



Blue Gold Program

Technical Report No. 16 - B

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

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1. Field Trip Report 21

June 1 - 12, 2014

A. Objectives

- Pre-assessment of WMC areas by C 1 & C 2
- Need Assessment meetings at WMC level
- Summarizing & prioritizing the Needs by C 1 & C 2
- WMA general members' validation meeting
- Field verification by C 1 & C 2

B. Participants

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

C. Activities and Observations

01.06.2014:

Meeting with Zonal Socio-Economists:

A meeting was held at Patuakhali Blue Gold office to check/take preparations for need assessments at catchment level in Polders 43/2A. Results of village level need assessments were summarized and were written in poster papers for presentation at catchment level need assessment meetings.

02.06.2014

In the morning of 2 June 2014 a catchment level need assessment meeting was held at Khatashia Janata High School in Polder 43/2A. Members of 2 Water Management Committees (WMCs), namely, Khatashia and Titkata WMCs participated in the meeting; they included representatives from 11 WMGs. The participants of the meeting discussed about water related problems and possible solutions of those problems. All the problems and proposed interventions were discussed and verified by members of Component 2 (C2). Finally WMCs made a priority list of proposed interventions in discussion with the project team.

In the afternoon of the same day, another meeting was held at Choto Bighai Union Parishad in Polder 43/2A. Members of 2 WMCs, namely, Kazirhat and Nandipara WMCs participated in the meeting; they included representatives from 7 WMGs. Water related problems and possible solutions of those problems were discussed. All the water management problems and proposed interventions were discussed and verified by members of Component 2. Finally WMCs made a priority list of proposed interventions in discussion with the project team.

03.06.2014

On 3 June 2014 a meeting was held at Matibhanga Primary School in Polder 43/2A with 2 WMCs, Matibhanga and Katakhalī WMCs; representatives of 4 WMGs were present in the meeting. The members of WMCs discussed water related problems and proposed interventions to solve those problems. All the problems and proposed interventions were thoroughly discussed. Finally, the WMCs develop a priority list of proposed interventions.

04.06.2014

On 4 June 2014 members of C1 and C2 jointly summarized the outcome of the discussions on water management problems and priority lists of proposed interventions made by different WMCs as a part of preparation for WMA validation meeting in Polder 43/2A. The team prepared papers and posters on priority lists of proposed interventions for presentation at WMA validation meeting.

05.06.2014

On 5 June WMA general meeting was held at Choto Bghai Union Parishad in Polder 43/2A to finalize the priority list of interventions at polder level and to validate the same by the WMA general members. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the WMA. At the meeting the priority lists of proposed interventions from different WMCs were discussed and finally one priority list of proposed interventions was prepared by the WMA, which was recorded in the form of WMA resolution that was signed by the Chairman and general members of the WMA.

06-07.06.2014

Members of C1 visited Polder 43/2D and Polder 43/2F to see the progress of LCS activities. The LCSs visited were Sonar Bangla, Jui, Bainbunia and Moinamoti in Polder 43/2F, and Patukhali and Nikhola in Polder 43/2D. Values of those LCS Works were between Taka seven lac to eight lac, and all LCSs have received mobilization advance.

All the LCSs had started their works 2 weeks ago but progress was less than expected. One of the reasons for slow progress was non-availability of earth due to submergence of the borrow-pit areas; most of the LCSs have to work during low tide. Another reason for slow progress for some of the LCS was non-availability of earth as there are houses along both the sides of the embankment.

08-09.06.2014

Catchment level meetings with WMCs in Polder 43/2E were held at WMA and Union Parishad offices. Members of 7 WMCs (Katakhalī, Golkhalī, Nowtana and Sundurbaria, MoubariaNatoa) were present in the meetings. After long discussions the WMC members were able to develop priority lists of proposed interventions at their own catchments.

10-11.06.2014

Members of Components 1 and 2 sat down together and summarized priority lists from different catchments. They also prepared materials for validation meeting.

The validation meeting was held on 11 June 2014 at Katakhalī WMA office. Most of the WMA members attended the meeting, and after long discussion they were able to finalizethe priority list of interventions for polder level. The final priority list was included in a WMA resolution.

12.06.2014

On day 12 the team returned to Dhaka.

2. Field Trip Report 22

June 21 - 27, 2014

A. Objectives

1. Water Management Need Assessment and Validation in Polder 29
 - a. Rehabilitation need assessment in WMC areas
 - b. Polder level meeting and validation of proposed priority list of works

2. Staff development meeting with Community Organizers (COs) and Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs)
 - a. Follow-up progress of works and issues
 - b. Discuss on preparation for WMG registration with BWDB and WMO strengthening activities

B. Members present:

The following members were present in the water management need assessment and validation meetings:

- Mofazzal Ahmed, QC Engineer/DCL (C-2)
- John Marandy, Sr. Socio-Economist/DCL(C-1)
- Showkat Ara Begum, Cooperative Expert1 (C-1)
- Mahmudur Rahman Aveek, QSE (C-2)
- Farzana Rahman Moury, RE (C-2)
- Mainul Islam, CE(C-2)
- Md. Azizur Rahman, Sr.QCE (C-2)
- Md. Aman Ullah, SAE (C-2)
- Md. Jashim Uddin, Socio-economist (C-1)
- Umme Asma Khanam, Socio-economist (C-1)

C. Activities and findings:

C.1 Rehabilitation Need Assessment

On 22nd June, 2014 at 10:00 am the team attended a meeting at Taltala Motth and in the afternoon (ca. 3:00 P.M) attended another meeting at Hajibunia. Both meetings were organized for Water Management Committees (WMCs) to assess water management needs in the catchments of four sluices: Kanaidanga, Bakultala, Katakali and Kanchan Nagar sluices. The participants of the meetings discussed about water related problems and possible solutions/interventions. All the problems and proposed interventions were discussed and verified by members of Component 2. Finally WMC members made priority lists of proposed interventions in discussion with the project team.

On 23rd June, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. the team attended a meeting at the courtyard of South Kalikapur Temple and in the afternoon (ca. 3:00 P.M) attended another meeting at Chandghar. Both meetings were

organized for Water Management Committees (WMCs) to assess water management needs in the catchments of five sluices: Ashan Nagar, Ratankhali, Agunkhali, Ruhitmari and Jaliakhali sluices. The participants of the meetings discussed about water related problems and possible solutions/interventions. All the problems and proposed interventions were discussed and verified by members of Component 2. Finally WMC members made priority lists of proposed interventions in discussion with the project team.

On 24th June 2014 at 10:00 A.M the team attended a meeting at S.S.S. WMA Office and in the afternoon attended another meeting at Ula Madrasa. Both meetings were organized for Water Management Committees (WMCs) to assess water management needs in the catchments of four sluices: Chatchatia, Golaimari, Telikhali new and Telikhali old sluices. The participants of the meetings discussed about water related problems and possible solutions/interventions. All the problems and proposed interventions were discussed and verified by members of Component 2. Finally WMC members made priority lists of proposed interventions in discussion with the project team.

On 25th June 2014 the team summarized priority lists from different catchments. They also prepared materials for the validation meeting with WMAs.

On 26th June 2014 a validation meeting was held with members of Bhanderpara and SSS WMA's. Chairman of SSS WMA, Mr. Shahidul Islam Mandol, chaired the session. The meeting was attended by 61 male and 18 female representatives from all WMCs. On behalf of Component -2, Deputy Component Leader, Mofazzal Ahmed, informed all that the embankment (where necessary) will be re-sectioned, and 13 repairable sluices and 2 outlets will also be repaired. The needs for re-excavation of khals were discussed elaborately based on the priorities made at catchment levels and were prioritized. It was made clear to all that the extent of re-excavation of khals will depend on the availability of funds, and because of that there was the need of prioritizing. Accordingly, the khals needing re-excavation were categorized into 3 categories: 8 khals in the first priority, 6 khals in the 2nd priority and 31 khals in the 3rd priority. The final priority list of khals proposed for re-excavation was included in a WMA resolution.

C.2 Staff Development meeting

On 25th June 2014 a day-long Staff Development Meeting was conducted with Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) and Community Organizers (COs). In that meeting the following members of Dhaka office were present:

- Victoria Pineda, Leader, Component 1
- John Marandy, Sr. Socio-Economist/ DCL (C-1)
- Showkat Ara Begum, Cooperative Expert1 (C-1)

In the meeting the progress of implementation of community organization and mobilization activities were reviewed. The following were reported by the COs.

Name of polder	Names of COs responsible	Activities performed	Remarks
31 part	Kaiser Khan, Shovan Kumar Adhya, Mariam Khan, Morsheda, Suravi Sen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Courtyard meetings • Dissemination meetings in four villages • Listing of potential WMO members in two villages • Identified 82 potential leaders in different villages • Leaflet distribution in households • Contacted NGOs that are working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of Surkhali Union is very cooperative. • Rain-cuts and Ghogs have been filled by villagers with voluntary service. <p>*It was suggested that, instead of all COs working in all villages, each CO should be assigned to some specific villages of the</p>

		in the polder	polder.
29	Gastha Bihari Mondol, Humayon Kabir, Jyotsna Khatun, Asaduzzaman Biswas, Rashida Akhter Moyna, Mousumee Mondal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 Monthly meetings • 12 Special meetings • New members were enrolled • 6 WMCs were formed • 2 Need Assessments and VAPs were completed • Listing of EC members of 56 WMGs and 2 were completed • In 15 villages names of potential WMO members were collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Collection: Tk.1130 (Male - Tk.480, Female - Tk.650) • Savings Collection Tk. 79520 (Male-Tk.42970 Female-Tk.36550)
30	Bashu Dev Roy, Azizur Rahman, Marjana Sultana, Ruksana Parvin, Sabina Yasmin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Monthly meeting • 1 Special meeting • 1 WMA meeting • In 34 WMGs Need Assessments were completed and 7, pending • Assisted updating of records and book keeping in 8 WMGs • 8 WMCs were formed • Listing of potential WMO members were completed in 10 villages • 	Cleaning of water-hyacinth was done in Tannel khal and at some sections of embankment people filled holes with earth
26	Chandon Sarkar, Jannat Ara Ferdous, Rezaul Karim, Abu Zafar, Mina Biswas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing of potential WMO members was completed in 5 villages • Listing of potential WMO members in Zialtala, Chingra North and South and Shovna West and East is continuing and it will be completed by July 10. • Collected the information on khals in the polder and present condition of those khals • Collected the names of key informants, their address and mobile phone numbers. 	
22	Rabita Mondol, Kumaresh C. Dam, Ujjal Hossain, Resma Khanom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monthly meetings in 12 WMGs • Accounts and records are maintained regularly in 12 WMGs • Audits were completed in 7 WMGs • AGMs were completed in 7 WMGs • Elections were completed in 4 WMGs • Ad-hoc Committee have been formed in 3 WMGs • Enrollment of members is going on • Collection of share and savings are done regularly • Micro credit is being operated in 	Almost all WMGs are functioning well

		5 WMGs	
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After the review of progress and issues related to activities in different polders, the COs were instructed on how to take preparations for registration of existing WMGs with BWDB and on how to further improve the WMO strengthening activities that they are presently doing.

3. Field Trip Report 23

May 11-15, 2014

Objectives of the field visit:

1. Follow up and provide guidance to the field staff in implementing WMO activities :
 - a) Attend in dissemination meetings on Participatory Water Management (PWM) Rules-2014 at WMG/village level and get feedback
 - b) Follow-up the progress of listing potential members to be enrolled in WMGs
 - c) Provide guidance for formation of Ad - hoc committee
2. Attend and observe the formation of Water Management Committee (WMC) + Monitoring Committee (MC) and give guidance to the COs if necessary
3. Follow up WMG's resources inventory

Team Member: Showkat Ara Begum, Cooperatives Expert

Activities:

1.0 Meeting with field staff at Patuakhali Office

- a. Discussion with COs salient features of PWM Rules-2014 published on 11 Feb. 2014
- b. Present status of functionality of WMGs for inclusion in the PDP Report for 43/2F. There has been marked improvement except for 4 WMGs which are still weak due mainly on following reasons: i) utilization of FAO machineries is not fair and transparent hence members are not interested to continue with the organization (Bazarkhali WMG); and ii) Executive Committee (EC) is not trusted/accepted by majority of members and registration was not completed (Middle Kalaghachia, North Kalibari-Bazarghona, and South Gulishakhali South).
- c. Progress of listing potential members in WMGs (about 40% completed)
- d. Progress of WMG's resources inventory (almost completed). This will be the basis for WMA in requesting the handing over of BWDB acquired land and water bodies.
- e. Organized a brief combined meeting of FOs and COs and make them understand that they are working under the same project. So they need to cooperate with each other.

2.0 Polder Level Activities

During the visit, three polders were visited from 11 May to 14 May 2014. During the visit the following activities have been performed which are shown below in table form.

Date	Polder	Place	Purpose	Remarks
12/05/14 (Morning)	43/2F	Gulishakhali WMA	i. Attended and observed the process of formation of WMC & MC and	They formed a WMC and MC taking two-three members among the selected members from each related WMG. Observations: Some weaknesses were observed in the process of selecting

			<p>gave guidance to the COs.</p> <p>ii. Sharing PWM Rules 2014 for getting feedback from the members of WMGs.</p> <p>iii. No. of members from WMGs who attended the meeting: <u>102</u> (66 male + 36 female).</p>	<p>representatives at the WMG level to the WMC and MC formation meetings. In some cases, COs were not present at the time of selection.</p> <p>It was also observed that in a few cases, Chairman or Secretary or Cashier of WMA were selected at WMG level and sent them to the meeting organized for formation of WMC and MC.</p> <p>Suggestion: At the time of selection of members for formation of WMC, COs were advised to be present and were instructed to plan and divide their tasks more efficiently. Chairman, Secretary and Cashier of WMA should not be included in WMC and MC membership.</p>
Same day, afternoon	43/2B	Suhuri Mini Polder	<p>Attended the community mass meeting for sharing PWM Rules 2014.</p> <p>No. of members of WMGs who attended the meeting: <u>132</u> (67 male + 65 female).</p>	<p>In general, people were happy to register under BWDB since it involves simpler process and they do not have to pay much money for registration and also for audit. The members especially women who attended the meeting were very much interested and eager to strengthen their WMG and form a new Executive Committee.</p> <p>Suggestion: Visit the polder frequently and motivate them to turn their interest into action.</p>
13/05/2014 (Morning)	43/2D	Pokkhia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended WMA meeting for formation of WMC & MC and sharing PWM Rules 2014. No. of members of WMGs attended the meeting: <u>110</u> (76 male + 34 female). 	<p>According to the Cooperative rule, election of new EC of WMG has been completed prior to the issuance of PWM Rules 2014. So, they raised the question that if the WMG is registered under BWDB what will happen about the existing EC. They also think that it will be difficult to increase membership following the 55% of household enrolment policy.</p> <p>Clarification: It was informed that they will have to increase the enrollment of members from at least 55% households of the area. After that they will have to verify in general meeting whether the members want this EC to continue or like to change it. If the members want to change the EC then re-election will be needed.</p>
13/05/2014 (Afternoon)	43/2B	Masuakhali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meeting for 	<p>In general, they are happy to register under BWDB because for them it is</p>

			<p>sharing PWM Rules 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of members of WMGs attended the meeting: 20 (15 male + 5 female). 	<p>simpler to register and they do not have to spend much money in order to get registered and they will avoid paying a lot of money for audit.</p>
14/05/2014	43/2B	Badura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended WMA meeting for WMC and MC formation and sharing PWM Rules 2014. No. of members of WMGs who attended the meeting: <u>20</u> (15 male + 5 female). 	<p>Observation: Due to conflict with two members of the EC, formation of WMC and MC was postponed.</p> <p>Suggestion: Call general members' meeting to address this issue. (Note: at the time of submitting this report, the general meeting was already held and the concerned EC members were removed and replaced with new ones. Formation of WMC and MC also took place during the said meeting).</p>

4. Field Trip Report 24

11 to 20 May 2014 (Khulna)

1.0 Objectives

1. Follow-up and provide guidance to the field staff in implementing WMO strengthening activities and dissemination of Participatory Water Management (PWM) Rules 2014:
 - d) Dissemination meetings at WMG/village level
 - e) Listing and recruitment of potential members per WMG
 - f) Executive Committee (EC) Election of WMGs
2. WMC and Monitoring Committee formation and water management needs assessment meeting in polder 29
3. Visit to polder 22 for ongoing LCSs works
4. Follow-up status of WMG resources inventory

2.0 Team Members:

- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert, Component 1

3.0 Activities, Outputs and Observations

In the Khulna District, 5 polders were visited from 11 May to 19 May 2014. During the visits, all of the strengthening activities and other activities were followed-up and guidance provided to COs. Please see the details in the following table:

Number of the Polders	Activities progress and observations
29	The general members' meeting of Vander Para WMA was held on 11.05.2014. There were 18 female and 32 male WMA members who attended the meeting. Discussed during the meeting are the ff: a) WMC formation process at the catchment level. While preparations are underway to register the WMGs under BWDB, WMCs are being formed to lay the ground for the formation of monitoring committee that will be tasked to monitor quality of works in structures, khals and embankment. Monitoring Committees have to be formed once rehabilitation works get underway. WMC formation is also required at this stage to prepare for needs assessment activity to identify and prioritize water management interventions for implementation next FY; b) status of listing and recruitment of potential WMG members in preparation for new election of Executive Committee (EC) following PWM Rules 2014; and c) discussed new PWM rules 2014. Status of Polder 29 activities: a) Golimari, Ashan Nagar and Sundar Mohole WMCs formation meeting were held on 12-13.05.2014. The formation did not observe fully the procedure for WMC formation because the WMGs did not prepare and pass an official resolution regarding the representatives they selected as members to the WMC. The ZSEs will advise the WMGs to pass the resolution; b) a total of 6 WMCs

	<p>have been formed to date out of target 13 WMC; c) most of the BWDB detailed resource inventory by WMGs have been accomplished; and d) potential WMC member's lists and EC reformation are ongoing. I</p>
30	<p>Participated in Brtti Solua WMC/village need assessment (WMC strengthen) meeting held on 14.05.2014. The village HH number is 96, WMC members are 50 (female 50%) and attendance during the meeting were 23 female and 44 male. In the meeting, stakeholder groups (e.g. farmers, women, fish and landless groups) separately formulated their visions and identified their problems/needs and then prioritized the needs/problems. After which, all groups jointly agreed on their priority problems/needs and ranked these. Finally, an initial village action plan was formulated to address urgent needs/problems which the villagers can address with the help of Blue Gold e.g. WMC strengthening, gender strengthening, maintenance works to undertake). Status of Polder 30 activities: a) most of the BWDB resource inventory are collected for polder 30; b) 3 WMC formed to date out of 11; c) 13 WMGs EC elections were held out of 41; d) potential member's lists are ongoing.</p>
31 part	<p>5 COs are newly appointed and trained. They started community immersion and program dissemination activities through court-yard meetings in the polder. The 1st larger dissemination meeting was conducted at Kharial village under Surkhai Union dated on 17.05.2014. A total of 118 villagers attended the meeting (male 63 & female 55). In the meeting Blue Gold Program, objectives, components and activities were discussed. Ongoing activities are transect walk for polder familiarization, dissemination meetings and identification and listing of potential WMC members for enrolment.</p>
26	<p>Including 2 villages (Kagmari and Zialtala) disseminations meeting were held in the polder. Kagmari village total HH is 143 and in the meeting 78 people were present (male 37 and female 41). Total HH of Zialtala village is 226. In the meeting 46 villagers (male 21 and female 26) attended very actively because the areas are more developed rather than polder 31 part: a) about 60% agriculture land are being irrigated by surface water; b) saline water does not enter the polder; c) many goldha shrimp in gher areas are available. The whole polder area is covered by only one Sluice and because of this and the lack of other drainage structures, water does not drain properly and also main khals are silted. In the polder, both men and women are involved in many activities. During the meeting, we found people involved in different occupations e.g. poultry and livestock farming, tailor, service, small business, BRAC health work etc. COs conducted many disseminations meetings which were satisfactory. WMC formation activities will soon take place once a decision is taken on the basis for planning and boundaries. Catchment area boundaries have to be firmed-up also. Identification of potential women leaders and empowering these to come forward and participate in the WMC formation and elections are on-going activities. Villages maps Have been completed, and disseminations meetings are satisfactory. Potential members listing ongoing.</p>

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LCSs works started on 26 April 2014 and the LCS groups have almost completed their works (see above pictures) with high quality, but the payment is yet to be made.

Recommendations/Advice given to field staff:

1. Potential members list will be completed in the next month, indicating name of household head, main profession, age and other basic information as suggested by Dhaka team.
2. All COs will have to attend in all WMO's regular monthly meeting. They need to sign on attendance book/meeting minutes. The COs will assist the WMG members for keeping and updating records and accounts properly (needs 5days/CO/month)
3. ZSEs will attend the WMC/MC formation Committee with COs.
4. ZSE / Dhaka team will attend catchment basis needs assessment to be conducted in Polder 29 next month and then later followed by Polder 26
5. In Polder 31 (part) Junior SE will initiate women special meetings to disseminate where women should participate and to motivate them to actively participate.
6. In Polder 31 Zonal SEs will attend the information dissemination meetings at polder level
7. In Polder 26, WMG/WMA boundaries need to be finalised. Dhaka team (components 1&2) will take initiative and direction with the ZSEs.

