

# Training of Trainers for Farmer Trainer

Blue Gold has started the development of Farmer Trainers in 10 new polders, who will be able to take over the role of CDFs in organizing Farmer Field Schools. Recently Blue Gold has selected 76 Farmer Trainers (FTs) from Khulna and Patuakhali from different polders, among them 41 men and 35 women. Some of the selected FTs have already experienced to work with different development projects.

A three-week Training of Trainers course (FT-TOT) was organized to increase their knowledge and skills on Fisheries-Livestock-Nutrition modules and to familiarize them with FFS principles and activities that will be used during the 9th cycle of FFSs, which will be starting at April 2017. A lot of attention was given to developing their facilitation skills. The major contents of Fisheries modules are on semi-intensive fish culture, focusing on pond preparation, post stocking management, feed and disease management etc. The beef fattening module focused on cattle selection, housing management, feed management, disease management de-worming etc. The nutrition modules focused on food classification, 1000 days approach, proper cooking steps etc. Market orientation, networking, market actors, collective actions were addressed in a number of value chain sessions. The 76 FT candidates were trained in three courses, each of 18-day duration, at Khulna and Patuakhali from January – March 2017. The venues were CODEC Center Patuakhali and CSS Ava Center Khulna.

From April 2017 to March 2018 the new FTs will be apprentice in FFSs organized by FOs. After March 2018 these FTs will then be ready to run their own FFSs.

## **Objectives of the TOT;**

- To familiarize FTs with Blue Gold activities

- To familiarize FTs with FFS approach
- To increase capacity of FTs as a facilitator following participatory approach
- To provide technical information on Fisheries-Livestock-Nutrition modules with market orientation

Methodologies: Participatory discussion, Group work, Field visit, Use of live materials and Practice sessions were followed for the courses.

Facilitators:

- District and Upazila Livestock officers
- Focal Point- Directorate of Livestock
- District and Upazila Fisheries Officers
- Focal Point- Directorate of Fisheries
- Technical Advisor - Blue Gold Programme
- Fisheries Expert- Blue Gold Programme
- Livestock Expert- Blue Gold Programme
- Business Expert- Blue Gold Programme
- Agricultural Experts- Blue Gold Programme
- Gender Expert-Blue Gold Programme
- Training Coordinator-Blue Gold Programme

All technical field activities were led by the Blue Gold Livestock, Fisheries and Agriculture Experts. Field visits were coordinated by Community Development Facilitators (CDF).

Director & Program Coordinating Director (PCD), Deputy Chief (Fishery), Chief Water Management, from BWDB, Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader –Blue

Gold programme attended the training programme at beginning and closing events as an honorable guest. Their valuable speeches encouraged the participants and motivated them to perform their duties to help improve livelihood of the polder dwellers.

Pre and Post evaluation was conducted for participants in a written test with a set questionnaire for evaluating their improvement.