



Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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



Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)



Progress Report Q2-2018

Blue Gold Innovation Fund



Progress Report Q2-2018

April to June 2018

Blue Gold Program – Water Management and Productive Sectors Innovation Funds

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Blue Gold Program

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Executive summary

This report provides a quarterly progress update of the period 1 April – 15 July 2018 showcasing the innovative approaches that have benefited, or are expected to have a positive impact on, the lives of the people in the polders under the Blue Gold Program. This progress reporting is part of the management of the Blue Gold Innovation Fund (BGIF). For more details on the scope and set-up the BGIF, please consult the BGIF Procedure Manual V8- May 2018.

Quick status overview of Innovation Fund Projects and Applications on 15 July 2018

The table below provides an overview of the numbers of the total number of projects under implementation, completed, under review, under development and rejected. *Note: projects initiated through solicited or unsolicited tender procedures are combined in one overview.*

Projects under implementation (Chapter 1)	Projects Completed (Chapter 2)	Proposals under review (Chapter 3)	Concepts under development (Chapter 4)	Concepts Rejected (Chapter 5)
7 (total)	26 (total)	2	39	69 (total)
Three new project contracts signed in Q1	Four projects completed in Q2	One new proposal being reviewed in Q2	38 new concepts received in Q2	Five concepts rejected in Q1

Further details are provided in Chapter 1-5.

Projects under implementation

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

- **InnoVision Agro Services – Pilot on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazilas of Patuakhali through community participation.** In April-May 2018, InnoVision conducted a feasibility study to introduce Thai Pangasius in Patuakhali and presented its outcomes with success to BWDB and DOF representatives in Dhaka. Therefore, since June 2018 a 9-month pilot started. Progress is good so far. On 7 July 2018, 30 selected WMG members have been trained and the program was attended by BGP's PCD, and ponds have been stocked afterwards.
- **mPower – Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle.** This 18-month project was one of the best evaluated proposals from the solicited call "Improved Information for Agriculture" and started in mid-March 2018. The project will support a number of WMG members to register their cow including its pedigree and keep record of its performance, deliver tele-veterinary services, test low-cost breed identification techniques and provide recommendations on artificial insemination.
- **MetaMeta – Accelerating Horizontal Learning in BGP Polders: ICT as force multiplier.** This project was also one of the best evaluated proposals from the solicited call "Improved Information for Agriculture" and started in May 2018. The project will strengthen ongoing horizontal learning BGP activities by training WMG members to produce their own best practice videos with their mobile phone and best productions will be awarded and widely circulated. Already 2 trainings have been conducted.
- **United Purpose – Women Business Centres (WBC) –** At the four WBCs in polder 28/2 and 31-part, the first self-initiated activities and positive results are emerging. The women have increased knowledge of agro-chemicals, are close contact with input providers, like Lalteer Seeds Ltd. and

Isphahni, and have established three vegetable demonstration plots with them and business plan for good quality seed marketing. Other achievements are the regular collection of dry basak leaves from 26 producers for sale to ACME, the preparation of 1000 basak saplings, the installation of a solar panel for 16 households in Roypur and the establishment of WISH ponds for aquaculture. 80% of the profits are being reinvested in the centres (while 20% of the profits are used for household expenditure). The total income of the 4 WBCs has increased rapidly: from BDT 4607 in January 2018 to BDT 114,980 in June 2018.

- **United Purpose – Phase II: Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology (SWIFT)**. Since the end of May 2018, United Purpose has started piloting an innovative approach stimulating WMOs to finance and maintain their small-scale water infrastructure through active engagement and lobbying with LGIs, governmental departments or NGOs, or by generating their own revenues contributing to O&M through income generating activities. The activity plan of the project is still very ambitious and will be further fine-tuned with support of the BGP zonal team in Patuakhali.

Projects nearing completion

The following projects have finalised their field activities in Q4-2017, but are still working on their final reports during Q1 and Q2-2018.

