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Issue-6
Dec-2019

BLUE GOLD TRENDS WATCHER

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Community Led Agricultural Water Management Increases Revenue	1	<p>Polder-43/2F, Bangladesh</p> <p>Preamble Uttar Khokhari WMG of polder 43/2F is located about 25 km southwest from Patashkhal BGP Office in Gulishakhali union under Amtoli Upazila of Bangladesh district. WMG members come from 208 HHs out of 350 HHs in the WMG area. Approximately 600-650 acres of cropland belongs to the said WMG and located in five separate fields. CAWM activities had taken place in one of the crop fields which is approximately 100 acres. The reporting field was under Khokhari sluice catchment and about 4 km far from the sluice. Due to long distance from sluice and obstacles (like fence and net for fishing, water hyacinth etc.) in the khal, there was slow drainage. The water of previous tide could not drain out water before the next high tide came in. Thus during monsoon there was high stagnant water in the field resulting damage of Aman rice seedbed and seedlings, and farmers had to go for local varieties of rice whose yield is low. At the same time, due to long distance from sluice and poor conditions of khal there was also scarcity of irrigation water in dry season for Rabi crops. Thus farmers could not cultivate diversified high value Rabi crops. As a result of poor drainage systems, about 75% (75acres) area of this field was considered as affected land in terms of non-suitability for cultivation of modern variety (HRV) of Aman rice and damage of Rabi crops. Since the field is basin shaped, sometimes it was not possible to grow crop/rice at the middle of the basin due to high depth of water, nearly 50 acres of land remained fallow. On the other hand, due to poor drainage system there was very little diversification in Rabi crops and farmers were forced to cultivate late Rabi crop like Mungbean, but again it was under threat of loss, if there was even medium rainfall during February to April.</p> <p>Way-out Activities/Process: In the above stated situation, Blue Gold Program, Patashkhal conducted Community led Agricultural Water Management (CAWM) in a most problematic area of the field (lower portion of the field) in consultation with the concerned WMG and respective SAAD. As part of CAWM crop-related technical and water management problems were identified in participatory manner with farmers/WMGs. There are two parts in CAWM- one is DAE conducted FFS which deals with technical issues on crop production and the other is community-based water management that includes drainage systems improvement and construction of small-scale infrastructures. Through the DAE FFS farmers are made aware about the crop synchronization and scope and benefits of modern variety of Aman rice along with cultivation procedures. After identifying the problems, ... PLEASE SEE PAGE 11</p>
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Blue Gold Program is Implemented by

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)

&

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)



Uttar Khokhari CAWM is situated at the GPS location of 22.18319°N, 90.26813°E. Prior to the commencement of the CAWM program, the area was particularly vulnerable to waterlogging because Khokhari Sluice is located 4km away from the CAWM field which is in need. Farmers were forced to cut road to connect neighboring Bangrakhal Sluice Khal to drain out excess water. Under the CAWM scheme, concerned WMG took a joint financing initiative to construct a gated sags culvert for the GPS location of 22.18319°N, 90.26813°E along with 800ft field channel as the long-term solution of the problem.

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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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