLS official • Visited local DOF Official • Visited FFS at polder 43/2D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed with office manager regarding ToT and seeking his support for vehicle arrangement, staff accommodation and materials to be purchased. • Visited CODEC center, revisited the venue, accommodation and dining facilities and logistic support etc. • Brief about Blue Gold and ToT, collect posters and leaflets on beef fattening, UMS preparation, booked some cutting of fodder for practical exercise. • Fixed District Fisheries Officer time for ToT on 4th Feb. 14 and Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer time for ToT on 6th Feb. 14. • Visited FFS named is Abad Hazikhali Farmers Field School. • FFS schedule was on introduction of HG module, importance of HG, calendar preparation, space planning, sapling selection, seed preservation technique, trial set-up and value chain etc. <p>Observation: FFS members participation was good. FOs are preparing themselves according to the day's activities with input. But for the session conduction, it was found that they are following the ToT style. Time is tight for covering all the contents.</p> <p>Suggestion: For vegetable calendar preparation it needs special attention to draw conclusions. Need to figure out the lean period properly. For time management FOs are suggested to shift some content to next session and also spend more time on practice with discussion.</p>
29.01.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited local DLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed District Livestock officer time for ToT on 3rd

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed field visit site for ToT Visited FFS at polder 43/2D 	<p>Feb. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For livestock FMA Purbo Ghera Khali village was selected with the help of FO and Patuakhali regional staffs. Select farmer to bring the Goat and cattle for practical session at CODEC training center Visited FFS named is Purbo Auliapur Blue Gold Farmers Field School. <p>Observation: FFS members participation was good. Space planning done properly. Every participant actively participated with trial set-up. FOs are preparing themselves according to the day's activities with input.</p> <p>Suggestion: For time management FOs are suggested to shift some content to next session and also spend more time on practice with discussion. FFS members are suggested to set-up more trials.</p>
30.01.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared for TOT Fixed field visit site for fisheries FMA Purchased input for livestock and fisheries practical exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For fisheries FMA Purbo Ghera Khali village was selected with the help of FO and Patuakhali regional staff.
31.01.14	<p>Training materials, pre and post evaluation questionnaire preparation, transfer training materials to CODEC center. Went to CODEC center.</p>	

Picture on FFS at Patuakhali

February 2014





6. Field Trip Report 06

Team Members:

Md. Shorab Hossain, Community Mobilization Expert, Component-1

Md. Anis Pervez, Communication Expert, Component-5

Md. Aowlad Hossain, Institutional/Legal Expert, Component-5.

Activities and Observations:

1 February 2014

The team travelled from Dhaka to Patuakhali by road during day time.

2-4 February 2014:

The team visited Polder No 43/2F, Amtoli on 2 February and Polder No 43/2D, Patuakhali Sadar, met and discussed with District and Upazila Cooperative Officials on 3 February 2014. Visited Community Radio Stations at Amtoli and Borguna Sadar upazila. Met and discussed with WMG members, UP Chairman and members, Officials of Cooperative Department, Community Radio, Volunteers, Listener's club, community and Blue Gold staff at Patuakhali District.

Visited Uttar Khakuani WMG/multipurpose water management cooperative society at polder 43/2F, observed a scheduled WMG meeting. During the meeting they collected savings and distributed certificates. 25 WMG members received seeds and saplings from DAE, one of the members created homestead gardening with vegetables and fruit saplings. They are using receipt and Pass Book for collecting savings. WMG members informed that their savings are deposited in the bank and did not invest in income generating activities (IGA) yet due to small amount to savings and capital not having adequate knowledge about IGA. They are not well aware about the investment of savings in IGA. Another meeting observed at Polder 43/2D, this meeting organized in the UP meeting room, 2 UP members also participated in the meeting and they assured to support the WMG for implementation of their activities, we also met the UP Chairman of Auliapur UP who also assured to support the WMGs. We also visited a sluice gate at Kushkhali WMG, Kazir bazaar area, (Choto Beghai UP), Patuakhali Sadar Upazila, met and discussed with some WMG members, UP member, this WMG has a office, which was arranged through renovation of a abandoned building of BWDB during IPSWAM project but it is still in use. UP and IPSWAM have provided some chairs and repaired the toilet from UP budget. The UP member and other WMG members informed that UP has a good relation with WMG and providing support.



Depositing savings

In both the cases WMG members informed that they need training on record keeping, financial management, governance and IGA. They are facing different problems regarding registration, audit and election of the cooperatives. The UP and WMG members thought that both the institutions might be benefited through greater cooperation between WMG and UP.



Pass Book



Share certificate

We visited Upazila Cooperatives office at Amtoli and District Cooperative office at Patuakhali on 4 February 2014, met with the officials and briefed about Blue Gold program, discussed about problems faced by the water management cooperatives at field level, possible cooperation, existing manpower, logistics etc. They informed that they have some limitations regarding training manpower, transport and logistics to perform their duties. They are interested to be involved from the beginning of the process of community mobilization, formation of WMG and cooperatives, registration, training, follow-up of the cooperatives and assured to extend cooperation at field level, they also hope that such cooperation will enhance following the signing of MoU and instruction from their higher authority. But situation is improving gradually at field level due to frequent interaction with the DoC at different levels. WMG members informed that they are doing their part of O&M of water infrastructure in most of the cases and expect that BWDB will be more supportive in this regard. Community Organizers need more training/briefing on cooperatives issues to guide and organize water management cooperatives.



Requires maintenance

Community radio:

We visited two community radio stations—*Lokobetar* (Folk Radio) established and operated by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) at Borguna and *Krishi Radio* (Agriculture Radio) at Amtoli operated by DAE—and interviewed some listeners, male and female, to comprehend the way radios are organized, what kinds of programs are aired and if such endeavor has any importance for the Blue Gold program.



Broadcasting room, Lokobetar

Lokobetar is the first community radio in Bangladesh that was launched in 2011. Like all other community radios in Bangladesh, it covers an area of 17 kilometer radius broadcasting 5 hours, from 3pm to 8pm, program every day covering various programs like news, investigative magazine program focusing on local problems and success stories, development news, music, drama etc. Magazine programs are interactive—connecting people through mobile. *Krishi Radio* broadcasts similar kinds of programs but sometimes, if not often, it repeats programs as there is lack of new programs to feed. *Krishi Radio* operates a morning broadcast of two hours as well. Both the radios are supported by volunteers who collect information, make scripts, render voice and broadcast programs. *Lokobetar* has a team of 140 volunteers most of whom are students from local schools and colleges. Thus community radios are distinctive as a radio for people and run by people’s active participation. Both the radios organize listeners in Listener’s Clubs where people collectively listen to programs, discuss program’s pros and cons and suggest improvement measures. Besides regular listener’s clubs, *Krishi Radio* has Farmers Clubs, a specialized listener’s club comprising local farmers. They are preparing and broadcasting most of the programs in local dialect, rural people like that.



Krishi Radio

Radio made breakthrough by continuously disseminating information helping people going to cyclone shelters as cyclone Mohasen hit the area. As a consequence casualty was minimized; none were killed in the radio vicinity comprising 23 UPs. Community radio has become the hub for information and also a place for district administration and development organizations to connect people.

Potential for Blue Gold:

Krishi Radio covers the whole of polder 43/2F while part of the polder is within the range of *Lokobetar*. Coverage will be increased from 17 kilometer to 52 kilometer by April 2014. So, the radios could be followed from every Blue Gold polder in Patuakhali District. We discussed with the organizers of *Lokobetar* and *Krishi Radio* who are willing to broadcast Blue Gold programs besides organizing listeners clubs with our WMG members. We found some of WMG members at polder 43/2F are already member of *Krishi Radio* listener's club.

Community radios hold the potential for Blue Gold to disseminate development information among the people it addresses, which will strengthen our effort of awareness building at a cost-effective manner.

It is likely that Blue Gold can obtain air time of *Krishi Radio* free of cost since the radio is operated by DAE while it may involve some expenditure—roughly airing of 20 minutes program usually cost approximately BDT 4,000—to broadcast from *Krishi Betar*. Besides, scripting and recording may require some expenses. The actual amount is yet to be estimated.

We recommend Blue Gold to use community radio—*Krishi Radio* and *Lokobetar* in our context—as one of the means for information dissemination and awareness building. Anis Pervez will prepare a concept paper detailing the scope and plan for using community radio.

Possibilities of using local cultural resources:

We spent an afternoon at Kazir Bazar in polder 43/2D to have an overview of the cultural resources available that Blue Gold may use in its awareness building campaign. Due to phenomenal spread of cable TV and films packed in DVD, rural mediascape is distinctively undergoing a change resulting to waning popularity of folk culture. However, live performance—drama and argumentative song—is still popular. There are people enthusiastic in performing drama depicting local problems and successes. Choto Beghai WMG staged a popular theatre during IPSWAM which was highly appreciated as it was staged in the neighboring polders. Perhaps an effort from our end may facilitate such performance scripted and played by the WMG members themselves. However, no conclusive statement can be made before further investigation.

The team returned to Dhaka on 5 February 2014.

This report is jointly prepared by the three team members.

7. Field Trip Report 07

February 10 – February 13, 2014

1. Objectives:

1.1 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

Introducing with Patuakhali Blue Gold officers and staff and gathering knowledge on Blue Gold activities
Oriented our new M&E Officer for purpose of M&E system and support to translating baseline questionnaire into Bengali and participating in cooperative orientation training session of Community Organizers.

Pre-testing of baseline questionnaire in the field

1.2 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Participate in the staff development session of Comp 1 held on 12 and 13 February 2014

2. Team Members:

Shital Krishna Das, M&E Expert

Syeda Sajeda Haider, DRR Expert

3. Field Activities

3.1 Monitoring & Evaluation

Activities and Observations:

10 February 2014

Travel to Patuakhali

11 February 2014

Arrival at Patuakhali at 11.00 am.

Afternoon, made a schedule with Patuakhali Office Manager and M&E officer for field visit on 12 and 13 February 2014, to observe FFS session and learning session which was facilitated by FFS organizers, and also draft a plan for pre-testing the baseline questionnaire with FFS farmers.

12 February 2014

During FFS the M&E team went to Fakirkhali FFS under 43/2F polder to observe the learning session which was facilitated by FFS Organizers. At present 2 FFS organizers are overseeing 4 FFSs and soon they will oversee in total 8 FFSs. 20 FFS members out of 25 participated in the session, only 2 persons were male & remaining is female. 3 FFS members came from previous WMG and 17 FFS members came from community/village. It was found that most of FFS farmers are selected from the community/village.

As per information of 25 FFS farmers, 15 (60%) farmers came from poor family, 7 (28%) farmers came from middle family and 3 (12%) farmers came from rich family.

Afterwards the demonstration plots were visited, where preparation of Seed Beds and pit (Madda) is practiced. Seed Beds and Pit (Madda) preparation is guided by FFS organizers to follow all rules correctly. Some of questions we have raised on what is advantage for seed bed & pit (madda) and what is your next steps- they told after learning they will prepare the Seed Beds and pit (Madda) to follow similar ways in their homestead land or other lands. We visited a farmer house to see whether they have followed the same procedures or not. It seems to be alright but some problems are measurement of seed bed.

A FFS famer household was visited for pre-testing the draft baseline questionnaire. It took about 1 hour and 50 minutes to fill in the questionnaire.

In the afternoon, we have visited to Purba Aliapur for observing the FFS session in polder 43/2D. The session was facilitated by FFS Organizers and discussed how to prepare pit (Madda). It was found that 18 (72%) FFS farmers participated in this session; all of them are female farmers. As per their information, all of them came from previous WMG, only 3 farmers came from community/village. It was observed that knowledge level of them on seed bed preparation and pit (madda) preparation is moderate, they are demonstrating pit (madda) by the side of house.

13 February 2014

Visit to Chhoto Aliapur for observing follow-up of FFS organizers, and also on what the FFS farmers are doing in their house or homestead land. It was found that an FFS farmer had prepared 4 seed beds for Amaranth, Indian Spinach, Red Spinach & Cucumber but problem is measurement of seed bed. At present the farmer sometimes followed the traditional system but was committed in future to follow the new system.

An FFS farmer house was visited for pre-testing of the baseline questionnaire. We talked with female respondent to collect data according to questionnaire. About 2 hours 15 minutes were needed to complete the questionnaire. If the respondent is female then it seems difficult to collect data on agriculture land size and its production, so it is better if both of them (male and female) participate during data collection.

In the afternoon, a staff development training on cooperatives for Community Organizers (COs) was attended at the Patuakhali Blue Gold / BWDB office. The M&E team presented an update of M&E system and how to monitor program implementation in future.

14 February 2014

Return to Dhaka.