- **BMSR Agricultural University's - Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas in southwest region of Bangladesh** (final draft report submitted on 16 June 2018)
- **MetaMeta - Roads for Improved Water Management and Flood Protection** (final draft report submitted on 19 July 2018)

Projects completed

The following projects were fully completed in Q2-2018 (for more information see chapter 2):

- **NHC - Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)**. The stabilisation of the riverbank with geobags was implemented in July 2017 and post-implementation monitoring took place in November 2017. Final report "Emergency works - polder 29" has been published in June 2018. Brief conclusion is that emergency works have been effective so far, but permanent solutions are required for long term sustainability.
- **BAU Germplasm Centre (BAU-GC) – Introduction of new types of lean season fruits and vegetables through PAR**. It has been mutually agreed to terminate this contract 2 years earlier than initially planned. The remaining two years of the project, focussed on continuation and monitoring the growth of lean season fruits and vegetables will be executed by the farmers and BGP field staff.

New contracts signed or under negotiation

The following new contracts were signed or in process of contract negotiations in Q2-2018 (for more information see chapter 3):

- We signed the following 3 contracts: United Purpose- Phase II: Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology (1 May 2018); MetaMeta - Accelerating Horizontal Learning in Bangladesh Polders: ICT as Force Multiplier (6 May 2018); Innovision Agro Services - Pilot on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazilas of Patuakhali (18 June 2018).
- We are still in the process of contract negotiations with CIMMYT for the **“Leveraging decision-making science to sustain climate and market smart mung bean advisories in Patuakhali's polder communities”** project and the expectation is their project will start on 15 August 2018.

Concepts under development

The number of unsolicited concept notes that came in was enormous (38) after our announcement of closing our application deadline for concept notes on 15 July 2018. Of those 38 applications, 21 concept notes focus on the priority issues we have identified (1. Removal of Excessive Water hyacinth and 2. Climate smart Agriculture) and will be evaluated first by two appointed committees at zonal level.

We also stimulated **Action Aid** to further develop their concept note on **Unpaid Care Work** into a full proposal (see Chapter 4).

Concepts/proposals rejected

Unfortunately, we had to reject 5 concept notes under the unsolicited procedure in Q2-2018 (For more information see Chapter 5):

- We rejected two concepts because their lengthy piloting timeframes were not suitable for implementation under BGP.
- Another two were rejected because they had limited added value compared to early work done under BGIF and lacked a proper cost-benefit analysis.
- One concept note was required because it lacked understanding of the local physical conditions.

Communication activities

We executed the following promotion activities in Q2-2018 (for more information see Chapter 6):

- The publication of the Innovation Fund Booklet “**Inspiring Innovation Fund projects at a glance**”.
- We launched a Final Call for Concept Notes in May 2018, resulting in 38 applications by 15 July 2018.

1. Projects under implementation

The following Innovation Fund projects are under implementation as of 15 July 2018. Reports mentioned under deliverables can be delivered upon request.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
MetaMeta	Roads for Flood Protection and Water Management	Investigate the feasibility of integrated road planning with BWDB and LGED to reduce drainage congestion and enhance flood protection	1 Dec '16-30 Nov '17 (1 year)	€ 30,970	MetaMeta is finalising its feasibility study and started to prepare for the next phase of designing a pilot. This expected to be a combination of testing and monitoring Roads for Water infrastructural works in polder 26 and initiating a policy dialogue and developing BWDB-LGED Best Practices on Roads for Water Management and Flood Protection. Finance for this pilot will come partly from an already obtained fund from Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), and possible additional funds may be provided by local UP/Upazila. Developing sound financial and administrative procedures for fund disbursement to construct two culverts in polder 26 is challenging. Frank van Steenberg visited early July 2018 the country for follow up and submitted on 19 July the final report with Recommended Good Practices.	Draft final report	€ 24,820	€ 6,150

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
BSMR-AU Gazipur	Aquaculture intervention in seasonal waterlogged areas	Conducting participatory action research on site specific aquaculture interventions in polder 2 to increase productivity and nutrition	1 Jun '17 - 31 Dec '17 (6 months)	€ 41,289	BSMRAU finalised its pilot project on pen culture in polder 2, with harvest of the fish in November and December. A presentation and discussion was held on December 11, 2017 at Program Coordinating Director's Office, PCD Mr. Amirul Hossain, Focal Point of DoF Dr. Sainar Alam, District Fisheries Officer, and BGP TA Team experts attended the session. Another workshop was conducted on 18 January at local level to discuss the possible follow-up within polder 2. We are also in discussion with Dr. Jahangir Alam to evaluate other aquaculture interventions within the BGP area. The delivery of the final report of the project has unfortunately been delayed with almost 6 months, but is now in our hands for evaluation. Expectation is to close this project by the end of August 2018.	Draft final report	€ 39,225	€ 2,064
United Purpose	Sustainable Water Management Finance & Technology	Phase II: Pilot for testing various finance models for small-scale water management infrastructure	1 May '18 - 28 Feb '28	€ 52,040	Pilot project started with a little delayed, because Phase I: feasibility was not directly accepted by the TA team. Its scope was too broad. It required quite a lot of changes by UP. Though we did accept to continue with Phase II, the actual pilot, attention is still required to ensure the team of UP keeps to focus on implementation of small-scale water management infrastructure and finance models, and not extends its project with many additional activities. Otherwise, targets might not be met within the limited timelines.	Monthly progress report June	€ 0	€ 0