8. In Polder 26, women special meetings will be initiated for identifying key informant/potential women leaders from WMGs boundary
9. In 23 WMGs of 3 polders, elections have been conducted and new EC members have been elected. So, organizational management and leadership training plan will have to be developed and conducted soonest for the new 23 EC members in 23 WMGs with participation of the COs
10. COs will continue their regular activities (WMG need assessment, initial VAP formulation and other strengthening activities e.g listing and enrolment of potential members, assist WMGs in bookkeeping/recordkeeping, etc.)
11. With the permission of Zonal Sr. Socio-economist, COs will coordinate/works with the other components
12. BWDB resources inventory to be completed as soon as possible
13. Documentation of other activities initiated by the WMGs on their own specifically O&M works should be undertaken by the COs.

5. Field Trip Report 25

Duration	:	June 23-26, 2014
Places	:	Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information collection about potential Value Chain Analysis in polder 43/2F. 2. Visit to Borga Chashi Unnayan Project (BCUP) of BRAC in Patuakhali to learn about different products and activities. Also explore the possibilities to link BCUP with WMG's. 3. Exposure visit to DAE -DANIDA FBS in Patuakhali.
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. Abdullah Al-Mamun, BDC, Patuakhali 5. Kazi Mozammel Hoque, BDC, Patuakhali 6. Jhorna Begum, Jr. Gender and IGA Specialist

1. Information collection for potential (Tilapia) Value Chain Analysis in polder 43/2F.

FGD with Pond Owners Dakhhin -Purbo Kalibari, Polder 43/2F

A FGD was arranged at Purbo Kalibari with small pond owners (on average 8-10 dec) to understand present status of aquaculture, constraints and opportunities. The ponds (ditch) are mostly seasonal (about 80%), do not contain effective water level (less than 3 feet) for more than 6-7 months in a year. The ponds generally dry up in December and again get water when Monsoon starts in March-April. These farmers are not commercial farmers. They have limited knowledge about fish farming. They purchase fingerlings from Patilwalas (Hawkers) and culture them mainly for household consumption. They usually do not purchase feed from markets and only provide household residual food to the pond. They mentioned lack of finance, lack of quality input, lack of production knowledge, lack of willingness as main constraints. However, they agreed that there is no shortage of demand for fish. The major types of fish cultivated in the area are Rui, Pangus, Catla, Mrigel, Tilapia, Puti, Molla etc.



KII with Mr. Joyanta Kumar Apu UFO, Amtali & Taltali



He informed that there are about 11000 ponds in Amtali Upazilla. Of the total 70-80% are seasonal. The farmers (30%) who have perennial ponds, 20-30% of them either produce commercially or have intentions to sell surplus production. Commercial farmers generally culture Indian Major Carp, Tilapia, and Pangus etc. Formulated feed is available at

Upazilla level. Large farmers use formulated feed but small farmers generally use household items for fish culture. The small and marginal farmers with small (5-10 dec) seasonal pond can culture GIFT (Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia) with Silver Cup and Sarputi. This will help increase their family nutrition uptake.

**KII with Abdur Razzak Howlader
Sagar Matsya Aroth, Amtali**

We had discussion with Mr. Howlader about fish situation in the area. He collected fish from about 50 agents from around 25 km. He collects fishes like Rui, Catla, Boyal, Baila, Puti, Tengra, Illis, Shing, Magur, Koi, Golda etc. He sends fishes to National markets (Dhaka-Khulna). According to him there is huge demand for Tilapia and other fishes in the area. At present this demand is met by fishes from other regions of the country.

**KII with Mr. Abdul Hamid Skaikh
ADO, World Fish, Patuakhali**

He expressed his view that about 70% ponds of this area are seasonal. These ponds contain water for 6-7 months and effective level of water for only 5 months. He thinks that GIFT Tilapia with few Silver Cup and Sarputi can be cultivated in these small ponds. He voiced that farmers have very little knowledge about stocking density. Locally available fingerlings do not have good quality and farmers usually do not use purchased feed. Commercial farming is feasible with more than 20 dec size pond.

**KII with Mr. Chanchal Howlader
Chanchal Hatchery, Madhabpur, Baufal**

This hatchery is one of the largest in this area. The hatchery owner has about 30 agents and covers 26 upazilla in greater Barisal zone. He had sold about 1 crore pieces of Tilapia spawn last year. This year his target is to sell 1.2 crore pieces. He produces and sales both Monosex and GIFT Tilapia fingerlings. His selling price is Tk. 0.80 per pieces of Tilapia but he charges Tk. 1.00 if he arranges for transportation. His profit margin is at least 50%. He has customer base of 350 for Tilapia. He strongly suggested Tilapia culture for poor farmers. He said that if farmer cannot use feed then stocking density should be 50/ dec, but with some feed density can be 100/ dec.

2. Visit to Borga Chashi Unnayan Project (BCUP) of BRAC in Patuakhali to learn about its products and activities. Also explore the possibilities to link BCUP with WMG's.

BCUP activities cover 9 unions of under Patuakhali sadar. Village Organization (VO) under BCUP is 75, member is 2003, and borrower is 1443 with a disbursement amount of Tk. 7 cr. 66 lac. Majors sectors for loan disbursement were livestock, fisheries, land lease and agro machinery purchase. Formation of new VO is acceptable but in that case at least 1 week lead time will be required for loan receiving. For members of existing VO, only 2 days lead time is required for loan receiving. Loan range is Tk. 15000-30000, the collection process is monthly instalment with a total 11 instalments. Interest rate is 18% reducing method (effective rate is 9%).



We visited a pond of BCUP beneficiary Mr. Md. Shanu Middha at Pangasia. He received loan from BCUP and running successful fish nursery business. We also visited another BCUP beneficiary, Fatema Begum of Ballavpur. She had received Tk. 10000 from BCUP and took lease of land for the first year. She then received Tk. 15000 for next two years after successful repayment of loans. The BCUP loan has played important role in improving her family living standard.

3. Exposure visit to DAE -DANIDA FBS in Patuakhali

We visited DANIDA-DAE FBS pilot activities at Awliapur to learn from farmer business school activities. They have 25 members in FBS. We attended Session 10 (Processing) of FBS. We talked with participants to know about their activities. Some participants could express their learning about FBS. They could recall the benefit of collective action for marketing and getting relatively good price. They have also shown that some of them understood reasons behind price change and functions of different market actors.

6. Field Trip Report 26

July 13 - 17, 2014

1.0 Objectives:

- Firm up WMGs boundaries in polder 26
- Finalize with ZSEs the potential members/leaders' list and attend formation of Ad hoc committee in Polder 26
- Program dissemination and village meeting(s) to discuss WMG boundaries in Polder 31-part
- Program dissemination and firm up WMG boundaries in Polder 2
- Visit Union Parishad(s) in polder 2 for program dissemination

2.0 Team members:

- Showkat Ara Begum, Cooperative Expert
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert

3.0 Activities performed in the field:

In Khulna and Satkhira districts 3 polders were visited from 14th to 16th July 2014. The activities that were carried out during the visit have been described in brief in the following:

3.1 On 14.07.2014 the team attended an Ad-hoc committee formation meeting at Kakmari village in Polder 26

- 155 villagers were present in the meeting; among them 100 were females and 55 males.
- At the beginning of the meeting, the team discussed about Blue Gold Program in short, and about formation procedure of WMG; also discussed clearly about the type and quality of persons that are needed in an Ad-hoc Committee.
- Then the responsibility of forming Ad-hoc Committee was handed over to the Chairman of that occasion, Mr. Krisnapada Mandol..
- The village is divided into two paras – East para and West para. The population in East para is larger than that in West para. So, they decided that three members of Ad-hoc Committee would be selected from East para and two members from West para.
- Accordingly, after a lot of discussion among themselves, they selected Shrikanto Mandol, Sujit Mandol and Basanti Baien from East para and Sarojkanti Sarker and Kabita Mandol from West Para as Ad-hoc Committee members.
- Sujit Mandol was selected by the group as the Coordinator of the Ad-hoc Committee.

Observations:

- Internal communication of Kakmari village is very bad particularly during the rainy season; movement from one para to another para is very difficult due to muddy road.
- Villagers are very much interested in forming WMG, they are cooperative and disciplined.

- A few people from neighbouring villages were also present at the Ad-hoc Committee formation meeting. It was a good opportunity for potential leaders of the neighbouring villages to get experience of Ad-hoc committee formation.

3.2 On 15.07.2014 Morning: The team attended a dissemination meeting in Polder 31 (part)

- 521 villagers were present in the meeting. Among them 224 were males and 297 females.
- The Chairman of Surkhali Union Parishad was present in the meeting.
- Most of the villagers who attended the meeting were landless and flood affected.

The aim and objectives of Blue Gold Program, project area, duration of the project, components of the project, how the components are related with each other, working procedure and other organizations working in the project area were discussed in easy language.

Observations: The villagers are willing to be organized as early as possible because they need flood protection infrastructures. Therefore, listing of potential WMO members needs to be completed as soon as possible.

3.3 On 15.07.2014 Afternoon: The team had a meeting with COs to discuss and plan on preparation for registration of WMGs under BWDB

- **Polder 22:** All WMGs can be presented for BWDB registration. All papers required for registration will be collected and submitted by August 2014.
- **Polder 30:** 15 out of 41 WMGs will be ready for registration by August 2014; and the process of preparing other WMGs for registration will continue.
- **Polder 29:** 10 out of 56 WMGs will be ready for registration by August 2014. Listing of all potential WMO members and EC elections will be completed by 15th October 2014. From 16 October submission of applications for registration will be started.
- **Polder 26:** Listing of all potential WMO members will be completed by 20 August 2014, and then formation of Ad-hoc committees of all WMGs will be completed by September 2014, except for two villages, namely Chingra and Shovana (one is very small village while the other is very large village), where WMG boundaries need to be finalized. All preparations for holding elections will be completed and submission of applications for registration will start by October 2014.
- **Polder 31 (part):** Listing of all potential WMO members of all 14 villages will be completed by August, 2014. Alongside the listing of members, dissemination will be continuing and required number of enrolments will be completed by September, 2014 and preparation for holding elections will be completed by October/November 2014.

3.4 On 16.07.2014 the team visited Polder 2 at Satkhira for information dissemination

A total of 7 Unions (fully/partly) are included in Polder 2. About 60% of the polder area is covered by irrigated high intensive crop cultivation as the underground water is not saline; farmers are using pumps for irrigation. In the remaining area water is saline and mostly covered by shrimp cultivation. It appeared that the population density is low in general and villages are largely scattered. The team visited Budhahata and Fingri Unions, which are fully within the polder. Twenty (20) persons from Budhahata Union, including its Chairman, Mr. Abdul Mannan, and some Members, and 12 persons from Fingri Union, including its Chairman Mohadeb Kumar Gosh came in a meeting with Blue Gold team at Budhahata Union. In the meeting the team explained the aim and objectives of Blue Gold Program, project area, duration of the project, different components of the project, how the components are related with each other, the working procedure and other organizations working in the project area. The participants were

happy to know about the project and they promised to extend all necessary cooperation in Blue Gold activities.

During the visit to this polder, the team took along 2 COs (Bashu Dev Roy and Gashta Bihari Mondol) so that they get acquainted with the polder situation as they will very soon be deployed there. In the meeting the Chairmen of both Unions promised to provide necessary cooperation when required and they offered accommodation for COs at the Union Parishad complexes.

It may be noted here that the survey of water infrastructure, initiated by Component 2, is going on in the Polder.

4.0 Note on irregularities in motor-cycle bills by COs

The team first discussed with Office Manager, Rabiul, the Socio-economists, Jashim Uddin & Umme Asma Khanam, and COs separately.

At first the team sat with the Office Manager and checked all the motor-cycle bills submitted by COs. Team's findings are as follows:

- There were some irregularities in the motor-cycle bills of COs.
- However, those irregularities may not be considered very serious because of the following reasons:
 - a) The COs had lack of knowledge on how to write/record travel information in log-books; they were not trained on that.
 - b) Heading of an important column in the format of the log-book is not clear; so, the COs filled that column according to their own understanding
 - c) There were instances where they had to go several times to different places for some special purposes (e.g. to bring things from shops in compliance with orders of senior colleagues) but they did not record it in the log-books
 - d) Motor cycles were handed over to the COs in the evening without checking and without providing necessary papers
 - e) The motor cycles were purchased 3/4months before they were handed over to COs. During this time those motor cycles were not in operation. As a result, some motor cycles were not taking start or not running properly
 - f) The Guide Books containing instructions for getting services from the company free of cost were not given to the COs.

Lastly, the team discussed with the Office Manager, Socio-economists and COs in a joint meeting and resolved the problem. All agreed on an arrangement for improving the working relationship between office management and COs. After that the bills of COs were paid. The team warned the COs not to do such kind of irregularities in future, to which they agreed.

On 17.07.2014 the team returned to Dhaka by office vehicle

7. Field Trip Report 27

05-08 August 2014 in Patuakhali & 09-11 August 2014 in Khulna

1.0 Objectives:

- Attend WMG general meeting to form Ad hoc committee
- Attend and take part in program dissemination with potential members in Polder 2
- Discuss about new PWM Rules 2014 and by-laws
- Meeting with ZSEs and COs for developing action plan for registration of WMGs
- Follow up the preparation of Polder and WMG Profiles

2.0 : Participants:

- Showkat Ara Begum, Sr.Sociologist/ Cooperative Expert
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert

3.0 : Activities performed in the field:

In Patuakhali District, 3 polders were visited from 5 to 8 August, 2014. During the visit the following activities were carried out:

3.1 **August 5:** Attended the meeting of Chalitabunia WMG at Atharogasia Union Parishad Hall room.

- It is in Polder 43/2B.
- In Algi Chalitabunia village there are 262 households.
- 152 members are enrolled from 150 households. Among them 86 are male and 67 are female. It is about 57% of the total households
- 97 members were present in the meeting among them 11 were the members of Executive Committee.
- Already they have formed a formal executive committee by election.
- Discussion was made about the registration procedure of WMG according to new PWM Rules 2014
- Suggestion was given for submission of necessary papers for registration under BWDB

3.2 **August 6:** the team had a meeting with COs to discuss and plan on preparation for registration of WMGs under BWDB

Polder 43/2A:

- Total 21 out of 22 WMGs listing of potential WMGs members are completed. 9 WMGs EC election are completed they can be presented for BWDB registration. All papers required for registration will be collected and submitted in August 2014. Remaining 13 WMGs Executive Committee (EC) elections will be completed by September/October 2014 for WMGs submission of application to the BWDB for registration.

Polder 43/2D:

- 12 out of 30 WMGs executive committee elections are completed. 6 out of 12 WMGs with EC will submit their applications to the BWDB for registration in August 2014. Remaining 24 WMGs will be ready for registration by September-October 2014; including listing of all potential WMGs members, Ad Hoc committee and EC election. In the same period (September-October), submission of application for registration will be completed.

Polder 43/2E

- Listings of potential members are completed. Only one Ad Hoc committee is formed. Other Ad Hoc committees will be completed in August 2014. WMGs EC election will be completed by September-October 2014. Application for registration will start immediately upon completion of WMG EC election.

Polder 43/2F

- Listings of potential members are completed. In 6 out of 27 WMGs, Ad Hoc committees are formed. In the other 21 WMGs, formation of Ad Hoc committee will be completed in August 2014. EC elections will be completed in September- October 2014. Application for registration will start immediately upon completion of WMG EC election

Polder 43/2B

- Listings of all potential members and formation of Ad Hoc committees are completed. Election of EC will be completed in September-October 2014, then application for registration will follow: in August = 20 WMGs, in September = 5 WMGs and October = 3 WMGs.

Polder 43/1A

- Listings of all potential members are completed. In 8 out of 14 WMGs, Ad Hoc committees are already formed and 7 WMGs EC elections are completed. In September- October 2014, submission of application for registration will start: August = 4 WMGs, September = 1 WMG and October = 9 WMGs.
- In the meeting, the team checked status of WMG, WMA and Polder profiles and it was agreed that all these will be completed on 12.08.2014.

3.3 August 7: (Morning) We attended the special general meeting of Marich Bunia Water Management Group at Imandir Club, East Marichbunia, Polder 43/2D

- In the meeting 195 villagers – Male-100, Female-95 were present
- WMG Chairman chaired the meeting
- He informed that the number of households is 450; number of members is 120 covering only 26% of the households. The team emphasized the need to give important attention on increasing the enrollment of new members
- The highlights of the PWM Rules 2014 were discussed
- After discussion on PWM Rules 2014, the Ad Hoc Committee was formed with 5 members (3 males and 2 females). A Coordinator was selected among the members.

Observations:

- This WMG is very active e.g. Books and records are well maintained, regular collection of savings issuing proper receipts and maintaining personal member pass-book showing the Blue Gold heading and basic WMG information.
- Villagers are very much interested in strengthening their WMG and registering it under BWDB, they are cooperative and disciplined.
- Attendance of members in the meeting was 120 out of 192 members

3.4 August 7: (Afternoon) We attended the special general meeting of Gojkhali WMG at Gulishakhali Union Parishad Hall room, Polder 43/2F

- In Gojkhali village there are 320 households.
- The number of enrolled members of Gojkhali Water Management Group is 104. It is about 45% of the total households.
- 232 potential members were present in the meeting.
- Discussion was made about the PWM Rules 2014 and procedure of formation of new Executive Committee
- An Ad-hoc Committee was formed by the potential members present in the meeting
- Members of Ad-hoc Committee are: (1) Shahidul Islam (Coordinator), (2) Gita Rani Howlader, (3) Abdul Awal Selim, (4) Nizam Haider and (5) Anowara Begum.
- Suggestion was given to the newly formed Ad-hoc Committee to increase the enrollment of membership to cover at least 55% households and take initiative to form an Election Committee and complete the election within 2 months.

3.5 August 8: (morning) Attended special general meeting of Mashuri kathi WMG at Uttar Mashuri Ebtadaee Madrasha, Polder 43/2B.

- Mr. Shah Alam Howlader, the newly elected Chairman of the WMG chaired the meeting.
- Discussion was made on PWM Rules 2014 in detail
- The Chairman reported that the number of households of this village is 248 and the number of members of this WMG is 140, covering about 56% of the households which qualifies them now to register the WMG under BWDB.
- It was decided that all necessary papers for registration will be submitted in August 2014.

August 8: (afternoon), team travelled from Patuakhali to Khulna

3.6 August 9: Attended meeting of Executive Committee of Andharia Khejuretala WMG in Polder 30.

- The number of Households in this village is 196 and number of members is 114 (Male 71, female 43)
- EC Election completed and all records/accounts are updated and clearly written
- In the meeting, a Farm Machinery operator was also present and the Chairman explained that they charge Tk. 1600/acre as tilling rate and the rate of renting thresher machine is Tk. 200.00 per hour or for threshing 1000 bundles of paddy, 5 bundles will be given as rent. They also informed that thresher machine is still defective after repair from FAO. They mentioned that if the thresher machine would work well then they would be more benefitted
- It was also decided that as soon as possible they will submit application for registration because presently enrolled members is 73% of total households.
- The chairman mentioned that he received Tk 500.00 for fish feed for 30 decimal pond as a model fish farmer from Comp-3. Another member also informed that his wife likewise received Tk. 1200.00 as a model farmer for repair of cow shed + vitamin + other tablets, 25 kg molasses, 1.8kg fertilizer (urea) and Tk.500.00 for planting of Napier grass under the cow fattening program of Blue Gold. They expressed their dissatisfaction because the inputs given are not sufficient to implement properly the cow fattening/ fish culture activities.

Observation: The WMG members are not fully aware about this program under Comp-3. It will be useful to execute a simple agreement on paper with selected model farmers stipulating clearly the terms and conditions for providing the inputs.

3.7 August 10: We attended the dissemination meeting in Polder 2 at Gobindapur (Natana para) village of Satkhira District.

- Gobindapur village is divided into three paras -1) Natana, 2) Bidukhali and 3) Ramanandopur
- The total number of HH is 94 (Natana-35, Bidukhali-28 and Ramanandopur -31)
- About 250 villagers were present in the meeting. Most of them are landless and two-third is female.
- Discussion was held on Project objectives, area and component-wise activities. The team enquired about the village situation and they informed that they are suffering a lot with water logging and their agricultural production is greatly reduced.
- The NGO Sushilon worked in this village for about 2 years (2008-2010) and they took initiative to dig the canal
- Marichap river is fully silted up. District Administration took initiative to excavate the Marichap river and 10 kilometers of this river was excavated.
- After excavation of some portion, the villagers got some relief from water logging for some time. Again the canals and river are being silted up and water logging situation is being aggravated.
- The villager’s utmost need is excavation of canals and rivers in order to allow flow of water through Ichhamati river.
- At the end of the meeting, women present in the meeting approached the team and insisted on writing their names requesting earnestly to give them earth work.
- A total of 8 Unions (some partly covered) are included in Polder 2. About 60% of the polder area is covered by irrigated high intensive crop cultivation as the underground water is not saline; farmers are using pumps for irrigation. In the remaining area water is saline and mostly covered by shrimp cultivation. It appeared that the population density is low in general and villages are largely scattered.