3.2 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

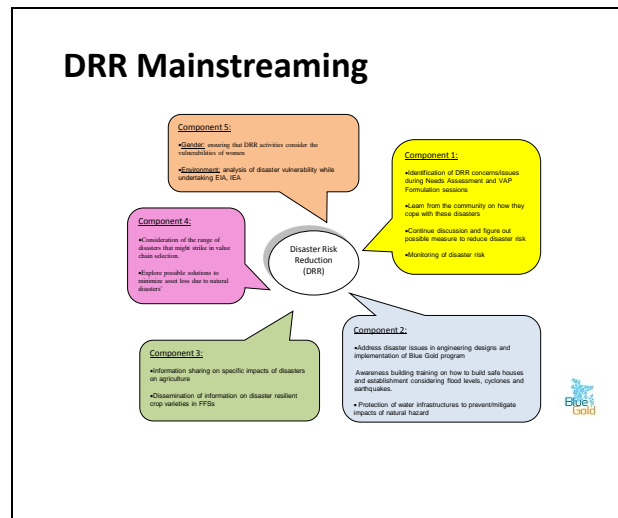
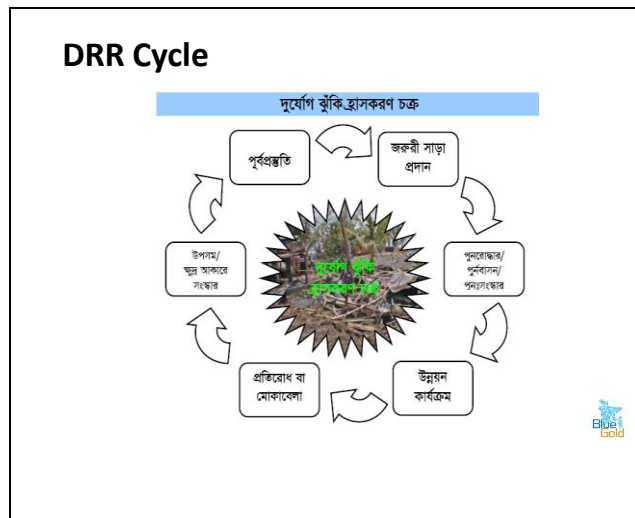
Main objective of this field visit was to attend the staff development session of Comp 1 which took place on 11 and 12 February, 2014 to make Community Organizers (COs) aware on how to mainstream DRR activities into different components of Blue Gold. Details of this session will be reported by Comp 1. The DRR expert shared a presentation on the main objectives, activities and an example Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) plan which will be a part of the Polder Development Plan (PDP). The ppt slides of this presentation are shown in [Annex 1](#). DRR is considered as a cross cutting

issue and it should be mainstreamed in different Blue Gold components. As a result, much of the DRR planning will also depend on the planning of other components' activities. In addition, it is also crucial that DRR activities of Blue Gold are linked with local government institutions such as Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) to ensure sustainability. Details of possible cooperation with UDMC are given in [Annex 2](#) and in the draft report on 'Framework for Cooperation and Partnership between WMG/WMA and UP' formulated by Aowlad Hossain, Institutional Expert of Blue Gold. In this regard, DRR expert asked the COs to gather contact detail and activities of the UDMC from their respective unions. A relationship and orientation on Blue Gold Programs is necessary in order to work together.

During the staff development session, Comp 1 leader and other staff of Blue Gold realized that many Needs Assessment (NA) and Village Action Plan (VAP) formulation sessions have been completed in Patuakhali District without proper participation of representatives from different components. As a result, in some cases COs were not able to highlight or surface the issues like disaster. In order to rectify this, it was decided by the Comp 1 members that in new polders, representatives from all the components should be present in some of the NA and VAP sessions to have holistic and better integrated VAPs. This is important as the Polder Development Plans (PDP) will be formulated based on the information from NA.

Annex 1: Presentation on DRR for staff development session held on 12 and 13 February, 2014

 <p style="text-align: center;">Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase level of awareness on disaster preparedness and response • To strengthen coping capacity to deal with disaster • To make the target people aware and well trained by raising mass awareness, capacity building, information dissemination, and involving people from different levels of the communities. 
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Example Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Plan

Activity	Leader & Team	Responsibility	Equipment/Stores	Time frame	M&E	Remarks
(adaptive/coping measures)						
Pre-disaster						
Awareness Building Training	Blue Gold	Blue Gold			1. No. of training 2. Training impact assessment	
Plantation of disaster resilient trees on the sides of the embankment and household	Blue Gold, Secretary WMG or Vice secretary WMG	WMG	Saplings		1. No. of trees planted 2. Impact of plantation	

(CBDRR) Plan - contd

During disaster						
Early Warning dissemination throughout the village especially to those households that are most vulnerable	Secretary WMG or Vice secretary WMG or Nominate 1 volunteer	After discussion with the UDMC, CPP volunteer or chairman, issue early warning to the WMG members	Mila, Mobile, Radio, Torch, Battery, Lantern, Kerosene, Candle, Match box, Umbrella, Raincoat, First Aid Box, Water bottle	1.	No. of trained volunteer for warning dissemination	
Carry out minor repair of house if required						
Post-disaster						
Evacuation from damaged houses, fallen trees, water						
Store clean water						
Relocation of families						

Annex 2: Areas of cooperation and partnership between local Disaster Management Committee (DMC) and WMG

Blue Gold will try to link WMGs with development planning and implementation processes of Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) at local level to ensure sustainability. Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC) is headed by the Upazila chairman and Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) headed by the Chairman of the Union *Parishad* to coordinate, review and implement the disaster management activities of the concerned union. Recently the Government of Bangladesh decided to establish Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) at the ward level.

A link should be established between WMG/WMA and UP to ensure sustainability of DRR activities of Blue Gold and to ensure UDMC services reach the WMG members. WMG members should participate in different activities of UDMC/WDMC such as the Community Risk Assessment. Based on the risk assessment, a Union Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) will be produced. Alongside this, a Contingency Plan (CP) for the Union will also be produced. On the other hand, UP members will also seek support from WMGs for participation in UP lead disaster management activities.

National Level Trainers of the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) train up a pool of Master Trainers (MTs) placed at the District level. The pool of Master Trainers is formed by the Project Implementation Officer (PIO) at Upazillas and UzDMC. They will train Upazila DMC members as well as UDMC and WDMC members across all Upazilas and Unions in the district. Blue Gold can use such trained PIOs as resource persons for different field level trainings on DRR. Also, Blue Gold can invite the trained PIOs in capacity building training at district/polder level.

8. Field Trip Report 08

Duration	:	(February 8-13, 2014)
Places	:	Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct 2-day staff development session with Community Organizers (COs) and Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) focusing on the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) WMO Strengthening activities (village mapping, by-laws review, membership enrolment and elections) b) Needs assessment and VAP c) Orientation on bookkeeping and record keeping by DoC resource persons 2. Participate in LCS formation meetings and in planning and conducting the first LCS training 3. Field exposure visit of new Gender Expert.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victoria Pineda, Leader-Component 1 2. Showkat Ara Begum, Gender Expert 3. Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert 4. Khuku Chakraborty, Gender Expert

A. Activities and Observations

1. Participated in LCS Formation Meetings and LCS Training in Polder 43/2D

During the visit, the team participated in the formation meetings and training of 5 LCS Groups in Polder 43/2D. The following table presents details on LCS Groups formed and trained during the visit.

Table 1. LCS Groups Formed and Trained with C1 HQ Team Participation

Sl. No.	Name of LCS Group	Total Members	Name of WMGs Representing the LCS Members	Formation and Training Date
1.	Charabunia-Shankarpur (all male members)	48	a. Charabunia WMG b. Shankarpur WMG	Feb. 9, 2014 Feb. 11, 2014
2.	Nil Kholā (all female members)	39	a. East Morichbunia b. South Morichbunia c. North Bazargona	Feb. 10, 2014 Feb. 12, 2014
3.	Doeal (all male members)	42	a. East Morichbunia b. North Bazargona	Feb. 10, 2014 Feb. 13, 2014
4.	Razabaria (all male members)	47	South Morichbunia	Feb. 10, 2014
5.	Nhaksha (all male members)	55	East Awliapur	Feb. 11, 2014

- Prior to the formal LCS formation meetings, the CO's with guidance from the Zonal Socio-Economists and Comp-2 engineers have initiated the LCS members' selection process together with the WMG Executive members. During the formation meetings, the LCS membership was finalized and election of leader and assistant leader was conducted. For Polder 43/2D, as early as December 2013, ZSEs and COs have informed the WMGs to start identifying and listing



potential LCS members in their respective villages but had to wait for the cost estimates and locations of earthworks from BWDB before forming the groups. These were given on Feb. 5, 2014. The District team immediately informed the WMGs to form LCS groups based on the identified earthworks locations and to organize formal LCS group formation meetings and elect the leaders starting February 9, 2014. At such short notice, the field staff was not able to guide and supervise formation process of all LCS groups. However, further evaluation of the LCS members selected was done during the formal LCS formation meetings participated in by HQ and District C1 and C2 teams.

- At this stage until end of March 2014, COs assigned in Polders 43/2D, 43/2F and 43/2A will be focusing on the LCS formation and training process in order to form all LCS groups required. Information on estimated locations, length, and volume of earthworks to be implemented should be given by BWDB to Blue Gold ahead of time to enable the field staff and COs to properly plan and implement the LCS formation and training activities.
- The main concern now is when the LCS funds will be transferred to the concerned XEN Divisions so that the 25% advance (mobilization) fund can be paid to the trained LCS groups and work can be started. Ideally, LCS groups should be trained immediately after depositing to their respective accounts their 25% advance so that the groups can start working with the lessons learned during the training still fresh in their minds.

2. **C1 HQ team participated in planning and reflection meetings** prior to and after the first batch of LCS training. After reviewing the proposed LCS Training Curriculum, the content, topic, duration and resource person were discussed and agreed upon. C1 team members together with the new Gender Expert will conduct the opening session and topics concerning social aspects. The C2 team members will handle all technical topics including the practical session. Annex A shows the curriculum followed



in the first LCS Training.

- It was decided that the LCS group will not be divided into 2 batches for the opening session and social part of the training to enhance unity and the importance of working together as one group among the members and leaders who are coming from 2 different WMGs/villages. However, for the technical aspects, it was deemed important to divide the participants into 2 groups both for theoretical

and practical training for better understanding. It is important to have mixed groups (meaning each group should consist of members from both WMGs).

- Participants wanted the training to be concluded at or before 3pm. This made it difficult to discuss all topics effectively due to time constraint. One factor contributing to this is that the training session could not be started before 10am because participants did not arrive on time. It was also observed that several participants did not eat the packed lunch distributed during the training. Upon inquiry, it was found out that they wanted to bring home and share the packed lunch with their family after the training. Hence, about 2pm, they are already hungry and would want to go home.
- Participation of BWDB XEN and his staff in the training is important. Close coordination and follow-up with the concerned XEN on this aspect is a must.

Summary of LCS Concerns and Proposals

- Estimated reaches and work locations should be received ahead of time by the ZSEs to allow enough time for LCS formation and training
- Participation of BWDB staff during LCS training has to be coordinated and followed-up closely with concerned XENs
- Blue Gold C1 has started preparation of registration requirements for trained LCS groups, in this connection BWDB is requested to facilitate completion of estimates, work orders, agreement and fund placement.
- It is proposed to create revolving fund that can be used in case LCS payments get delayed. Blue Gold can genuinely help the poor people through the LCS scheme if timely payments can be ensured.
- If time and budget permit, 2-days LCS training may be conducted, to make it more effective.

3. Conducted 2-day Staff Development Session with Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) and CO's

Objectives of the Staff Development Session:

- Review the practical experience and theoretical base of COs in implementing key community organization and mobilization activities; and
- Orient COs on basic bookkeeping/record keeping aspects and actual review of sample WMG books and records.



Some Highlights of the Staff Development Session

1. Experience Sharing of COs on Key Mobilization and Strengthening Activities

In this session, each CO was given the opportunity to share his/her experiences and difficulties in e.g. village mapping, needs assessment and village action plan formulation, WMO reactivating/strengthening activities. This session enabled COs to learn from each others' experiences and gain new knowledge on effective strategies and tactics to employ in handling problems and constraints. The following are highlights of this session:

- Village Mapping
 - This activity clarified confusion among villagers in some polders on village and WMG boundaries
 - Pinpointed clearly problem areas on water management, crop production and other issues
 - Increased awareness and understanding of COs of the socio-economic, physical and environmental aspects of the village
 - Village maps facilitated needs assessment and plan formulation processes

- Problems and constraints were encountered in few cases where fixed time and venue were not followed by the concerned villagers/participants
- b. Needs Assessment and Village Action Plan (VAP) Formulation
- Ideally, this should be attended by representatives from each component. Scheduling/fixing time and venue for this activity proved to be difficult especially during the last harvest season and political unrest which did not allow flexibility for other component members to attend in many of these meetings. However at this stage, schedules can be better programmed and C1 will be circulating this to all components. Needs assessment meetings will soon be started in Polders 43/1A, 43/2B and 43/2E. For the completed needs assessment and VAP meetings, reports are prepared for distribution to all components which will be considered in the PDP formulation process.
 - Each stakeholder group (farmers, fishermen, destitute people, landless, small traders and businessmen) present during the meeting is given the opportunity to prioritize their needs and problems
 - These meetings take time, at least 3 hours is needed to complete the process. In several cases, field staff had set another schedule for VAP session. This will be resorted to in meetings that will be taking longer period of time and villagers will be motivated to come early for the meetings.
 - Translating to English reports on needs assessment and VAP meeting outputs (for each village) proved to be time consuming. Hiring of full time Translator is in process.

2. DRR Framework

The DRR Expert presented the main objectives, activities and an example of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) plan which will be a part of the Polder Development Plan (PDP). Possible cooperation with the Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) was also discussed.

3. On the 2nd day of the staff development session (Feb. 13, 2014), discussions focused on bookkeeping/record keeping and other Cooperative concerns. Three resource persons from the Department of Cooperatives participated in this session: a) District Cooperative Officer (DCO); b) Upazila Cooperative Officer (UCO); and c) District Inspector.

Annex B presents the detailed outputs/minutes of the 2-day staff development session with the COs.

Attached as Annex C is a brief field note of the new Gender Expert (Khuku Chakraborty).

Annex A
LCS Training Curriculum
Charabunia-Shankarpur LCS Group (11.02.2014)
Venue: Charabunia Primary School

Topics	Duration	Facilitator
A. THEORETICAL SESSION		
1. Social Aspects		
a) Objectives of LCS Training	10 minutes	Vicki Pineda & G.M. Khairul Islam
b) Overview of Blue Gold and Stakeholders' Responsibility	20 minutes	Shorab Hossain
c) Team Building & Leadership	20 minutes	Showkat Ara
d) Savings / Gender / IGA	20 minutes	Khuku Chakraborty
TEA BREAK – 15 minutes		
e) Social Issues & Conflict Management	20 minutes	Shorab Hossain
f) Monitoring & Quality Control	20 minutes	Shorab Hossain & Tahmina Akter
g) Safety & Security / Health & Hygiene	15 minutes	Tahmina Akter
2. Technical Aspects		
a) Introduction of the Polder & Infrastructure	15 minutes	Mahmudur Rahman(Aveek)
b) Procedure & Quality Control	30 minutes	Mahmudur Rahman(Aveek) & Md. Delower Hossain
c) Measurement	20 minutes	Md. Shahidullah
d) Bill Processing	20 minutes	Farzana Rahman (Moury)
LUNCH & PRAYER BREAK – 60 minutes		
B. FIELD DEMO		

Annex B

Outputs of the Staff Development Session with Community Organizers

Day-1

Village mapping:

The experience sharing session was started on village mapping .The following experiences were shared:

- In one village there are more than one WMGs (up to four WMG)
- It was the first time for some COs to experience village mapping activity
- According to the COs, in village mapping they acquired more knowledge and familiarity with their area of assignment.