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
United Purpose	Women Business Centers	Pilot Women Business Centres in BGP area Khulna	21 Nov '17 till 20 Nov '18 (12 months)	€ 49,985	4 women business centres (WBC) in polder 28/2 and 31-part (namely Choyghoria, Joykhali and Raypur, Bunarabad in Khulna region) have become fully operational and have their own bank accounts since April/May 2018. Since the start 10 technical sessions about IPM for vegetables, cow rearing, poultry rearing and fish culture management for 195 women and 55 men and a vaccination campaign took place. Business is taking place in the centres for sapling production and selling, egg collection and selling, seed selling, cosmetics, shopping bags and grocery items selling. Linkages between entrepreneurs of WBCs and different government officials like Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Upazilla Livestock Officer, and Upazilla Fisheries Officers have been developed through value chain development workshops (BGIF management attended one the successful workshops on 26 July 2018). Since the project inception, women entrepreneurs have formed a total of 172 producer groups with 3,420 female producers and 1,135 male producers group members. In this reporting period, a business plan training session was organized for the WBCs at the producer group level (4 groups; 88 participants in total). The training course included roles and responsibilities of WBCs as a business partner; marketing; financial and organizational planning; and concepts of business fundamentals. An action plan was developed at the end of the session.	June monthly progress report	€ 17,495	€ 32,490

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
mPower	Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle	To apply cost-effective innovative algorithms to assess breeds and register cattle; promotion of Shurrokha livestock services	1 Apr '18 - 30 Sep '19	€ 132,564	mPower organized project briefing/inception meeting on 12 April 2018 in Dhaka for PCD, Deputy Chief (Fisheries) from BWDB, Blue Gold Focal Point from DLS and BGP consultants, in which a close collaboration between BWDB and DLS for this project was confirmed. Furthermore, mPower have conducted Regional Inception Workshops held on 14th, 16th and 17th May 2018 at Patuakhali, Satkhira and Khulna respectively. Representatives of WMGs, BGP zonal consultants, Central representative of DLS, Officials of DLS of respective Upazila and District, Representatives from Community Livestock Worker (CLW) and Artificial Insemination Technicians, Local representatives of Artificial Insemination service providing companies, UP Representatives, Local representatives of NGO program working with livestock farmers. At the same time, mPower's partnership with RDA and Lalteer is further formalised and a search for a Dutch partner in DNA chips is ongoing. We are expecting to receive mPower inception report and baseline study soon.	Inception workshop report	€ 13,384	€ 119,180
MetaMeta	Accelerating Horizontal Learning in Bangladesh Polders: ICT as Force Multiplier	Strengthening ongoing horizontal learning BGP activities by training WMG members to produce their own best practice videos with their mobile phone and best productions will be awarded and widely circulated.	May 2018- October 2019	€ 129,136	Project has recently started in Khulna and Satkhira (6 polders), and will soon start in Patuakhali area (4 polders) too. Attention is required to ensure the activities will be focussed on the WMG activities as well as reach poor, female and minority members of the communities. The use of smartphones for video making is mostly accessible to relatively richer, young males in the rural society. Furthermore, field facilitators have not fully mobilised yet and this essential for effective training follow up in the field.	Inception workshop report	€ 12,932	€ 116,204

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Budget (EUR)	Current Project Status	Last Deliverable submitted	Amount paid (EUR)	Amount Due (EUR)
Innovision Agro Service Ltd.	Piloting on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazills of Patuakhali through community participation	Rational use of homestead ponds of Patuakhali region for increasing aquaculture productivity and income generation through practicing of Pangasius aquaculture.	1 June 2018 to 31 January, 2019	€ 42,654	The project recently started with the selection of locations, ponds and WMG members. Innovision organized a training program for 30 selected farmers from Golachipa, Amtoli and Kalapara areas on 7 July 2018. Blue Gold PCD, Dept. Chief Dr. Rahmat from BWDB, District Fisheries Officer of Barguna, Patuakhali sadar SUFO attended the program. Between 21-23 July Innovision was presented at DOF fisheries week at district level, demonstrating the potential of Pangasius in a stall. BGIF management visited the stall as well as one of Innovision's sites and talked two WMG members owning a pond and active in the project.	Inception report	€ 8,900	€ 33,754

2. Projects completed

The following projects were completed in Q2-2018. The final reports are available on request and will be published soon on the BGP website.

Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Main objective	Project duration	Costs (EUR)	Details
LA-TTSL Joint Venture, IWM, Deltares, NHC	Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29)	Implement low cost embankment protection in the form of geobag revetment and monitor the outcomes in polder 29	Feb 2017- Jun 2018 (16 months)	€ 382,740	The stabilisation of the riverbank in polder 29 with geobags was implemented in July 2017 and emergency works have been implemented on two separate locations in polder 29. Post-implementation monitoring took place, including the analysis of a river survey of the Lower Bhadra conducted by IWM, in November 2017. The report on the surveys and analysis of intervention has been prepared by NHC and submitted in June 2018. Brief conclusion is that emergency works have been effective so far, but permanent solutions are required for long term sustainability.
BAU Germ Plasm Center	Participatory Action Research (PAR) on Fruits and Vegetables	Introducing new types of lean season fruits and vegetables in 12 different polder areas of BGP and researching the viability and uptake by WMG members	May 2017 - June 2018 (1 year)	€ 30,049	Since the main thrust of the participatory action research program has been achieved, the project will terminate 2 years earlier than initially planned. Farmers supported by Blue Gold field staff (CDFs) will continue forward with the program. During a meeting on 28 May 2018 it was mutually agreed that BAU-GC should close this project by 30th June 2018, and provide a closure report with a recommended action plan and guidelines for implementation by farmers and CDFs.
United Purpose	Sustainable Water Management Finance & Technology	Phase I: Feasibility study for testing various finance models for small-scale water management infrastructure	1 Jan '18 - 30 Apr '18 (4 months)	€ 20,180	This feasibility study suffered from some delays, due to late establishment of office and staff training. Research proposal for the feasibility study was submitted also rather late and already surveying started without approval of TA Team. This resulted in the scope of surveying and FGDs among the WMOs to be too broad. Final feasibility study included too many sections on topics not relevant for the core project. TA team requested to focus on small-scale water management infra and finance models only. After two revisions the feasibility study was acceptable and

Phase I was officially closed off. BGP has set the condition, the activity plan would be further improved in Phase II with the feedback of BGP zonal team.

Innovision Agro Service Ltd.	Feasibility study on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three Upazills of Patuakhali through community participation	To assess the prospect of adoption of Thai pangasius culture technique in the homestead farming system and market potential and business promotion in Patuakhali region.	28 March 2018 - 27 April 2018 (1 month)	€ 7,877	This feasibility study was executed in a structured and timely manner with close involvement of BGP zonal team and DOF. The final presentation of the feasibility study was appreciated by BWDB and DOF, and with only minor suggestions, on analysis of production figures, the selection of ponds and WMG members and involvement of DOF, the start-up of Phase II (the pilot) was approved.
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3. Proposals in final stage of review

Two proposals are currently under review. The draft proposals are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	TA Lead Advisor	Fund type	Budget (EUR)	Current status
31/01/2017	LCP	Farmer Market Place	Shahidul Haque	Productive Sector Fund	€ 25,000	Negotiating financial budget. Contract agreements and signing postponed to August 2018.
18/12/2017	Action Aid	Unpaid care work	Roksana Begum	Productive Sector Fund	€ 50,000	On 12 May we received the first full proposal of Action Aid, which we rejected. They indicated they want to work on a shared resources implementation basis, which is not feasible and would overburden BGP polder teams. In the last months, several discussions took place and revisions were circulated. The current implementation modality looks more feasible. It is under re-consideration whether this type of project is best placed under BGIF.