The following table shows the no. of Unions, Villages and HHHs included in polder 2 based on data collected during the meeting.

Unions	No. of Villages	No. of Households	Remarks
Budhahata	24	7151	Fully included in the Polder
Fingri	16	5783	Fully included in the Polder
Labsa	13	5606	13 out of 14 villages
Bhrama Rajpur	18	4643	Partly included
Dhulyhor	21	5103	Most of the part
Kullya	1	650	Only one village
Bolli	1	700	Only one village
Nagarghat	1	42	Partly included
Total:	95	29678	

- Observed major water management problems in Polder 2: i) Betna and Morischap rivers are silted up. Southern part of Betna river is still active and most of the polder water drains into this river; ii) the main drainage channels e.g. Aman Khali khal (with 3 vents sluices) and Hajikhali khal (with 2 vents sluices) need to be re-excavated specifically the area under the Chandpur Bridge where the elevation of bridge bed is 5 feet higher than the channel bed. The bridge may need to be reconstructed.

3.8 August 11 (Morning): We attended the meeting at Balabunia organized for formation of Ad hoc Committee

- The total number of households is 120 and number of potential members is 363 (Female - 163, Male -200)
- There is a small segregated part nearer to this village namely Gopal Nagar where there are only 8 households. The number of potential members is 12.
- Discussed also PWM Rules 2014 and in detail informed them on Ad Hoc Committee formation after which, the Ad Hoc Committee was formed with 5 members. They also decided on the new name of their WMG: Balabunia Gopal Nagar Water Management Group. Lastly, they decided on the amount of monthly savings, admission fee and miscellaneous

3.9 August 11 (Afternoon): The team discussed with the Socio-economists about the plan of registration of WMGs of the following polders of Khulna Zone under BWDB Plan:

- **Polder 22:** From all WMGs of this polder, all papers required for registration will be collected and submitted in August 2014.
- **Polder 30:** 15 out of 41 WMGs will be ready for registration in August 2014; and the process of preparing other WMGs for registration will continue.
- **Polder 29:** 10 out of 56 WMGs will be ready for registration in August 2014. Listing of all potential WMO members and EC elections will be completed by 15th October 2014. From 16 October, submission of applications for registration will start.
- **Polder 26:** Listing of all potential WMO members will be completed by 20 August 2014, and then formation of Ad-hoc committees of all WMGs will be completed by September 2014, except for two villages, namely Chingra and Shovana (one is a very small village while the other is a very large village), where WMG boundaries need to be finalized. All preparations for holding elections will be ready in October and submission of applications for registration will start in November 2014.
- **Polder 31 (part):** Listing of all potential WMO members of all 14 villages will be completed in August 2014. Alongside the listing of members, dissemination will be continuing and required number of enrolments will be completed in September 2014 and preparation for holding elections will be completed by October/November 2014.

On August 12, 2014 the team left Khulna for Dhaka by project car.

8. Field Trip Report 28

FTR # 28, 2014

Duration	:	August 27-30, 2014
Places	:	Sirajgonj, Natore and Kushtia
Objective	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect information about Sesame Seed and crude oil national market actors. 2. Validate previously collected information and reformulate value chain map.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 8. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert

1. Sesame seed and crude oil national market actors.



Shahjadpur, Sirajgonj: We visited Dwariapur Bazar to collect information about Sesame production, Sesame crude oil processing mills, backward and forward linkages to Sesame export market. In Shahjadpur area we collected information from Mr. Amzad Hossain, owner of **Nabin Oil Mill** (Sesame and Mustard oil processor). His mill has the capacity of processing 25 mounds Sesame per day.

Ullapara, Sirajgonj: We visited Bakua and Srikhola area of Ullapara based on the information we collected from Dwariapur bazaar. There are about 30-40 Sesame oil producing mills in this area. Capacity range is between 25 mounds and 100 mounds per day. Seed to oil conversion rate is 12-14 kg oil from 40 kg seed. Mr. Akmal Chairman is the largest processor of Sesame oil. Sesame oil is sold to Indian buyers. They supply oil tanks (Oil carrier trucks called tank Lorries) in Benepole area close to Indian border. One such lorry can carry 12,500 kg of oil. Rent is around Tk. 20,000-23,000. Payment is received in cash. We also talked with Mr. Abdul Goni and Mr. Ratan of **M/s. Milon Oil Mill**, big processor and indirect exporter of crude oil. They collect 60-70% of Sesame from outside Sirajgonj district (from districts like Kushtia, Jhainaidaha, Jessore, Faridpur, Rajbari, Khulna, Barisal, Natore, Panchagarh, Comilla etc.)

We visited **Dream Integrated Agro Complex Ltd** at Koira bazaar. They dry and clean Sesame as per importer's specification. They supply one truck of Sesame to Chittagong for export to China. They have automated drying and cleaning machines. They supply at 10-12% moisture level. They collect 85% of Sesame from outside Sirajgonj area. Their export can be divided as 75% red, 15% black and 10% white (yellow?) Sesame seed. Chinese importers have good market information regarding product price and quality in different



Bangladeshi markets. They set export price giving a little premium for their service!

Sirajgonj Sadar: We visited **M/s. Sirajgonj Oil Mill** and talked with Mr. Rafiqul Islam. He informed that Sesame produced in Kazipara area comes to Sirajgonj market. There are 2 processing mills in Sirajgonj, 6 mills in Kashiaghata, and 5/6 mills in Kazipur line. These are usually mills with 25 mounds to 100 mounds capacity. Usually, these mills produce crude oil based on demand from big collectors, in this case, big purchasers based in Ullapara.

Based on the information provided by Mr. Rafiqul, we visited **Ms. Master Oil Mill** at Pachlia and talked with its owner Mr. Khokon. He collects Sesame seed from Ullapara and Tangail. His processing capacity is 60 mound per day. He collects from two large beparies. His processing charge is around Tk. 100 per 40 kg. He has connection with Dhaka based exporter and his export lot is generally 10 MT to 20 MT.

Bagatipara, Natore: We visited **Golden Agro** at Bagatipara and talked to its owner Mr. Anisur Rahman. He is processing oil for last two years. His buyers are based in India. They contact him, agree on quality of the product and place purchase order. He produces oil and sends those to Benepole area. This year Indians are offering low prices, so he has stopped producing Sesame oil. He uses oil cake as fish feed. He collected Sesame from the surrounding areas. But if required he collects them from Kaliganj of Jhenaidaha district.

Tebaria Hat, Natore: We visited **Asha Oil Mill** and talked with Mr. Nazmus Hassan. He is now exporting seed to China via a buyer from Chittagong, **M/s. Saddle Peak**. According to the Executive Director of Saddle Peak, they need a moisture level of 7-8%, purity of 99%, admixture 1%, Mixed colour 3%, FA 2% for export of Red Sesame. He also needs phytosanitary certificate from DAE. His consignment size is 60-200 MT. His term for export is generally FoB SingXang, China.



Lahini Bottala, Kushtia: We visited **Abdullah Ago Food Product Ltd.** and talked with Mr. Anwar Hossain Chairmen. He is self proclaimed pioneer of Sesame export from Bangladesh with support from Mr. Belayet of Global Agro of Dhaka. According to him, Sesame export has started for last six years. This year importers are offering low price and seed market has increased many fold, so he is reluctant to produce oil. Many oil processors are not producing oil due to the same reason. According to his estimate Bangladesh produced 80,000 to 100,000 MT of Sesame Seed (which is much

higher than FAO estimate). Over 3000 trucks (1 truck =15000 kg) Sesame seed alone is produced in Kushtia-Jhenaidaha, Faridpur, Jessore region. He also thinks that 80% Sesame goes to market in peak season (changes hand from farmer) and only 20% remains with farmers for a few months.

We visited an export oriented Sesame drying and cleaning mill in the same area. The mill is currently run by Mr. Sher Ali Molla. This place is the birth place of Sesame export from Bangladesh. Mr. Molla is also exporting seed via buyers from Chittagong.

BaroBazar, Kushtia: We met Hazi Felu Mia, owner of Kushtia Khaddo Vander and discussed his Sesame seed export activities. He has been exporting Seed via 10-12 exporters based in Dhaka and Chittagong. He supplies two trucks of seed after drying and cleaning to Chittagong every day in the peak season that lasts for 3 months. Export bags are generally 50kg. Most of the time exporter supplies the bags. Milling charge is around Tk. 30 per 40 kg. The exporter generally makes some advance after placing supply order. According to him Black Sesame has the highest demand and price in export market followed by white (yellow) and then red.



2. Validate previously collected information and reformulate value chain map.

This visit helped us validate information collected earlier. This visit also in some cases enhanced our knowledge about forward linkage (seed and oil exporters) of Sesame value chain. Information collected from this visit will be used in the Sesame Value Chain Analysis report.

9. Field Trip Report 29

Duration	:	September 6-12, 2014
Places	:	Khulna (Polder 22 & 30)
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To facilitate pilot training of WMG on Efficient use of Agri-machinery. 5. To validate information collected for preparing PDP (P-30). 6. To provide guideline for information collection for preparing poultry value chain analysis report. 7. To visit important actors and collect information about their functions.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 10. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 11. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert

1. UP orientation program at Gangarampur UP (Polder 30).

We attended an UP orientation program at Gangarampur UP with Blue Gold staff. It was a very good interactive program where participants showed interest in project implementation activities. UP Chairman, Members, WMA President were present in the program.

2. Pilot training of WMG on Efficient use of Agri-machinery (Polder 22).

Two pilot training programs were organized at Deluti UP meeting room for members of Gopipagla WMG and Durgapur WMGs on Efficient Use and Management of Agricultural Machinery. The two day long training program for each WMG covered both management aspects and proper ways of record keeping of agriculture machinery operated by WMGs. The training programs were organized by the Training team of Blue Gold. Sessions were conducted by C-4 staff. The training programs were appreciated by the participants.



3. To validate information collected for preparing PDP (Polder-30).

We visited Batiaghata bazar, the most important market for Sesame in the area. We discussed with Sesame forward linkage actors (Koilee, Faria, Bepari and agent) and validated information on Sesame value chain.



4. Guidelines for information collection for preparing poultry value chain analysis report (Polder 22)

All the staff of component - 4 had a meeting and evaluated information collected so far on poultry value chain for preparing a detailed report. Directions were provided regarding FDG and KII procedures, information gap and a draft plan for collecting information.

5. Important value chain actors (Polder 22 & 30)

We organized two FGDs at Fulbari and at Bigordana villages with female farmers in polder 22 and collected information to prepare Poultry (hen & duck) value chain analysis report.



We arranged KII with important actors of poultry value chain in polder 22. We interviewed one egg (local) collector at Bigordana, one LSP at Fulbari and one chicken Faria at Fulbari area. We also interviewed one vegetable aggregator at Deluti village under polder 22.



Detailed findings from FGDs and KIIs will be compiled in FGD and KII reports as well as will be reflected in value chain analysis report.

10. Field Trip Report 30

Sept. 7-22, 2014

1.0 Objectives:

- Attend training sessions on operation and management of agricultural equipments given by FAO organized at Deluti Union Parishad Conference Hall.
- Interview and selection of Local Facilitators for Polder 31 part and Polder -2
- Meetings with ZSE and COs for assessment of field activities and updating plan of action; review existing Accounts keeping system in WMGs and orientation on Accounts Keeping system that will be maintained in future
- Take action for firming up boundaries of WMGs in Polder -26
- Initiatives for reforming WMAs in Polder 30
- Check on progress of community mobilization activities in Polders -31 part and Polder 2
- Participate in informal meetings with Union Parishad Chairmen and Ward members and other key informants in Polder 2
- Follow up the progress of WMG registration application

2.0 Team members:

- Victoria Pineda,(Component Leader) Community Mobilization and Institutional Strengthening
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert
- John Marandy, Senior Socio-Economist (who joined only on Sept 13-19, 2014)
- Showkat Ara Begum, Sr. Sociologist/ Cooperative Expert

3.0 Activities Conducted:

On 8.09.2014: Showkat and Asma attended the training course on Operation and Maintenance of Agricultural Equipments given by FAO organized by Component -4 at Deluty Union Parishad Conference Hall.

Observation: Three experts of Component -4 nicely facilitated the business prospects of Agricultural Equipments and Accounts Keeping procedure.

The participants expressed that the Accounts Keeping procedure that has been taught will be difficult for them.

On 08.09.2014: Shorab and Jashim visited Horinkhola WMG of polder 22. The total number of households of that village is 363. 150 members were enrolled in WMG. The WMG arranged a meeting for discussing the issues related to preparation of application for getting registration under BWDB. In the meeting, the Chairman of WMG Susanta Kumar Das and Secretary Palash Kanti Roy expressed their frustration about the activities in the area. They enumerated the following: a) they were frustrated that many of their water management needs were not addressed during IPSWAM project; b) they stated that Solidaridad (SaFaL) formed a separate group consisting of 47 people within the same WMG boundary without consulting them and that the Solidaridad staff provided BDT 20-30 to those who attended the

meeting. They asked why they are not getting anything when they attend in Blue Gold meetings, they said they are losing interest in attending future meetings; and c) a poor WMG member Nikhil Mondol and his wife Mithu Rani Mondol complained that their cow died due to 'Cow Fattening Program of Blue Gold program. They claimed they received urea and molasses from the program as prescribed food for cow fattening but they did not get the instruction properly about the proportion of urea that should be given to the cow. They assumed that the cow died due to consumption of too much fertilizer (Urea). Anyway, in the meeting the team tried hard to motivate them and apologized for this incident and promised that program staff will be more careful in future activities. The team then discussed about the WMG registration procedures of BWDB and its effectiveness. After long discussion, members of WMG promised very soon they will take action and prepare application for WMG registration with BWDB.

On 09.09.2014 (morning): The team (Shorab, Showkat and Jashim) visited Bakultala Water Management Group for the purpose of motivating the Executive Committee to enroll new members from at least 55% households of the village. The number of households of that village is 174 and the number of existing members is 60. There is a need to increase the enrolment of new members. They had some queries about increasing the membership. We discussed those issues and encouraged them to enroll more members. They promised that they would enroll new members from at least 80% households within 2 or 3 months.

Observations on WMG performance: The amount of share and savings of this WMG's was Tk.3, 27,000. They invested Tk. 2, 60,000 among both members and non members as a micro credit. They charge an interest rate of Tk. 30 per Tk. 1000. This means that Tk 30 is charged on the amount remaining (per Tk 1000) every time one pays his/her loan instalment throughout the loan repayment period. The loan repayment period is one year. In this manner, amount of interest being paid gradually decreases, but the interest rate is still very high. The villagers got credit easily at lower interest rate from the WMG. So, the villagers did not take credit from the NGOs and money lenders. So, Proshika winded up their activities and money lenders also stopped their activities in this area.

From this WMG, Tusher Golder provides his service as a Gate keeper of Bakultala sluice till now. The WMG is actively involved in operation and maintenance of water management infrastructures.

This WMG received agricultural equipment from FAO/DAE. This year their gross profit is Tk.25, 000 from renting out the equipment. Depreciation cost of the machineries is not yet included in profit computation. The training by Component 4 on proper operation and management of FAO agricultural equipment will be conducted soon in this WMG.

On 09.09.2014 (afternoon): The team also visited DKB (Dhanibunia, Kanaidanga, Bitti Kanaidanga) WMG to motivate them for enrolling new members covering at least 55% households. The number of households is 178 and the number of existing members is 47. There is a need to enroll new members from at least 55% households. After discussion they agreed to enroll new members and form Ad –hoc Committee.

On 10.09.2014: The team (Showkat and Asma) visited Kismat Fultala WMG of Polder -30 to check up the Records and Accounts Keeping system and activities of that WMG.

Observations:

- Monthly meeting of Executive Committee of Kismat Fultala WMG is held regularly.
- Savings are being collected regularly.
- Records and Accounts are being kept regularly but not in proper way.
- Enrolment of new members is going on but at a slow pace
- There is no record of inputs/equipment which they have received from different sources.

Needs for improvement:

- Enroll new members from at least 55% of households
- General ledger needs to be maintained
- Not more than Tk.500 cash-in-hand should be kept

- Hold Annual General Meeting in time
- They should keep record of who (members of WMG) have received training on what issues/ subjects from which organizations
- The profit/loss from agricultural equipment (given by FAO) should be kept in proper way and depreciation cost should be included.

On 10.09.2014: The team (Shorab and Jashim) visited Sukhdara West of Polder 30 to find out the problems of forming new Executive Committee. The main problem of forming new committee is the conflict between two WMG leaders for control over the FAO agricultural equipment. The village is divided into two paras. Hindu population live in large para and the Muslim population live in comparatively small para. In IPSWAM period EC members of WMG were elected from the larger para and later, the committee received FAO machineries. At present the machineries are being used for IGAs purpose. The leaders of the two paras decided by themselves to form two WMGs separately and it will be formed on the basis of Hindu and Muslim inhabitants of two paras. But general Hindu and Muslim population of both paras do not like to form two separate WMGs in the same village because they are to depend on each other for their livelihood. But in the meeting they did not raise their voice because most of them are poor and were reluctant to talk. After the meeting they requested the Blue Gold team members not to form two WMGs in the same village because the two paras will be divided into two Groups (Hindi-Muslim) and general people will be affected. Blue Gold team requested the leaders of both the paras to try and resolve the conflict through discussion with the villagers. If necessary invite the leaders of WMA/local elites/UP Chairman/Upazila Chairman to solve the problems. Members from Blue Gold will cooperate and provide all kind of support to create favourable environment for discussion.

On 11.09.2014: The team (Vicki, Shorab and Showkat) visited Shovna Union Parishad to help firm up the boundary of WMGs.

The village Shovna is divided into three parts: (1) West Shovna, (2) Middle Shovna and (3) East Shovna. West Shovna is in Ward -1, the number of households is 800; Middle Shovna is in Ward -2, the number of households is 600 and East Shovna is in Ward -3, the number of households is 521

The Chairman of Shovna Union Parishad was present in the meeting. More than 200 hundred people of three parts of Shovna village were present in the meeting.

After a lot of discussion considering all the criteria (e.g. number of households and potential WMG members, how and where they drain water, natural and administrative boundaries), it was decided that a total 6 WMGs will be formed (2 WMGs in each Ward).

On 11.09.2014: The team (Vicki, Shorab and Showkat) interviewed candidates for the post of Local Facilitators for polder 31 part (in Zonal Office Khulna). Thirteen candidates were interviewed. Among the candidates, five were selected.

On 12-13.09.2014: The team (Vicki, Shorab, Showkat and Jashim) moved to Satkhira. After reaching Satkhira, interviewed 20 candidates for selecting Local Facilitators for polder 2 (in Fingri Union Parishad). After interviewing, 12 candidates were selected. But since many of them came from the same village and no candidates came from some villages or nearby villages, it was decided to get candidates from the other villages.

On 14.09.2014: The team (Vicki, Shorab, Showkat and Jashim) with Aziz and Saiful of Component 2 visited Bodhipur Taltal to identify the demarcation line of municipality area under polder 2.

The team went to the municipal office and met with the Mayor and discussed with him about the Blue Gold Program and asked him about the water management situation in this area. He gave a contact number of a person (Nazirul Islam Bakul) who can give us the present situation.

The team members met with the contact person and discussed with him about the situation. Though the old Satkhira is under municipality area, their main source of livelihood is agriculture. So, big and marginal farmers have much interest and are eager to solve the problems of water logging.

In the afternoon two members of the team (Vicki and Showkat) moved from Satkhira to Khulna and the other two members stayed in Satkhira to work together with Enamur Rahman, Chief Agronomist, BWDB.

On 15.09.2014: The team (Vicki, and Showkat) attended the dissemination meeting at Surkhali Union Parishad Campus, under Ward 4. There are 4 villages in this Ward 1) Raipur 2) Bhagabatipur 3) Takimari and 4) Surkhali . About 300 people of these villages were present in the meeting and about 50% of them were women. The Chairman of the Union Parishad was also present in the meeting. The people appreciated and liked the name of the Program Blue Gold. They were very much interested to form the WMG as early as possible.

On 15.09.2014: (The team members from Blue Gold were Shorab and Jashim)

A meeting was held in Satkhira BWDB O&M Division. Shahidul Islam, Executive Engineer, O&M Division, BWDB, Satkhira chaired the meeting. Enamur Rahman, Chief Agronomist, Planning-III, BWDB, Dhaka and the representatives from Component 1 & 2 (Aziz and Saiful Islam) of Blue Gold Program attended the meeting. In the meeting, discussion was made about the overall Blue Gold activities, WMG formation process, steps and status of WMGs formation activities in Polder 2. The XEN informed that the location of possible earth works (by LCS) is in northern part of the polder (Dulihor and Brahama Rajpur Unions) of Polder 2. So, there is an urgent need to form WMGs in those locations (villages) and get BWDB registration. The XEN mentioned that he will inform officially the LCSs locations. In the meeting, the Chief Agronomist discussed about the WMOs formation according to the new PWM rules.