The steps of village mapping followed by the COs:

1. Before Mapping:

- a. Discussing with related WMGs about Mapping
- b. Finding out the key persons who knows the village well and have the idea on mapping
- c. Date, time and venue is fixed according to the convenience of the related persons
- d. Data collection of relevant information included in Village Map

2. At the time of mapping:

- a. Describe the objectives of preparing Village Map
- b. Providing materials for preparing Map
- c. Identify the boundary of the village
- d. Direction of the village (East, West, North and South)
- e. Information on condition of water management infrastructure, Cyclone Shelter, crop fields, water bodies, roads, high land & low land, tube wells, educational institutions, organizations, markets, NGOs, etc.

Status of Village Mapping (as of Feb. 10, 2014)

1. 43/2D - 29 villages (30 WMG) all completed
2. 43/2F - 10 villages (27 WMG) all completed
3. 43/1A - 8 Villages (14 WMG) all completed
4. 43/2E - 7 villages (12 WMG) all completed
5. 43/2A - 13 villages (22 WMG) ongoing
6. 43/2B - 8 villages (28WMG) ongoing

Problems /difficulties encountered for mapping:

1. No difficulties encountered in polders 43/2D, 43/F, 43/2E, and 43/1A
2. In 43/2A, the following were encountered: disagreement between two WMGs who wanted to show that their part of the khal is more silted up; the participants/villagers changed several times the fixed date and time for mapping; some of the villagers did not remain present till finishing the work.
3. In 43/2B: there was confusion in the number of villages and WMGs among the concerned villagers specifically in Bashbunia. Some villages (traditionally known by the people) are not officially listed under Union Parishad but have been included as part of other villages. During mapping, it was agreed to follow officially recognized village boundaries though the WMG boundaries will be maintained.

Need Assessment and Village Action Plan (VAP) Formulation:

The COs of 43/2F, 43/2D and 43/A shared their experiences from needs assessment and formulation of VAP :

1. The villagers changed the date of meeting several times due to busy farm activities and political instability
2. At the time of needs assessment thorough discussion of needs was not possible in some cases due to shortage of time
3. Some members of EC resisted admitting the problems of the respective organizations.
4. In some cases, participants gave more emphasis on water management related problems than other problems
5. Sometimes, COs faced problems in hanging posters due to lack of facility at the meeting place.

Support Needed:

1. Through the close supervision of Zonal Team the quality work will be improved
2. At the time of needs assessment, the presence of representatives of other components is needed. Now that farm activities are not that hectic and there is more or less political stability, ZSEs will be able to make better programming of this activity with the WMGs and will circulate schedule to other component members. This activity will be started soon in Polders 43/1A, 43/2B and 43/2E.
3. WMGs need to have office and venue for meetings.

Strengthening of WMO:

1. Titkata Purbo (East) Multipurpose Cooperative Society has formed a new Executive Committee according to their own wish in order to avail of FAO farm machinery assistance They did not inform either the Blue Gold staff or the relevant Cooperative people.
2. Without passbook deposit and money receipt, shares and savings are being collected in some WMGs.
3. In some WMGs, steps and requirements in forming Ad-hoc committee until the election were not followed and observed.



Support needed:

1. Training on Registration, Elections and Accounts Keeping to WMGs
2. Deployment of more experienced and strong COs to problematic polders

LCS formation:

Some of the new COs needs more training on LCS objectives and processes. Need to supply them with the LCS Guidelines and discuss this more during CO training for new ones and staff development sessions for the existing COs

Review of Bye-laws:

The following points were highlighted:

1. There are three kinds of fees, namely: a) Shares; b) Savings; and c) Admission fee –If the Cooperative Society decides, they can also collect miscellaneous fees.
2. There are three kinds of WMG meeting: a) Monthly Executive Committee meeting; b) Annual General Meeting (general members); and c) Special General Meeting (general members) when necessary.
3. Percentage of profit to be distributed among members will depend on the decision of general members. According to the Cooperative law, it should not be more than 70%.
4. The election of Executive Committee of WMG should be initiated following tenure of office. If the election is not conducted within that time, then the Ad-hoc committee will be formed.

Leadership Development

Mr. Shorab Hossain facilitated the topic Leadership. He explained why good leadership needed for development. He also emphasized what kind of leadership is needed for WMOs. Role of WMO leaders and the qualities of a good leader is also discussed.

Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

DRR Expert presented the main objectives, activities and an example of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) plan which will be a part of the polder development plan (PDP). Possible cooperation with the Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC), was also discussed.

Day – 2

Four members of Component-4 (Mr. Anisur Rahman, Mr. Shaidul Islam, Mr. Mozammel Hoque and Ms. Jharna Begum) introduced themselves to the COs and described their activities in the polder and how these relate to component 1 activities. The new Gender and M&E Experts were also introduced to the COs.

Session with the Resource Persons from Department of Cooperatives (DoC) on Record keeping system, conducting Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Election

- 1 Mr. Sahabuddin Biswas, District Cooperative Officer, Patuakhali initiated the session with greetings. He also explained what is and why cooperative is needed, the tiers in cooperative development. He emphasized the need to observe Cooperative Policy and Bye-law. He explained how the Cooperative Society is formed and registration system of Cooperative Society
- 2 Requirements for registration:
 - At least 20 eligible persons will have to apply to the registrar through specified form
 - Photocopy of ID Card
 - Certificate of permanent resident
 - Receipt of Chalan deposit
 - Showing the activities that has been started at least before three months
 - Showing the amount of share TK.20,000 and same amount of savings if the Society is multi purpose
 - Showing the amount of share TK. 3000.00 and same amount of savings if the Society is not multi purpose



Formation of Ad-hoc Committee and Election Committee:

- 1 After the formation of Cooperative Society within the tenure of two years election should be held
- 2 If the capital of the Cooperative Society is up to TK. 50,000 the Cooperative Society is able to form the Ad-hoc committee
- 3 If the capital of the Cooperative Society is above TK. 50,000.00 the approval is needed for formation of Ad-hoc Committee
- 4 The Ad-hoc Committee may perform the regular activities
- 5 The Ad-hoc Committee cannot take any decision on policy matters
- 6 The Ad-hoc Committee will form the Election Committee
- 7 The Election Committee will take the necessary measures for conducting election.



Importance of Record Keeping:

Record keeping is very much needed for running the cooperative effectively. Mr.Pankoj Kumar Chandra, Upazila Cooperative Officer, Patuakhali drew the format on flip chart for showing how to write Cash book mentioning debit and credit. It was easy to understand and suitable for cooperators. Proper handling and accomplishment of other books of accounts were explained in detail by the District Inspector using as example WMG books brought by the COs for this session.



The session was concluded with thanks to the facilitators, COs and others who helped organized the two days sessions.

Prepared by: Showkatara Begum and Tahmina Akter

Annex C

BLUE GOLD: Report on Patuakhali Field Trip with the Team members of Component-1

Feb. 8-13, 2014

Objective: Introduction with the field level staff

Activities:

1. Participated LCS Group formation meetings at different polder levels and there took the opportunities to share with them about the importance of women participation in WMG
2. Participated in three LCS Training courses on different dates and I delivered the topic on Gender, Savings, and IGAs. The following key points were highlighted during the LCS training:
 - ✓ Women constitute half of the total population, which is why keeping women in vulnerable situation, society cannot move forward.
 - ✓ Therefore, women should get access to participate actively in WMGs/WMAs WMOs along with LCS works equally.
 - ✓ As Blue Gold objective is reduce poverty, therefore husband and wife both have equal rights to earn money for their sustainable development
 - ✓ In our society women are treated as burden as they are dependent, they have no scope / opportunities to earn money though they are doing very hard work even they involve in productive activities at household level but they have no ownership of money and any assets
 - ✓ Let women enjoy their life with dignity to fulfill their fundamental rights of their children and others.
 - ✓ Therefore women should participate with men in different training courses that will be arranged by Blue Gold Project in future.
 - ✓ By increasing women's social awareness, raise their voice and to develop their leadership qualities for improving their social position
 - ✓ Men and women should have access to and control over resources and skill on different IGAs to improve their livelihood capacity and take family decision jointly
 - ✓ Savings is very important so you can earn money from LCS work or other IGAs then you need to save some money for better future
 - ✓ Men and Women are two wings in the society, one cannot move without other as bird cannot fly if both wings are not functioning equally/well.
 - ✓ In the eyes of Blue Gold women will get the equal access as they are lacked behind
3. Introduction with all Patuakhali COs during the two-day staff development session at Patuakhali district office.
4. A half day short meeting with Jhorna, Junior Gender Expert, based in Patuakhali. She is responsible for Livelihood and Business Development; therefore she is trying to find out the suitable IGAs (existing) for both women and men. Accordingly she is looking for marketing facilities of their existing products. Later on she will make plan on IGA in close collaboration with component-4 team.
5. I also had several discussions with the other staff members on Blue Gold's perspective on Gender
6. Got one more opportunity to share Gender on Blue Gold to Mr. XEN, BWDB, Patuakhali as he joined in one LCS group training

This was my first trip to the Blue Gold Project site accompanied by the Team members of Component-1 (Victoria Pineda), Component Leader along with Ms. Showkat Ara and Mr Shorab Hossain.

Every evening, I also joined meetings with other staff at Blue Gold guest house facilitated by Ms. Victoria on review of day's accomplishments and discussion of issues encountered.

Prepared by:
Khuku Chakraborty
Gender Expert

9. Field Trip Report 09

Duration	:	08 February 2014 – 18 February 2014
Places	:	Khulna & Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. LCS formation and training in polder 22, 30 and 43/2D (for embankment) b. Discussion with component-2 zonal team in Khulna & Patuakhali c. Meeting with CE, SE, XEN and SDE in Khulna and C1 & C2 staff in Patuakhali
Participants	:	<p>Alamgir Chowdhury, Deputy Team Leader; Mofazzal Ahmed, DCL-2; John Marandy, Deputy Component Leader-1; Shafiqul Islam, Socio-economist, DP-III, BWDB; Jinat Rehana & Tahmina Akter, Technical Assistants, Component-2.</p> <p>Mainul Islam, Civil Engineer, Khulna; Azizur Rahman, Sr. Q CE, Khulna; Saiful Islam, Civil Engineer, Satkhira; Delwar Hossain, Civil Engineer, Patuakhali, Shahidullah, QCE, Patuakhali. Mahmudur Rahman Aveek and Farzana Moury also joined from Patuakahli.</p>

1. Itinerary:

February 08, 2014: Alamgir, Mofazzal and John left Dhaka by air for Jessore. Travelled from Jessore to Khulna by road. Shafiqul Islam, Jinat Rehana & Tahmina Akter Tunny left Dhaka by road and reached Khulna in the afternoon.

February 09, 2014: In the morning, left Khulna for polder 22. Assisted in the formation of 1 male and 1 female LCS (Korolla & Tormuz LCSs) in Bigordana BWDB Complex for embankment re-sectioning in polder 22. In the evening had a discussion meeting with component-2 staff in Khulna.

February 10, 2014: Assisted in the formation of 1 male and 1 female LCS for embankment re-sectioning in polder 30 (Chital and Gobinda Mandir LCSs) at Gobinda Mandir.

February 11, 2014: Participated in the training of 1 female LCS for embankment re-sectioning in polder 30 in 2 batches (Achol LCS) at Batiaghata Upazila Complex.

February 12, 2014: Participated in the training of 1 male LCS for embankment re-sectioning in polder 30 in 2 batches (Janakollayan LCS) at Batiaghata Upazila Complex. In the afternoon attended a meeting with a DRR committee of Concern Universal/Ashrayon at Gajendrapur, polder 29, Khulna. In the evening had a dinner meeting at BWDB guest house with the Blue Gold team and the BWDB officers including the Chief Engineer.

February 13, 2014: Alamgir, John and Shafique left for Dhaka. Mofazzal, Jinat Rehana and Tahmina Akter Tunny participated in the training of 1 female LCS for embankment re-sectioning in polder 30 in 2 batches (Banchar Larai LCS) at Batiaghata Upazila Complex.

February 14, 2014: Mofazzal, Jinat Rehana and Tahmina Akter Tunny travelled from Khulna to Patuakhali by road.

February 15, 2014: Assisted in formation of 2 LCSs, Shapla LCS (F) and Katakhalı LCS (M) and participated in the training of Naksha LCS (M). In the evening had meeting with C-1 & C-2 staff in Blue Gold guest house regarding overall planning of LCS formation and training, and Vicky's comments on LCS.

February 16, 2014: Assisted in formation of 2 LCSs, Idukhali LCS (F) and Choto Auliapur LCS (M) and participated in the training of 2 LCSs, Shapla LCS (F) and Katakhalı LCS (M) in polder 43/2D.

February 17, 2014: Participated in the training of 2 LCSs, Shapla LCS (F) and Katakhalı LCS (M) in polder 43/2D. In the afternoon left for Dhaka by launch.

February 18, 2014: Reached Dhaka early in the morning and attended office.
Mofazzal Ahmed

20 March 2014

Encl: some photographs









10. Field Trip Report10

Duration	:	08 February 2014 – 18 February 2014
Places	:	Khulna & Patuakhali
Objectives	:	Attending the Formations of LCS groups and Facilitating the Training Sessions of LCS Groups as Members of Component 2.