4. Concepts under development

The following 39 concepts are under development and have been received before 15 July 2018. Most concept notes were received after the announcement of our Final Call for Concept notes. To evaluate 21 concept notes which focus on priority topics (1. Removal of excessive water hyacinth; 2. Climate smart agricultural technologies), we have established two evaluation committees at zonal level. The other 18 we will evaluate with less priority. The concept notes are available on request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Fund type	Details
14/02/2018	Green Soil Bag	Low cost revetment of embankments with soil bags filled with grass seeds	Water Management Sector	Mr. Delowar, BGP civil engineer, visited one of their site in Siranganj and saw limited feasibility for BGP. During their next mission to Bangladesh we will make final decision whether to proceed
05/03/2018	Acacia	A new design for Managed Aquifer Recharge for Agriculture	Water Management Sector	Paid visit to Khulna office on 5 March 2018 to discuss context in Khulna and MAR options. Submitted a concept note 2 months later, which we declined since no lessons learnt from previous projects and no proper cost-benefit analysis was included. Acacia resubmitted a concept note under our Final Call, which will be evaluated by BGP zonal committee for evaluation of concept notes related to "Climate Smart Agriculture".
04/04/2018	Tube-Barrier	PWS -Popup Water Storage	Water Management Sector	Initial assessment demonstrates that the newly proposed concept is less interesting than earlier ideas. The proposed concept entails a groundwater recharge structure, which would occupy fallow/agricultural land and would require pumping in the dry season. This is not considered to be cost effective. We requested a revised concept to cover the earlier idea of creating water retention structures in secondary and tertiary canals.
15/04/2018	TU Delft	Building local capacity of water management groups (collective choice problem solving)	Water Management Sector	Blue Gold Program already has an approach in place to deal with collective choice problems around water management. Our field staff is trained in this approach. We should make sure there are no overlaps, since applying a secondary similar methodology might lead to confusion. We will conduct a Skype call TU Delft earlier August to explore whether there are still other options.
04/05/2018	Ashroy Foundation	Eco- friendly use of Water Hyacinth in Production of Vegetable at the Bank of Canals	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".

10/05.2018	PEACE	Cage culture would be the alternative livelihood option of rural poor women in Polder Community	Productive Sector Fund	Will be evaluated with less priority, since not addressing main issues of BGP
28/05/2018	Ideal step for sustainable development (ISSD)	Strengthening Women's Ability for Sustainable Livelihood	Productive Sector Fund	Will be evaluated with less priority, since not addressing main issues of BGP
31/05/2018	PSTU	Improvisation of Homestead Plantation towards Disaster Resilience and Nutritional Security in the Coastal BGP Area	Productive Sector Fund	Will be evaluated with less priority, since not addressing main issues of BGP
12/07/2018	AID Foundation	Turning Pestilence into Promise: Revitalising Coastal Polders Through Holistic Community Based Management of the Canals	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
12/07/2018	C4RE Foundation	Community based sustainable bio energy systems for biogas production from water hyacinth	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
15/07/2018	Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)	Management of excessive water hyacinth in selected water bodies and assessing their potential re-use of waste water treatment aimed at eco-friendly livestock/poultry feed production for sustainable livestock development in Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
15/07/2018	Khulna University -Fisheries & Marine Resource Technology	Development of value added products from water hyacinth to support alternative livelihoods and ecological resilience in coastal villages of southwest Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
15/07/2018	PARIBAR TAN-Khulna	Establishing an effective water hyacinth control mechanism through alternative agriculture knowledge sharing amongst farmers in the BGP area in Patuakhali	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".

10/07/2018	PEACE	Resource Farmers Development for Introduction of Floating Vegetable Bed and Economical Utilization of Water Hyacinth at Catchment Level of Polder 55/2A and Polder 55/2C of Patuakhali BGP Zone.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
15/07/2018	Practical Action	Resource Farmers Development for Introduction of Floating Vegetable Bed and Economical Utilization of Water Hyacinth at Catchment Level of Polder 55/2A and Polder 55/2C of Patuakhali BGP Zone.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
23/06/2018	Saaf Consult BV	Testing Water Hyacinth(Eichhornia crassipes) based products for commercial use	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
15/07/2018	Win Miaki Ltd	Integrated beneficial management of Water Hyacinth	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Water Hyacinth".
11/07/2018	Acacia Water B.V.	Freshwater pockets for Agriculture	Water Management Sector	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
12/07/2018	AgriWatch B.V. & GeolInfo Solutions	Improved information in agriculture for adaptation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) best practices in coastal Region of Bangladesh (SLMBPB)	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
15/07/2018	AIRN	Alternate livelihoods through climate resilient farming	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
15/07/2018	C4RE Foundation	Introduction of pot culture Practice of Vegetable for vegetable production in the homestead of WMG members for Food and nutritional Security in polder area.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
15/07/2018	LEDARS	Promoting climate adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture and water Management Technologies.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
10/07/2018	Protect Environment from Adverse Climate Change (PEACE)	Environmental Friendly and Climate change adaptive Livelihood Development for Vulnerable Women and other poor's living in polder area.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".