After the meeting, the team members went to Simul Baria village to attend the information dissemination meeting. About 130 villagers participated in the meeting but most of the participants were women perhaps because of their interest for getting earth work. About 40 farmers also attended the meeting and they actively participated in the meeting. Chief Agronomist discussed in detail Blue Gold activities, WMOs formation process and their roles in water management in the polder.

On 16.09.2014: A brief meeting was held in Gava village at Fingri Union of Satkhira. 38 male and 6 female villagers were present and actively participated in the meeting. Representatives of C -1 and Chief Agronomist discussed with the villagers about project objectives, process and steps of WMOs formation and water management. The villagers told that the water logging situation in the area is very serious. From this area water cannot drain out because channels and river bed have been raised due to siltation and water logging problems are becoming worse day by day. In the meeting the villagers requested to XEN and Blue Gold personnel to solve the problems. In the same day, the team visited Budahata Union Parishad and attended their monthly regular meeting. In the meeting most of the UP members and UP Chairman were present and Blue Gold team were introduced with them and discussed about the Blue Gold program.

On 14-17.09.2014: John attended a training of COs in Khulna on the use of electronic device (tablet) using ODK program for data collection from 14 to 16 September 2014. The M&E team had developed progress markers in Bangla and installed them in tablets. The COs were able to use the tablets (and enjoyed) in collecting information through them.

John attended the workshop on Organizational Management Training for WMGs in Patuakhali on 19-20 September 2014. The participants of the workshop included a team of training experts, who will be engaged to conduct training on Organizational Management for WMGs. The team appeared to be experienced and capable of conducting this training.

On 16-17.09.2014: The team (Showkat and Vicki) worked in the Zonal Office at Khulna on the following tasks:

- Gave support to the ZSEs in managing/organizing the application files of 78 WMGs for registration.
- Discussed with the ZSEs about problems they encountered in the field and gave them guidance on how to address the problems
- Prepared notes/guide for COs in conducting program dissemination/information campaign

- Gave advice to the ZSEs how to keep their files in systematic manner and what they will display in the VIPP Board.
- Finalized agenda for Staff Development Meeting: Work responsibility of COs and Local Facilitators; Formation of WMOs (three tiers); Present Accounts Keeping System in WMGs; M&E report; PDP, PAP and VAP formulation steps for preparation and role of COs; Guide in conducting program dissemination/information campaign.

On 18.09.2014: The team conducted a staff development meeting with COs and Zonal Socio-Economists (ZSEs) as per agenda. Major constraints in assisting the WMGs in preparing their registration application documents were discussed specifically in 4 WMGs of Polder 30. It was remarkable that all 56 WMGs in Polder 29 have completed their registration application files prior to the staff development meeting. The COs assigned in this Polder were commended on their effort.

On 21.09.2014: John joined the Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader in a meeting of Purba Keowabunia WMG in Polder 43/1A and a meeting of Chhota Auliapur WMG in Polder 43/2D.

The WMG Purba Keowabunia meeting was attended by about 300 villagers, both men and women. There was a conflict going on between a small group of people led by the ex-Vice Chairman of the (DoC registered) WMG who are opposing (re-)formation of WMG under BWDB and the majority of villagers who support the (re-)formation of WMG. The intention of the group that is trying to maintain WMG with DoC registration appeared to be ‘retaining control the FAO-given agricultural machineries’ in few hands to maximize profit from them. Blue Gold team tried to explain that there is a need to reorganize the WMG in view of the PWMR 2014 requiring bigger membership and they should all come under the reformed WMG so that BWDB can work with them. Blue Gold team reiterated the need for unity among the villagers.

At Chhota Auliapur, the Blue Gold team met some members of Chhota Auliapur WMG, who had come for their monthly meeting. The WMG informed the team that they are facing the problem of drainage congestion in that area. They mentioned that water of a large area drains through Taktakhali sluice, and they feel that the sluice is rather small to drain water of such a vast area.

Vicki, Shorab and Showkat travelled back to Dhaka on September 19, 2014 while John Marandy arrived back in Dhaka on September 23, 2014.

11. Field Trip Report 31

Duration	:	September 20-25, 2014
Places	:	Patuakhali (Polder 43/2D & 43/2F)
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. To facilitate pilot training of Business Idea Generation (BIG) Curriculum at FFS level. 9. To validate information collection for preparing Tilapia Value Chain analysis report. 10. To visit important actors and collect information about their functions.
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanvir Islam, DCL - ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Development Expert - Shusanto Roy, BDC, Khulna - Md. Shamim Alom, BDC, Khulna

1. Pilot training of Business Idea Generation (BIG) Curriculum at FFS level.

Two pilot training sessions were facilitated at Patuakhali, and North Bazar Ghona (polder 43/2D) with Business Idea Generation (BIG) Curriculum with FFS members. The training sessions on BIG were divided into two parts and were delivered in two days. In the first day, the first part of BIG was delivered at Patuakhali and then again repeated at North Bazar Ghona. Similarly, second part was delivered on the following day.



Mr. Wadud, the consultant observed the proceedings. The component leader and deputy component leader of C-3 along with other experts were present at the pilot sessions. Business Development Coordinators of component 4 conducted the sessions. The training programs were organized by the training team of Blue Gold.



Participants expressed that the BIG training has initiated new ways of thinking about their income generating activities. They have learned to analyse constraints to find a business solution that can lead to more income.

Feedback from different stakeholders will be considered before rolling-out the BIG training program at FFS/WMG level.

2. Tilapia Value Chain analysis report

A staff meeting was arranged to discuss information collected so far for preparing the Tilapia value chain analysis report. Attended a FGD with Tilapia value chain actors, namely nursery and spawn & fingerling traders at polder 43/2F. Information collected at this FGD will be used in the Tilapia value chain analysis report.



3. Coordination meeting with Component 3 staff

Attended a coordination meeting with component 3 staff at Blue Gold office and discussed about how inputs can be provided to FFS in a more efficient way. It was decided that using existing market channels is always good if it is available. Least market distortion is desirable. Due to limited time sometimes project staff needs to intervene. It was decided that Comp 3 and 4 will jointly make a list of existing input traders inside the polder and evaluate their viability and try to engage them in supply chain.

At the meeting the 'Value Chain Selection Matrix' was explained to Comp 3 staff by BDC Khulna. How the matrix was used in each polder to ensure unbiased selection of value chain was described at the meeting.

4. Important actors and their functions.

Visited Alipur and arranged KII with dry fish traders with a view to assess feasibility of linking small Tilapia farmers with fish feed raw material sources. The information collected through two KII with dry fish traders will be included in the value chain analysis report.

12. Field Trip Report 32

Duration	:	28 September – 02 Oct 2014
Places	:	Jessore, Narail & Kaliganj (Jhinaidaha)
Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. To visit South-West project activities and learn about ongoing IGA as well as credit and saving functions. 12. To visit WorldFish project activities to learn about HH pond fish culture. 13. To visit fish hatchery/and nursery and collect information about supply chain to Blue Gold area. 14. To visit Kaligonj, largest sesame supply area, for discussions with actors.
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Tanvir Islam, Deputy Component Leader, C-4 13. Dr. Shamsul Huda, Fisheries Expert, C-3 14. ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Expert 15. Md. Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert

1. South-West project activities, ongoing collective business activities and credit and saving functions.

We visited two WMCS under South-West project at Narail district to learn about ongoing collective business activities and credit and saving functions. First we went to Trimohoni Water Management Co-operative Society (WMCS) situated at Khalishakhali, Gobra, under Narail Sadar upazila. It is a WMCS formed in the third phase of project life with 213 members. Their total capital is Tk. 6,44,483 (Share: Tk. 64850, Savings: Tk.1,42,770, O&M: Tk. 50733, Others: Tk. 3,86,130). Collectively the WMCS has purchased land worth Tk. 2,24,100 and erected an office building on it with support from the project. They have planned to create a village market centre for agricultural product adjacent to the office building. The assumption behind this is to ensure better price for vegetable producers. They wish to accumulate good quality vegetable from the member producers and establish links to actors in upper value chain for better price. This year, as collective action, they have taken lease of a land and mortgaged it to members for agricultural production.

We had the opportunity to discuss their record keeping procedures and observe documents. We have collected samples of the different registers. They seemed to follow DoC process.



Then we visited Kalmilata WMCS at Dhopakholā, Ratanganj under Narail Sadar upazila. This WMCS has 119 members. It is a first phase WMCS. This WMCS has an interesting collective action history. Their collective actions started with a large pond with fish culture with seed money (in the form of demonstration) and technology provide by South West project. According to them, this had encouraged them to go for collective actions in other areas. So far they have invested in seed production (rice), sewing machines, irrigation infrastructure, honey production, medicinal plant garden etc. It seemed that they have linkage with other ongoing development projects. They could successfully link with different donors and enjoyed fund, equipment and technology. For collective action, they followed a simple method. First of all they develop a project (like fish culture). They estimate total cost involved with it and then offer shares to its members. The shareholding members can take 80% of the profit from their investment and 20% will be given to WMCS fund. The O & M fund should receive 20% of WMCS income from collective business and other income.

2. WorldFish project activities with HH pond fish culture.

We had a meeting with WorldFish staff and talked about their experience in the region with small scale seasonal HH ponds. They have different combinations of fish culture with different types of HH. They are prescribing Carp/Silver(2/6) or Bata (25/30)-Tilapia(125 pcs)-Molla (100gm) in 10 decimal ponds. For shaded ponds with 3-6 dec, they prescribed Magur-Tilapia (still under research but seems very promising). They also advocated vegetable cultivation on the pond embankment. They strongly suggested three year demonstration for good result and effective technology transfer. Without this an effective systemic change is not possible.

We also had a meeting with AIN project staff of WorldFish at Jessore. They are working on improving brood and spawn of different fishes including Tilapia. They explained their methodology and also assured us about linking with good quality Tilapia brood and spawn sources if we wish to receive their support.

Based on their experience in Patuakhali, they suggested promoting Tilapia with Silver cup and Puti in small seasonal ponds where farmers have limited financial ability.

3. Fish hatchery/nursery about supply chains for the Blue Gold area.

We visited largest fingerling market in Bangladesh situated at Chachra, Jessore. Tilapia fingerling with a size of 2" can be purchased at Tk. 0.80 to 1.00 per piece. Transportation cost from Jessore to Patuakhali is Tk. 18,000 per truck. A truck can carry 30-36 barrels; each barrel can contain 15 kg of Tilapia fingerling. Generally one labourer is required for each barrel to ensure aeration (important for the survival of the fingerling). Wastage is generally counted around 10%. Travel time is generally 7/8 hours but with delivery time it will take around 12 hours at least. After receiving purchase order, generally they upload fingerlings in the evening, transport by truck and deliver it to ponds in the morning.



We visited Shuvro Fish Hatchery and discussed the interventions that can be introduced to small farmers. The owner advocated for knowledge transfer, capacity building, pre and post production pond preparation, proper feeding and quality control by using effective medicine for the fish producer farmers. He said that spawns can be transported to Patuakhali by bus effectively with only Tk. 100 per 200 gm spawn (one plastic bag). There will be additional cost of Tk. 30 for labour, local transportation and toll. According to a decision, hatchery owners decided to deliver spawn on Fridays to avoid any unwanted situation and delay in delivery.



4. Visited Kaligonj, largest Sesame supply area, for discussions with actors.

We visited Kaligonj bazaar, the largest trading centre of sesame seed in the region. Sesame growers in surrounding areas supply seed to this market (Chougacha, Kaligonj, Jhikargacha, Cotechadpur, Barobazar). They also collect sesame from Magura and Jessore. Sesame seed buyers usually come from Sirajgonj, Pabna and Kushtia. They supply as per demand and payment is generally received in bank transfer. Arotdars often relay on relationship with buyers and sometime take advance from buyers. If needed, arotdars take CC loan against current account.



There are about 50 arotdars in the Kaliganj upazilla and 500/700 farias. Arotdars make Tk. 10-15 profit from 40 kg of sesame. They incur labour cost of Tk. 12 per 70 kg bag and additional Tk. 7 as market tax. According to an arotdar, at least 4725 MT of sesame seed goes out to different destination inside Bangladesh from Kaliganj area in the peak season (June-August). Gradually supply decreases in the lean season but still at least 315 MT of sesame seed goes every month to different forward buyers. Red/pink seed is the main product in this region followed by white (yellow) seed (approx. 315 MT in three month peak season), and black seed (73 MT in three month peak season).

Price for Black Sesame is highest, followed by White and then Red/Pink. But farmers are not willing to produce more black or white seeds, reasons are not clear to the arotdar. They assume motivational work is needed. Production of sesame is increasing due to high demand and increasing sales price. At present no one is drying & cleaning or processing sesame for producing crude oil in this area.

13. Field Trip Report 33

Duration: 13 to 17 October 2014

Team members: 1. Md. Aowlad Hossain, Institutional/Legal Advisor
2. Anis Pervez, Communication Expert

Objectives:

- Assessment of posters
- Home work for Blue Gold Mela (Fair)
- Follow-up visit to UPs after project orientation
- Briefing on inclusion of WMA members in UP Standing Committees, UDMC, UDCC
- Sharing on UP annual plan and budget
- Activation of UP Standing Committees, UDMC, UDCC

A. Follow-Up Visit to UP

Participated in the meetings at Deluti, Gangarampur and Batiaghata Sadar UPs on 14 and 15 October 2014 at the respective UP offices. UP Chairman, Members, Secretary of respective UP and representatives of respective WMA and WMG also joined in the meetings. Major findings of the meetings are:

- Interaction and cooperation increased significantly after the UP orientation;
- WMO members are included in the UP Standing Committees at polder-22;
- UPs assured to include WMO members in the UP Standing Committees at polder-30;
- UP and WMA representatives requested to increase the proportion of earth work (for embankment) implementation through LCS;
- UP and WMO representatives emphasized to establish linkage among the UP, WMO and BWDB for better implementation and sustainability of water management activities;
- Deluti UP took the lead to repair embankment involving land owners, WMGs and UP as some portion of embankment was damaged due to high tide during the first week of October 2014 and it was done successfully. UP engaged 10 female workers and one supervisor for further improvement of the newly repaired portion of the embankment after Eid and still they are working. The WMA representatives appreciated the role of UP for saving the embankment to avoid damage of crops and properties of the polder people;
- UPs are contributing for conflict resolution regarding water management activities;
- UP and WMA requested to repair, construct required number of sluice gates, digging/ re-excavation canals and strengthening of embankment in the polders under the Blue Gold Program;
- Both the groups requested to address the problems of water distribution between high and low land areas with necessary technical solutions to avoid conflict among the high and low land owners and to increase crop production;
- They requested to solve the water logging problems to crease crop production in the low laying areas;
- Deluti UP requested technical support to strengthen participatory planning, budgeting, disaster management, DRR and coordination at local level;

Recommendations:

Initiative should be taken to solve the water distribution problems between high and low land areas and water logging within the polders under Innovation Fund involving private sector/UP/NGO/CBO/WMA. To be noted that to this effect a pilot project is envisaged in polder 30 to demonstrate CoWM (polder community water management).

B. Assessment of Posters

Stakeholders comprising WMG members, UP functionaries and villagers—male and female from different age groups—at polder 30 and 22 assessed the two posters drafted by the designer. None of the assessors reported to have problems in identifying objects and images in the poster and thereby the message intended to be conveyed was confirmed without any communication noise. However, some of them suggested minor additions, which will be addressed while finalizing the posters. We plan to finalize the posters in the current week to have them ready to send for printing by next week.

C. Blue Gold Fairs

The idea of Blue Gold fair was discussed in joint meeting with WMA members and UP Chairman and ward members of Deluti UP of polder 22 and Gangarampur UP of polder 30. Later a separate meeting was conducted with the members of Amtola Kodaldoho WMA of polder 30 to discuss a preliminary event plan and budget for arranging such fairs.

UP and WMAs appreciated the idea and showed enthusiasm in jointly arranging fairs in the month of January 2015. WMA in collaboration with UP will hold the fair with technical and financial assistance from Blue Gold. It was proposed to use local resources—musical show, boat race, sports for male and female etc.—while also displaying WMGs activities like agricultural production, model of water management appropriate in the locality etc. Another idea is to include activities of the WASH-programs in the area (Max Foundation and BRAC WASH). Local displays can be supported by popular theatre and *korcha* disseminating Blue Gold messages performed by ADITI and TEAM.

An initial budget was drafted showing an estimated cost of Tk. 32,000 required for using local resources including publicity and making of stalls. However, an additional cost will be required for popular theatre and *korcha*, which will be approximately Tk. 50,000.

It was suggested that the WMAs will have further meetings within WMA and with respective UPs to concretize the plan.

Pending issues:

1. We need to decide about the appropriate mode of financial support. There are two options:
 - 1.1. Blue Gold provides the entire support.
 - 1.2. Cost is shared by Blue Gold, WMA and UP

It is ideal to let the stakeholders contribute, as this will give them a sense of ownership. However, in reality this might not be an easy task to mobilize funds from stakeholders.

2. It is also important to decide about the magnitude of Blue Gold’s technical support. Here are some options:
 - 2.1. Blue Gold staff supervising the fair.
 - 2.2. Hiring a local supervisor with experience in arranging fairs who will provide intensive support to the community throughout the process.

Option one may be difficult considering that we do not have enough staff for providing full time supervision. During our field visit we met Mr. Asek-E-Elahi, secretary of Progoti - a

Satkhira based organization experienced in fair management. A person like him could be an appropriate person if we decide to hire a supervisor.

3. It is also important to decide whether we will do piloting this year in a limited number of polders—limited only to 2 polders in Khulna or 2 polders in Khulna and 2 in Patuakhali—and increase the number of fairs in the following years on the basis of lessons learned from this year.

14. Field Trip Report 34

1.0 Objectives:

1.1 Meetings with ZSE and COs for:

- Assessment of field activities ;
- Find out the field problems, visit the problematic WMGs and take necessary steps for solving the problems;
- Observe the elections for the EC members of WMGs
- Follow up the progress of WMG registration plan;
- Participate in needs assessment meeting with C2 ;
- Update the plan of action.

1.2 Check Accounts Keeping System of WMGs:

- Know the existing accounts keeping system in WMGs ;
- Find out the problems of accounts keeping system in WMGs
- According to the identified problems make plan for giving them in-house training

1.3 Follow up WMGs' registration status

- Follow up the registration status of WMGs which have submitted applications
- Give instruction to the field staff for taking steps to submit remaining WMGs' registration applications to DCEO office

2.0 Team members:

- Vicki Pineda, Component Leader Community Mobilization and Institutional Strengthening
- Showkat Ara Begum, Sr.Sociologist/ Cooperative Expert
- Kitty Bentvelsen and Priodarshine Auvi, Gender Expert and Gender Coordinator respectively (who joined the field visit from Oct. 19-21, 2014)

3.0 Activities:

a. Visits to WMGs facing difficulties/problems

- i. **On 19.10.2014:** Visited Amtali Upazila. We met and discussed with the Upazila Chairman Mr. G.M.Delwar and Chairman of Gulishakhali Union Parishad Advocate Nurul Islam about the Executive Committee (EC) election of Uttar Kalibari Bajargona WMG. Previously, election was stopped due to political interference and another schedule was planned but again this is being postponed. The COs are saying that the Union Parishad Chairman is behind this postponement because he is opposed to conducting the election through secret ballot because then he could not influence the voting process . During the meeting, we requested their support (being local government officials) in ensuring that the procedures, policies and activities of Blue Gold Program are followed and implemented. We also requested them to ensure the timely, fair, honest and peaceful implementation of the EC election. The Upazila Chairman made a commitment to

support the Blue Gold Program and he promised that he will ensure that the election will be conducted properly and timely.

- ii. **On 19.10.2014 (in the afternoon):** Visited Dakkhin Purba Kalibari WMG where the WMG Chairman was not interested in registering the WMG under BWDB and also not interested to enroll new members. More than 100 people were present in the meeting. Majority of those present urged the WMG Chairman to follow Blue Gold procedures. After a long discussion the Chairman eventually agreed to form Ad-hoc Committee and to enroll new members. In the same meeting, a 5-member Ad-Hoc Committee was formed.

- iii. **On 21.10.2014 (in the afternoon):** We went to Patukhali WMG to attend an emergency meeting called by the Election Committee to resolve the issue between 2 groups. It was apparent that this is a clear case of political interference. One group representing Awami League was preventing 4 people (supporting BNP party) to run in the election by not allowing them to buy nomination papers. One of the four managed to buy nomination paper for the Chairman post before the deadline but this was snatched/ stolen. This person is not being allowed to contest since he has no nomination paper. However, the Election Committee has decided that there is proof that he bought the nomination paper (ledger record and money receipt issued) and hence allowed to run. The Blue Gold team emphasized during the meeting that it does not endorse any political party but strongly supports a fair and neutral election where interested WMG members can run without being prevented and intimidated. However, the Awami League candidate strongly stood his ground saying that without original copy of nomination paper the other candidate should not run and threatened that he and all other candidates for other posts will withdraw their candidacy if he is allowed to run. We left the meeting telling them to rethink their position and take the right decision otherwise Blue Gold Program implementation will be hampered. On the way to the vehicle, we met one UP member (father of the Awami League candidate). He was advised to help solve the issue but his attitude was not positive. The deprived group said that if the problem is not solved they will go to court.