A team comprised of the Mahmudur Rahman Aveek and Farzana Rahman Moury of Blue Gold Program went to Patuakhali to attend the formations and to facilitate the trainings of various LCS groups as a member of Component 2. The team started from Dhaka on 8 February, 2014. Activities done by this team are stated below:

Date	Activity
09 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the formation of 'Charabunia Shankarpur' LCS group
10 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took necessary preparation for the 1st training Arranged the training materials for the training Attended the 'LCS Training Preparation Meeting' (Presided by Victoria Pineda, other participants were Mr. Sohrab Hossain, Mrs. Shawkat Ara, Miss Khuku Chakrabarti, Mr. G.M. Khairul Alam, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman Aveek, Miss Farzana Rahman Mouri, Mrs. Tahmina Akter, Mr. Delower Hossain, Mr. Md. Shahidullah and Mr. Motior Rahman)
11 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Charabuna Shankarpur LCS' group Attended the review meeting after the training session (Presided by Victoria Pineda, other participants were Mr. Sohrab Hossain, Mrs. Shawkat Ara, Miss Khuku Chakrabarti, Mr. G.M. Khairul Alam, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman Aveek, Miss Farzana Rahman Mouri, Mrs. Tahmina Akter, Mr. Delower Hossain, Mr. Md. Shahidullah and Mr. Motior Rahman)
12 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Nilkhola LCS' group
13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Doyel LCS' group
14 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took necessary preparations for the next training sessions
15 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Naksha LCS' group
16 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Shapla LCS' group Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Katakhali LCS' group Attended the formation of 'Idukhali LCS' group Attended the formation of 'Chotto Auliapur LCS' group
17 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Idukhali LCS' group Facilitated as trainers of LCS training of 'Chotto Auliapur LCS' group

Returned Dhaka on the next day (18-02-14)

ANNEX:



(a)



(b)

Picture:- (a) Aweek and Moury in Formation of Charabunia Shankarpur LCS on 09 February; (b) Aweek and Moury in the training session of Charabunia Shankarpur LCS on 11 February.



(c)



(d)

Picture:- (c) Moury in training session of Nilkhola LCS group on 11 February; (d) Aweek in training session of Laksha LCS group on 14 February



(e)



(f)

Picture:- (e) Aweek providing practical demonstration to Nilkhola LCS group on 11 February;(f) Moury providing practical demonstration to Naksha LCS group on 14 February

11. Field Trip Report 11

Date	:	February 09-13, 2014
Place	:	Khulna
Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Business Development Curriculum Consultant (BDCC) to familiarize with Polder, beneficiaries, FOs and organizing FGD. • Review of the information collected for preparing presentation for PDP and validating data & information already collected for that purpose. • Guide BDC to collect in-depth quantitative and qualitative information through KII, FGD for PDP presentation • Follow-up C4 overall field activities
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 2. Shusanto Roy, BDC, Khulna 3. Mr. Md. Abdullah Sani, TC/Master Trainer (OFWM Specialist), C-3 4. Md. Abdul Wadud, BDCC 5. Md. Manzurul Haque, BDCC

Worked with BDCCs to conduct FGDs with FFS members along with WMO leaders and members. Three FGDs were conducted by BDCC with Moshidanga FFS at Gangarampur union, Char-sholmari FFS at Batiaghata union and Noyai FFS at Deluti union. Most of the FFS members were women but some male WMO members were also present in the FGD session. BDCC tried to explore with FGD participants about the courses they have followed and their business experiences if any, education level of FFS members, mathematical calculation ability, commercial or surplus producer, market awareness, interest in business, communication facilities etc. Participants enthusiastically participated the FGD sessions. BDCC will share the findings of FGD through a workshop.

Visited polder 22 with Business Development Coordinator (BDC) to validate information collected earlier for PDP. Visited poultry farms, input traders (seed and pesticide), arot (Sonadanga) and discussed with local transport operators to collect information. Discussed with paravet and enquired about existing service provisions and service gap. Met Mr. Uttam Kumar, Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (Union/Block level DAE representative) at Fulbari bazar. Collected/ validated some statistics of polder 22 related to crops. It was found that farmers cultivate mostly HYV rice (T. Aman) but they also cultivate local varieties. Boro cultivation is very limited within the polder due to irrigation problems. That is one of the main reasons that farmers cultivate Sesame as it requires less irrigation and it is also saline tolerant.

Summary of findings is given below:

Total Cultivable Area = 2400 hectare (to be checked)

Cropping Intensity = 138 %

Main crop

T Aman	= 2400 hectare		
T Aman area (HYV, BR 23)	= 1920 hectare	Production	= 4.74 M Ton/ hectare
T Aman (Local Variety)	= 480 hectare	Production	= 3.75 M Ton/ hectare

Polder 22 is surplus with rice production. Producers sell their surplus rice in Fulbari bazar which is within polder 22.

Other crops

Sesame area	= 1500 hectare	Production	= 0.80 M Ton/hectare
Mung bean	= 100 hectare	Production	= 0.85 M Ton/hectare
Watermelon	= 15 hectare		
Sweet gourd	= 15 hectare		
Okra	= 5 hectare		
Ridge gourd	= 5 hectare		
Bitter gourd	= 5 hectare		
Fallow	= 755 hectare		

Most of the HH of polder 22 have at least one *Moringa* tree. A three year old *Moringa* tree can produce at least 20 kg *Moringa* and HH can earn 800.00 taka from each tree in a year. This income goes to women members of the HH.

Around 80 layer chicken farms exist in the polder. Average number of birds per farm is 350. Two paravets (poultry) are providing service in the polder. One poultry input trader is providing service in the polder. Poultry feed and day old chick dealer also providing veterinary services to the farmers as embedded service from Khulna. Farmers sell their eggs in Khulna city. One truck collects all the eggs from the polder twice a week.

Visited one poultry farmer at Bigordana village. Owner of the farm rears 280 layer chickens in his homestead. All of the family members are involved in chicken rearing activities.

Met one paravet (Large animal) Mr.Maikel Bairagi. He received training from Department of Youth and DLS. He is doing this business for the last 12 years. He usually provides primary treatment and health care services. Mr.Bairagi informed that most of the dairy farming is at subsistence level. Four paravets (large animals) providing this type of service in the polder area.

Visited Sonadanga Paikeri bazar at Khulna. Met one Arotdar Mr.Sobahan Sordar at the bazar. He informed that 3-4 arotdars are involved in *Moringa* trading in the bazaar. It is a 20-25 days business. Altogether 300 mounds *Moringa* is traded every day from that 3-4 arot. They charge 1.00 taka/Kg as tax from the buyers of *Moringa*. They receive this *Moringa* from surrounding district of Khulna. Botiaghata region (Polder 30 & 22) is the main supply zone of *Moringa*. From Khulna, this *Moringa* goes to Dhaka and other district markets especially in Northern part of Bangladesh. Usually *Moringa* is used as vegetable.

12. Field Trip Report 12

Duration	:	February 9-14, 2014
Place	:	Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending WMO meetings to know about savings mobilization, investment capacity, scope of business capital and value chain activities, TNA etc. 2. Collecting information on asset utilization and revenue model of WMGs especially on power tillers. 3. Meetings with regional staff/ field staff to learn about their knowledge level on savings, investment, value chain activities and other activities. 4. Visiting private sector actors (seed) and potential VC (fish/dry fish) 5. Meeting with DoC officials & MFIs. 6. Attending staff development meeting with C-1 7. Discussing about CO curriculum and PDP presentation with C-4 staff
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Development Expert 2. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Specialist 3. Abdullah Al-Mamun, Business Development Coordinator, Patuakhali 4. Kazi Mozammel Hossen, Business Development Coordinator, Patuakhali 5. Jhorna Begum, Gender and IGA Specialist, Patuakhali

1. Attending WMO meetings to know about savings mobilization, investment capacity, scope of business capital and value chain activities, TNA etc.

Pokkhia WMG:

We visited Pokkhia WMG and met its members. It has 103 members (M-66, F-37), of them 38 are registered (M-21, F-17). Their share capital is Tk. 6300 and savings is Tk. 31545. Monthly savings is Tk. 20. They have a Bank a/c in Grameem Bank. This WMG has received assets from FAO. They have engaged a driver to operate power tiller at Tk. 300 per day.

Uttar Purbo Gulishakhali WMG

We visited UP Gulishakhali WMG and met its members. It has 110 members, of them 41 are registered. They have received assets from FAO but did not receive the contract from DAE. They have rented out the power tillers for two months at Tk. 30000 each. The LLP is leased out at Tk. 6000. They have a Bank a/c in Grameen Bank.

Dakhin Choto Awliapur WMG

This WMG is running on ad hoc committee. It has 130 members, of them 25 are registered. Their savings are Tk. 41,500 and share capital is Tk. 5,850. They have received assets from FAO (power tiller, pump, thresher) as well as saplings, hand spray, fertilizer, seed, agri tools etc. They have a plan how to use their savings. One of the ideas is to take lease of land for fish farming. They are also considering providing loan to its members. They have bank a/c at Grameen bank. They have rented out the power tillers for one month at Tk. 10,000 each.

Dakhin Purbo Kalibari WMG

We visited Dakhin Purbo Kalibari WMG and met its members. It is an old cooperative but newly revived. It has 100 members (M-63, F-37), of them 65 are registered (M-43, F-22). They have received assets from FAO. They have employed a driver to operate the power tiller. The income from power tiller is about Tk. 7,000 up to February 11, 2014. Their share saving is Tk. 43,200 and savings is Tk. 150,930. They have a Bank a/c in Grameen Bank.

The descriptions related to visiting WMGs are kept short as we have been visiting different WMGs and we are still learning. This is an ongoing process. The learning from visits to WMGs can be summarised as: *understanding how they are utilizing assets, their need for information about share and savings and how DoC can play role in facilitating training regarding record keeping etc.* These issues will be discussed with other components and addressed by coordinated efforts.

2. Collecting information on asset utilization and revenue model of WMGs especially on power tillers.

Information was collected from different WMGs about use of assets, particularly about power tillers with a view to conduct a cost-benefit analysis. Interviews of actual commercial service providers were also done to be able to make comparison. A separate report has been prepared and soon it will be shared.

3. Meetings with regional staff/ field staff to learn about their knowledge level on savings, investment, value chain activities and other activities.

We met and discussed with COs at different WMG meetings. It was a good opportunity to discuss with them to know about their thinking on how to strengthen the WMGs as cooperatives. We also tried to discuss with them about their opinion regarding present status of record keeping at WMG level and ways and means for improving the system. We also discussed about C-4 activities and how we can work more effectively. The COs voiced their willingness to learn more about record keeping of WMG, different ways and means of investment and VC activities.

4. Visiting private sector actors (seed) and potential VC actor (fish/dry fish)

M/s. Hasnat Trader, Amtali, Barguna

Amtali Bazar is very important for agriculture input distribution in the surrounding localities as it hosts dealers of different companies. We talked with the owner of M/s. Hasnat Trader. M/s. Hasnat Trader is one of the largest dealers of this bazaar. The shop holds dealer agreements with renowned companies like, Buyer, Square, Metal, Payra Agro, BADC and BRAC. According to the owner, it has about 40% share of agri input business (a large portion comes from pesticide and fertilizer sales) of Amtali bazaar.

Jabbar Sarder Seed is another large market dealer at Amtali bazaar (who is Lalteer dealer). Buyers from surrounding bazaars like Arpangasia (3 km), Talukder bazaar (10km), Gazipr (12km), Koraibaria (15), Cholakanga (4 km) and many other come to Amtali bazaar for agri inputs. As many as 60% farmers from surrounding areas prefers Amtali bazaar for input purchase.

M/s. Hasnat assumes that he sold Cucumber(7/8 kg), Tomato (2/3 kg), Chichinga (?), Bitter gourd(10 kg), Bottle gourd, Egg plant, Sweet gourd (10/15 kg) in the bazaar last season. These are the main seeds for vegetables in the area. There is also high demand for rice seed (both HYV and local).

At least 20-30% of the farmer buyers get up to 50% credit (usually for 3 or 4 months) from the dealers and retailers particularly for seed sales. The dealers give credit to retain the customer. Customers can get free advice and needed support from the sellers about pesticide and fertilizer use.

M/s. Hasnat Traders has working experience with INGO and with development programs. They worked with projects through Seed Companies to promote seed and production technologies to targeted beneficiaries. They also supplied inputs in a package program (M/s.Hasnat Trader has supplied seeds and

fertilizer to designated project beneficiary against a previously distributed 'coupon' as directed by the seed company. He had business arrangement with Seed Company) as part of project work

LalTeer Office, Patuakhali

Lalteer Patuakhali covers Patuakhali and Barguna districts. It covers 14 surrounding upazilas. There are 35 dealers/distributors and 500/700 retailers in this zone. According to them, at present Lalteer has a vegetable seed market of Tk. 20 million but the potential for this market is about Tk 70-100 million. Overall they have 60-70% market share of vegetable seed market. They think that only 20-25% seed are HYV of the total seed sold in the market. They have estimated seed sales, bitter gourd (Tia-500/600 kg), Water melon seed, bottle gourd (500 kg), pumpkin (250 kg), cucumber (300 kg) etc in this zone last season. AR Mallic, Metal, ACI, Mollica, United are other prominent sellers.

Lalteer has a field demonstration program of different seed varieties as part of yearly promotion program. Usually, they set demonstration plots of 5-15 decimal each, to promote different seed varieties including technology. They monitor these plots, organize farmer field days (3 times, at the time of sowing, growth stage and at maturity) as part of the demo program.