15/07/2018	Practical Action	Sustaining sack farming practices through agro-met services in coastal polder areas of Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
12/07/2018	PSTU	Improvisation of Homestead Plantation towards Socio-economic Development and Nutritional Security in the Coastal BGP Area	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
12/07/2018	PSTU	Exploring Sustainable Intensive Crop Production Systems in the Polders of the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
15/07/2018	CNRS	Smart Agricultural Resilience-building Technologies (SMART) in coastal zone of Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation by BGP zonal committee for concept notes related to the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture".
15/07/2018	SACO	Carp Fish Fattening and live fish marketing Technology is an alternative income generating option of Polder Community under the BGP area	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
13/07/2018	Accel-agro	Kandanath & Turkey production & supply chain	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
14/07/2018	Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)	Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development Through Duck Farming: Use of fe-oiled rice bran as a novel source of protein to grow meat (Pekin) ducks in Bangladesh	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
15/07/2018	Loving Care for the Oppressed Society (LoCOS)	PRODUCTION OF HYDROPONIC GREEN FODDER FOR ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE MILK PRODUCTION	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
10/07/2018	PEACE	Duck rearing would be the sustainable livelihood option of rural poor among the Polder Community.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
15/07/2018	C4RE Foundation	Fruit village establishment in the polder area adopting tree improvement and management technology.	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
15/07/2018	Prottyon	Empowerment of Women through involving in Community Based Fruit Tree Nursery	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes

11/07/2018	Carthago & WUR	Exploring community-led water management strategies: Serious Gaming	Water Management Sector	Concept note timeline of activities is not feasible. Setting up a Skype call to assess whether alternatives could be explored.
15/07/2018	AgriPro-Focus	Making Agribusiness Work for Development in Blue Gold Polders	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority, since not addressing our priority themes
14/07/2018	Red Orange	The TransFarmer Challenge	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority. Same concept note has been submitted under the "Improved Information Services for Agriculture" call and was shortlisted. However, RedOrange decided to not submit a full proposal.
14/07/2018	Red Orange	PaniNet- Knowledge Platform on Water Management	Water Management Sector	Evaluation with less priority. Many other initiatives are being taken to set up Knowledge platforms around water management (under Nuffic projects, WMKIP). The idea is not innovative and does not directly has an impact on our target group (WMOs)
14/07/2018	SHARE-Bangladesh	Capacitate Rural Women to Coping Climate Change Adaptation (CRWCCCA)	Productive Sector Fund	Evaluation with less priority. We have had discussions with SHARE over the past 12 months, organised a field visit with our gender coordinator and several concept notes have been earlier submitted. All have been rejected so far, lacking innovation and focus.

5. Project concepts/proposals rejected

The following projects have been rejected in Q2-2018. Concept notes can be provided upon request.

Date received	Name of applicant	Proposal topic	Lead Advisor	Fund type	Details
15/03/2018	Khulna University	NutriVITA: An integrated approach for socio-economic development of the marginal fish farmers through species-optimization using low-cost feeds	Tanvir Islam	Productive Sector Fund	We believe the project has limited added value compared by the recent executed IF project of WorldFish on fish feed. We also prefer concept notes that focus on white fish, not prawn, for reasons of environmental sustainability. With the submission of new concept note by the same professor of Khulna University for the Final Call, we decided to reject this one.
30/03/2017	Aspire & Insects4All	Insect Fish Feed	Ashraf Islam	Productive Sector Fund	Aspire & Insects4All successfully delivered a feasibility study on Insect Fish Feed, and initially BGIF was keen to continue with them. However, the pilot proposal has been rejected because it had no realistic timeframe. The concept also lacked maturity to be directly tested within the BGP area. and would require further academic research.
17/04/2018	Witteveen +Bos	Salinity and waterlogging control	Bart Brookhuis	Water Management Sector	W&B did not fully understand the underlying causes of salinity intrusion in the coastal belt. The causes of salinization of crop-root available ground water is mainly due to tidal saltwater intrusion, not by seepage. This makes deep drainage not suitable for the BGP area. W&B solutions are also too complex solutions for the BGP context.
30/04/2018	Nice Foundation	Community-based production of the plant 'moringa oleifera' to promote livestock farming in south-west Bangladesh.	Ashraf Islam	Productive Sector Fund	There is no scientific evidence presented why Moringa leaves will be used by farmers as fodder. Also, no cost-benefit analysis is presented. Project strategies, approach and activities are also too vaguely described. Therefore, the project was rejected.
02/06/2018	PSTU	Embedding Crop Diversity and Sustainable Intensive Crop Production Systems in the Polders of the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh	Tanvir Islam	Productive Sector Fund	The proposed project duration is three years but BGP will continue for a maximum of two years. So, the project is not viable and rejected.