- iv. **On 19.10.2014:** Attended the general meeting in Dakkhin Choto Bighai Dakkhin WMG of polder 43/2A. The problem was that the Ad-hoc Committee was not accepting the list of WMG members which was given by the previous committee because some of the members have no signature. The previous EC members informed that these members are permanent residents but were outside the village for treatment purpose for a month but now that they are back, they can affix their signature and their name should be included in the member's list in the register book. The Ad Hoc Committee finally agreed to include these members and in the meeting they decided to form the Election Committee within the week.

b. Observed WMG Elections

- i. **On 20.10.2014 (in the morning):** Visited Uttar Bajarghona WMG of polder 43/2D for observing the election of EC members. There are 540 households in this WMG. 375 from these households have registered as WMG members (135 are women). There was a touch of excitement. Many people came from neighbouring WMGs to observe the election. The election committee (with 3 members) is managing the election together with members of the Ad-hoc committee. There were two booths – one for male and one for female. The election was proceeding peacefully. In the afternoon we observed the counting process of ballots. We found that the ballots are systematically sorted out and then counted while the voters/members are outside waiting patiently for the outcome.

ii. On 20.10.2014 (in the afternoon):

Visited Purba Matibhanga WMG of polder 43/2A to observe the election of EC members. There are 350 HHs with 191 enrolled members in the WMG of which 50 are women members. The election committee (3 members) was managing the election. The following are the number of candidates for each post in the EC: Chairman= 3; Vice Chairman = only one candidate (uncontested); Secretary = 2; Cashier = 2; Landless = 2; Fisherman = 2; general member post= 7. There was only one booth but there were two separate lines for male and female who alternately enter the booth to cast vote. Several policemen were seen maintaining order. We observed that the election was going on orderly and peacefully.



iii. On 22.10.2014 (in the morning): We went to Paschim Chhotobighai WMG to

observe the election of EC members of the WMG. The election looked like a national election. Lots of posters were hanging at varieties of shops like tea shops, betel nut leaves shops, cigarette shops, small snack shops etc. which were discouraged earlier. But this was ignored. Before election both the parties signed an agreement that they will accept the outcome of election. 3 booths/rooms were prepared for voting. Aside from the members of Election Committee, one presiding officer and six polling officers were engaged to supervise the election process. All are respected persons coming from the different educational institutions of the surrounding areas. Representatives of each candidate were present in each of three booths to check any irregularity. On request of the Election Committee some members of law enforcing agency (police) were present in the election venue and they were actively maintaining order and security during the election. There were two lines of voters one for female members and one for male members. The election was observed to be



orderly and peaceful.

Other Observations and Suggestions on the EC Elections:

1. In order to pay for election expenses e.g. cost of ballots, boxes, food for polling officers and election committee members, wages of police/guards, etc., nomination papers are sold to those who intend to run for the various posts in the EC. For example price of nomination paper for Chairman and Vice Chairman are sold ranging from Taka 500-1,000; while those for secretary and Cashier is from Taka 250-500; and for general member's post it ranges from Taka 100-300. It was suggested to the Socio-Economists for future WMG EC elections, they should advise the Ad Hoc and Election Committees not to charge high price for nomination papers to level the playing field between rich and poor WMG members;
2. Several rich candidates spent a lot for posters, leaflets and other election campaign expenses giving them more chance to win than their poor counterparts. The WMGs who will be holding their elections soon will be advised to formulate policies to stop this practice. Instead, the Election Committee will put up posters of candidates in conspicuous places for voters to see the symbol of each candidate and guide them in voting.

c. Participated in the Needs Assessment and Validation Meetings

i. On 19.10.2014 (in the morning): Participated in the Needs Assessment meeting of Amkhola WMA. Representatives of 11 WMGs of two WMAs - Bouria and Mushurikathi - 40 members were present in the meeting. The main problems of these areas are water logging and water scarcity for irrigation. Firstly, the problematic canals of those areas were identified with the help of the WMGs. Those identified needs were written on poster papers and presented during the Needs Assessment meeting. After thorough discussions regarding: affected number of people; affected size of land; whether khal proposed for re-excavation is free from encumbrance e.g. not leased out to private individuals and whether the khal can be linked with other flowing channels or workable sluices, etc.; the list was prioritized for discussion in the polder level validation meeting.

ii. On 21.10.2014 (in the morning): Attended the Needs Assessment meeting involving twenty three representatives from three WMAs – Chaola, Golbunia and Kewabunia - of polder 43/1A were present. Chaola WMA consists of three WMGs, namely Uttar Atharogachhia, Dakkhin Atharogachhia and Chaola. Golbunia WMA consists of two WMGs namely Purbo Shakharia and Paschim Shakharia. Kewabunia WMA consists of Purbo Kewabunia, Paschim Kewabunia and part of Purbo Chonakhali. After long discussion, priority list of needs and proposed interventions was agreed on.



iii. On 22.10.2014 (in the afternoon): We attended the need assessment meeting in Amkhola WMA/WMC of polder 43/2B. Representatives of six WMAs i.e. Amkhola, Mushurikathi, Badura, Machhuakhali, Nosaisil, and

Bouria were present in the meeting. Priority needs for fine tuning were finalized and ranked. Discussion on new WMA boundaries followed. After discussion of views and arguments on factors such as drainage system, hydrological units, social bonding and administrative/natural boundaries, the number of WMAs was reduced from six existing WMAs to 3 WMAs. Amkhola and Mushurikathi merged in one WMA, Badura, Nosaisi and Machhuakhali are in on WMA, and Bouria is one separate WMA.

- iv. **On 23.10.2014 (in the morning):** Attended another Needs assessment meeting .Twenty representatives from five WMA/WMC were present in the meeting. The name of WMAs/ WMCs are Amtala, Mahishkata, Kewabunia, Golbunia and Chaola. One woman chairman of Atharogachhia WMG was also present in the meeting. At the start of the meeting, everybody was talking for their own interest especially the chairman of Atharogachhia WMG who was talking much in favour of his own WMA. When one canal was proposed as a priority, he opposed and repeatedly saying at the time of IPSWAM that canal has been excavated. So, this time that canal will not get the preference. But the people of that area were trying to say that canal is already silted up and many people are suffering .One woman argued that It does not matter whether this canal was excavated or not, priority should be based on present condition. Later on it was agreed that on the basis of urgent need and available budget, they should come up with their priority needs and ranking which they did at the end of the meeting.

Meeting with Zonal Socio-Economists

On 23.10.2014 (in the afternoon): We sat with the Socio-economists at Blue Gold Office and discussed about the registration and accounts keeping of WMGs and the problems faced in relation to the holding of new EC elections. It was decided that after discussion with all members of Component -1, Election guidelines and procedures will be circulated to guide the field level staff. C1 will be jointly working with C4 in coming-up with comprehensive accounts keeping system for WMGs. The accounts keeping system developed from this joint collaboration will be used in the future WMG training sessions relative to proper operation and management of farm machineries.

15. Field Trip Report 35

1.0 Objectives:

- Participate in the visit of PCD and CWM to Patuakhali polders
- Firm-up WMG boundaries for Polders 31-part and Polder 26
- Infrastructural Need Assessment with C2 in Polder 26, 31-part and 2
- Complete selection process of 20 Local Facilitators for Polders 31-part and 2 at Khulna and Satkhira Districts
- Participate in 'Organization Management' training for WMGs (EC members and potential leaders) in Polder 22

2.0 : Participants:

- John Marandy, Sr. Socio-Economist, DCL
- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert
- Members of Zonal Team (Jashim Uddin, Azizur Rahman, Umme Asma Khanam, Saiful Islam, Mainul Islam, Nazrul Islam Sarker, Ahsan Ahmed Bapi and COs) participated in the polder visits.

3.0 : Activities

3.1 On 20.10.2014 the team attended a general meeting of Purba Keowabunia WMG in Polder 43/1A with PCD and CWM. About 70 WMG members participated in the meeting. The CWM wanted to know from the people present in the meeting how WMG was formed, especially the formation process that was followed. A number of WMG members participated in discussion and they replied to all the questions of the CWM. The CWM was satisfied with the answers. Among others, the CWM was informed that they had several meetings before the WMG was formed and elections for Executive Committee were held; that Ad hoc-committee was formed in the presence of at least 60% villagers; that most members participated in the elections for Executive Committee. They also informed the CWM that the present WMG consists mostly of new members – there are only about 10% members from the previous WMG that was registered under DoC. CWM and PCD were much satisfied with the meeting. Lastly the CWM announced that their WMG will soon get registration from BWDB.

After the meeting at Purba Keowabunia the team, together with the PCD and CWM, went to see the election of Uttar Bazarghona WMG for Executive Committee in Polder 43/2D. The election was done in the fashion of national elections in a festive atmosphere; there were lots of posters and banners with photographs of candidates. It was reported that most of the WMG members participated in the election; men and women were casting their votes in two separate booths – especially the queue of women voters was quite long. It appeared that people were enjoying the event.

3.2 During 21 – 23 October 2014 the team attended meetings in Polder 31-part for catchment level infrastructural need assessment. On 23 October prioritization of infrastructural needs was done with people from the whole polder area. More than 100 people, including UP

Chairman and Members, were present in the meeting. As re-sectioning of embankment and repair of sluices will be done by the project as first priority works, people were asked to make priority list of khals for re-excavation. In response, side by side with the list of khals, people also proposed some new structures – sluices, outlets and gated culverts.

The priority list of khals needing re-excavation and proposed structures in Polder 31-part are given in the following table:

Sl No.	Name of the khals with location	Length* (km)	Proposed sluice	Proposed Outlet	Proposed Gated Culvert
Fist Priorities					
1.	Nandan Khal (from outfall to Haturer Doanir bridge and up to last part of the khal)	5.00	Nandankhali	Outfall of Bonordoani/Cahaerkhal	On Bazaar Khal
2.	Baar khal (from sluice gate to Taltala Khal)	2.00	Surkhali	-	On Tatalakhal
3.	Bagar Khal	3.5	Gazalia	Gazalia	On Changkuchulia Khal
4.	Charar Khal	2.00	-	-	On Bagar Khal
5.	Kechor khal (from private pipe outlet to Bagar khal)	3.00	-	-	On DhoshMagura Khal
6.	Surkhali Khal (from flashing sluice via Fromer khal to Nandonkhali Khal)	4.00	-	-	On Kechor khal
7.	Roypur Kata khal (from flashing sluice to right side of Kechor khal)	3.00	-	-	-
2nd Priorities					
8.	Changkuchulia Khal (from Nandonkhali to Cyclone shelter)	4.00	-	-	-
9.	Heragazir Khal	2.00	-	-	-
10.	HaturarDoanir khal	2.50	-	-	-
11.	Taltala-Khalidohar khal	1.50	-	-	-
12.	Bunordoanir Khal (from cyclone shelter to embankment)	3.00	-	-	-
3rd Priorities					
13.	Baintala/Sindurtala khal (right site of Roypur flashing sluice)	2.00	-	-	-
14.	Dosh Magorar Khal	2.00	-	-	-

SI No.	Name of the khals with location	Length* (km)	Proposed sluice	Proposed Outlet	Proposed Culvert	Gated
	(from Surkhali khal to Nandonkhali khal)					
15.	Chotobazrar khal (from Bazrar khal to School's field)	1.50	-	-	-	
16.	Kaigurikhal (from bridge via Chorar khal to Beel)	1.5	-	-	-	
17.	Surkhali branch khal (from south side of main khal to Takimari)	2.00	-	-	-	
18.	SapaKhal(East side of the Haturer Doaniculvert to Sapabeel)	2.5	-	-	-	
19.	Goriardanga Khal (from gate via Namdir khal to Nandonkhali)	2.5	-	-	-	
20.	Boyarsing khal (from Bonordoani to Charar khal)	1.00	-	-	-	
21.	Bazrar branch khal (south side)	0.8	-	-	-	
22.	Tetultala khal (north side of Bazrar khal)	0.8	-	-	-	
23.	Chorar khal (from Takimari to Nandonkhali)	3.00	-	-	-	

*Here the "length" is based on people's guesswork; the actual length will be based on topo surveys.

The team finalized WMG boundaries in Polder 31-part together with local people. Selection of 5 local facilitators was also finalized by the team.

3.3: From 24 to 26 October 2014 the team visited Polder 26 for catchment level need assessment and planning of WMG formation. The team attended several meetings in the polder for need assessment. On 26 October prioritization of infrastructural needs was done with people from the whole polder area. About 120 people, including UP Chairman and Members were present in the meeting. As re-sectioning of embankment and repair of sluices will be done by the project as first priority works, people were asked to make priority list of khals for re-excavation. In response, side by side with the list of khals, people also proposed some new structures – sluices and outlets.

SI. No.	Name of the khal with location	Length* (km)	Proposed Sluice	Proposed outlet
1st Priorities				
1.	Baworar Khal (from Zialtala sluice to	3.00	Patibunia	On Kurirbeel

Sl. No.	Name of the khal with location	Length* (km)	Proposed Sluice	Proposed outlet
	Shakhaby khal			khal
2.	Balizakishakhabi Khal	5.00	-	On Baro Beelar Khal
3.	Dangar Khal (from right side of Kakmari gate)	2.00	-	-
4.	Bablatala Khal (from Kadamtala outlet to Orabunia)	2.00	-	-
5.	Changra-Kodalkata-Shakabi khal	5.00	-	-
6.	Dhahortala Khal	2.00	-	-
7.	Khejurtala khal	3.00	-	-
8.	Paddobunia Muchikata Khal	2.00	-	-
9.	Bayarshing Khal	2.00	-	-
2nd Priorities				
10.	Bolipakhi Khal	1.5	-	-
11.	Barobeelar Khal	3.00	-	-
12.	Molmolia Aga Khal	2.00	-	-
13.	Badbangar Khal	3.00	-	-
14.	KurirBeelar Khal	3.00	-	-
3rd Priorities				
15.	Derabunia Khal	1.5	-	-
16.	Kalabunia Khal	2.0	-	-
17.	Tengramari Khal	2.0	-	-
18.	Kalidohar Khal	2.0	-	-
19.	Dopakador Khal	2.0	-	-
20.	Kamarpara Tatikhali Khal	1.5	-	-
21.	Sindurtala Khal	1.5	-	-
22.	Connecting khal of Zilearkhaland Khanapara Khal	2.0	-	-
23.	Katakhali Khal	1.5	-	-

*Here the “length” is based on people’s guesswork; the actual length will be based on topo surveys.

The team had a meeting with ZSEs and COs in the polder for planning of WMGs formation; and they planned to complete all WMG formation in this polder by the end of November 2014.

3.4: During 27-30 October 2014 the team visited Polder 2 in Satkhira for infrastructural need assessment and identification of WMGs boundaries. The team finalized WMG boundaries in the Polder 2 together with local people, including UP Chairmen and Members. Selection of 15 local facilitators was also finalized.

The team attended several meetings in the polder for infrastructural need assessment. Potential WMG members, UP chairman/members and (in one meeting) an Upazila Chairman participated in the meetings; attendance of people in different meetings ranged between 50 and 200. In most meetings, people discussed about water-logging, main reason of which is siltation of surrounding rivers – Marischap River and Betna River (northern part). The problem of water-logging is most serious mainly in the northern part of the polder - Dhulihar and Brahma Rajpur Unions because the river bed is higher than canal bed and many of them think that re-excavation of khals inside the polder will not help much in reducing water-logging in the polder area. The local people strongly suggest for re-excavation of those rivers and to make link with Ichamoti River (West Bengal). The Blue Gold team informed them that the project will not be able to do anything outside the polder area.

On 30 October prioritization of infrastructural needs was done with people from the whole polder area. About 100 people, including UP Chairmen and Members were present in the meeting. As re-sectioning of embankment and repair of sluices will be done by the project as first priority works, people were asked to make priority list of khals for re-excavation. In response, side by side with the list of khals, people also proposed a new sluice.

SI No.	Name of khal with location	Length* (km)	Proposed Sluice
1st Priorities			
1.	Andharmanik Khal (south side of Andharmanik sluice)	2.00	
2.	Hajikhali Khal (from south side of Hajikhali sluice up to the culvert at Chandpurbeel.	3.00	Sluice gate on Ahmedkhali Khal
3.	Ahmad Ali khal (from Ahmad Ali sluice to culvert at Chandpur bazar via Fingri Union complex to Solemari Khal.	10.00	-
4.	Beradanga Khal (from Beradanga sluice to Gadoy beel via Kalipadar house up to Eashak member's house.	5.00	-
5.	Himkhali khal (from Moesharkati sluice to Mozid road)	2.00	-
6.	Swetpur khal (from Himsetol khal to Swetpur Khal)	2.00	-
7.	Pallerchand Khal (from Doharkada to Dhekur beel)	3.00	-
8.	Bewla khal (from the culvert at Himkhali Nyabor khal to Bewla village).	2.00	-
9.	Sheshar khal (from the culvert at Goshkali to Ellarchar bridge)	2.50	-
10.	Khal from Dhohakola sluice to Kochurbeel (up to Gudder beel).	3.00	
2nd Priorities			
11.	Orar beel khal (from Orar sluice to Gobibdapur up to culvert at NepalNath's house).	2.00	-
12.	Sarbo Keashempur Barui Khal (from beginning of the khal via Habaspur to Budahata Bewla khal)	5.00	-
13.	Zaliakhali Khal (from culvert at Himkhali khal to Mozid Road)	4.00	-
14.	Chapra Khal (from Chapra sluice to Asassuni road)	1.00	-
15.	Antokurir Khal (from Budhata sluice to Antokurir beel)	1.00	-
3rd Priorities			
16.	Katakhali khal (from main khal via Sardar's culvert to Dhuluhar Ziad Ali's land).	1.00	-
17.	Branch Khal (from outfall of Gorar khal via Pallerch and to Chilar beel).	5.00	-
18.	From Paller Chand Dhohar Kanda to Deakur Beel.	2.00	-
19.	Seallah Khal (from Seallah sluice to Sealek Sardar's house)	1.00	-
20.	Ziala Khal (from Dangarputa sluice to city corporation)	4.00	-
21.	Tushkhali khal (from Nobadkhali to Tushkhali)	1.00	
22.	Maier Bari khal (from Nobadkhali to Boshkhali)	1.5	
23.	Surjokhali Khal (from Surjokhali sluice to Himkhali beel, and again Surjokhali to Shakunkhali).	4.00	

*Here the "length" is based on people's guesswork; the actual length will be based on topo surveys. During the visit to polder 2 the team discussed about urgency of WMG formation with the 8 COs and Jashim Uddin, ZSE. Formation of about 24 WMGs needs to be completed on priority basis so that LCS work can be done in the polder. The COs sat together and developed their work plan for the period up to

November 2014, which is as follows:

- Listing of potential WMG members will be completed in 24 WMG areas.
- 16 Ad-hoc committees will be formed.
- Schedule of Election will be declared in 16 WMGs.
- Elections will be held in 4 WMGs.

The team travelled back to Dhaka on Oct. 31, 2014

16. Field Trip Report 36

1.0 Objectives:

1.1 Orientation and follow up WMG registration and election status (with John Marandy):

- Give orientation to the Local Facilitators newly joined in Khulna
- Follow up the registration status of WMGs of polder 26
- Follow up the status of formation of Ad –hoc Committee of polder 31-part

1.2 Check up Accounts Keeping System in WMGs (with Anisur Rahman):

- Know the existing accounts keeping system in WMGs;
- Find out the strength and weakness of accounts keeping system in WMGs
- According to the findings discussion with the concerned members of WMGs
- Give an idea on comprehensive accounts keeping systems and get feedback from the concerned WMG members

2.0 Team members

- Showkat Ara Begum, Sr. Sociologist/ Cooperative Expert, Component -1
- Anisur Rahman, Investment Expert, Component -4
- John Marandy, Sr. Socio –Economist/DCL, Component -1

3.0 Activities:

- **On 17.11.2014:** Reached Khulna office by 4:00 pm and discussed with Zonal Socio –Economists status of formation of Ad –hoc Committee and registration of WMGs in general and try to assess the progress and problems. So that we could discuss the matter with the COs and Local Facilitators on the next day's orientation session.
- **On 18.11.2014:** We facilitated in the orientation session organized for Field Facilitators. In the session 20 Local Facilitators and 13 COs from polder 31-part and polder 2 were present. First, the Local Facilitators signed on the service contract paper. Then we started discussion on their roles and responsibilities as a Local Facilitator. We wanted to know in the meantime what kind of experiences they have gathered. Whether they feel confident to carry out their tasks. They expressed that they are local people and they know the area well. So, they are confident in carrying out the responsibilities efficiently. At the end of the session we distributed their working area in polder 31-part and polder 2. The main consideration was to assign them villages close to their residence. Each of them will work on average in 5 to 10 villages.
- **On 19.11.2014 (morning):** We visited Fulbari WMG (polder 22) for examining the accounts keeping system and the books of accounts that are being maintained by the WMG. There are 150 households in this village. The total number of members is 139. Among them 53 are male and 86 are female. The WMG has the amount of share Tk.8,140 and savings Tk. 31,775 and others Tk. 10,740. They have a bank account at Rupali Bank at Paikgacha. The election of Executive Committee of this WMG was held on 18.09.2014. But the books of accounts were not fully handed over to the new committee. We gave the message to the Chairman of the previous committee to hand over the accounts keeping books to the new committee. But he did not hand over. After reaching there we called him and requested to bring the accounts book, attend the meeting and give the suggestions to the new committee. At the same time we also sent Cashier of new committee to the Chairman of previous

committee. At last, he gave all the books of accounts and attended the meeting. After discussion they opined that they need a simpler and easier accounts keeping system.

