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Grass-Root Level Field Experience in Water Management[1]

by Dr. Shamsul Alam

For the national development that can be achieved through proper disaster management, real environmental stability, usage of arable lands, integrated water management, it is vital to consider the climate change perspective. The coastal region of Bangladesh faces the most adverse effects of climate change. In the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, the severe vulnerability of the coastal area is mentioned with importance. A Finance department team of Bangladesh Planning Commission went to Dumuria and Batiaghata Upazilla of Khulna and Satkhira Sadar Upazilla. The purpose of the visit was to observe Blue Gold Program activities and discuss with the concerned stakeholders about the problems' farmers are facing in the field.

Before starting discussion on Blue Gold Program, it is necessary to mention some points on the risk of climate change especially about increase in temperature, rainfall, effect of increase in sea level and also about the strategies and major activities for the coastal areas specified in the Bangladesh Delta Plan.

Bangladesh is one of the disaster-prone countries due to its geographical location, risk of climate change and being a delta land. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-5), Bangladesh is one of the top ten disaster prone countries in the world. Cyclone, storm, tornadoes, drought, flood, riverbank erosion are the common problems in our country. Due to rapid unplanned urbanization, rural development and industrial development without considering the necessary environmental protection measures, the pressure on the environment and environment is increasing. Dealing with climate change risks, natural disasters and maintaining sustainable development trends in the country are the major challenges at the moment. Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 has been taken into account for long-term development of the country considering the factors water resource management, climate change and environmental challenges.

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is a techno-economic, holistic and long-term strategic integrated plan. This plan specifically addresses the climate change and its detrimental effect. Moreover, water supply and environment related targets have been further timely specified in this plan.

In the last five decades, the average temperature of Dhaka City has increased by 1.1 degree Celsius and average annual rainfall decreased by half. In 1971, the annual average temperature of Dhaka City was 25.6 degree Celsius that increased to 26.7 degree Celsius in 2016. That means in the last 45 years, the average temperature of Dhaka City has increased by 1.1 degree Celsius. On the other hand in 1971, the average annual rainfall was 640 millimeter which decreased to 370 millimeter in 2016. Global temperature has already reached 1°C above pre-industrial era. 2018 was one of the warmest years on global record. This clearly gives an evident of the impact of the climate change. Moreover, the sea level has increased by four millimeter in the coastal areas of Bangladesh in the last two decades. If the temperature continues to increase in this rate, then our 19 coastal districts will become submerged as a result of increase in sea level. It is predicted that by 2030, 14 percent area of the country will become

1 The original article was published in Bangla in the "*Bonik Barta*", a Bangla-language daily newspaper, on 3rd February 2020. This English language translation was prepared without consulting the original author.

Shamsul Alam Bonik Barta 1 3rd February 2020

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Original file (1,240 × 1,754 pixels, file size: 672 KB, MIME type: application/pdf, 3 pages)

Grassroot Field Experience in Water Management (English) - Bonik Barta

IPWM

Dr. Shamsul Alam

In-polder water management; term used in Blue Gold to describe water management interventions which aim to deliver excess water from the field through field drains to secondary khals and thence to primary khals for evacuation through the sluice/regulator

File history

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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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