6. Communication activities

Promotion activities of BGIF are being undertaken to ensure a continuous flow of applications to and to demonstrate the effectiveness and possibilities of BGIF. Since our application deadline for submission closed on 15 July 2018, future communication activities will only focus on demonstrating the effectiveness of BGIF and stimulating horizontal learning on successful innovative practices and services. For this reason, this chapter is renamed as Communication activities.

BGIF Booklet – “Inspiring innovation projects at a glance”

Sharing the outcomes of BGIF project can stimulate adoption and replication, and even stimulate the development of new innovative approaches. To promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned, the Innovation Fund has developed executive summaries for 10 successfully completed innovation activities. The summaries are 2 pages highlighting the project objectives, activities (expected) impact, lessons learnt, sustainability and upscaling potential. All summaries have a similar format and include photos and visuals. The publication has been officially published and printed in May 2018 and has been distributed to both Dhaka and zonal offices of BWDB, DAE, DLS, DOF and BGP TA team during June/July 2018. Copies have also been made available to EKN and will be shared in the Netherlands too.

The BGIF booklet has also been circulated among the complete BGIF distribution list including more than 100 organisations from the Netherlands and Bangladesh. It likely has inspired many organisations to submit a final application to the BGIF.

An update with additional innovation project examples might be developed in 2019/2020 to cover the outcomes of projects implemented during 2018 and 2019.

Production of project videos

As an additional measure to promote a wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons-learned and to stimulate the adoption and replication of innovative practices and services, BGP has requested implementing partner organisations to develop project videos. The target group of the videos are people generally interested in development. These could be citizens from the Netherlands or Bangladesh, academicians, development practitioners, donors, government agencies or partner organizations. The project videos' primary focus is the innovation itself: how did the idea for the innovation come up, where and how has it been implemented, what went well and what went wrong during implementation, what are the lessons learned, and what kind of future is there for this innovation?

Next quarter, we expect the video of InnoVision on the Pangasius fish introduction in Patuakhali to be finished. All developed videos can be viewed via <http://www.bluegoldbd.org/innovationfund/project-video/>.

Ensuring horizontal learning and replication

BGIF implementing partner organisation is in the first place responsible for ensuring the innovation project includes strategies for wider adoption and replication. This is strict criteria while evaluating submitted project proposals and projects without upscaling strategies are rejected. Nevertheless, it is evident that the implementing organisation will not have the resources to upscale widely and designed strategies might not fully work in practice. With the appointment of BGIF lead advisors for every single project at zonal level, we hope to support the partner continuously in implementing and adjusting replication strategies, as well as to

identify opportunities for joint horizontal learning events between WMOs. The BGIF lead advisors are the first point of contact, and will gather opinions and advice from other staff operating at polder and zonal level to benefit the BGIF implementing organisation. The names of BGIF lead advisors can be found in the table provided in Chapter 1: Projects under implementation.