Observations:

- They maintain Pass book, Savings ledger, Share register, Resolution book, Cash book, Member enrolment register and Credit disbursement register.
 - They need to maintain Receipt book. Stock register and Depreciation register along with the present register which is being maintained.
 - They got farm machineries this year, but late for Aman season so they could not fully utilize these machineries.
- **On 19.11.2014 (afternoon):** We visited Durgapur WMG (polder 22) for knowing the present status of WMG and examining the accounts keeping system and at present the books of accounts being maintained by the WMG. The WMG held an election on 19.03.2014 for Executive Committee members. They have share and savings amount of Tk.1, 35,397 in Bank. The WMG has disbursed Tk. 4, 26,500 as a loan for members from their own savings. The monthly interest rate is Tk 24.00 per thousand. They have got also the farm machineries from FAO. In the late Aman season they got the farm machineries hence, they were not able to use these machineries profitably though they earned Tk.6, 410.00. We examined their accounts keeping books. We found that they do not have Receipt book and General ledger. They maintain two ledgers for credit - one for showing Auditor and another one is internal in which all profits are recorded in order to avoid paying profit tax. They opined that they like to invest their savings in profitable business. So, they need training on accounts keeping.
 - **On 19.11.2014 (late afternoon):** We visited Amtala Kodaldaha WMG (polder 30) for knowing the present status of WMG and examining the accounts keeping system and the books of accounts being maintained by the WMG. The number of household is 355 and the number of WMG members is 142 - male 70 and female 72. The election of new EC was held on 13.11.2014. The amount of savings of the WMG is Tk 15,417, the amount of shares is Tk.4240 and the amount of other fees is Tk.33,840. All the money is deposited in the bank. They maintain all necessary accounts keeping books except Stock Register and Pass book. They received farm machineries from FAO. They have only one member (Cashier) who is maintaining the accounts. They opined that they need training on accounts keeping for developing more members in Accounts Keeping.
 - **On 20.11.2014 (morning):** One team (John Marandy and Nazrul, Socio-economist) attended the Ad-hoc Committee formation meeting of Goriadanga WMG in polder 31-part. The meeting was conducted peacefully and a 5 member Ad-Hoc committee was formed. About 60% representatives of the total households were present in the meeting.
 - **On 20.11.2014 (morning):** Another team (Showkat, Anis and Asma) visited Baniakhali WMG (polder 29) for checking accounts keeping system. The number of households is 82 and the number of members is 72. Among them, male is 34 and female is 38. The election was held on 20.04.2014 and the handing over to new committee was done on 22.06.2014. There are 5 female members in the Executive Committee. The amount of savings is Tk 17,820 and there is no share. They distributed Tk 91,000 as loan to 19 members with an interest rate of 15% per year. It was observed that this WMG is maintaining all the books of accounts properly.
- On 20.11.2014 (afternoon):** We visited Sahas Joykhali WMG (polder 29) which is currently being reformed. 18 members were present in the meeting. All of them are male and young. One assistant teacher of Sahas Joykhali Govt. Primary School is initiating the reformation process. They have already formed an Ad-Hoc committee. At present, they are maintaining only the members enrolment register and Resolution book. We explained about formation of WMG – from dissemination to submission of application for registration. Sujan Halder, Extension Overseer, BWDB was with us. We requested him to assist and guide the WMG in accomplishing all the necessary activities.

The team went back to Dhaka on 21.11.2014



17. Field Trip Report 37

1.0 Objectives:

- Visit Patuakhali polders for meeting with WMGs for EC election purpose (Polders 43/2A and 43/2D)
- Firm-up WMA boundaries for polders 43/2A, 43/2E, 43/2D,43/2F,43/1A and 43/2 B
- Participate in Union Parishad orientation meeting in Polders 43/2A and 43/2E

2.0 : Participant:

- Shorab Hossain, Community Organization Expert, C1

3.0 : Activities and Observations

On 24 November, the Blue Gold staff meeting at Patuakhali was attended together with Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader and Training Specialist. In the meeting the Team Leader informed Blue Gold staff about the findings of the Review Mission and future activities of the Blue Gold Program.

In the afternoon a visit was paid to Barisal with ZSEs to meet the DCEO to discuss the status of WMG registration and all related issues. In Barisal, the TA team did some preparatory work with DCEO's staff in order to expedite WMG registration.

On 25 November the Union Parishad orientation meeting was attended with the training team. After the orientation meeting a WMA boundary validation meeting was attended with the WMA new representatives in Polder 43/2B. In the validation meeting 96 out of 112 representatives (86%) of WMAs participated.

On 26 November, the Union orientation meeting at Jainkati Union Parishad was attended and after that the WMA boundary validation meeting in polder 43/1A. In the validation meeting 52 (93%) representatives were present.

On 27-29 November, the WMA boundary validation meetings in polders 43/2A, 43/2E and 43/2F were attended. In all the validation meetings the attendance of representatives was most satisfactory: 79 (90%) representatives out of 88 in polder 43/2A; 43 (90%) representatives out of 48 in polder 43/2E and 91 (84%) representatives out of 108 in polder 43/2F.

On 30 November, the monthly staff meeting of Component 1 was attended. The meeting discussed monthly progress on COs work, work plan, coordination, WMGs registration and WMGs EC election etc.

On 01 December, a general meeting of Bhajna WMG in polder 43/2A was attended to discuss WMG executive committee election. There the members of the WMG formed an Ad-hoc committee 40 days ago but the committee could not hold election for Executive Committee (EC) because of a conflict over the issue of WMG membership of a person. The problem was that the name of a candidate for the position of 'Chairman' in the EC was missing in the membership list though he has with him valid documents evidencing his membership. In the meeting UP Chairman, UP Members, traditional and political leaders and Blue Gold staff, all tried to resolve the conflict. At the end, it was decided that the name of the person

with valid membership should first be included in the membership list and then hold the election for executive committee. Besides, the general members of WMG opined for election by secret votes.

On 2 December the WMA boundary validation meeting in polder 43/2D was attended; 89 (74%) out of 120 representatives participated in the meeting.

WMA boundaries in different polders :

It was after long discussions among WMO representatives, UP Chairmen/Members and other local stakeholders in the respective polders that the following WMA boundaries have been agreed upon:

A. WMA boundaries, polder 43/2F

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
1. Khekuani Sluice	Dakshin Khekuani Uttar Khekuani	2	Gulisakhali WMA 6 sluices come within the boundaries of this WMA. Most of the sluices are interlinked by several khals, where original catchments were changed due to construction of village roads and construction of cross-bunds in the khals to make 'fish-ponds'. Main drainage sluice in this area is Dalachara sluice, draining 40% water of the area to the Paira river. All other sluices also drain to the Paira River: 20% water of the area drains through Gulisakhali sluice; 15% water of the area drains through Kanter sluice; 10% water of the area drains through Khekuani sluice; 8% water of the area drains through Angulkata sluice; and 7% water of the area drains through Barachi sluice.
2. Kanter Sluice	Dakshin Angulkata Uttar Angulkata	2	
3. Angulkata Sluice	Dakshin Dalachara	1	
4. Dalachara Sluice	Madhya Dalachara Uttar Dalachara Dakshin Gulisakhali	3	
5. Barachi Sluice	Dakshin-Purba Kalibari	1	
6. Gulishakhali Sluice	Madhya Gulisakhali Purba Gulisakhali	2	
		Total=11	
7. Chunakhali Sluice	Uttar Gojakhali	1	Kalagachia WMA 5 sluices are within the boundaries of this WMA. Most of the branch khals are linked with the main khals of Sholohawlater and Haridrbaria sluices. Water of the whole area eventually drains to the Paira River: 40% water of the area drains through Sholohawlater sluice; 25% water of the area drains through Haridrbaria sluice; 20% water of the area drains through Doachara sluice; 10% water of the area drains through Moradona sluice; and 5% water of the area drains through Chunakhali Sluice.
8. Haridrbaria Sluice	DakshinHaridrbaria Uttar Haridrbaria	2	
9. Sholohawlater Sluice	Madhya Kalagachia PaschimKalagachia	2	
10. Doachara Sluice	Uttar-PurbaKalagachia	1	
11. Moradona Sluice	Kalibari-Bazarghona	1	
		Total=7	
12. Kalibari Sluice	Dakshin-PaschimKalibari	1	Gojkhali WMA There are 5 sluices within the boundaries of this WMA. The main drainage sluice is 3-vent Gojkhali sluice. Most of the main and branch khals of this area are linked
13. Gojkhali Sluice	Fakirkhali-Gojkhali DakshinGojkhali Uttar Gojkhali Uttar Dalachara Uttar Paschim-	5	

	KalagachiaPaschim		withGojkhali sluice but some parts of the khals are silted up or are occupied by some local people for fish cultivation. Gojkhali sluice drains about 50% water of the area. About 20% water of the area drains through Bainbunia sluice; 15% water drains through Kalibari sluice; 10% water drains through Deppur sluice; and 5% water drains through Bazarkhali sluice.
14. Bainbunia Sluice	Bainbunia	1	
15. Deppur Sluice	Deppur	1	
16. Bazarkhali Sluice	Bazarkhali	1	
		Total= 9	
Total sluices = 16		Total WMGs =27	Total WMAs = 3

WMA boundaries, polder 43/2A

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
Khatasia Sluice	Purba BaraBighai	7	Bara Bighai WMA 75% water of the area drains through the 3-vent Khatasia Sluice, and the remaining 25% water drains through Titkata Sluice. However, some parts of the main khal, namely Khatasia khal, are silted up or are occupied by some local people for fish cultivation; people have also constructed a cross dam on the khal for road.
	Paschim Bara Bighai DakshinBara Bighai Pasaribunia Patukhali PurbaKewabunia PaschimKewabunia		
Titkata	DakshinTitkata	4	
	PaschimTitkata PurbaTitkata DakshinBighaiDakshim		
		Total=11	
Kazirhat	Tushkhali	5	Chhota Bighai WMA About 95% WMA area belongs to Chhota Bighi Union; so has the WMA been named after it. Most khals of the area are inter-linked with the khal draining to the 3-vent Kazirhat Sluice; 40% water of the area drains through this sluice.
	Haritakibaria PurbaMatibangha PurbaChhotaBighai MadhyaMatibhanga		
Nandipara	Nandipara-Madarbunia Bhajna	2	
Katakhal	PashimChhotaBighai	1	
Matibhanga	Matibhanga-ChhotaBighai	3	Other sluices of the area are: 1-vent Katakhai Sluice that drains about 15% water of the area, Matibhanga Sluice which drains 20% water of the area, Nandipara sluice that drains 15% water of the area. Some water also drains through outlets named Tilar khal outlet (5% water of the area) and Bashtala outlet (5% water of the area). It may be noted that the original catchments of most sluices have changed due to construction of village roads, siltation of khals and construction of ponds in the khals.
	Kumarkhali PaschimMatibhanga		
		Total=11	
Total Sluices =6		Total WMGs =22	Total WMAs = 2

B. WMA boundaries, polder 43/2E

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
Moubaria Sluice	Dakshin Sehakati Uttar	1	Moubaria WMA

Suddurbaria Sluice	Dakshin Sehakati Dakshin Fedai Nagar	2	6 WMGs come under this WMA. 70% water of the area drains into Lohalia River through Suddurbaria and Dolkhali sluices. Other 30% water drains into Lohalia River through Moubaria and Natua sluices. All khals are inter-connected.
Dolkhali Sluice	PurbaJainkatiMadhya KaturaTaluk	2	
Natua Sluice	Uttar Sehakati	1	
		Total=6	
Nowtana Sluice	Pirtola Talbaria	2	Katakali WMA 80% Water of the area drains into Lohalia River through Katakali and Gagankhali sluices. Other 20% water of the area drains through Nowtana sluice.
Katakali Sluice	Char Jainkati Paschim Purba Jainkati Paschim	2	
Gagankhali Sluice	Char Jainkati Purba Purba Jainkati Purba	2	
		Total=6	
Total Sluices = 7		Total WMGs =12	Total WMAs = 2

C. WMA boundaries, polder 43/2B

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
Amkhola Sluice	Uttar Amkhola Madhya Amkhola DariBaherchar Chingaria-DakshinBalaikhati Ramdula DakshinAmkhola	6	Amkhola WMA About 60% water of this area drains through Amkhola sluice. Other 40% water drains through Mushurikathi sluice. Amkhola main khal (upper part) is silted. Besides, some influential people occupy some parts of the khal for fish-culture.
Mushurikathi Sluice	Suhari Mini Polder AlorDishari Algi-Tafalbaria Mushurikathi Bhangra	5	
		11 WMGs	
Bauria Sluice	PurbaSonakhali Algi-Chhailtabunia Garabunia Kanchanbaria-Khantakhali GolBauria Ramananda	6	Bauria WMA The water of this area drains through Bauria sluice. Most of the branch khals are linked with the main Bauria khal.
		6 WMGs	
Badura Sluice	Dakshin Paschim Badura Dakshin Purba Badura Uttar Paschim GolBanshbunia	3	Badura WMA About 55% water of this area drains through Nashaisheel sluice; 20% water of the area drains through Badura sluice; and 25% water of the area drains through Machuakhali sluice.
Machuakhali Sluice	Balaikati Uttar Badura Purba Badura	3	
Nashaisheel Sluice	Nijsuhari- DakshinChhailabunia Madhya Chhailabunia Uttar Chhailabunia Kalai Kishore DakshinPurbaGolBanshbunia	5	
		11 WMGs	
Total Sluices =6		Total WMGs =28	Total WMAs = 3

D. WMA boundaries, polder 43/1A

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
Chowla Sluice	DakshinAtharagashia Uttar Atharagashia Chowla	3	Amtala-Chowla WMA About 70% water of the area drains through Amtala sluice and remaining 30% water of the area drains through Chowla sluice.
Amtala Sluice	Uttar Sonakhali DakshinSonakhali PaschimAtharagashia PaschimSonakhali Khagdon	5	
		Total = 8	
KeowabuniaSluice	Purba Keowabunia Pashim Keowabunia	2	Keowabunia-Mahiskata-Golbunia (KMG) WMA About 40% water of the area drains through Keowabunia sluice. Other 60% water of the area drains through Mahiskata and Golbunia sluices.
MahiskataSluice	Purba Chunakhali Roybala	2	
GolbuniaSluice	Purba Sakharia Pashim Sakharia	2	
		Total=6	
Total Sluices = 5		Total WMGs =14	Total WMAs = 2

E. WMA boundaries, polder 43/2D

Name of structure	Name of WMG	No. of WMGs	Name of WMA
Katakhali Sluice	PurbaSharikkhali Chamta Keshabpur Bara Auliapur Uttar PurbaAuliapur	5	WMA No.1 (Name yet to be selected) 95% water of the area drains through Katakhali sluice and 5% water of the area drains through Katakhali sluice.
Koiyar Sluice	Thangai	1	
	Total=	6	
Charabunia Sluice	Charabunia Ballabhpur Sankarpur	3	WMA No.2 (Name yet to be selected) The area drains into Paira River through Charabunia and Hetalia sluices. The area is close to Patuakhali town and drainage of most of this area changed directions due to urbanization.
Hetalia Sluice	Uttar Bahalgachia Dibuapur PaschimSarikkhali	3	
	Total=	6	
Batgachia Sluice	Pakshia Chalitabunia PurbaGerakhali Uttar PurbaGerakhali	4	WMA No.3 (Name yet to be selected) About 70% water of this area drains through Batgachia sluice; remaining 30% water drains through Kainaidanga sluice.
Kanaidanga Sluice	DahshinHajikhali Abad Hajikhali	2	
	Total=	6	
Rajabaria Sluice	DakshinMarichbunia	1	WMA No.4 (Name yet to be selected) About 65 % water of the area drains through Marichbunia sluice; the remaining 35% water drains through other sluices. Most khals and branch khals of the area are linked with the main Marichbunia khal.
Marichbunia Sluice	PurbaMarichbunia	1	
Nilkhola Sluice			
Chatua Sluice	DakshinBazarghona	1	
Jhapua Sluice	Patukhali	2	

	Uttar Bazarghona		
Barunbaria Sluice	Barunbaria	1	
Baktaria Sluice	Tafalbaria	1	
	Total=	7	
Taktakhali Sluice	ChhotaAuliapurDakshin PurbaPachaKoralia Bara AuliapurPurba	3	WMA No.5 (Name yet to be selected) About 60% water of the area drains through Taktakhali sluice and the remaining 40% water of the area drains through two other sluices.
Patukhali Sluice	PashimPachaKoralia	1	
Taltala Sluice	ChhotaAuliapur Uttar	1	
	Total=	5	
Total Sluices = 16		Total WMGs =30	Total WMAs = 5

18. Field Trip Report 38

I have visited Polder 30, 29, 31(Part) and 2 at Khulna and Satkhira during 6-11 December 2014. During the field visit met with the local BWDB officials, participated in the preparatory meeting with Component-2 staff, participated in the meetings with Upazila Chairmen of Batiaghata, Satkhira Sadar and Ashashuni. Visited embankment and canal in the said polders to observe the status of the availability of land for re-sectioning of embankment and re-excavation of canals, met and discussed with the WMO, UP representatives, land owners and common people about their participation in making the required land available for the water management infrastructure development activities under the Blue Gold Program.

On 7.12.2014 participated in a meeting with Upazila Chairman, Batiaghata, WMO representatives and local elites along with Mr. Azizur Rahman, Coordinator, Khulna and Mr. Jashim Uddin, Sr. Socio-Economist, Khulna to mitigate some complexities regarding formation of Ad-hoc Committee of WMGs. After detailed discussion the meeting reached a unanimous decision how to mitigate the complexities and work together. Upazila Chairman assured to extend support and cooperation regarding WMG formation process and implementation of Blue Gold Program activities. We also briefed them on the Blue Gold Program.

Status of polders for re-sectioning work of embankment and re-excavation of canals

I participated in a meeting with Mr. Mainul Islam, Mr. Saiful Hossain and Mr. Aman Ullah of Component-2, reviewed the status of re-sectioning of embankments and re-excavation of canals in the polders 29, 31-part and 2 and jointly prepared the following summary:

Priority Polders for FY 2014-2015:

- Polder 29 at Dumuria, Khulna
- Polder 31-part at Batiaghata, Khulna
- Polder 2 at Satkhira Sadar, Assasuni and Tala, Satkhira

1. Polder 29 situated mainly at Dumuria Upazila and part of Batiaghata Upazila of Khulna.

Union Parishads within the polder:

SL	Union	Upazila	Project orientation to UP
1	Dumuria	Dumuria	Yet to be held
2	Sarafpur		
3	Shahos		
4	Bhanderpara		
5	Surkhali	Batiaghata	

Planned activities: embankment re-sectioning and canal re-excavation during FY 2014-2015

Embankment

- a. Re-sectioning of embankment target: 16.382 km.
- b. Retired embankment: 1 km +0.900 km.
- c. Canal re-excavation: 9 nos.

Following canals are selected for re-excavation

1. Ashan Nagar Keyakhali – 3.460 km.
2. Arokhali – 2.010 km.
3. Bakultala – 0.585 km.
4. Kanchan nagar/Hajibonia – 2.275 km.
5. Katakhal – 2.200
6. Mara Bhadra – 1.900 km.
7. Ramakhali 3.110 km.
8. Ruhitmara – 1.325 km.
9. Talekhali – 0.745 km.

Status of land for re-sectioning work of embankment:

- Out of 16.382 km, 420 meters are on private land (existing) damaged by river erosion needs about similar length of private land for construction of embankment.
- 1 km of retired embankment is on private land also needs about similar length of private land for construction of new retired embankment.
- 700 meters (420+300 meters) private land required for soil collection for embankment re-sectioning.

Homestead on the existing embankment:

0-1 Km, 1.860 – 5 km, 21.700 – 22 km = 4.44 km.

Status of canals:

- Status of the canals not specifically identified like embankment.
- Private land will be required to deposit spoil earth on both sides of the canal as per technical specification
- Mouza map is required to identify the specific location of the canals

2. Polder 31-part:

Polder 31-part situated at Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna

SL	Union	Upazila	Project orientation to UP
1	Surkhali	Batiaghata	Yet to be held

Planned activities (embankment re-sectioning) during FY 2014-2015:

- Re-sectioning of embankment target- 8.922 km
- There is provision of royalty for 2 km. (21-22 km) for soil collection from private land.
- There are some houses/markets on the embankment.

3. Polder 2, Satkhira

Polder 2 is situated at Satkhira Sadar, Ashashuni and Tala Upazila of Satkhira and part of Satkhira Pourashava (municipality).

Union Parishads within the polder:

SL	Union	Upazila	Project orientation to UP
1	Brahmarajpur	Satkhira Sadar	

2	Labsha	Tala	Yet to be held
3	Dhulihar		
5	Nagarghata		

Planned activities: Embankment re-sectioning during the FY 2014-2015

- Re-sectioning of embankment target- 3.9 km.
- Located in between 1.6 km – 4.5 km and 6.6 km – 7.0 km
- Private land will be required to collect soil for re-sectioning of embankment.

