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1. Introduction

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has been working in the proper operation and management (O&M) of water enforcing different users and stakeholders to access and use of water. BWDB has faced diverse and multi sectoral water problem and learned lot of experiences. Now it is concerned with the sustainable development of water management system for the completed polder system where large section of people's community is living. In particular, aiming at to the people of the polder system in the southern and southwest zones of Bangladesh. Blue Gold Program has been set-up for sustainable socio-economic development through participatory water management and diversified farming practices, market participation and supporting local initiative; for helping build relations with partner organisations, line agencies, local resource persons, private sector; and for optimising the mix of disciplinary support to the situation at hand.

The main thrust of the program is to ensure the participation of multicultural stakeholder in the maintenance and operation polder system and formation of water management organization in ensuring sustainable use of water. The Polder Team (BWDB-OCWM and BWDB-O&M Divisions, DAE and TA field staff) help establish sub-catchment based Water Management Groups and Polder level Water Management Association.

Polder 47/4 has been selected for mobilizing and organizing water management organization in the Southern Zone. The polder 47/4 has a gross area of about 6,600 hectares and cultivable land about 5,600 hectares include 4 Union (Ballatali, Dalbugori, Dulashar and Mithagori Union) and 12 mouzas (Char Nazib, Chotto Ballatali, Lemu Para, Sona Para, Bara Ballatali, Char Ballatali, Dulashar, Basitali, Dalbugori, Manashatali, Harancrapur Khaprabarga and Madukhali) of Kalapara Upazila under Patuakhali District. The area has been inspoled by BWDB with 61 km embankment and the area has been provided with 26 of Sluices.

2. Planned and Set-up Methodologies Adopted

During the formation of WMG the following process has been learned and adopted through the involvement of BWDB, TA team members. The formation process includes the following are depicted here:

2.1 Meet partner agency key staff. TA Zonal and polder coordinators meet key staff of the partners in water management for development of the concerned polder – preferably as a group – to discuss the Blue Gold initiative, its initial activities (familiarisation and information gathering, program dissemination and polder planning) and its overall programme. To help build commitment, leaflets have distributed and different type of video are shown:

- BWDB: XEN and key staff, DCEO, and AEO;
- District and Upazila officials of DAE, DLS and DoF;
- UP and Upazila Chairmen and members.

3. Set-up polder teams

Polder Coordinator, Extension Overseer (XO), BWDB and Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer (SAAO), DAE along with TA staff employed at the polder level.

3.1 Conduct orientation workshops for polder teams to ensure common understanding of key building blocks of water management for development:

- PWM Approach, Goal and targets; as well as specific timelines for phasing out TA staff from old polders and phasing in into new ones;
- Building blocks for developing functional Water Management Organisations (WMOs);
- Collective Actions (CAs), Horizontal Learning and self-reflection, Partnerships and Networking, ;
- Collective actions and how to stimulate these with opportunities in FFS/MFS activities, operation and maintenance, and income generating activities (IGAs);
- Horizontal learning and participatory monitoring as a tools for promoting self-reflection and supporting a self-evolving development process;
- Creating partnerships and a support network to turn to as needed when addressing problems and opportunities on water resource management and economic development.

4. Activation Entry

¹ Community Organisation Expert and BGP Zonal Coordinator for the Patuakhali Zone's TA team. The support from the zonal socio-economist in preparing this paper is gratefully acknowledged.

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Support, enhance and expand collective action (CFA) among collective action and methods that have to get involved in identifying and implementing new ideas (e.g. RFP sessions, group action planning, individual action plans and activities, using benchmarking as a tool for change, water management and operational, quality improvement, etc. Polder Team will support from local and State Experts provide guidance and technical support to WMO and other operator through group or community action. Polder action team train as operators in the organization. It is important in the future to discuss with the collective action leaders the importance of providing training, exchange and strategies to foster support of collective action and dissemination.

4.1 Village and Sub-catchment Visit
A visit has been made for the understanding the physical situation of the polder and socio-cultural condition of the people. Through the process visit of the institutions, roads, water, markets, electricity, housing, the existing water projects, village and polder management have done as well as assess the current situation of the area. The process also opens an opportunity to gain the knowledge of that area in the polder area. Before the visiting process the understanding, create clear picture about the physical situation of the polder system. A team action step drawing conceptual framework, setting goals and implementation prepared by BWDB ensure the carrying the path through Polder team to ensure participation of interested collective action leaders and his influence from the action community leading WMOs. If applicable, NGOs and UP members during the visit through:

- The visit process has provided a table of the physical and biological environment of the polder system.

5. Forming groups formation

The first group meeting has been formed and organized in a group of people at each WMO area who are responsible for doing the formation for a self-evident WMO. The core group has composed of community leaders that have emerged from the existing collective action and have some experience including existing farmer organisations/forums. The BGP polder team is a consultant with the community organisations and with the consent of all members, carefully identify these core group.

5.1 Village Mapping and Boundary Definition

On the basis of existing activities map the Blue Gold (BGP) Polder Team has visited the whole polder area on the basis of village and sub-catchment. This visit also focused on the existing geographical area covered by a specific location (village and area). The process register maps to identify the present water management system, village boundaries and emerging water management and existing water management activities in different activities such as fishermen, farmers, fishermen and others. The team also face and some problems that existing water management system unable to ensure water in some corner (corner of the village) that corner corner among the village. Some village were split into two or more section on the basis of geographical units. The process also helps to collect the land use pattern (length, width, contour and area) and help to assess the physical situation of the area. The village map and outline of village boundaries are drawn with GPS and resolution, meeting and open a discussion with the village.

- Through the process village map and boundary has been prepared on the basis of geographical units.

5.2 Identification of Problems and Physical Structures

The existing problems are facing by the village regarding water management, water operation, water quality, high low water, timing, local situation etc. The problems were identified on the basis of their visit and outline of problem, identified/identified for regarding village profile on the basis of existing conditions, including existing problems, social-economic situation and local conditions. The collection of resources data and identification of household level also done along with the visit of existing water management, physical, social and political situation has been identified.

- The list of problems and priority issues was prepared.
- Mutual visit approximately area of land (100%) of Polder and WMO was done, all households, fishermen and village of location of the village.

5.3 Meeting with the WMO

Several (District and Polder Team) discussion has taken place with the WMO (Chairman, Members) representatives including local elites. The meeting oriented the Blue Gold Program objectives, activities

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WMO alt


Developing WMOs

Water Management Organizations - The common name of organizations of the local stakeholders of a water resource project/sub-project/scheme. The concept WMO typically refers to WMGs and WMA (and/or WMFs) together

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current 09:48, 11 April 2021		1,275 × 2,100, 4 pages (661 KB)	Saad.chowdhury (talk contribs)	

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Blue Gold Program Wiki

The wiki version of the Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold program, documents the experiences of a technical assistance (TA) team working in a development project implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) over an eight+ year period from March 2013 to December 2021. The wiki lessons learnt report (LLR) is intended to complement the BWDB and DAE project completion reports (PCRs), with the aim of recording lessons learnt for use in the design and implementation of future interventions in the coastal zone.

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