

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:BGIF Call for Proposals - Funding Window 1.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](#)

Blue Gold Program, Bangladesh Innovation Fund: Call for Proposals

Introducing the Blue Gold Program

Bangladesh's economy largely depends on its water resources. This South Asian country occupies the largest river delta in the world, where land has been created over thousands of years from silt deposited by the hundreds of waterways that characterize the landscape. The annual monsoon season – an essential part of the country's ecology and a vital source of water for people, livestock, and crops – also results in flooding from the distributaries of the River Ganges (or the Padma, as the river is known after its confluence with the Brahmaputra River). These floods drain through the south-western coastal region.

Managing these floodwaters and dealing with cyclonic storms passing from the Bay of Bengal brings further pressures to communities in the coastal region. Almost 40 percent of the coastal population live below the poverty line and face food, income, water, and health insecurities, which are exacerbated by climatic factors such as floods, droughts, cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, and river siltation. Water – which has gained the epithet "Blue Gold" in reference to its crucial importance in development – is the basis for changing people's lives and can trigger socio-economic development if managed properly.

The Blue Gold program is a € 57.7 million joint initiative funded by the governments of Bangladesh and the Netherlands. The development project – which began in March 2013 and is scheduled to run until 2020 – aims to reduce poverty for 150,000 households in the Bangladesh coastal districts of Patuakhali, Khulna, Satkhira, and part of Barguna. It helps local communities stabilize their environments and pursue sustainable socio-economic development through participatory water management and diversified farming practices with an increased awareness of planning or profit.

The Blue Gold Innovation Fund

The Blue Gold innovation Fund is a tool created to accelerate the development process in the area of the Blue Gold Program, by financing innovative approaches and new initiatives to socio-economic development. Innovations submitted to the Blue Gold Innovation Fund are expected to contribute to the outcome / results of the Blue Gold Program; the impact is expected to be mostly locally or regionally centered.

The Innovation Fund consists of a total budget of € 3.85 million, and has been divided into three separate funds: the Water Management Fund with a budget of € 1.4 million (focusing on water resources management), the Productive Sectors Fund with a budget of € 1.05 million (focusing on agricultural production and food security), and a separate water management action research fund of €1.4 million.

The Innovation Fund aims to establish linkages between Blue Gold and organisations based in Bangladesh and/or the Netherlands. Contributions to innovation within Blue Gold may emerge from a wide variety of knowledge centers, business enterprises, NGOs and Government Agencies, as long as the proposed activities fit within the framework of either the Water Management Fund or the Productive Sector Fund. The Blue Gold Program will assess relevant institutions and enterprises for emerging opportunities in specific technical fields.

Go to page



[next page →](#)

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[Original file](#) (1,275 × 1,650 pixels, file size: 229 KB, MIME type: application/pdf, 18 pages)

Summary

Call for Proposals -Funding Window 1: Improved Information for Agriculture

17-Jun-07

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Date/Time	Thumbnail	Dimensions	User	Comment
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current [04:27, 10 March 2021](#)



1,275 × 1,650, 18
pages (229 KB)

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Call for Proposals -
Funding Window 1:
Improved Information
for Agriculture 17-
Jun-07

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Namespaces

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

Variants

[Categories:](#)

- [BGIF](#)
- [Report](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Documents in English](#)
- [Innovation fund](#)

This page was last edited on 10 March 2021, at 04:31.

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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