Visited polder 29, 31-part and 22 along with C-2 staff (Mr. Azizur Rahman, Mr. Mainul Islam, Mr. Aman Ullah and Mr. Kabil Hossain, Environmental Expert) and polder 2 along with C-2 staff (Mr. Saiful Islam), Victoria Pineda, Component Leader, C-1, Mr. Kabil Hossain, Environmental Expert, and Mr. Rabiul, Office Manager, Khulna.

On 09.12.2014 we visited polder 2 at Satkhira and discussed with Upazila Chairman, Satkhira Sadar, Ashashuni. We briefed the Upazila Chairmen about the Blue Gold Program, objectives, target, areas, interventions, procedure, implementing agency, stakeholders, specially WMG formation and requirement of land for re-sectioning of embankment and re-excavation of canals and requested them for necessary support and cooperation. Both the meetings were held in a cordial atmosphere and they assured to extend necessary support and cooperation for implementation of Blue Gold Program activities.

Observations and Recommendations:

Polder 2

- There are houses on the embankment between 3.5 – 4.5 km and 6.4 – 6.7 km. Some houses are located attached to the top end of the embankment and in some cases houses and a brickfield are located on the embankment.
- In some areas river bank is close to the end of the embankment and there is little scope to collect soil from the river side.
- In some places soil from the river side (next to the toe of the embankment) has already been taken away by some people, which created a ditch.
- Private land is required for soil collection for re-sectioning of embankment. It will be difficult to get required private land for soil collection according to the technical specifications for a rehabilitation polder.
- Social cohesion among the WMOs of the respective areas may be affected.
- Land acquisition/re-location/re-settlement of a substantial number of houses and compensation will be needed for re-sectioning work of the embankment.

Polders 31-part, 29 and 22

- Visited Ruhitmara canal in polder 31-part, Katakhal canal, embankment in polder 29 and Darun Mollik canal in polder 22. During the visit we discussed with WMO representatives, UP representatives and some villagers/land owners. The project engineers explained the technical specifications for re-sectioning of embankment and re-excavation of canals through showing the spot measurements.
- The WMO, UP representatives, villagers/land owners are not willing to provide required land according to the technical specifications for a rehabilitation polder (polder 31-part) and for fine-tuning polders (polders 29 and 22).
- Social cohesion among the WMOs of the respective areas may be affected.
- Land acquisition/re-location/re-settlement of some houses and compensation will be needed for re-sectioning work of the embankment. These issues should be considered.

Proposed next steps:

- Sharing with BWDB and EKN, PMC meeting

- Consideration of the issues like land acquisition/re-location/re-settlement and compensation
- Sharing with BWDB, WMOs and LGIs at local level

Md. Aowlad Hossain
Institutional/Legal Advisor
Blue Gold Program

19. Field Trip Report 39

1.0 Objectives:

- Participate in staff development session with ZSEs and COs;
- Observe some sessions in WMG Organizational Management and Leadership Training;
- Introduction meeting with some Upazila Chairmen in Polder 2 and site visit

2.0 Activities and Observations:

a. Attended one full day of the WMG Organizational Management and Leadership Training on Dec. 8, 2014 held at Ganggarampur Union Parishad's Office involving 2 WMGs, namely: **Parshalua and Gondhamari-Kathaltola WMG**. The following are my observations and suggestions:

- The members of the Training Team conducting the training are effective facilitators—able to naturally draw out participants to share their views/ideas;
- The session on how to sustain functionality of WMG, the elements/factors were predetermined by training team and were printed in VIIP cards in order to save time for this session. The participants were instructed to rank them according to importance. I suggested that they should give some 2-3 blank VIIP cards for participants to write other elements/factors they think are important to sustain WMG functionality;
- More emphasis should be given to role of members in the WMG i.e. following by-laws and maintaining discipline; actively performing their responsibilities; strengthen unity among them to settle conflicts and challenge unscrupulous individuals depriving the majority of their rights and benefits and have no regard to the rules of the organization;
- The Village/WMG Action Plan formulation should be given adequate time and guidance to enable the WMG participants to come-up with a realistic initial action plan based on their priority needs/problems relevant to Blue Gold. This plan will be reviewed and further elaborated/developed in the regular monthly meeting of the WMG Executive Committee (EC) after the training. Then this will be presented and discussed to the general members for their comments and approval.

b. Travelled to Satkhira on Dec. 9, 2014 with Saiful Islam- Civil Engineer assigned in Polder 2, Aowlad Hossain (Institutional Specialist), Kabil Hossain (Environment Specialist) and Rabiul Alam (Khulna Office Manager). The following activities were undertaken:

- Meeting with Upazila Chairmen of Sadar and Assasuni Upazila. Both strongly made commitment to support Blue Gold Program in whatever way they can.
- Visited the whole length of Polder 2 embankment and observed a number of permanent houses, brick field and markets beside it which will be negatively affected by the proposed resectioning. Just motivation or persuasion will not be effective to make the PAPs to donate lands and leave

the area. Compensation and/or resettlement will be required. More details on this issue will be covered by reports to be prepared by the Institutional and Environmental Specialists.

- c. Participated in the staff development meeting of the Community Organizers and Socio-Economists on 10 Dec. 2014. The following concerns and issues were discussed:
- Progress/status of WMO formation, registration and election of new WMG Executive Committee in each Polder reported by Community Organizers. Some important issues raised and suggested actions: i) political interference during ad hoc committee formation and elections causing conflict, threats and at times work stoppage/delays. Advised COs to give priority to WMGs with no conflicts and political interference and inform general members of conflict-ridden WMGs to mend their ways and solve their issues first before Blue Gold team will involve them; ii) suspension of WMG registration applications by DCEO on the issue of signing authority---whether the DCEO had the authority to sign and issue certificate of registration. The COs were informed that CWM has sent communication to the DG to give him and DCEOs authority to approve WMO registration and sign the certificates; iii) determining WMG boundary of Polder 2 takes time due to the large number of villages and households. Newly recruited Local Facilitators are now deployed to hasten this process; and iv) election excesses e.g. huge campaign expenses and losers not accepting election results resorting to filing court cases against winning candidates and in some cases Blue Gold team members e.g. Socio-Economists and COs. Election guidelines were discussed and the option of holding elections through a general members' meeting where candidates are nominated during the meeting followed immediately by election through secret balloting. In this way, election expenses can be avoided/curbed.
 - Review of the steps, activities and process in WMO formation through group and panel discussions. COs and Socio-Economists suggested clearer steps and processes based on field experience. Component 1 will revise accordingly the flowchart of the WMO process based on the outputs of the meeting.
 - Administrative concerns raised: i) increase monthly mobile allowance of COs and Socio-Economists; ii) annual salary increase to be applied also to COs; iii) establishment of site office in Polder 2 where COs and other team members can meet and coordinate activities.

Team members travelled back to Dhaka on 11 December 2014.

20. Field Trip Report 40

Duration	:	December 28-31, 2014
Places	:	Patuakhali (Polder 43/2D & 43/2F)
Objectives	:	<p>15. Visit and provide direction to ongoing start-up activities on Mung Bean MFS program.</p> <p>16. Attending initial MFS activities, discussion of baseline survey format and roll out planning.</p>
Participants	:	Tanvir Islam, DCL ASM Shahidul Haque, Private Sector Development Expert

1. On-going start-up activities on Mungbean MFS program.

Attended two community meetings at (i) Purbo Pocha Koralia (polder 43/2D) and at (ii) Patuakhali (polder 43/2D) with PFs and BDCs. Objectives of MFS were discussed with WMG members and participating Mung bean farmers with a view to identify and select participating farmers for MFS.



2. Initial MFS activities, discussion of baseline survey format and roll out planning.

Arranged staff meeting and discussed information collected so far for preparing Mung Bean value chain analysis report. Updates were checked with BDCs and necessary directions were provided. In the staff meeting the draft baseline format was shared and discussed with BDCs.

Attended FGDs with Mung Bean farmers at Choto Awliapur Dakhin (43/3D) to identify constraints, understand the functions of different actors as well as factors of making Mung bean value chain more effective.



Participated in KII with large trader (Ms. Khandeker Traders of Patuakhali) of Mung bean and an important Bepari (Mr. Altaf Fakir), at Boro Awliapur (43/2D). The KIIs helped us gain important insight about present Mung bean value chain situation and potential.



21. Field Trip Report 41

Duration	:	December 21-24, 2014
Places	:	Patuakhali
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To participate and facilitate in the Project Orientation for the Union Parishads in Polder 43/1A; 2. To facilitate in the preparatory meeting among BWDB, WMO, LGIs and Blue Gold team regarding availability of required land for re-sectioning and re-construction (retired) of embankment in polder 43/2A and 43/2B and visit polders to assess the situation.
Participants	:	Md. Aowlad Hossain, Institutional/Legal Advisor

Union Parishad Orientation

Participated and facilitated in the project briefing for Atharogachia and Kukua Union Parishads under Amtoli Upazila at polder 43/1A on 22 December 2014 at Kukua UP meeting room as a joint effort of all the components of the Blue Gold Program. UP Chairmen, all UP members (female and male), UP Secretary, WMA representatives, officials of DAE and DLS joined in the meeting.

Participants were briefed on the project area, objectives, targets, duration, activities, process, stakeholders, role of different stakeholders, role of UP, possible areas of cooperation etc. All 4 Components presented their planned activities and possible areas of cooperation and the role of UP as advisor to the WMOs and possible areas of cooperation and institutional issues. Different queries of the UP representatives were answered during the Q&A session.

The UP representatives thanked the Blue Gold Program for organizing the presentation; they also informed that they now became aware about the project, role of UP and possible areas of cooperation. They expressed their commitment to support the implementation of project activities and cooperation among the stakeholders. They assured to include WMO representatives in UP Standing Committees, Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC), and Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) and establish link with the WMG based DRR Volunteer Groups.

General meeting of the WMG

Participated in the first General Meeting of Keshobpur WMG after the election of the Executive Committee at Polder 43/2D under Patuakhali Sadar Upazila along with Motior Rahman, Coordinator and Tahmina Begum, Socio-Economist on 22 December 2014 in the afternoon. About 300 WMG members and villagers attended the meeting, among them a good number were female. The newly elected EC members were introduced to the WMG members; the meeting unanimously approved the By-laws, approved the decision to apply for registration of the WMG and approved the rate of monthly contribution of the members (Tk. 20/Month/member). (*This activity was planned instantly during the field visit*).

23 December 2014

Meeting with Component 1 and Component 2

Participated in a meeting on 23 December 2014 with C-1 and C-2 key staff (Motior Rahman, Coordinator and Delower Hossain, Engineer) of Patuakhali office to review and collect information prior to visit embankment at Polder 43/2A and 43/2B to assess the availability of required land for re-sectioning of embankment.

Joint visit to embankment in polder 43/2A and 43/2B

Visited embankment of polder 43/2A on 23rd December 2014; starting from Kazirhat Sluice to Nondipara bridge (about 6 km.) along with Motior Rahman and Delower Hossain, met and discussed with WMG, WMA and UP representatives. Mr. Delowar explained the technical specification for re-sectioning of embankment and requirement of land and collection of soil. Following are the findings of our joint visit:

- River bank is near the toe of the embankment at Pearpur Madrasha point, length is about 500 meter.
- Plantation at river side, from where soil collection is difficult.
- Ditch and canal located at the toe of the embankment at Tushkhali Majibari Mosque point, almost continues, length is about 1 km at the river side.
- Huge number of trees on the slope of the embankment.
- Ditch/canal/pond located at the toe of the embankment, length is around 1 km (from the start of the Nandipara village up to Kalibari Mondir).
- Ditch canal located at the toe of the embankment at Madarbonia bazaar, length is about 150 meter.
- There are some houses on the slope and toe of the embankment.
- WMG and WMA representatives informed that the existing embankment is located at private land, there is no land that belongs to BWDB except some land for the sluice gates.
- WMO representatives informed that soil collection will be difficult for re-sectioning of embankment as per technical specifications.

Findings related to O&M

- Awareness of the WMO members should be enhanced about better maintenance of the embankment so that nobody should collect soil from the toe of the embankment in future or dig pond/canal/ditch and build houses on the said area.

Visited affected part of the embankment of polder 43/2B on 23 December 2014 along with Delower Hossain. We met and discussed with WMG and WMA representatives, members and other people at the proposed location of retired embankment at Balaikathi village. Findings of our joint visit are as follows:

- Part of embankment damaged due to river erosion at 2 points of Balaikathi village.
- Private land will be required for construction of retired embankment.
- Residents of the village/WMG/WMA and land owners could not come to a decision to provide required land for construction of retired embankment as per technical specification.
- Residents of the village/WMG/WMA and land owners were requested to come to a decision about the availability of required land for construction of retired embankment.

Recommendations:

- Preparation of existing status of land (availability of land for collection of soil, status of land adjacent to both side of the embankment and canal as per technical specification and WMO's opinion) of the segment of the embankment where re-sectioning work of embankment and re-excavation of canal will be conducted during this financial year jointly with BWDB, WMG, WMA to avoid complications during implementation of the work.
- Sharing with the BWDB, WMG, WMA and LGI about the existing status and requirement of land/soil for re-sectioning of embankment and canal.
- Land acquisition/compensation for required land for construction of retired embankment as per technical specification may be needed.

Recommendation related to O&M

- Enhance awareness and capacity of WMO members for better maintenance of the embankment and other structures.

Probable next steps:

- Joint preparation of existing status of the segment of the embankment included in the plan for re-sectioning during this financial year
- Sharing with BWDB, EKN and PMC meeting and eventually include the land acquisition issue in the revised DPP
- Consideration of the issues like land acquisition/compensation for required land for construction of retired embankment as per technical specification
- Sharing with BWDB, WMG, WMA and LGIs at local level



Figure1: River is at the toe of embankment at polder-43/2A



Figure1: Embankment damaged by river at polder-43/2B



Figure 3: House constructed on the embankment at polder-43/2A



Figure 4: Tree Plantation on the slope of embankment at polder-43/2A

24 December 2014: Back to Dhaka



22. Field Trip Report 42

1.0 Objectives

- 1.1 Attend Gender Awareness Session for CO's
- 1.2 Follow up of the status of WMG Registration and election status
- 1.3 Staff Development Meeting with ZSEs and COs

2.0 Team members

- John Marandy, Sr. Socio–economist/DCL, Component
- ShowkatAra Begum, Sr.Sociologist/Cooperative Expert
- Priodarshine Auvi, Gender Coordinator, Blue Gold Program

3.0 Gender Awareness Session organized for COs (on 17.12.2014): Attended the Gender Awareness session for COs initiated by the **Gender Coordinator**. At the beginning of the session gender concept was clarified. Then discussion was initiated to identify the barriers of women's participation in the development activities. The points that came up in the discussion were:

- Gender divisions with respect to roles of women and men
- Family and social restrictions
- Religious conservativeness
- Lack of self confidence
- Discriminatory attitude toward women
- Not giving due importance to women's opinions
- Domination by men
- Lack of information and knowledge
- Lack of safety and security
- Economic dependency
- Lack of efficiency
- Negative attitude toward women
- Lack of willingness/interest to take challenge

The constraints of women in WMOs to participate in decision making process are :

- Lack of efficiency
- Lack of self confidence
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of opportunity to give opinion on a decision
- Women's opinion are ignored
- Women are less in number
- Economic dependency
- Less exposed to outside world

Then the discussion was held to find out the possible solutions of those barriers:

- Advocacy with male family members
- Motivating religious and community leaders to speak in favor of participation of women in development activities
- Providing training on different related issues specially on women' right and capacity building

- Initiative to stop child marriage and encourage the girls to continue education
- Establishing linkage with other related organizations to get support when needed
- Creating favorable environment and opportunity for women to participate more in income generating activities
- Appreciating women’s opinion, create opportunity and encourage women to participate more in discussion and decision making process
- Creating more employment opportunities for women

For women in WMOs, possible ways to overcome the constraints are:

- Attending in monthly meeting regularly
- Creating favorable environment and opportunity for women to involve in organizational management
- Appreciating women’s opinion and encourage them to participate more in discussion
- Arranging exposure visits
- Learning sharing meetings
- Involving more male members in gender development activities and encouraging them to cooperate women members
- Encouraging women to contest in important positions of the executive committee

In the afternoon (on 17.12.2014) the Anti-harassment Policy of Blue Gold Program was presented in the session specially organized for the staff of all components in Patuakhali.

The feedback on the presentation on the anti-harassment policy was as follows:

- It is a good initiative to create awareness among all staff about the anti harassment policy of Blue Gold
- If the Blue Gold Program staff has been harassed by the WMG members or other stakeholders, then how this policy will be effective?
- A lawyer needs to be appointed for Blue Gold program to handle the cases filed by local stakeholders against the program staff
- Blue Gold staff has been recruited by different consulting firms. If there is no policy regarding anti-harassment in those firms, how then can the policy be implemented/observed?

4.0 Staff Development Meeting with ZSE and COs

4.1 Follow up Status of WMG Registration (as of Dec. 18, 2014, shown in the table below)

Sl. No.	Polder No.	WMG Registration Status			Remarks
		Number WMG Applications	Awarded Registration	Pending	
1.	Polder 43/1A	14	5	9	
2.	Polder 43/2A	19	16	3	2 WMGs with court cases
3.	Polder 43/2B	28	8	20	
4.	Polder 43/2D	24	19	5	4 WMGs ready to submit application soon and 2 WMGs not yet ready due to internal conflict
5.	Polder 43/2E	12	11	1	
6.	Polder 43/2F	26	8	18	
Total		123	67	56	

Election guidelines were discussed especially regarding limiting of expenses for campaigning for election by candidates and proposed rules of election campaign. At the end of the discussion the COs were asked to see that these election rules are included in the WMG’s by law.

4.2. Review of Draft Flowchart on WMO Formation and Sustenance Process in Blue Gold Program

A draft flow chart on WMG formation process and sustenance process (see Annex 1) was given to the COs and ZSEs for discussion and review in small groups. The participants were divided into 3 groups and were assigned different phases of the flow chart except Phase 3: Operation and Maintenance & WMO Sustenance Process (for discussion in the next staff development meeting). The following points/suggestions were presented by the groups during the plenary session:

Phase -1: WMO Formation- Part -1: Dissemination, social survey and identification of WMG boundary

1. Add in the data to be collected during social survey the identification of existing water management infrastructures

Phase -1: WMO Formation- Part -2: Formation of WMG, registration and Accounts Keeping:

1. Under Register WMG, revise “DCEO process and approves WMG registration” by breaking the activity into 2 steps as follows: DCEO examines application and documents submitted and DCEO issues registration certificate and send 2 copies to concerned WMG;
2. Likewise revise “PCEO process and approves WMA registration” and break this into 2 steps, as follows: PCEO examines application and documents submitted and PCEO issues registration certificate and send 2 copies to concerned WMA;
3. The same corrections in 1 & 2 are proposed for PVMF registration by CWM; and
4. The word accurate and transparent books/accounts keeping system should be added under “Install Books/Accounts System.”