Fish Port Alipur, Kolapara, Patuakhali

Many trawlers (about 500) catch fish in the sea and bring back the catch to this port. This port has two parts: Mohipur and Alipur (opposite side of the river bank). The fishing business in Mohipur is 60% and Alipur is 40% of the total. Sea fish covers 90% of the business while local fish covers only 10%. The port has 30-40 ice mills. We talked with Mollah Fish Company, according to them the business of Hilsa is about Tk. 1,000 crore (1 crore = 10 million taka) and the peak season is May-July. Fish collected here are transported to Khulna and then Satkhira for exporting to India. For local market, Hilsa goes to Jessore, Barisal, Faridpur and Dhaka. One five ton truck can carry about 12 mt of Hilsa. The transportation cost is Tk. 15,000 for Khulna and Tk. 20,000 for Dhaka. The selling price of Hilsa, 500-600gm is Tk. 12,000-14,000 per mound (40kg). For Hilsa with over one kg weight selling price is Tk. 27,000-30,000 per mound (40 kg). About 1000 farmers produce local fish to be sold through this market. Among local fish (sweet water), Roi, Katla, Bowal, Koral, Silver cup, Pangus are prominent. There are about 17/18 nurseries available for supplying fingerlings. The spawn is collected from Jessore, Gazipur and Mirzagonj, etc.

Dry Fish:

There are about 50 dry fish processors in the area. The conversion from fresh fish to dry fish is within a range of 12-25 kg per 40 kg depending on types of fish. Use of salt in dry fish process can make difference in weight of dry fish. Thick fishes take more sun light (2/3 times) than thin fishes. Usually more salt is used to make dry fish heavier. They supply dry fish to Chittagong, Rangpur and Dinajpur markets. The buyers at Chittagong and other places sell truck load of dry fish in an open bid. The highest bidder gets the truck load once the sender agrees with the price. The communication is done by mobile phone. Sometimes, the Arothder at Chittagong gives advance to processors. But processor normally does not want to take advance as it creates obligation. The retailer sells dry fish in kgs. The demand and preference at end consumer level often determines the price of different types of dry fish. Generally, the processor is reasonably satisfied if he can take Tk. 200-400 profit per mound (40 kg).

1. Meeting with DoC officials & MFIs

DoC, Patuakhali:

We attended a meeting with Patuakhali district DoC officials at their office. During the discussion we focused on training related issues and audit fees. We came to know that each district DoC office has a position for Training Officer and an Assistant Training Officer. They can organize training for cooperatives. Usually, 1% of the CDF fund is spent for training. Due to fund crisis and other logistic problems they have limited opportunity for conducting training. We collected a curriculum for such training. Mainly the

curriculum (but they could not give us the manual) focuses on history of cooperative, formulation & management and book keeping functions. The DoC has four zonal Training Institutes in Barisal, Khulna, Kustia and Faridpur. Another big resource centre is Comilla BARD. They can arrange training for 5 days (maximum) covering all cooperative related issues. They can also offer tailor made training if there is support (they are doing it for LGED).

At Upazila level the DoC office has the following staff strength: Cooperative officer, two Assistant Cooperative officers, one office assistant and one MLSS. Some newly formed Upazila's have only one assistant Cooperative officer.

At the district level the DoC office has the following staff strength: District Cooperative officer, Sub Assistant Registrar, District Auditor, Inspectors (7), Field Investigator (statistics), Trainer and Assistant Trainer.

We also explored the audit fee issue. Through discussion it came out that the audit fee is written in CO Act but not described in rules. All cooperatives have to pay audit fee (10% on net profit as per CO Act section - 107/108), contribution at CDF (3% on net profit CO Act section-84), provision for reserve (10% as per rules), and reserve for bad debts (5% as per rules).

Grameen Bank, Amtali Upazilla

This Amtali branch works for local branch for 12 surrounding branches. According to the branch in charge, interest rate of Grameen Bank is low compared to other similar MFIs. They offer products like deposit savings scheme called GPS (monthly) for its members. The return from this scheme is higher compared to that of other commercial banks. They also offer education loan which is very favourable for poor students. Like other MFIs they have all kinds of micro-credit program for its members.

2. Attending staff development meeting with C1

A two day staff development program was held at Patuakhali office for COs and arranged by C-1. We participated in the second day of the program which was attended by district level DoC officials as well. C-4 presented a brief overview of our planned work with COs. The DoC officials briefed the participants about rules and regulations related with cooperative formation, management, record keeping (how to maintain a/c book) and also answered questions raised by participants and staff of C-1. We requested to include Bank a/c information for fund traceability and transparency. The issue of calculating profit for WMGs who received assets from FAO came into discussion. As per rule, all profit from asset/business should be considered for calculating audit fee (10% on net profit), contribution at CDF (3% on net profit), provision for reserve (10%), and reserve for bad debts (5%). It was disclosed that as per agreement with donor (FAO, DAE etc), the net profit will be distributed among members (30% to destitute women and ultra poor, 30% to all members equally including destitute women and ultra poor, 35% reserve for depreciation and 5% to WMA).

The question is how the net profit will be calculated. The DoC officials advised to discuss the issue with central level DoC for solving the issue and ensuring benefit of the WMGs.

3. Discussing about CO curriculum and PDP presentation with C4 staff

We had meeting with Business Development Coordinators. We reviewed the information collected in the tour. We also agreed that comprehensive information is required about the asset status of WMGs and how they are using the assets to make profit (or trying to earn profit at all?).

We also discussed about upcoming PDP for polder 22 and our responsibilities to collect information as outlined in last Patuakhali visit.

13. Field Trip Report 13

February 24-28, 2014; FTR # 13 2014

1.0 Objectives:

1. Attend WMA meetings in 43/2A and 43/2E
 - a) WMA and WMG elections and by laws
 - b) WMO Strengthening activities and issues
2. Review completed WMG and WMA Functionality Assessment formats in remaining IPSWAM Polders (43/1A, 43/2A, 43/2B, & 43/2E)

2.0 : Participants:

- Victoria Pineda, Component Leader-1
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert

3.0 : Activities Conducted and Observations

a. WMA meeting minutes in Polder 43/2A

Bighai WMA special general meeting was held on 25/02/2014 at the WMA meeting room, Kazir hat, Polder 43/2A. It was presided by WMA chairman Mr. Mawlana Mohiuddin Ahamed. Together with WMA secretary, a total 37 representatives of WMA attended the meeting. This also includes 10 executive committee members out of 12 members. The meeting agenda included:

- WMO Organizational strengthening activities (election of WMA/WMGs, enrolment of members, revision of by-law and auditing)
- Formation of Water Management Committee (WMC)
- Formation of Monitoring Committee
- Procedure of LCS formation and training
- Agreement of landowners and WMA resolution for reconstruction of embankment
- Others

Component Leader 1 presented a brief overview of Blue Gold objectives and activities. It was good to know that participants have clear understanding about the Blue Gold Program.

a-1: Organization strengthening

The meeting concluded that most of the WMGs are not active. The present status is:

- Annual Audit completed in 11 WMGs
- Election of new Executive Committee (EC) members done in 6 WMG. It should be noted that the East Titkata WMG election was not done properly and that no Blue Gold Staff was present during the elections. The WMA officials decided to conduct emergency meeting with the general members of this WMG and discuss how to rectify the issue.
- Election process is on-going in 8 WMGs.

Other decisions reached and plan of action:

- 8 WMGs election to be completed by April 2014

- WMA leaders will hold emergency meeting on March 8, 2014 for WMG South Bighai North to settle conflict among the WMG leaders to start organizational strengthening process (election of new EC and implement audit process). If in that meeting no agreement is reached between conflicting leaders, WMA will organize a new WMG.
- Other organizational activities will be completed (by-law revision, initiate members enrolment and collection of O&M fees) by June 2014.

a-2: Formation of Water Management Committee (WMC)

In this polder, there are 6 sluices to serve 6 catchment areas. The WMA members stated that there are unused BWDB lands that can be handed over to the WMC for sustainability of WMO activities. Some powerful people catch fish along sluice area that should be stopped. The meeting decided WMC will be formed by April 2014 following the steps and process proposed by Blue Gold which were discussed during the meeting. In preparation for the WMC formation, they identified the WMC boundaries and WMGs under each WMC as follows:

Name of Catchment Area (Sluice)	Name of WMGs	Remarks
Titkata	East Titkata West Titkata South Titkata South Bighai South	4 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Khatashia	East Baro Bighai East west Bighai East Kaoabunia West Kaoabunia Pasharbunia	5 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Kazir Hat	Tush Khali Hartakibaria East Matibhanga East Chotobighai Middle Matibhanga	5 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Matibhanga	Matibhanga-Choto Bighai Kumarkhali West Matibhanga	3 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Katakhali	West Choto Bighai	1 WMG forms the WMC
Matherbunia	Nandipara Vazna	2 WMG will meet and form the WMC

a-3: LCS Formation

The formation process of LCS in polder 43/2A was discussed. The WMA leaders assured that the land will be available for construction of the retired embankment and that the owners have agreed to sign WMA resolution on implementation of retired embankment. LCS groups will be formed at Fultala-Matibhanga-4, Tushkhali- 7 and South site of Khatashia-3. The LCS group formation will be completed by 10th March.

b. Joinkhati WMA meeting minutes of the Polder 43/2E

The WMA special general meeting was held on 26/02/2014 at Joinkhati WMA meeting room at Polder 43/2E. The meeting was chaired by the WMA chairman Mr. Abdur Rab. In the meeting, 9 Chairmen of WMGs attended out of 12 WMGs. Also 14 females and 9 males participated actively in the meeting. In

total, 40 WMOs members attended the meeting. Joinkhati WMA was formed in 2004. WMA is now in process to form a new committee including all ECs of WMGs. The meeting agenda included:

- Organizational strengthening (election of executive committee, enrolment of members, revision of by-law and audit)
- Formation of water management committee (WMC)
- Process of Need Assessment meeting

b-1: Organizational Strengthening

The meeting discussed the organizational strengthening of WMA/WMGs and found most of the WMGs are not active. The current status is as follows:

- Audit completed in 1 WMG (Joinkhati WMG)
- 2 WMGs submitted books for DoC auditing (Fadinagar and Pirtala WMGs)
- Others WMGs are still updating their records/books of accounts in preparing for audit
- Ad hoc committees for new elections of EC approved by DoC of 5 WMGs
- Other WMGs still await DoC approval of their Ad-hoc Committees before any elections can be held
- East Joinkhati West WMG registration has been cancelled by DoC.
- South Sehakhati South WMG Ad hoc committee 120 days is over. So it needs another approval by DoC of its new Ad hoc committee for election of new EC. The WMG is not active because of conflict among the members. Main cause of conflict was because some members are using FAO machineries while other members are not benefitting. They alleged that FAO handed over the machineries to the influential members of WMG. The WMA leaders decided to arrange a meeting with the help of Blue Gold COs on March 5, 2014 for conflict resolution.

Action Plan:

- The WMA meeting decided all WMGs’ audit, ad hoc committee and election will be completed by May 2014
- By-laws of all the WMGs will be revised and approved with the consultation of general members by June 2014.

b-2: Formation of Water Management Committee (WMC)

There are 7 sluices constructed since seventies and Maubari sluice was constructed during IPSWAM. Sluices are workable but part of embankment has eroded by riverside at the north site of Dholkhali sluice (around 15 meters eroded). The chairmen discussed with BWDB XEN about the embankment erosion but no action was taken. The meeting decided WMC will be formed by March 2014. For sustainability of WMC activities the WMA members stated that there are unused BWDB lands that can be handed over to the WMC. As in Polder 43/2A, some powerful people catch fish along the sluice/khals that should be stopped. The following WMC boundaries and corresponding WMGs were discussed and agreed upon:

Name of Catchments (Sluices)	Name of WMGs	Remarks
Katakhal	Chair Joinkhati west East Joinkhal middle East Joinkhal west	3 WMGs will meet and form the WMC

Name of Catchments (Sluices)	Name of WMGs	Remarks
Gogankhali	Chair Joinkhati East East Joinkhati east (part)	2 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Dholkhali	East Joinkhati east (part) Kotorataluck East Joinkhati middle (part)	3 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Suddarbaria	South Sehakhati south Fadainagar South Sehakhati north (part)	3 WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Moubaria	South Sehakhati north (part) North Sehakhati (part)	WMGs will meet and form the WMC
Natua	North Sehakhati (most of the part)	1 WMG will form the WMC
Nawtana	Pirtala Talbaria North Sehakhati (part)	3 WMGs will meet and form the WMC

b-3: Need Assessment

Need assessment meetings have been completed in 7 villages of the Polder 43/2E and remaining villages need assessment will be completed by 15 April 2014. The WMA meeting discussed the steps of need assessment as follows:

- Brief introduction of the Blue Gold Program and objectives of 5 Components
- Form groups for discussions on the basis of occupation
- Visioning of the villagers for future village development
- Identify village problems and needs
- Develop priority list for each occupation groups
- Develop priority list of problems/needs of the village as a whole

c. Monthly Meeting of Component 1, Zonal Team:

On 27 February 2014, the Blue Gold Dhaka team participated in the monthly progress meeting of COs and Socio-Economists at the Patuakhali District Office. The COs attended the meeting with their progress activity reports. The Dhaka team discussed the formation process of WMC and Monitoring Committees (MC) to check on quality of construction works. The following plan was formulated relative to WMC and MC formation:

- WMCs will be formed in 43/2D on 4 March by special general meeting of WMAs
- MCs will be formed on 12 March in the same polder
- In polder 43/2F WMCs will be formed on 10 March 2014 by special general meeting of WMA
- 12 March 2014, MCs will be formed in the same polder
- In polder 43/2A, WMCs will be formed on 10 March 2014 by special general meeting of WMA
- On 12 March 2014, MCs will be formed in the same polder

Tentative training plan for MC:

Training for MC's will start on 13 March 2014 in coordination with the Training team and Comp 2.

d. Review of WMO Functionality Assessment conducted in Polders 43/1A, 43/2B, 43/2E and 43/2A

Comp 1 Leader reviewed with the Socio-Economists the outcome of the functionality assessment conducted with each WMA and WMG in the 4 polders which have been discussed during WMA and WMG meetings and Needs Assessment meetings. A separate brief report on the outcome of WMO Functionality Assessment conducted in the remaining 5 IPSWAM Polders (including Polder 29) will be submitted. The following are salient issues affecting the organizational strengthening activities of WMGs:

1. The need for DoC to approve formation of Ad Hoc Committees to enable WMGs to organize election of new EC; and
2. The need to address operation and management issues of FAO machineries.

