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Blue Gold Program
Meeting Notes of the Gender Network Meeting
on
Gender in Water Management and Food Security

Held on November 12, 2013, 14 – 16.30 hrs at Hotel Center Point, Gulshan-2

Present:

Irin Sultana, GSA, CDSP-IV
 Afroza Bilkis, Master Facilitator, IFMC
 Md. Shahinur Rahman, Assistant Engineer Planning-III, BWDB
 Begum Shamsun Nahar, Gender and Development Specialist, PSSWRSP, LGED
 Nicole Malpas, Programme Manager Private Sector Development and Gender Focal Point EU
 Rita Sen, Gender Specialist, AAS – WorldFish
 Rilla Norslund, Senior Advisor, IFMC, DAE (Danida funded)
 Showkat Ara Begum, Gender Expert, Blue Gold
 Kitty Bentvelsen, short-term Gender Expert, Blue Gold

Several non-participating invitees had prior to the meeting informed about their absence (e.g. due to hartal and/or their office located outside Dhaka), but indicating their interest to participate in a next meeting. Annex 1 includes the names and contact details of the participants as well as others interested to participate in future meetings.

Meeting notes:

1. Presentations:

After a first introduction round, the participants gave a presentation of the project or program they are working in with a focus on gender issues. Some salient issues are mentioned here; more detailed information is attached in Annex 2 to 6.

Blue Gold Program, funded by the Netherlands Government and with BWDB and DAE as implementing partners (by Kitty Bentvelsen):
 This 6 year program will be implemented in 26 polders in Khulna, Patuakhali and Sathkira and its inception phase started in March 2013. Blue Gold's 5 components are: community organization, water management improvements, food security and agricultural production, business development, and cross-cutting issues, including gender mainstreaming. In the inception report Blue Gold gender approach is integrated in all program components, see annex 2 for more details. Gender performance indicators were also identified. First achievements include the recruitment of a gender balanced team of Community Organizers and Farmer Field School Organizers (50:50). The inception report also foresaw networking with similar projects on gender, which led to this network meeting.

Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP-IV), funded by the Netherlands Government and with 6 implementing partners, including BWDB as lead partner (by Irin Sultana):
 Phase IV started in March 2011 focusing on the development of five new chars in Noakhali. Its main intervention areas are water management, climate resilient infrastructure, provision of legal titles to settlers, improved livelihoods, agricultural production and institutional development. See also Annex 3. Gender related achievements include a 50% female membership of their Water Management Groups, and joint female and male land titles, which means that men cannot sell the land on their own. This shared ownership also reduces polygamy and the rate of divorce. In these new settlement areas women are generally more involved in socio-economic activities than in older settlements, for example, many women are found at the markets in CDSP's project area.

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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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