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Blue Gold Program Wiki

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# File:Bgp-case-study-feminisation-of-agriculture-v3.7.pdf

From Blue Gold Program Wiki

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### Context

Until only recently, it was common in farming households in the polder areas for work to be strictly divided according to gender. Men worked in the fields, and women attended to domestic tasks, post-harvest work, and homestead production. Women's productive work was typically not valued, and considered part of domestic work.

### Demands for increased labour

**"Before BGP, we worked 2 hours a day, at most, in any kind of agricultural work. Now, it can be up to 6 hours per day, especially during aman and boro cultivation peak periods."** - BGP female farmer

BGP interventions resulted in increased cropping areas, increased cropping intensity with more crops being produced each year, and increased yields and homestead production. This led to an increased need for labour, bringing forth a change in the roles of women in agriculture.

- Women are engaged more in the production process in rice fields, a role previously only filled by men
- Improved water management has led to increased production of rabi crops. Women often provide all labour in the production of these crops
- Women's work in homestead food production, including poultry and livestock rearing and vegetable cultivation, increased
- Women are more involved in fisheries, especially in feeding prawn and fish, as a result of expanded aquaculture.

Women now also cultivate vegetables on pond dykes

- More women are engaged in the daily management of agricultural activities and marketing
- An increase in demand for wage labour has resulted in more available work for women from landless households

**"Women do more wage labour work than men, as they are cheaper, but they do the same amount of work per day as men."** - BGP female farmer

### Results

- Women are proud that they contribute to increased production and family incomes. Their work has diversified into a broader range of tasks
- Women's total workload, however, has increased, often at the cost of leisure time and rest. They now often suffer from exhaustion, sleep deprivation, and physical strains, especially in peak seasons
- Men's workloads have also increased, but they do not suffer from similar issues relating to overwork, as they work less hours than women
- Domestic work and care work remain mainly women's responsibility, amounting up to 8 hours of work in a day. Men engage very little in these tasks

### Feminisation of agriculture necessitates sharing domestic work

- Women's engagement in reproductive work hinders their involvement in productive activities. This will only



### Feminisation of agriculture

The increase in women's participation in agricultural production, compared with men's participation. This arises for a number of reasons, including an increased demand for labour and men's involvement in off-farm labour. Feminisation of agriculture also necessitates refocusing agricultural extension.

### BGP findings

Women are increasingly hired as labour for field crops as male labour move towards the non-farming sectors, and fish and poultry enterprises. In Khulna and Satkhira, women are hired for almost all farm operations. In Patuakhali women are mainly hired for non-rice crops, often providing all labour for these crops.

Source: BGP 2019 outcomes survey report



**Domestic work in BGP households**  
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[Original file](#) (1,240 × 1,753 pixels, file size: 1.32 MB, MIME type: application/pdf, 2 pages)

## Summary

Feminization of Agriculture, women's workload and sharing domestic work

## File history

Click on a date/time to view the file as it appeared at that time.

Date/Time	Thumbnail	Dimensions	User	Comment
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1,240 × 1,753, 2  
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Feminization of  
Agriculture, women's  
workload and sharing  
domestic work

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This page was last edited on 17 May 2021, at 09:15.

## 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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