14. Field Trip Report 14

March 3 - 6, 2014 (Patuakhali)

1. Objectives

Institutional Strengthening

- To explore the ways of possible collaboration with the Concern Universal, Bangladesh (CUB) regarding DRR issues.
- To explore possibilities of collaboration with UP regarding DRR and ways to link with Ward disaster committee.

Communication

- Get an overview of media behavior of local people
- To collect information on local stakeholders

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Joint field visit to Patuakhali with Concern Universal, Bangladesh (CUB) to explore possible collaboration with CUB for DRR activities

2. Team Members:

- i. Md. Aowlad Hossain (Institutional Expert)
- ii. Anis Pervez (Communication Expert)
- iii. Natasha Haider (DRR Expert)



3. Activities, Outputs and Observations

4 March, 2014

10:30 – 11:30 : Discussion with Community Based Organization (CBO) of CUB



Blue Gold (BG) team travelled with the Concern Universal, Bangladesh (CUB) team to polder 44 which is situated in Arpangashia union (marked in **red circle** in Figure 1) of Amtali upazila of Barguna District. The union is situated close to river Buriswar. In this union the implementing partner NGO is Nazrul Smriti Sangsad (NSS). The team visited a CBO which consisted of 208 members. There is an executive body consisting of 15 members (5 F and 10 M). This CBO is divided into 6 different groups for different activities. The team visited a group who are involved in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) activities. Mostly female members were present in the meeting and they participated very actively.



Figure 1: Map of Amtali Upazila

Following DRR activities of CUB were observed during the field visit –

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)	
<p>1. <u>Risk and Resource Mapping</u></p> <p>Based on existing disaster risk the CBO members identify the risky locations and their existing resources in the village map.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Risk Prioritization</u></p> <p>From the identified risk, the members prioritize the risk they will address in CMDRR plan.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Mapping of Risk Sectors</u></p> <p>CBO members also identifies risk sectors and the level of risk (severe risk, moderate risk, risk free) using a table.</p>	
<p>4. <u>CMDRR Plan</u></p> <p>In a separate sheet, the members make a table with activities CBO will undertake themselves to reduce the prioritized risks.</p>	

<p>5. <u>Stakeholder Mapping</u></p> <p>CBO members also identify relevant stakeholders of disaster management in a map.</p>	
<p>6. <u>CMDRR Volunteer</u></p> <p>CUB also trains few members of the CBO as volunteers who during the disaster period do certain activities such as dissemination of early warning, helping people to evacuate in shelters, rehabilitation after disaster etc.</p> <p>In addition, CBO members are given training on small scale activities they can do during a disaster.</p>	
<p>Networking with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC)</p>	
<p>7. <u>Involving UDMC in DRR activities</u></p> <p>Union chairman is an advisor member of the CBO so that s(he) collaborates effectively with the CBO activities. NSS keeps close contact with the UP, updates them about their activities and also tries to involve UDMC as much as possible. UP coordinate DRR activities in the UP's jurisdictions.</p>	

It was found that there is no water management group in polder 44. As a result, embankment and sluice gates are not properly operated and maintained. Chairman nominated one person to operate the sluice gate but due to technical problem the sluice is not working currently. Community people do not have a close relationship with the Union Parishad (UP). They are not well aware of UP's roles and responsibilities. Some of them were invited to participate in the open budget meeting of UP but they did not participate as they are not aware about the significance of the open budget meeting. When it was explained that they can include some of their needs/demands in the UP's Annual plan and budget and get more services from UP

through participation in the open budget meeting, then they expressed that they will participate in the UP open budget meeting in future.

11:30 – 12:00: Meeting with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC)

UP chairman and other members shared that natural disaster is a recurrent phenomenon here but people are coping with the small impacts of disasters. It was found that the UDMC is not active. The committee’s only focus is to make people aware on what to do during disaster period. Members said that the Government CRA was not done in a participatory way. As a result, even the UDMC members are not aware of CRA results and action plan. Accordingly, there is no follow up on the action plan. According to the chairman and other members river bank erosion is a major problem in this union and people are vulnerable to this. UP chairman mentioned that he highlighted this problem to Deputy Commissioner and XEN of BWDB several times but due to lack of sufficient fund for O&M BWDB was not able to repair the embankment. When the UP chairman was asked why he is not coordinating with the NGOs working in his union regarding this issue, he informed that some NGOs were not cooperating so, he became frustrated. The representative of the NGO NSS even said that they are willing to construct 1 km earth work in the breached embankment if UP takes the initiative to start the repair works through a coordinated effort.



12:00 – 13:00: Meeting with CBO

The team visited another CBO which was very recently formed (1 month ago). This CBO is also undertaking similar CBDRR activities.

5 March, 2014

10:00 – 11:00 Meeting with Kalibari WMG

Blue Gold and CUB team travelled to polder 43/2F which is situated in Gulisakhali union (marked in **blue circle** in Figure 1) of Amtali upazila of Barguna District. There are 150 members in this WMG. At first the WMG secretary described the formation process of water management group during IPSWAM. Secondly, the secretary described the main activities of a WMG. After this, there was some question from the CUB team such as where the WMG taking some own initiatives to address disaster risk; whether the WMG has communication with the UDMC etc. Answers were given by the WMG members. WMG and WMA representatives informed that they have contact with UP and the UP is supportive.

11:00 – 12:00 Meeting with Gulisakhali UDMC

Around 11am both team travelled to the Union Parishad (UP) to have a meeting with the UDMC members. Four members of the UDMC were present in the meeting. It was found that the committee is not active at this moment. The committee is not undertaking regular meetings but meetings are held during calamity season (April –November). Last meeting of the committee was held in December 2013. However, one positive



initiative by the committee was identified in the meeting. This is the formation of ward based disaster management committee (WDMC). According to the members, they felt the necessity to form ward based committee and they will take necessary step to form this committee within next few months. Other decisions are- repair of damaged roads towards the cyclone shelters, schools and other institutions which are used as shelter during cyclone, discussed and requested the UP to arrange sufficient fund for these activities.

Possible Areas of Cooperation with CUB

Both Blue Gold and CUB are interested to collaborate in the field of DRR. At present, there is no overlap between BG and CUB polders. As a result, it is not possible to link existing CBOs with WMGs. However, if there is scope, CUB is interested to extend their field area to Blue Gold polders. Further discussion is necessary to explore possible ways of collaboration. A meeting will be scheduled most possibly in early April, 2014 to discuss this issue.

It will be good to introduce the above mentioned DRR activities of CUB in Blue Gold polders as the community is facing same impacts of disaster in BG polders. The activities can be implemented by the partner NGOs who are already experienced on CMDRR activities. Strong linkage should be developed with the UDMCs and initiatives should be taken to activate the committees for sustainability of Blue Gold activities.

Probable areas of cooperation with Concern Universal Bangladesh are as follows:

1. Community mobilization on DRR in Blue Gold Polders
2. Formation of Volunteers groups and training for volunteers
3. Activation of UDMCs and formation and activation of WDMCs
4. Training on DRR for Community Organizers (COs) and other relevant field level project staff
5. Experience sharing/learning visit for COs, WMG/WMA representatives and concerned Blue Gold staff in CUB areas,
6. Support hard core poor households in small scale adaptive options such as plinth raising, construction of disaster resilient house, tree plantation, contingency plan and arranging sanitation facilities through CUB and UP.

7. Solar Water Desalination/Purification Panel:

The team visited 3 Solar Water Desalination/Purification Panels which are at use at Kalapara Upazila of Patuakhali on 5 March 2014 in the afternoon. All three Panels were found in operation (one at UNO Office, one at Pally Daridro Bimochan Foundation Office and another at household level). The users informed that each panel can produce 16-20 liters of drinking water per day with no operation cost involved, easy to use, no complain about the quality of water. Some of them informed that they were suffering from different type of intestinal diseases when they were drinking water from other water sources like piped water supply system and tubewells.



However, after shifting the drinking water source from piped water supply system and tubewell they are not suffering from intestinal diseases.

Solar Water Desalination/Purification Panel may be piloted in Blue Gold polders where drinking water is very scarce. It may be mentioned here that almost all WMG Needs Assessment reports of polder 22 identified lack of sufficient drinking water as a priority problem.



8. Media behavior:

The team gathered information about media behavior of the community by informal discussion with the community people—ward members, small traders, etc—and formal in-depth discussion with 10 community members comprising farmers, students, teacher and tea-stall owner across different genders and age groups at No 1 Gulishakhali Union of polder 43/2A. We focused on the three core areas:

1. Source of information
2. Source of entertainment
3. Use of ICT

Significant findings:

1. Extremely few households possess TV though there is an increasing tendency of watching TV at tea-stalls where electricity is available. Only a small part of this WMG having access to electricity. Several TV channels from home and abroad are accessible but people in general prefer Bangladeshi channels with notable interest in news. At the dusk, as people ceases to work, elderly people gather at tea-stalls watching news and discussing information they receive. TV is probably the main source of information. Young people watches TV at the same tea-stalls in the afternoon mainly to watch Bengali movies. It is not unlikely that women in the locality have limited access to TV as they cannot gather at those stalls due to local cultural reasons, instead, where possible, they watch TV in the neighborhood. Young female students know about TV news and entertainment programs from their friends and fellow students through sharing and discussion.

This area is also under the coverage of Community Radio, people also listen news and entertainment radio programs from the community radio stations in their mobile phone. Prior and during disaster community radio stations become the lone source of latest situation of disaster and safety measures.

2. Traditional media, i.e., organized folk song, still has appeal in the area. Message conveyed packed in an entertaining manner through argumentative song is enormously popular. During dry season villages collect donation from the community to arrange such concerts. Argumentative songs in general focus on religious themes and issues.
3. Villages regularly arrange community fair to celebrate Bengali New Year. People cheerfully attend such fair to enjoy horse race and buffalo fights, which is distinctive in the context of Bangladesh.
4. Religious gathering—*mahfil*—is a regular event, where religious information is given. Some mahfils arrange religious musical program as well.
5. Most of people, men and women, have access to mobile phone. Mobile phone is mainly used as a medium for information exchange. Young people take the advantage of using the medium for entertainment by playing songs and watching videos that they upload from the local shops. Mobiles are also used as a device for photographing.
6. Villages have trained information worker, Cyclone Volunteers, responsible to inform people during disasters. They are trained by Upzilla Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) and the Red

Crescent. Villagers reported that the training is not followed up and they lack the instruments—handheld mike and flags—necessary to disseminate information.



Media behavior is dramatically changing with the progressive diffusion of satellite TV and mobile phone in the direction of integrated media, which is likely to affect people's information processing or cognitive capacity. Therefore, it is most pragmatic to align Blue Gold's awareness building effort to the emerging cognitive capacity in order to develop most effective communication tools and techniques. The team returned back to Dhaka on 6 March 2014 in the afternoon.

The report is jointly prepared by –

Aowlad Hossain, Anis Pervez and Natasha Haider

15. Field Trip Report 15

Duration	:	March 30-April 3, 2014
Places	:	Khulna
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting interview and group meeting with Sesame Farmers as part of VC analysis. 2. Meeting with different actors like Collectors, Processors and exporters. 3. Visiting DAE, research organization/university for collection of information about constraints and opportunities in Sesame VC.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 2. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 3. Shusanto Roy, BDC, Khulna

1. Conducting interviews and group meeting with Sesame Farmers as part of VC analysis.

Key Informant Interview (KII):

We conducted 10 KIIs in Polder 22, in different villages like, Harbari, Horinkhola, Gopipagla, Bigordana and Kalinagar under Deluti Union of Paigacha Upazilla. Detailed description is given in the table below:

Summary Findings from KII

- I. Sesame cultivation is profitable if the weather is favourable. Sesame is most suitable field crop for Polder 22 and it covers about 50% of T. Aman land. Production cost is low (Tk. 1500-2000/acre), sales price is comparatively high (Tk. 1600-2200/ 40 kg) and there is high demand in the market all year round. Demand for Black Sesame is high and sales price is also high (about Tk. 200/40 kg).
- II. Farmers in Polder 22 cultivate Brown Sesame. This is a traditional practice for them. Farmer usually use seed preserved from last year's production. They can collect seed from neighbours or purchase seed from Batiaghata. BARI-4 seed is brown in colour and has eight chambers. Farmers are quickly picking this seed. FAO has distributed BARI-4 & BARI-3 seeds under a support program. Black seeds are distributed by some private entrepreneurs in this area to promote cultivation. Farmers are slowly picking this up too. These are all very new initiatives.
- III. Timely tillage can be a problem and use of local seed with low germination rate is also a problem. Farmers follow traditional practice. They do not usually provide irrigation or fertilizer to the field. Farmers are gradually learning the use of a plastic net and plastic sheet for Sesame collection. In general farmers lack the knowledge for improved production technology (quality seed, production methods, harvesting, fatty acid control, storage, seed preservation etc.)
- IV. Small farmers usually do not employ any labour. All family members, particularly female members play an important role in harvesting, piling Sesame plant for drying, sesame collection, cleaning and storing. Per acre 6-8 labours can be employed for Sesame production purpose.
- V. Farmers have to sell their product at Batiaghata, there is no market place inside the polder. Decision regarding selling of Sesame is usually taken by family head, usually by men. There is no Bepari/collector/faria inside the polder. So, farmers incur transportation cost (Tk. 30/40 kg). Also farmers have complained about the weight procedure at Batiaghata (they complained about loss of 2 kg per mound).
- VI. According to the farmers, the number of bepari or collectors at Batiaghata is around 100. They also say that the market has as many as middle men. Quality (size of individual seed, moisture level, colour, dust, foreign object, number of dead seed) of Sesame and bargaining sets the selling price.
- VII. Some farmers said that they transport Sesame to Batiaghata in groups for cost reduction. But they do not sell in a group due to quality difference of their respective produce.

