

Toggle menu
Blue Gold Program Wiki

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help about MediaWiki](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)

Personal tools

- [Log in](#)

personal-extra

Toggle search

Search

Random page

Views

- [View](#)
- [View source](#)
- [History](#)
- [PDF Export](#)

Actions

File:Gender 9nov 18 pilot joint UP WMG WE workshops.pdf

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- [File](#)
- [File history](#)

- [File usage](#)

Report on pilot joint UP-BGP workshops on Women's Empowerment

Satkhira, 1 and 3 October, 2018

1. Background of the workshop:

Half of the population of the Blue Gold project area are women, who are often little involved in income generating activities (or productivity increase) and lack power. To better achieve the objectives of BGP, both men and women need to have the opportunity to contribute to increased (agricultural) production and productivity - as this will raise the total production and reduces poverty- and participate in decision-making - as this will lead to better decisions. This will also contribute to the empowerment of women and more gender equality, which is in line with the policy of the Government of Bangladesh, including the local governments such as the Union Parishads, and Blue Gold's results framework.

Because in practice, the potential of women still remains more under-used than men's, this pilot workshop focused on increasing women's potential and empowerment. The target women (30 per workshop) were those women WMG members who are from the poorer sections and/or destitute¹, and who did not had earlier opportunity to participate in other BGP activities, such as FFS. However, they all had at least a small piece of homestead land. Selection was by the concerned WMG presidents.

2. Objective of the workshops:

Women's empowerment through utilizing women's potential and locally available resources, in particular local government services (e.g. from UP) and BGP support.

The workshops are joint efforts of the concerned UP and BGP, also sharing the budget, with the UP responsible for logistics and providing presentations about their facilities and services as available for the target women. BGP took the initiative, and participated in the facilitation of the workshop.

Two workshops were held²:



Go to page



[next page →](#)

¹ From the so-called "hanging-in" households

² A third similar workshop will be held in Khulina, probably in November 2018.

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Report on pilot joint UP-WMG workshop women's empowerment - final w pictures

gender 9nov_18 pilot joint UP_WMG WE workshops.pdf


Union Parishad - Union Council chaired by an elected Union Chairman

Water Management Group - The basic organizational unit in Blue Gold representing local stakeholders from a hydrological or social unit (para/village). Through Blue Gold, 511 WMGs have been formed and registered. The average WMG covers an area of around 230 ha has 365 households or a population of just over 1,500.

The process that women get more control over their own life. The following three dimensions are commonly distinguished: (1) Access to resources, including productive, human and social resources; such as inputs, assets, credit, skills, knowledge and social networks; (2) Increased participation and influence in decision-making, including about strategic life choices; (3) Improvements in well-being resulting from the above. Commonly four dimensions of women's empowerment are distinguished: economic empowerment, social empowerment, political empowerment and physical empowerment.

File history

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Date/Time	Thumbnail	Dimensions	User	Comment
current 20:38, 9 December 2020		1,240 × 1,754, 8 pages (1.01 MB)	Saad.chowdhury (talk contribs)	

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Namespaces

- [File](#)
- [Discussion](#)

Variants

[Categories](#):

- [Gender](#)
- [Report](#)
- [Documents in English](#)

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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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