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**Blue Gold Program
Participatory Water Management
Field Manual**

Introduction

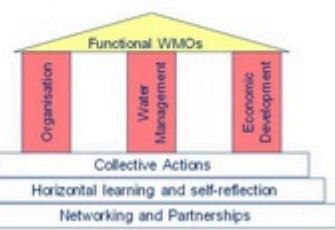
This guide is a reference for the polder teams responsible for establishing functional Water Management Organisations in the polder-areas. The process described here helps local communities stabilise their environments and pursue sustainable socio-economic development through participatory water management and diversified farming practices with increased market participation. The concise description of the work process in this guide gives the polder teams a global activity chart; and leaves them adequate room for improvisation, for anticipating and supporting local initiative; for helping build relations with partner organisations, line agencies, local resource persons, private sectors; and for optimising the mix of disciplinary support to the situation at hand.

Through the approach described in this manual, the polder teams (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 (see annex B).

The WMGs and WMA will be assisted to engage in water management, to build their organisations (self-evolving) and to foster inclusive economic development. In this way, improved water management and the organisation required to improve water management form the driver for economic development in the polders. To harness the organisational powers of local people, collective actions to generate economic benefits will form the first point of entry. DAE supports this by introducing knowledge and skills for improved agricultural production. Through collective actions, the cohesion and benefit created by working together on a small scale, will pave the way for development of water management organisations. Moreover, economically beneficial collective actions will provide a starting point for the financial sustainability of improved water management. Organisational strength will be developed by stimulating horizontal and experiential learning; and by helping the development of a support network through relevant linkages with other public and private entities.

In line with the Government's Guidelines on Participatory Water Management, the WMGs and WMA are – when fully established – responsible for operation of the water infrastructure in the polder and for regular maintenance of the same. This includes the mobilisation of adequate resources for operation and maintenance. The Local Government (Union Parishad) supports the WMOs in an advisory capacity. The BWDB is the key agency responsible for periodic maintenance, emergency repairs and rehabilitation.

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Work Process

This section describes the main steps for establishing participatory water management in the polder areas. The document is neither prescriptive nor linear, but rather a guide that working with local communities, experiments with different methods, and with a view to reflect the concerned departments and polder teams of the measures of room for local adaptation.

Annex II (Refer page 40) supports this description given in this chapter.

A. A participatory framework for the polder of the region of the polder. This chart will be updated based on the experience of the polder areas in the course of the process. The chart will be updated based on the experience of the polder areas in the course of the process. (Annex II, which:

- 1. A brief description of the polder areas involved in the process (BWDB, TA, DAE, OCWM, Daff, IJG, WMOs, local and polder). (Shows the different activities involved. The schedule shows the time frame for implementation of the activities being informed, and it is recommended to follow the schedule during the implementation of the activities and drawing from the timing related to the infrastructure construction activities).

The work process moves through several overlapping stages and is well aligned to the infrastructure related activities. Each stage requires collective actions, reflection and planning and organization.

Stage 1: Preparations

1. Meet polder agencies key staff: TA, Daff and polder representatives meet key staff of the partners in water management for identification of the concerned polder - preferably as a group. The concerned polder staff will be identified and the concerned staff will be informed regarding program classification and policy planning and its overall programme. To keep track, communication, feedback will be conducted and a contact will be chosen.
 - a. Daff
 - b. TA
 - c. OCWM
 - d. DAE
 - e. BWDB
 - f. Local and polder officials of IJG, IJG and Daff
 - g. Off and experts (consultants and members)
2. Meet up: polder area, Daff, TA, DAE, OCWM, Daff and Sub-District Agency (SDA) officials along with 'In-charge' (representative) at the polder level.

2. General orientation workshop for polder teams to ensure common understanding of key themes of water management for implementation.

3. PWD Approach: Meet one targets, set up specific timelines for phasing out TA staff from the polders and phasing in the new teams.

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Summary

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Field Manual BGP PWM (English)

Blue Gold Program

A process by which the local stakeholders are directly and actively involved in identification, planning, design, implementation, operation & maintenance and evaluation of a water management project.

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This page was last edited on 2 July 2020, at 09:58.

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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