- VIII. Most of the small farmers sell Sesame just after harvest to meet their need for repayment or family expenses and also for taking preparation for T. Aman.
- IX. Sesame can be stored easily; the price is generally higher (upto Tk. 400-600/40 kg) in lean season (Jan-Mar). Price is lower at peak season just after harvest (June-July).
- X. Farmers have very limited idea about how and who set prices for Sesame. They also have no or limited idea about Sesame value chain after Batiaghata. However, they know that Sesame goes to oil millers for producing oil.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD):

We conducted 2 FGDs in Polder 22, one at Gopipagla and another one at Harbari with lead farmers, farmers, collectors and female farmers. Summary transcripts and a combined FGD report have been prepared.

2. Meeting with research organization/university, DAE and processor for collection of information about Sesame VC and identifying constraints and opportunities.

- i). We had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Sarwar Jahan of Khulna University, who is the leading researcher on Sesame in Southern region. We collected information about potential of Sesame cultivation in Polder area as per our information search.
- ii) We had a meeting with Upazilla level DAE officer to get their views on Sesame cultivation.
- iii) We visited Sesame oil producer and exporter Mr. Habibur Rahman at his factory premises. He is with Sesame related business for at least 26 years. We collected information about processing, market demand and exporting.
- iv) We visited Mr. Abdur Rob, a sesame oil producer and supplier. He has been producing Sesame oil in a rented mill for the last 10 years. He purchases Sesame seed from polder 22 and 30, when he receives supply order. We collected information about forward supply chain.

16. Field Trip Report 16

Duration	:	April 18-24, 2014
Places	:	Khulna
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing and arranging training tools for conducting Value Chain Training and Mechanization Training for COs. 2. Conducting training on Value Chains and Mechanization.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 2. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 3. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert 4. Shusanto Roy, BDC, Khulna 5. Abdullah Al-Mamun, BDC, Patuakhali 6. Kazi Mozammel Hoque, BDC, Patuakhali

1. Preparing and arranging training tools for conducting Value Chain Training and Mechanization Training for COs.

The objective of Value Chain training for COs was to give them an overview of business development activities. The training focuses on providing general ideas about Value Chains, use of machinery, its meaning and functionalities with relation to WMG members in narrow sense and polder dwellers in a broader sense and how COs can play role in facilitating the work.

The facilitators took mock sessions for upcoming training programs. They prepared presentations and improved on it according to feedback by fellow facilitators. The facilitators also prepared VIIP cards and other tools for conducting training sessions.

2. Conducting training on Value Chain Training and Mechanization Training.

Value Chain Training

The Value Chain Training for COs was two day long training with nine interactive sessions. Participants were COs of Khulna region of Blue Gold Program. Socio-economists from Khulna region took part at the training program. Moreover, Component leader of Comp 1 along with Cooperative expert was present at the training program. The deputy component leader of Comp 4 along with Private sector expert, Investment expert and BDCs, facilitated the training sessions where BDCs played important role. The training program was organized by the Training expert and Training coordinator.



Efficient management of Agricultural Machinerics Training

The Mechanization Training was a day long training followed by the Value Chain Training. This training had six interactive sessions. Participants were COs of Khulna region. The Component leader, two Socio-economists and the Cooperative expert followed this program also. This training program was facilitated by mainly the Investment expert and Private sector expert. They were greatly supported by the Deputy Component leader and the BDCs. This training program was also organized with similar support from the Training expert and Training coordinator.



As per the feedback from Component 1, overall the training programs were very effective in achieving its objective of providing information about Business development activities as perceived by Component 4.

17. Field Trip Report 17

April 20-25, 2014

Objectives

1. To participate in the training program for COs on value chain orientation and efficient use of FAO machineries
2. To participate in the Monthly Staff Meeting of Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) and Community Organizers (COs)
3. To conduct field visit to Polder 29

Location and Schedule: Khulna/ April 20-25, 2014

Participants: Victoria Pineda, Component 1 Leader and Showkat Ara Begum, Component 1 Cooperative Expert

Activities and Observations

1. Visit to Polder 29

Upon arrival in Khulna on April 20, 2014, the team observed the process of village mapping in Maikhali village led by key informants many of whom are young people. There were 48 participants (23 female + 25 male). The Community Organizers (COs) guided the process and gave them a list of the elements they need to include in the map with corresponding legend/symbols as shown in the following pictures.



During the mapping session, the team collected basic information and demographic data such as the following:

- Total number of households of the village: **160**
- Total Potential Number of WMG Members: **317 (140 Male + 177 Female)**
- Registration status of WMG with Department of Cooperatives: Cancelled due to poor bookkeeping and absence of cooperative activities

- Younger people are taking active interest in reactivating the WMG which is paralyzed by political conflicts among its present older leaders
- Preparations are underway for conducting election of new Executive Committee members

The Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) and COs were advised to fast track the listing of all potential WMG members in the 160 households and motivate them to enroll prior to the election.

2. Training on Value Chain and Management of FAO Agricultural Machineries for COs

Main contributions of Comp 1 team in this training were the following:

- Pinpointed/clarified the role of COs in value chain
- Participated in discussions on implementation issues
- Gave feedback to C4 trainers on making some sessions more effective

3. Staff meeting of ZSEs and COs

The agenda of the meeting was:

- Discuss CO activities from April-June 2014 in Polders 22, 30, 29, 26 and 31 (part) and status
- Initial Action Plan Formulation Activity
- Role of COs in Value Chain (VC) and management of FAO equipment.



The following are outputs of the meeting:

- The team was able to discuss in detail the urgent activities the COs should initiate/follow-up during the period April-June 2014 (see Annex 1). The COs reported the following status:

Batch -1 Polder 22 and 30

- LCS Group formation and registration
 - In Polder 22, 8 LCS groups have been formed and earthwork already started in two canals out of 29 canals. LCS group registration will be completed within the month of April.
 - In Polder 30, 9 LCS groups were formed and trained for the embankment but due to long delay in starting work, 4 groups have disbanded. Moreover, at present the earth for embankment re-sectioning will be difficult to obtain because shrimp cultivation has been started that allowed water to flow in the canals. 5 LCS groups were formed and trained for canal re-excavation but these may not agree to start work because they think the work will not be completed before the rains start.
- Formation of Water Management Committees (WMCs) and Monitoring Committees in Polders 22 and 30 has started.
- Updating the books of accounts and all records of WMGs
 - In Polder 22, out of 12 WMGs, 4 have already updated their books of accounts and records
 - In Polder 30, out of 41 WMGs, 20 already updated their books/records.
- Status of Election of New Executive Committee (EC) Members
 - In Polder 22, 8 WMGs out of 12 have already elected new EC members
 - In Polder 30, Election Committee in 23 WMGs are already formed; shortly after this, elections will be held.

Batch 2 Polder: Polder 29

- i. Needs Assessment meetings will start soon
- ii. All Village Maps have been completed.
- iii. DoC registration of 4 WMGs has been cancelled one of which managed to register by itself
- iv. Audit of all WMGs have been completed.
- v. Election of new EC members in a number of WMGs had been completed but not in proper way. In some cases, the Election Committee was the one who selected the new EC members. The COs were advised to motivate the WMG members in these WMGs to conduct election/selection with their involvement. ZSEs will make a full report on this.

New Polder: Polder 26

- i. Household survey has been completed by the COs and data entry is on-going
- ii. All Village Maps have also been completed.
- iii. Gender awareness campaign was started through group meetings initiated by the Gender Expert together with the COs.

The team advised the ZSEs to instruct all COs in each polder to plan how the activities (shown in Annex 1) will be conducted and who will be undertaking what. This is to ensure that all activities are completed properly and timely. This planning will also facilitate the integration of new and old COs in the polder and facilitate good team work.

- b. The team reviewed some of the initial action plans formulated by WMGs in Polder 22 and discussed with ZSEs suggestions for improvement. These initial action plans were formulated after the village needs assessment was conducted. A sample action plan (initial VAP) from Patuakhali was also shown and discussed for them to learn new ideas on how to guide the WMGs in formulating their plans.
- c. As an output of the recently concluded Training on Value Chains for COs, the expected roles of COs were discussed in detail and a copy was distributed to them during the meeting. The following roles were discussed:

Role of Community Organizers (COs) in Value Chains

- i. Arrange meeting with WMG for Comp 4 if requested
- ii. Provide WMO information when needed by C-4
- iii. Provide support to C-4 in building relationship among the VC actors when needed and if the actors are available in their assigned area of responsibility.
- iv. Provide support to C-4 to facilitate communication among relevant VC actors in the area of assignment
- v. Assist C4 team in motivational activities among VC actors
- vi. Provide support to C-4 in identifying VC problems in their assigned areas
- vii. Include in WMG meetings discussion of C-4 activities and VC activities (to be attended by C4 team members)
- viii. Provide support on awareness building activities among the WMG and WMA members regarding Value Chains
- ix. Provide support to C-4 in trust building among the VC actors in assigned areas when needed
- x. Assist C-4 in providing information to WMOs ideas for business development.

4. Attended Meeting of Blue Gold and FAO on Agricultural Farm Machineries (April 24, 2014, 4pm at Blue Gold Khulna Office)

- Present in the 2nd part of the meeting (first part was on FFS) were **FAO:** a) Mazharul Aziz, National project Coordinator; b) Engr. Md. Sydur Rahman, Water management Specialist; c) Suvashish Karmakar, M&E Specialist; Md. Abdur Rahim, Agronomist; and e) Dr. M. Babul Hossain, FFS Specialist. **Blue Gold:** a) Component 1 team (Vicki and Jashim Uddin) and Component 4 team (Tanvir, Anisur and Shahid).

- It was agreed by both teams to collaborate in developing and conducting training curriculum/program for WMGs regarding distributed agricultural farm machineries focusing on operation and maintenance (FAO part) and organizational and management aspects (Blue Gold part). On May 8, 2014, both teams will sit down and come-up with the training curriculum and module. Prior to the said meeting, both teams will exchange relevant materials.
- FAO explained that it will be difficult to make changes in the Deeds/Agreement because it will involve several people and will take a lot of time. The FAO team suggested motivating the WMGs themselves to initiate the process through a WMA resolution.

Annex 1
COMPONENT 1 FIELD ACTIVITIES
(April-June 2014)

A. Batch 1 Polders: Polder 22, 30, 43/2A, 43/2D, & 43/2F

1. LCS Group registration and mobilization (registration to be completed by April 24, 2014)
2. Formation of Water Management Committee (WMC) and Monitoring Committee (MC) and conduct training (to be spearheaded by C2 and training team)
3. Mobilize Monitoring Committees to check quality of earthwork
4. Continue assisting WMGs and WMAs in updating their books of accounts and all records
5. Facilitate the listing of all potential members of each WMG
6. Form Ad Hoc Committee in WMGs where this has not been formed yet to enroll members and form election committee
7. Facilitate holding of election of new Executive Committee members at the WMG and WMA levels
8. Prepare for and assist WMGs and WMAs to register with BWDB

B. Batch 2 Polders: Polder 29, 43/2B, 43/2E, 43/1A

1. Water Management Needs Assessment and Validation Activities:
 - a. WMA meetings to be held for WMC formation
 - b. Prepare and organize needs assessment meetings on water management (WM) needs at each WMC/catchment area level (also in Polder 43/2A). Document priority needs/suggested works per WMC/catchment area (in poster paper for presentation in WMA meeting). Needs assessment outputs at the village level if completed should be presented during the WMC meeting.
 - c. WMC members + 3-5 WMG representatives should be the participants in the needs assessment meeting at each catchment/sluice area
 - d. Organize WMA meeting/s at each polder to decide on overall priority WM needs/suggested works
 - e. After C1 and C2 analyzed needs and decided on development options based on budget, organize WMA validation meeting/s at each polder.

(Note: All of the above should be completed by end of May 2014. Zonal Socio-Economists to forward to Component 1 Leader the schedules of WMC/Catchment meetings and WMA meetings to consolidate and prioritize all needs/works in each polder. Photos should be taken during WMC and WMA meetings showing also outputs)

2. Complete all Village Needs Assessment Meetings and Action Plan (initial VAP) Formulation. Data Entry Operator to type reports to be forwarded to Deputy Component Leader
3. Continue assisting WMGs and WMAs in updating their books of accounts and all records
4. Facilitate the listing of all potential members of each WMG

5. Form Ad Hoc Committee in WMGs where this has not been formed yet to start enrolling members and form election committee as soon as possible
6. Facilitate holding of election of new Executive Committee members at the WMG and WMA levels
7. Prepare and assist WMGs and WMAs to register with BWDB

C. New Polders: Polder 26 and 31 (Part)

Initial Activities in Polder 31 Part

1. Community Immersion and Social Investigation Process
 - Village mapping to include gathering data on number of households, number of potential WMG members and listing their names, and information on existing CBOs, NGOs, other programs/projects operating in the polder.
2. Blue Gold Program Dissemination Process
 - Organize meeting at UP Level and inform HQ on the schedule
 - Distribute leaflets
 - Undertake courtyard meetings, FGDs at Bari/Para level
3. Gender Awareness Campaign

Preparatory Activities for WMO Formation in Polder 26

1. ZSEs to coordinate with C2 and finish polder map with tentative catchment boundaries and existing infrastructures/facilities
2. Complete listing of potential WMG members per village
3. Complete data entry of HH survey data and produce table on Names of Villages and corresponding number of households and potential number of WMG members
4. Conduct Blue Gold Orientation Session at UP level
5. Continue with gender awareness raising campaign through FGDs and courtyard meetings
6. Formation of WMGs and WMA after getting clear directive on this from HQ
7. Continue with program dissemination and distribute leaflets

18. Field Trip Report 18

Duration	:	April 26-May 01, 2014
Places	:	Barisal
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing and modifying training tools for conducting Value Chain Training and Mechanization Training for COs. 2. Conducting training on Value Chains and Mechanization.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 2. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 3. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert 4. Shusanto Roy, BDC, Khulna 5. Abdullah Al-Mamun, BDC, Patuakhali 6. Kazi Mozammel Hoque, BDC, Patuakhali

1. Preparing and arranging training tools for conducting Value Chain Training and Mechanization Training for COs.

In a meeting, experience of earlier training programs was shared among the component training facilitators. All the members of component 4 gathered at Barisal training venue to prepare for conducting the training. The objective of Value Chain training for COs in Patuakhali was to give them an overview of Value Chains and Mechanization. The training focuses on providing general ideas about Value Chain, use of assets, its meaning and functionalities in terms of benefit to WMG members in general and polder dwellers overall and how COs can play role in facilitating the work.

