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Blue Gold Program Wiki

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Through their Homestead Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, Blue Gold aimed for greater inclusiveness in polder communities by targeting the functionally landless. Apart from the homestead FFS, Blue Gold also conducted crop FFS as part of their Commercialisation of Agriculture approach, focusing on the households with access to land. These crop FFS are not addressed in this success story.

With homestead production largely undertaken by women, Homestead FFS was an opportunity to contribute to the empowerment of women in the polders, as well as to reduce poverty.

Problems with homestead production

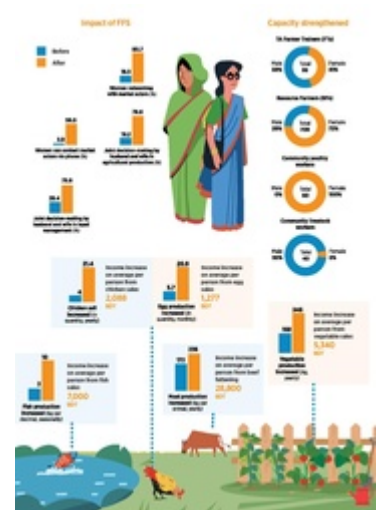
- Low productivity and hardly any surplus for sales
- Profits generated are too low to sustain livelihoods
- Lack of knowledge and skills relating to key technologies
- High failure rates in areas such as mortalities of poultry and poor germination
- Limited access to market actors to buy quality inputs and to sell surplus production
- Social barriers to women inhibit their initiatives

Insights

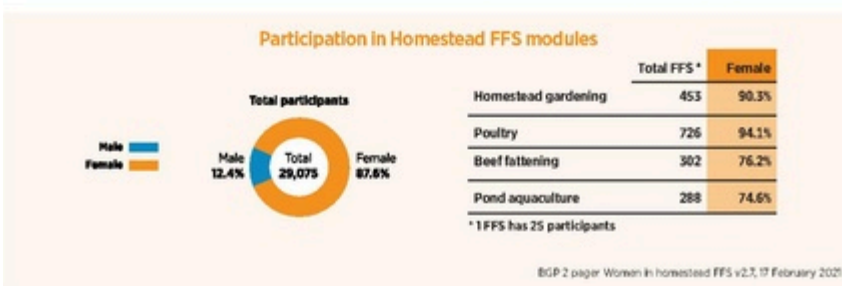
- The poultry and homestead gardening modules contribute more to women empowerment than the beef fattening and pond aquaculture modules:
 - Poultry and homestead gardening allow women to more easily undertake all purchase, production and marketing activities by themselves
 - Income from surplus selling can be retained more readily by the women themselves

By proper selection FFS participation benefits the neediest households. Main learnings are:

- The use of mobile phones provide farmers with virtual access to markets for goods, information and services. This is complemented by capacity strengthening of female Resource Farmers (RFs) and physical market visits
- Women more readily share what they have learned through Horizontal Learning (HL). Households in close proximity to Homestead FFS participants indirectly benefit from Homestead FFS
- A small percentage of men from marginally 'better-off' households in the FFS membership mix is positive for empowerment, networking and learning objectives



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Summary [\[edit | edit source\]](#)

Blue Gold Program success story Women empowerment through Homestead FFS



empowerment is a process, enabling people to make choices and convert these into desired actions and results. In doing so, people take control of their own lives, improve their own position, set their own agenda, gain skills, develop self-confidence, solve problems, and develop self-sufficiency. Empowerment leads to genuine participation of all actors as it is a process of gaining self-confidence for individual development as well as to contribute towards development of others.

Farmer Field School - A group-based learning process through which farmers carry out experiential

learning activities that help them to understand the ecology of their fields, based on simple experiments, regular field observations and group analysis. The knowledge gained from these activities enables participants to make their own locally specific decisions about crop management practices. This approach represents a radical departure from earlier agricultural extension programmes, in which farmers were expected to adopt generalized recommendations that are formulated by specialists from outside the community.

File history

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	Date/Time	Thumbnail	Dimensions	User	Comment
current	08:04, 12 October 2021		1,240 × 1,753, 2 pages (3.76 MB)	Bigblue (talk contribs)	Updated. Version: 2.7 17feb21
	09:07, 17 May 2021		1,240 × 1,753, 2 pages (3.76 MB)	Bigblue (talk contribs)	Blue Gold Program success story Women empowerment through Homestead FFS

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File usage

The following page uses this file:

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Variants

This page was last edited on 12 October 2021, at 08:04.

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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