

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:26feb 21 WMO alt developing WMOs.pdf

From Blue Gold Program Wiki

The printable version is no longer supported and may have rendering errors. Please update your browser bookmarks and please use the default browser print function instead.

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

1. Introduction

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has been working in the proper operation and management (O&M) of water enforcing different users and stakeholders to access and use of water. BWDB has faced diverse and multi sectoral water problem and learned lot of experiences. Now it is concerned with the sustainable development of water management system for the completed polder system where large section of people's community is living. In particular, aiming at to the people of the polder system in the southern and southwest zones of Bangladesh. Blue Gold Program has been set-up for sustainable socio-economic development through participatory water management and diversified farming practices, market participation and supporting local initiative; for helping build relations with partner organisations, line agencies, local resource persons, private sector; and for optimising the mix of disciplinary support to the situation at hand.

The main thrust of the program is to ensure the participation of multicultural stakeholder in the maintenance and operation polder system and formation of water management organization in ensuring sustainable use of water. The Polder Team (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.

Polder 47/4 has been selected for mobilizing and organizing water management organization in the Southern Zone. The polder 47/4 has a gross area of about 6,600 hectares and cultivable land about 5,600 hectares include 4 Union (Ballatali, Dalbugori, Dulashar and Mithagori Union) and 12 mouzas (Char Nazib, Chotto Ballatali, Lemu Para, Sona Para, Bara Ballatali, Char Ballatali, Dulashar, Basitali, Dalbugori, Manashatali, Harancrapur Khaprabarga and Madukhali) of Kalapara Upazila under Patuakhali District. The area has been impoldered by BWDB with 61 km embankment and the area has been provided with 26 of Sluices.

2. Planned and Set-up Methodologies Adopted

During the formation of WMG the following process has been learned and adopted through the involvement of BWDB, TA team members. The formation process includes the following are depicted here:

2.1 Meet partner agency key staff. TA Zonal and polder coordinators meet key staff of the partners in water management for development of the concerned polder – preferably as a group – to discuss the Blue Gold initiative, its initial activities (familiarisation and information gathering, program dissemination and polder planning) and its overall programme. To help build commitment, leaflets have distributed and different type of video are shown:

- BWDB: XEN and key staff, DCEO, and AEO;
- District and Upazila officials of DAE, DLS and DoF;
- UP and Upazila Chairmen and members.

3. Set-up polder teams

Polder Coordinator, Extension Overseer (XO), BWDB and Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer (SAAO), DAE along with TA staff employed at the polder level.

3.1 Conduct orientation workshops for polder teams to ensure common understanding of key building blocks of water management for development:

- PWM Approach, Goal and targets; as well as specific timelines for phasing out TA staff from old polders and phasing in into new ones;
- Building blocks for developing functional Water Management Organisations (WMOs);
- Collective Actions (CAs), Horizontal Learning and self-reflection, Partnerships and Networking, ;
- Collective actions and how to stimulate these with opportunities in FFS/MFS activities, operation and maintenance, and income generating activities (IGAs);
- Horizontal learning and participatory monitoring as a tools for promoting self reflection and supporting a self-evolving development process;
- Creating partnerships and a support network to turn to as needed when addressing problems and opportunities on water resource management and economic development.

4. Activation Entry

¹ Community Organisation Expert and BGP Zonal Coordinator for the Patuakhali Zone's TA team. The support from the zonal socio-economist in preparing this paper is gratefully acknowledged.

Go to page 1 ▼ Go!

Support, enhance and expand collective action (CFA) among collective action and motivate them to get involved in identifying and implementing new ideas (e.g. FFS sessions, group action planning, mobilisation, related trainings and activities, using benchmarking as model village, water management and participatory water management, water management, etc. Polder Team will support from District and Thana Executive groups, generate technical support to FFS and other popular extension groups in convincing others. Polder action team trainings at appropriate time/organisation. It is important to the polder to discuss with the collective action leaders the importance of participatory learning strategies and strategies to foster support of collective action and dissemination.

4.1 Village and household visit
A field visit has been used for the understanding the physical situation of the polder and socio-cultural condition of the people. Through the process visit of the institutions, roads, water, markets, electricity, housing, the existing social structure, religion and general socio-economic condition have been as well as assess the current situation of the area. The process also opens an opportunity to gain the knowledge of that area in the polder area. Before the visiting process start the understanding, create clear picture about the physical situation of the polder system. A field visit may draw attention of the polder system and information required for the development of the polder system. The visit through Polder team to assess participation of interested collective action leaders and the effectiveness of the action community training (ACT). If applicable, FFS and FFS members during the visit through.

• The visit process has provided a table of the physical and biological environment of the polder system.

5. Forming groups

The first group meeting has been formed and organized in a group of people at each WMO area who are responsible for doing the formation for a self-acting WMO. The core group has consisted of community leaders that have emerged from the existing collective action and have some experience including existing farmer organisations/forums. The BGP polder team is a consultant with the community organisations and with the consent of each member, carefully identify these core group.

5.1 Village mapping and household selection

On the basis of existing activities map the Blue Gold (BGP) Polder Team has visited the whole polder area on the basis of village and union boundaries. This field visit has been used for the understanding the physical situation of the polder and socio-cultural condition of the people. Through the process visit of the institutions, roads, water, markets, electricity, housing, the existing social structure, religion and general socio-economic condition have been as well as assess the current situation of the area. The process also opens an opportunity to gain the knowledge of that area in the polder area. Before the visiting process start the understanding, create clear picture about the physical situation of the polder system. A field visit may draw attention of the polder system and information required for the development of the polder system. The visit through Polder team to assess participation of interested collective action leaders and the effectiveness of the action community training (ACT). If applicable, FFS and FFS members during the visit through.

• Through the process village map and boundaries has been prepared on the basis of topographical data.

5.2 Identification of Problems and Physical Structures

The existing problems are facing by the village regarding water management, water operation, water quality, high low water, timing, local situation etc. The problems were identified on the basis of their visit and analysis of problem. Identification for regarding village profile on the basis of existing conditions, including economic, political, social, cultural, physical and local conditions. The collection of resources data and information of household level also taken place. Collection of data of existing infrastructure, physical, social, economic and other information has been identified.

• The list of problems and priority issues was prepared.
• House visit approximately area of 10% (100%) of Polder and WMO area was all households, households and village of location of the village.

5.3 Meeting with the GPO

Several (District and Polder Team) discussion has taken place with the GPO (Chairman, Members) representatives including local elites. The meeting oriented the Blue Gold Program objectives, activities

[next page →](#)

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[Original file](#) (1,275 × 2,100 pixels, file size: 661 KB, MIME type: application/pdf, 4 pages)

WMO alt


Developing WMOs

Water Management Organizations - The common name of organizations of the local stakeholders of a water resource project/sub-project/scheme. The concept WMO typically refers to WMGs and WMA (and/or WMFs) together

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Namespaces

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

Variants

[Categories](#):

- [Shorab Hossain](#)
- [Paper](#)
- [Documents in English](#)
- [WMOs](#)

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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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