Phase -2: Planning, Implementation of Physical Works & WMO Strengthening Process:

1. Add one activity under Catchment Level Needs Assessment & Validation Meetings: “Formulate Polder Development Plan and Polder Action Plan” after “Polder Level Needs Prioritization & Validation Meeting”

4.3 Procedure and Steps of WMG Formation in New Polders

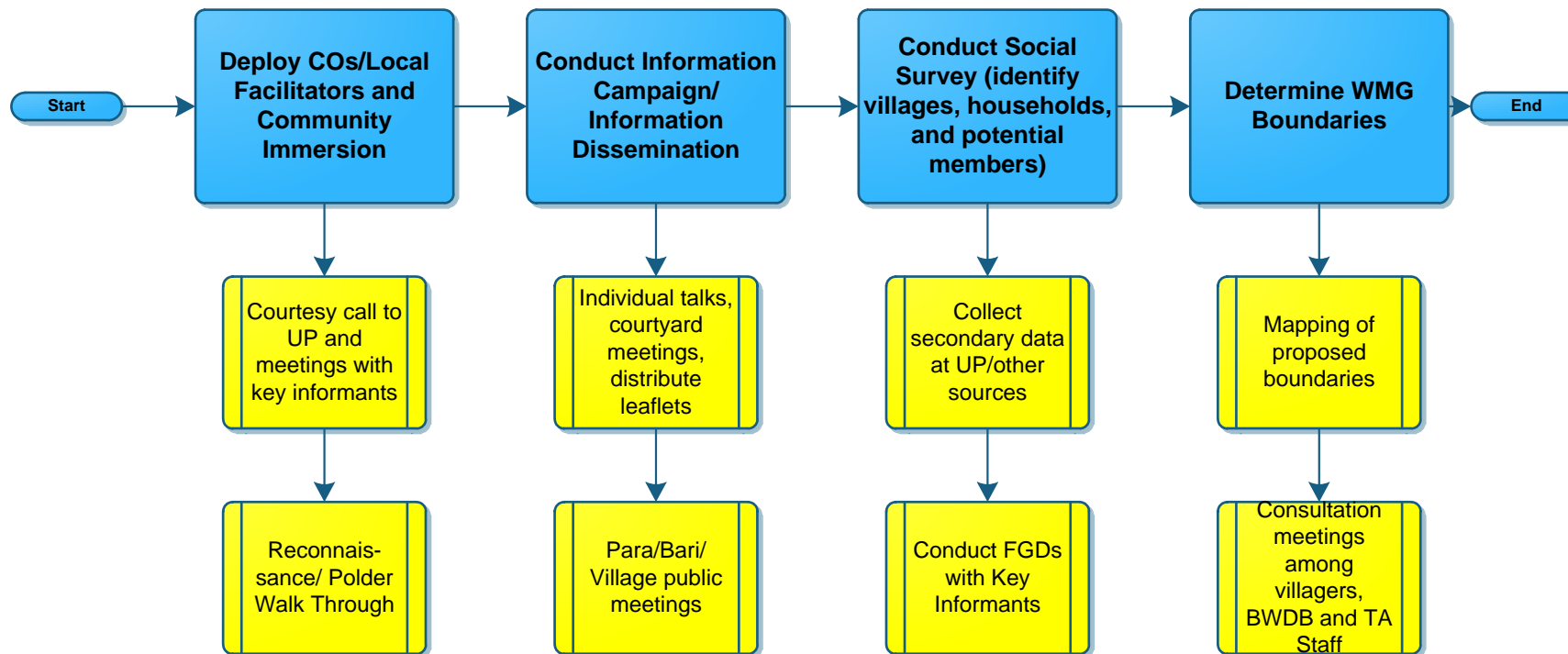
Procedure and steps of formation of WMG to be followed in the new polders were discussed in detail. The main activities involving WMG formation in new polders are:

1. Dissemination meeting with the LGI about the objectives of the program
2. Social immersion
3. Identifying the key informants, local leaders and respectable persons of the community
4. Courtyard meetings
5. Identification of WMG boundaries
6. Identifying households for WMG formation
7. Listing the potential members of the selected WMG area
8. Distribution of leaflet
9. Dissemination meeting with the villagers
10. Inviting villagers in the general meeting to form Ad –hoc committee
11. Member enrollment (from at least 55% households)
12. Preparation of draft By-law
13. Formation of Election Committee
14. Cooperating and assisting Election Committee in conducting election
15. After election, Ad Hoc Committee will formally hand-over WMG responsibility to the new Executive Committee

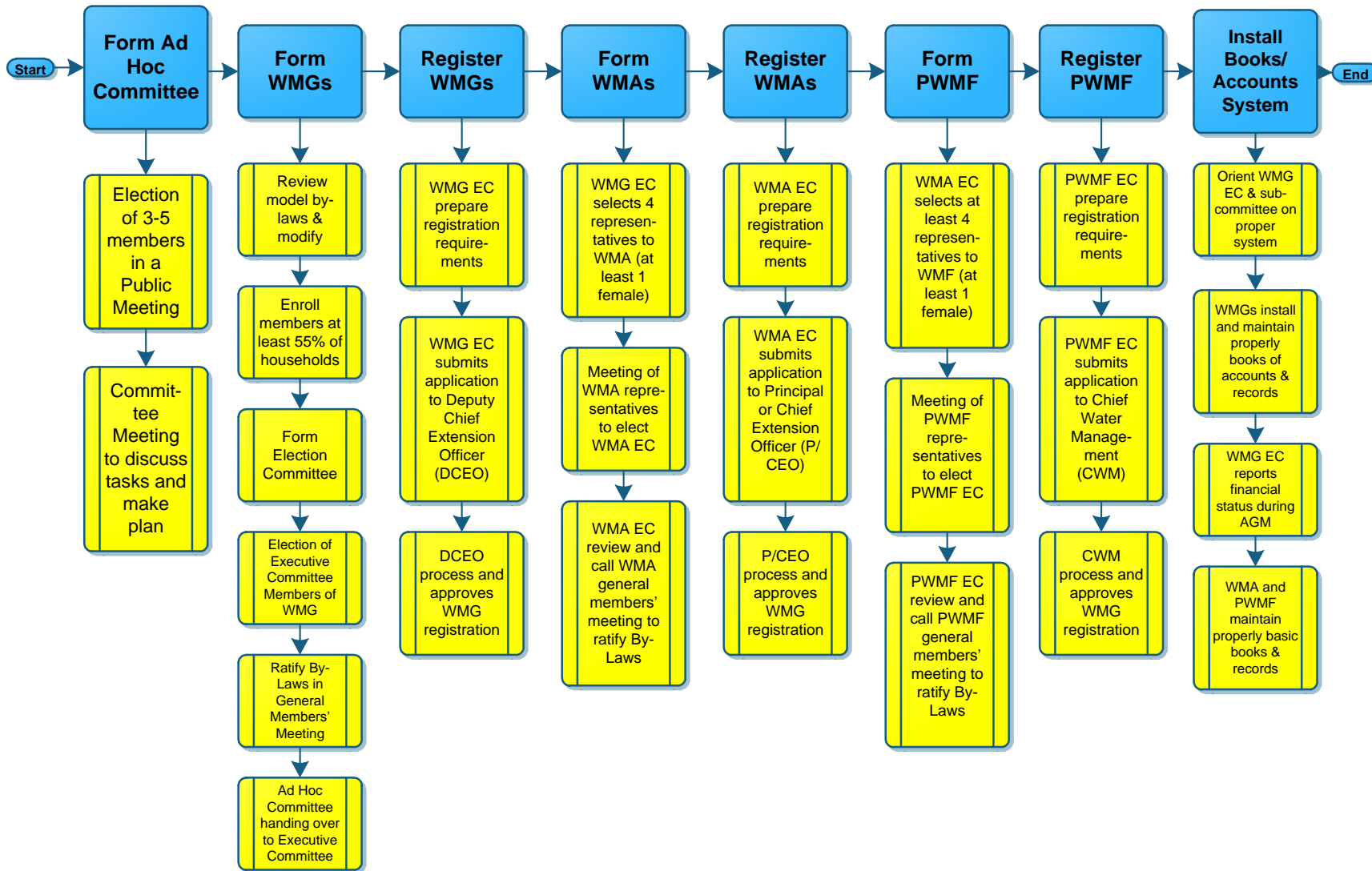
ANNEX 1. WMO FORMATION AND SUSTENANCE PROCESS IN BLUE GOLD PROGRAM

Phase 1. WMO Formation Process (6-12 months)

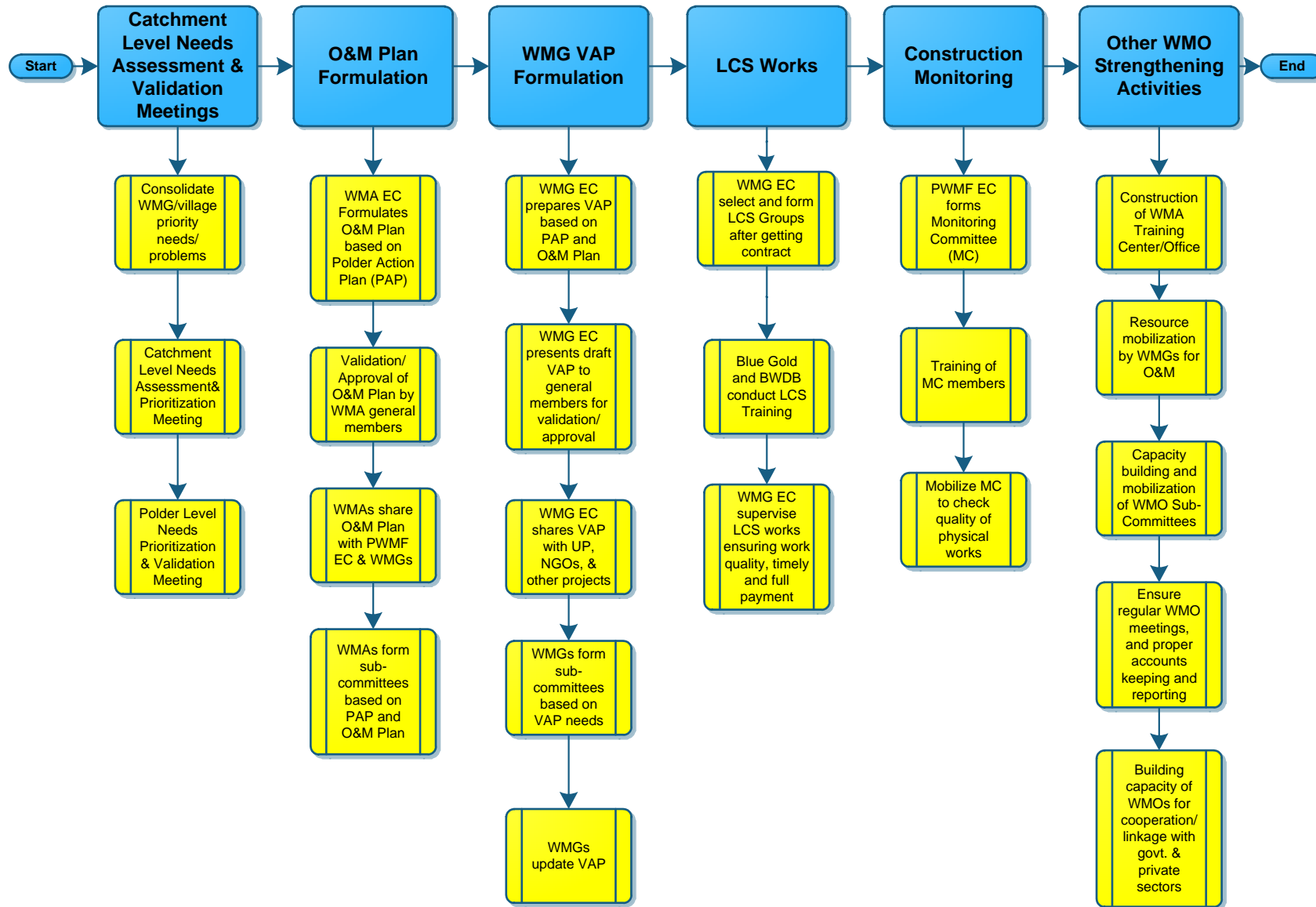
Part 1: Program Dissemination, Social Survey, and Identification of WMG Boundaries



Part 2: WMO Formation, Registration and Accounts Keeping Activities



Phase 2: Planning, Implementation of Physical Works & WMO Strengthening Process



Phase 3: Operation and Maintenance & WMO Sustenance Process



23. Field Trip Report 43

Date: 10-01-2015

Duration	:	December 14-17, 2014
Places	:	Satkhira and Khulna: Polder 2, 31-part and 26
Objectives	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To see the extent of increasing embankment height in new rehabilitation polders considering climate change effect and Bench Mark (BM) correction along the embankment reaches that have been proposed for 2015 rehabilitation program 2. To see availability of land, earth and probable obstacles on both sides of the embankment 3. Discussion with BWDB field staff and zonal TA Staff 4. Attend IRRI-IWM workshop on Community Water Management in polder 30.
Participants	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dirk Smits, TA Team Leader 2. Mofazzal Ahmed, TA Deputy Component-2 Leader 3. Proteeti Masud, TA Program Manager 4. XEN and SDE, Satkhira BWDB Division-2 5. SDE, SAE/SO polder 26 6. SAE/SO polder 31-part 7. Saiful Islam, TA Civil Engineer, Satkhira 8. Azizur Rahman, TA Sr. QCE, Jashim Uddin, TA Socio-economist 9. Sadeque Ali T.A SAE, Satkhira and Amanullah TA SAE, Khulna

Itinerary

14 December 2014: Left Dhaka in the afternoon by air. Travelled from Jessore to Satkhira by office vehicle. Stayed overnight in Satkhira in a private guest house (Muzaffar Garden).

15 December 2014: Visited polder 2 along with members of field TA team and concerned BWDB field officials. This is a rehabilitation polder and the embankment design considered both climate change effect and BM correction. The design requires no ditches within 15m of the embankment toe. Visited following locations.

1. Beradanga, around sluice S-2:

The embankment reach at this location has a brick field on the riverside and shallow ditches on the countryside. As per new design, the toe of the embankment will extend far into the private ditches in the countryside and into the brick field in the riverside. Earth filling will vary from 0.8m to 1,20m. This will also require heightening of the sluice walls and remodelling of the sluice.

At this location, outfall river Betna is silted up and its bed level is above the sluice invert level. Therefore, the sluice is almost redundant and virtually there is no drainage flow through this sluice during post monsoon, October to December. This part of polder area remains water logged in the post monsoon and farmers cannot cultivate boro/winter crops due to delayed drainage. People installed private drainage pumps in this location to pump out logged water during post monsoon. The photo below shows the installed pumps and subsequent damage to the embankment due to improper operation. ECHO, under its cash for works program/climate change fund, has re-excavated the countryside part of the sluice canal at this location, which actually has no impact as the sluice is almost non-functional in the post monsoon due to river bed siltation.



Pumps to Remove Post Monsoon Water Logging



Pumps to Remove Post Monsoon Water Logging



Embankment Damage due to Improper Pumping



Brick Field Labour Sheds on the Riverside of Dike



Private ditches on the country side of embk.



Brick field on the river side of embankment

2. Beradanga, north of Primary School:

As per new design, the riverside toe of the embankment will extend significantly into the river bed and the country side toe of the embankment will extend far into private shallow ditches. Earth filling at this site will be about 0.8m to 1.20 m. Availability of earth for embankment re-sectioning will be difficult. Required 15m berm as per design on both sides of embankment is not possible. The photo on the right shows the river on the outside and shallow ditches on the country side.



3. Beradanga, south end:

There are houses and buildings on the slopes and berms of the embankment. Earth filling at this site will be around 0.80m to 1.10m. Embankment cannot be heightened without demolishing the houses. Though the land is owned by BWDB, removing the settlers without resettlement will be difficult.



Houses and Buildings on the Country Side of Dike



Houses on Both Sides of the Dike

4. Shailla, north of Sluice-3:

There is a building on the riverside slope of the embankment and deep ponds and houses on the country side. Earth filling at this site will be around 0.80m to 1.00m. Heightening of the embankment with extended embankment toe lines will be difficult. The photo on the right shows houses on both sides and the building on the river side. The ponds and ditches are off this location.



5. Maheswar Kathi, Sluice-9:

This is a very old pipe sluice with wooden fall board on the country side and flap gate on the riverside. This sluice is not properly functioning and needs reconstruction with a box sluice and lift

gate on the country side. The sluice khal here is known as Himkhali khal and needs re-excavation. As per new design, dumping of spoil earth 10m from the bank line will be very difficult as people will not allow agricultural land for spoil dumping.



Wooden Fall Board on the Country Side of Sluice



River Side Face of the Sluice, No Operation Deck

6. North Chapra:

Height of filling at this location will be around 0.80m to 1.00m. On the outside, the extended toe of the rehabilitated embankment will be on the river. On the country side there are houses, mosques, shrimp ghers on the slope and berm of the embankment. Earth is also not available on the river side. Therefore re-sectioning with new design considering climate change and BM correction will be difficult.



Houses on the Country Side, River within Outside Toe



Shrimp Ghers on the Country Side of Dike

7. South Chapra:

Earth filling at this location will be around 0.90m to 1.10m. The riverside toe of the rehabilitated embankment will be in the river and the country side toe of the rehabilitated embankment will be obstructed because of shrimp ghers and houses.



Houses on the Country Side and River on the Outside



Shrimp Ghers with Private Shrimp Inlet

8. Field Office in Polder -2:

On the way back visited one private building in a village near Dulhar Bazar, proposed to be rented for Blue Gold field office in polder-2. The building was found to be suitable as a field office cum guest house in Satkhira, as hotels and restaurants are very limited in Satkhira. After discussion with the building owner, it was decided to rent the house from 1st January 2015. The building is shown in the photos below:



Front View of the Two Storied Building



The Entrance of the Building with Gate

At noon, had a discussion meeting cum lunch at BWDB guest house in Satkhira with the concerned field XEN and SDE. In the afternoon left for Khulna and stayed overnight at Khulna.

16 December 2014: Visited polder 26 in Khulna along with concerned field officials and TA team. This is also a rehabilitation polder and the embankment design considered both climate change effect and BM correction. The design requires no ditches within 15m of the embankment toe. Visited following locations:

1. Chari Zialtola:

As per new design, the embankment toe will extend several meters both towards the river side and the country side. There is a deep pond within the country side toe and low agricultural land within the river side toe. Stability of the slopes on the country side will be difficult. Average earth filling on the top and the slopes will be around 1.00m.



Deep Pond within Country Side Toe of Dike



Low Agricultural Land on the River Side

2. Zialtola:

Average earth filling on this section of the embankment is about 0.50m. There was some piece meal work in this reach from AILA fund. There are many houses, one school and a club on the country side slope of the embankment. On the outside the river is very close to the embankment toe.



Houses & Buildings on Country Side Slope



River within the Outside Toe of the Dike

3. Kadamtola:

There is a small private outlet at this location, which is not at all sufficient for draining the sub-catchment. It is proposed that this outlet will be replaced by a bigger sluice to handle the drainage from a bigger catchment area including the diverted drainage from the redundant Kakamari sluice. The sluice canal needs re-excavation to handle the combined drainage. The embankment toe at this location will extend into the agricultural land in the country side. Land availability may be difficult.



Private Outlet to be Replaced by Bigger Sluice



Canal to be Re-excavated for Larger Drainage

4. Kakmari Sluice- presently redundant:

Kakmari sluice is a 3 vent box sluice, which is presently non-functional because of dead outfall river. Drainage flow from this sluice will be diverted to a new sluice at Kadamtola, through linking and re-excavating internal canals. People also demanded one more sluice/outlet at Betbunia to share part of this combined drainage flow. The photo to the right shows the view of the redundant Kakmari sluice.



On the way to polder 31-part, visited BWDB SDE office at Dumuria. This office is in a very vulnerable condition. The roof has been damaged and the beams are severely cracked. It can cause fatal accident anytime. BWDB proposed that if this office is renovated by Blue Gold Program, it can be used by BWDB officials as well as Blue Gold field TA team for training and meeting purposes.

In the afternoon, had a short visit to polder 31-part in Khulna along with the concerned BWDB Section Officer. This is also a rehabilitation polder and the embankment has been designed considering climate change effect and BM correction. The new design requires no ditches within 15m of the toe of the embankment. Visited following locations:

1. Keshorabad:

As per new design the embankment at this location needs about 0.90m earth filling. The toe of the embankment will extend several meters both in the country side and the river side. People may not allow agricultural land on the country side for construction of embankment and for making borrow pits to bring soil for the embankment. On the riverside, if 15m berm is kept for the embankment there will be hardly any space for making borrow pits. So, soil may also be a problem for rehabilitating the embankment as per new design. All the sluices have to be remodelled to adjust with the new embankment height.

2. Nandankhali Sluice:

The embankment around this sluice needs about 0.50m to 0.90m earth filling. The toe of the embankment will extend far into the country side agricultural land and the river side berm.

This is a very important sluice and drains most of the beels including Raja Kha's beel in the polder as most of the sluices along the silted-up Jhapjhapia river on the east have become non-functional. This sluice needs to be remodelled to adjust with the increased embankment height. There needs to be one additional sluice by the side of this sluice to take care of diverted flows from the non-functional sluices. However, as the invert level of these sluices will still be above the bed level of the Rajakha's beel, one pump station will be required to drain out the water logged in the Rajakha's beel in the post monsoon, which has already been proposed under the innovation fund.

In the afternoon, had a discussion dinner in the BWDB guest house in Khulna including the SEs, XENs and SDEs of BWDB field offices, and selected members of field TA team.

17 December 2014: in the morning attended a workshop organised by IRRI-IWM at Shushilon office in Khulna on community water management in polder 30. In addition, just before lunch had a quick discussion meeting with the TA staff in Khulna office. In the afternoon, left Khulna for Jessore by road, and Jessore for Dhaka by air.

Observations:

1. The new embankment design criteria for rehabilitation polders include consideration of climate change effect and correction for Bench Marks (BM) with respect to the new Mean Sea Level. The design also dictates that there should be no ditch within 15m of the toe of the embankment.
2. From field visits it is clear that the height of filling on the top and the slopes of the embankment will vary from 0.50m to 1.20m and the toe of the embankment will extend from 3 to 5m on both sides. This along with 15m plain berms on both sides of the embankment toe may not be acceptable to the local people.
3. Moreover, there are many houses, buildings, ditches and ponds and even the river just within the toe of the embankment. So, it will be really difficult to get land and soil for rehabilitation of the embankment with the new design, even without 15m berm on both sides.
4. To adjust with the new embankment height, all the existing sluices will have to be remodelled with increased height and all the new sluices will have to be designed with additional height.
5. The cost of polder rehabilitation with the new design will be much more than that with the existing design, which will reduce the total number of polders.
6. Moreover, there is no provision for land acquisition and re-settlement, this might make the situation more difficult.

Recommendations:

1. It would be easier if under Blue Gold Program, all rehabilitation works except the works already planned for 2015 are done as per the existing design and BM.
2. The new designs considering climate change and BM correction should be done under some other extended program or CEIP that has the necessary funds, required land acquisition and resettlement provisions to handle the cost, land and resettlement problems.

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