7. Financial report

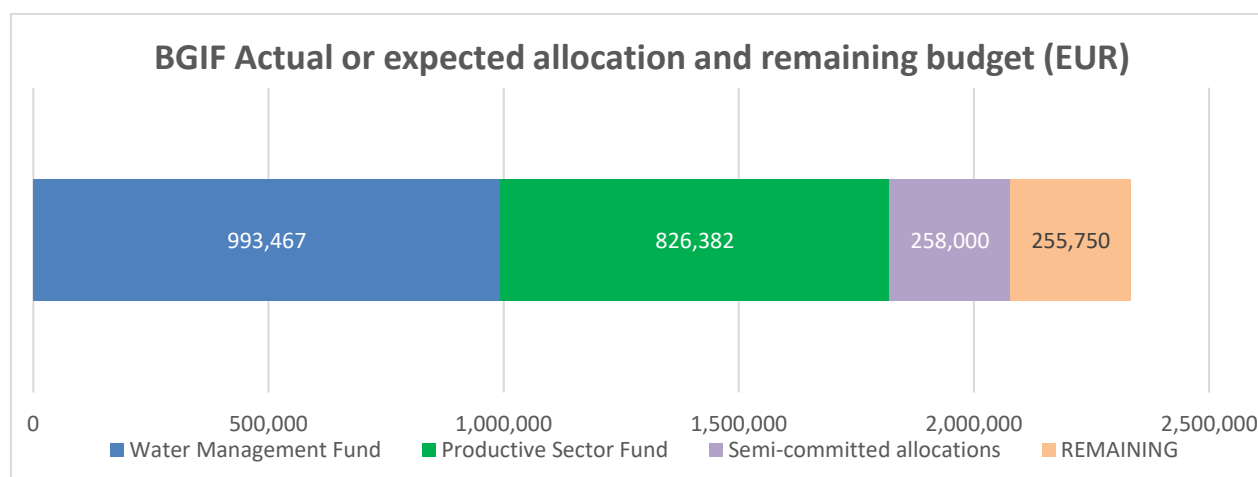
This chapter contains information on the total volume of contracts awarded, forecasts for the next quarter, figures on total expenditure till date, semi-allocated contracts, and remaining amounts to be spend.

BGIF financial overview

Find below BGIF financial overview as of 30 March 2018:

	Total Contract Amount (BDT)	Total Contract Amount (EUR)	Actual or expected allocation ¹ (EUR)	Total paid (EUR)
Water Management Fund	42,559,969	479,104	993,467	924,827
Productive Sector Fund	49,573,859	212,874	826,382	540,475
OVERALL TOTAL			1,819,850	
Semi-committed allocations			258,000	
REMAINING			255,750	
TOTAL BUDGET			2,450,000	

¹ Including management costs



The Water Management Fund has only 2 running projects at the moment. A major investment, the “Low cost embankment protection measures in tidal rivers (polder 29) project”, with a total value of EUR 376k, has been closed in the end of June. A new major contract is with MetaMeta on Accelerating Horizontal Learning in Bangladesh Polders: ICT as Force Multiplier (EUR 129k).

Under the Productive Sector Fund, we signed three new contracts between March and end of June: mPower - Breed Identification and Digital Registry of Cattle project in March (EUR 132k); United Purpose-Phase II: Sustainable Water through Indigenous Finance & Technology on 1 May 2018 (EUR 50k); and Innovision Agro Services - Pilot on augmenting homestead pangasius aquaculture productivity in three

Upazilas of Patuakhali on 18 June 2018 (EUR 50k). The currently outstanding amount can be mostly attributed to those projects.

We have semi-committed an amount of about EUR 258k, with the purpose: (a) to award another 1 contract under the solicited call “Improved Information for Agriculture” to CIMMYT (EUR 133k); (b) to support the implementation of phase III of United Purpose projects “Women Business Centres” and “Sustainable Water Management Indigenous Finance & Technology” if they perform well in phase II (EUR 100k allocated); (c) a feasibility study for a Farmers Hub with vegetable seedling production by Light Castle Partners (EUR 25k allocated) – would start already in Rabi 2017, but postponed to Rabi 2018.

Future planning

Assuming we will stick to our semi-committed allocations and keep management handling fees in line with current spending (12% or less), we have about EUR 255k remaining to spend on awarding new contracts.

As highlighted in the Q1-2018 progress report we aim to spend this on innovation projects, which potential could solve two of our main problems in BGP area. After consultation at polder and zonal level, the following priority issues were identified: 1. Removal of excessive water hyacinth; 2. Climate smart agricultural technologies. We launched in the end of May 2018, a Final Call for Concept Notes highlighting these priority issues and announced the possibility to all Dutch and Bangladeshi-based organisations on our BGIF distribution list (>100). This resulted in 38 extra applications by 15 July 2018, next to 1 outstanding one.

Our intention is to award the final 2 to 4 contracts before 30 November 2018.