The facilitators shared ideas about improvement in upcoming training programs. They modified presentations and improved on it according to feedback by fellow facilitators. Some sessions were reallocated among facilitators keeping in mind future similar training programs.

2. Conducting training on Value Chains and Mechanization

Value Chain Training

Like Khulna, the Value Chain Training for COs at Barisal was two day long training with nine interactive sessions. Participants were COs of Patuakhali region and the Gender and IGA Specialist. Socio-economists from Patuakhali region took part at the training program. Moreover, Deputy Component leader of Comp 1 along with Community Organization expert were present at the training program. The deputy component leader of Comp 4 along with Private sector expert, Investment expert and BDCs, facilitated the training sessions. The training program was organized by the Training expert and Training coordinator of Blue Gold program as usual.



Efficient management of Agricultural Machineries Training

Just like Khulna, the Mechanization Training was a day long training followed by the Value Chain Training. This training had six interactive short sessions. Participants were COs of Patuakhali region along with Gender and IGA Specialist. The Deputy Component leader, two Socio-economists and the Community Organization expert followed this program also. This training program was facilitated mainly by the Investment expert, Private sector expert and the Deputy Component leader. They were supported by BDCs. This training program was also organized with similar support from the Training expert and Training coordinator.



Overall the training programs were considered very effective and successful in achieving its objective as per the feedback from the participants.

19. Field Trip Report 19

27 April to 1 May 2014 (PATUAKHALI)

1.0 Objectives

- Follow-up of monthly progress & participate in staff planning meeting
- Attend training on value chain for COs by Component-4

2.0 Team Members:

- John Marandy, Sr. Socio-Economist
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert

3.0 Activities, Outputs and Observations

On 27 April the Zonal Team of Component-1 had day-long meeting to check progress of work in different polders during the month of April 2014 and to plan activities for the month of May 2014. The COs reported the following progress in different polders during April 2014:

Activities	43/2D	43/2F	43/2A	43/2E	43/2B	43/1A
WMG Monthly/general/Special meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 out of 30 WMG ECs held monthly meetings • 5 WMGs held special general meetings • No WMA meeting was held this month. • Thangai WMG is not so active due to leadership issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 out of 27 WMG ECs held monthly meetings • No WMA meeting was held this month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 out of 22 WMG ECs held monthly meetings. • No meetings were held by ECs of Dakshin Bighai Uttar, Dakshin Tikata and Bhazna WMGs to give way for ad hoc committee meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 12 WMG ECs held monthly meetings. • COs attended all the meetings. • Uttar Shehakat WMG is not so active because most of its leaders are teachers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 out of 28 WMG ECs held monthly meetings . 5 of the WMG ECs held 1st meeting after new elections. • 8 WMGs held special general meetings • 6 WMAs held meetings for WMC formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 out of 14 WMG ECs held monthly meetings • WMA EC monthly meeting was held.

Activities	43/2D	43/2F	43/2A	43/2E	43/2B	43/1A
				they do not have time for WMG activities.		
EC Election of WMGs and Audit position	Elections were held in 5 WMGs.	No election was held. Audit was completed for 3 WMGs	Elections were held in 3WMGs No audit was done this month	No EC election was done this month. Audit was completed for 2 WMGs	Elections were held in 5 WMGs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Madhya Sailabuni a WMG, election was stopped as the Ad-committee filed a case complaining that there had been irregularities in the election process. Other activities pursued while election is on hold. • In Nijsuhari Sailabuni a WMG there is a situation of conflict between general members and the ex-chairman of the WMG, who is very influential. • Audit 	EC election was held in 1 WMG

Activities	43/2D	43/2F	43/2A	43/2E	43/2B	43/1A
					was completed in 8 WMGs	
Ad hoc committee	-	-	1 out of 3 ad-hoc committees was approved by DoC.	1 ad-hoc committee was approved by DoC.		-
Membership Enrolment	16 members enrolled from 2 WMGs	80 members enrolled from 11 WMGs	208 members enrolled from 10 WMGs	-No enrolment	- No enrolment	12 members enrolled from 3 WMGs
Shares	Tk. 2350.00	Tk 4000.00	Tk 10400.00	-	-	Tk.600.00
Savings	Tk. 15606.00	Tk.20630.00	Tk. 26720.00	Tk.3900.00	Tk.54870.00	Tk. 9390.00
Bookkeeping/Record position	10 WMGs updated records/books	-	In 7 out of 22 WMGs, records not yet updated due to unwillingness / non-cooperation of leaders	-	5 WMGs updated records/books	10 WMGs updated records/books
Village Needs Assessment Meeting	Completed	Completed	Completed	Done in 3 villages	Done in 4 villages.	Done in 3 villages.
WMC formation	In process	In process	WMC members' list completed	WMC members' list completed	In process	In process
Potential WMC members' list	Completed in 4 WMGs	Completed in 14 WMGs.	Completed in 1 WMG	Completed in 4 WMGs	Completed in 6 WMGs	Completed in 8 WMGs
O&M Activities	Clearing of Jogar khal (1.5km.)	-	-	-	-	-

Activities	43/2D	43/2F	43/2A	43/2E	43/2B	43/1A
Others	18 LCSs submitted documents to BWDB for registration	Madhya Kalagachi a WMG is not yet registered with DoC. No saving, no activities due to inactive leaders. COs were instructed to exert more effort to this WMG				<u>WMG meeting time</u> : WMG members suggest that it is convenient for them to hold (monthly) meetings in the afternoon / evening

4.0 Training on Value Chains

Training on Value Chains was conducted for COs of Patuakhali District. The concept of value chains and the expected roles of COs in value chains were discussed in detail. The output of the discussion in Khulna (training) on COs' role in value chains was taken as the basis for discussion here.

20. Field Trip Report 20

1. Objectives

Institutional Strengthening

- Meeting with Union Parishads (UP) to collect necessary information for Institutional assessment;
- Sharing with UPs strengthening of capacity of UPs and citizen's involvement, especially WMO members;
- Sharing with the WMOs about linkage with UPs and participation of MGO members in UP's Ward Shova and Open Budget meeting to raise their voice to include their needs in the annual plan and budget of UP and better cooperation

Monitoring and Evaluation

- To test Progress Markers Scoring Sheet with WMG, UP, BWDB at level Officers and DAE at filed level officers
- To visit field where the baseline is collecting by enumerators for verifying and checking

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Mapping of actors related to disaster risk reduction (DRR)
- Meeting with Union Parishad to gather information on UDMC
- Visit probable demonstration sites for solar water purification panel
- Meeting with Shushilan to explore collaboration for training on DRR

2. Team Members:

- I. Md. Aowlad Hossain (Institutional Expert)
- II. Shital Krishna Das (M&E Expert)
- III. Natasha Haider (DRR Expert)

2. Activities, Outputs and Observations

Institutional and DRR

28 April, 2014

Polder 30

09:00 – 11:30 Discussion with Balabunia WMG at Batiaghata Union

The team met with the WMG members at the cyclone shelter cum school in Bolabunia village. The WMG has recently reformed and committed to work actively with the newly elected committee. The cyclone shelter where the meeting took place is managed by the school committee. Ward Disaster Management Committee formed by the project PROSHAR which is implemented by the local NGO called Shushilan. The committee members received training on disaster early warning and signals. They have also received some materials like mike, torch, rope, radio etc. However, in some cases this committee did not cover all the villages. WMG members really showed their interest and expressed their necessity to have such volunteers who are properly trained. This group will also keep liaison with the UDMC WDMC and attend their regular meetings. UP Chairman/members participate in the WMG meeting. UDMC implemented the earth filling in the compound of the cyclone shelter to avoid water logging during rainy season and during cyclone. NGOs like Heed Bangladesh, BRAC Wash, Nijera Kori, Rupantor, JJS and Shushilan are working in this area.

11:30 – 12:00 Meeting with Sukhdara (East/Purbo Para) WMG at Shurkhali Union

There is severe drinking water scarcity in this village. At present they are drinking saline water or bringing water from 2 or 3 miles away as there is no alternative. Deep/shallow tubewell is not successful here. Some of the members said they prefer to drink saline water as they are now adapted to this. Some of the members expressed that they need awareness on how to preserve rain water for long duration. Small scale rain water harvesting is being practiced in this area for long time. But some kind of insects is growing in the stored rain water after 2-3 months, so, people cannot preserve rain water for long duration. Shushilan is promoting rain water harvesting in Satkhira area but they are not facing problem like growth of insects. So, assistance can be taken from Shushilan to make our WMG members aware about this technology and maintenance.

Sukhdara WMG also expressed the necessity of forming volunteer group and training on DRR as they have very little knowledge on this subject and to link with UDMC.

02:30 – 03:30 Meeting with Batiaghata Sadar Union Parishad, Batiaghata

Standing Committees and Union Development and Coordination Committee (UDCC) formed but not enough active. UDMC meets once in 2 months to discuss about the needs to address disaster related problems in this union. UDMC takes small initiatives to address some of these problems like khal excavation etc. UP chairman informed us that Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) is already established in this union. Following NGOs are working in his union: –

- a) Shushilan; b) BRAC; c) Nijera kori; d) Grameen Bank; e) Heed Bangladesh; f) Cholontika; g) RRF; h) JJS; i) Buro j) Rupantor; k) ASHA

Most of them are working on Micro- credit and livelihood. Among the above actors Shushilan provided DRR training to volunteers and UDMC members through PROSHAR project in this union. However, this project will phase out this year and according to the UP chairman there is real need for DRR volunteers in his union. He also thinks that simultaneously it is also necessary to build awareness on climate change adaptation. The Chairman also appreciated the idea of forming volunteer group in WMGs and training of the volunteers on DRR.

29-30 April, 2014

Polder 22; Union: Deluti

11:00 – 12:00 Information Collection from Deluti UP

The team visited the Deluti Union Parishad to gather some information on the institutional status at the UP level, its standing committees and about the union in general. Met with Chairman, UP Secretary, female and male members.

Standing Committees, Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Union Development and Coordination Committee (UDCC) has been formed but are not active. UP prepare annual plan, annual budget then share and finalize through open budget meeting but Ward Shobhas (meetings) are not conducting. Though conducting Ward Shobha and UDCC is mandatory to make the plan and budget more participatory, strengthen coordination and ensure accountability at local level. There is no member from WMOs in the Standing Committees at present. UP made commitment to reorganize the Standing Committees with representatives from WMOs, organize Ward Shobhas, include WMG members in UDCC and activate the committee. He also expressed that UP will extend all out cooperation to Blue Gold Program and participate/support different events activities for capacity building of UP, UDMC, formation of volunteer group and WMOs.

19:00 – 20:00 Meeting with Deputy Director of Shushilan

Institutional and DRR expert met with Md. Rafiqul Haque, Deputy Director of Shushilan at Castle Salam. He briefed us about the activities of Shushilan on DRR and climate change adaptation, rain water harvesting, agriculture, fisheries, value chain activities. They have formed ward based volunteers comprising of 10 persons. This volunteer committee is trained on early warning signals and received some

emergency materials such as mike, torch, radio, volunteer dress etc. which cost around BDT 10,000 for each committee.

Scope for collaboration with Shushilan:

Following are the areas of cooperation with Shushilan on basis of their skill and expertise:-

- a. Training on DRR for members of UDMC and volunteer groups, they have trainer/facilitators and modules.
- b. Training experience sharing on awareness building on appropriate technology and maintenance of rain water harvesting.

Cooperation with BRAC Wash:

BRAC Wash is going to build one piped water supply system at Polder 30 and another one at polder 22. They are facing some difficulties to collect community contribution in both the places; both the sides are located within WMGs. They requested us for our cooperation for contribution collection through WMGOs. We shared with WMA Secretary, Project staff and UP whether they can help in this regards. COs and Junior Socio-Economist informed they know about the matter and already trying to help.

Probable Site for Solar Desalinization Panel

One in CO's residence and another in UP office complex at Bogordana of Deluti Union of Polder 22. Due to severe drinking water scarcity people from this area are collecting water from Gaogara Bazar which is 9 km away.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Activities and Observations:

27 April 2014

Travel to Khulna

Afternoon, made a schedule with Khulna M&E officer and Office Manager for field visit on 28, 29 and 30 April 2014, to test progress markers scoring sheet with WMGs & UP, and also to verify baseline survey data which is collected by Enumerators.

28-30 April, 2014

M&E Team did FGD with WMG members & UP members for testing/verifying progress markers/indicators of WMG & UP challenge statement for Outcome Monitoring. The following observations and findings of field visit are given in below:

- Our visited 4 WMGs are re-organizing in new shape and going to be active with support by COs because these WMGs were inactive after closing IPSWAM project;
- Average 48% female members have been involved in each WMG;
- 22 progress markers/indicators of WMG for Outcome Monitoring have been verified and tested through FGD, also similar way M&E team will verify and test it in Patuakhali;
- After testing, 22 progress markers/indicators are relevant for WMG because those are easy to measure at the capacity building, participation and sustainability level;
- Verified/checked with UP Chairman and Members whether 15 progress markers/indicators of Union Parisad are appropriate or not, considering the activities of institutional strengthening. Some progress markers/indicators will be reviewed after completing field testing in Patuakhali.

The data collection of Blue Gold Baseline Survey (BGBS) is going on smoothly as per schedule in Khulna. 300 households data collection completed by May 5 (out of 600 sampled HHs) but the remaining will be completed by mid of June 2014.

1 May 2014

Return to Dhaka

The report is jointly prepared by – Aowlad Hossain, Shital Krishna Das and Natasha Haider