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## Report on pilot joint UP-BGP workshops on Women's Empowerment

### 1. Background of the workshop:

Half of the population of the Blue Gold project area are women, who are often little involved in income generating activities (or productivity increase) and lack power. To better achieve the objectives of BGP, both men and women need to have the opportunity to contribute to increased (agricultural) production and productivity - as this will raise the total production and reduces poverty - and participate in decision-making - as this will lead to better decisions. This will also contribute to the empowerment of women and more gender equality, which is in line with the policy of the Government of Bangladesh, including the local governments such as the Union Parishads, and Blue Gold's results framework.

Because in practice, the potential of women still remains more under-used than men's, this pilot workshop focused on increasing women's potential and empowerment. The target women (30 per workshop) were those women WMG members who are from the poorer sections and/or destitutes, and who did not had earlier opportunity to participate in other BGP activities, such as FFS. However, they all had at least a small piece of homestead land. Selection was by the concerned WMG presidents.

### 2. Objective of the workshops:

Women's empowerment through utilizing women's potential and locally available resources, in particular local government services (e.g. from UP) and BGP support.

The workshops are joined efforts of the concerned UP and BGP, also sharing the budget, with the UP responsible for logistics and providing presentations about their facilities and services as available for the target women. BGP took the initiative, and participated in the facilitation of the workshop.

Two workshops were held:

1. On Monday 1 October at Budhata UP, Satkhira, with 28 women participants of 2 WMGs (Beula Nayiber Khal WMG and Lanbaranga Zamirer Khal WMG);
2. On Wednesday 3 October at Fingri UP, Satkhira, with 30 women participants of 3 WMGs (Morichap, Goshkhali khal and Koikhal) khal, 10 women from each WMG.

### 3. Process and programme of the workshops:

The workshop idea was developed in coordination with the concerned Union Parishads and BGP TA, also sharing the costs of the workshops. The UPs have a budget for women's empowerment.



1 From the so-called "hanging-in" households  
2 A third similar workshop will be held in Khulina, probably in November 2018.

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Before the workshop, Focus Group Discussions were conducted with the invited workshop participants. These FGDs collected some basic information on the characteristics of the workshop participants, assessed their interest in expanding homestead vegetable cultivation and discussed their current empowerment situation (or rather lack of empowerment). The findings from the FGDs are outlined as follows:

The program for the two workshops was very similar and is summarized in this report. It can be summarized as follows:

1. Workshop opened and welcome of BGP by BGP Zonal Coordinator
2. Registration speech by UP Chairman
3. Introduction of participants to workshop facilities (by gender co-ordinator)
4. Background and objectives of the workshop (Gender Expert)
5. Session on women's empowerment, including group work on opportunities and challenges and shared discussion on how to maximize challenges. Led by BGP Gender Co-ordinator
6. Session by Upazila Women's Office Officer
7. Session by UP representative on opportunities for women at UP level (not in Budhata due to absence of the UP representative)
8. Identification of group leaders and discussion of Action Plan, facilitated by Gender Co-ordinator (in Budhata) and Zonal Coordinator (in Fingri)
9. Distribution of cards (empowerment cards)
10. Closing, including feedback from the participants.

The overall facilitation of the two workshops was facilitated by the concerned UPs.

**4. Findings from the two workshops**

**4.1. Session on women's empowerment**

On the workshop participants the message of women's empowerment was highly new. The women themselves were feeling the idea that it is normal that women do not participate in decision making, that money is fetched by men only and that women do all domestic and care work, even if she has her husband, because many focus on doing agricultural work. Discussing options such as joint decision making, women handling money and sharing domestic work with male family members were all new issues to them. On the one hand, they saw this as a dream, but they also observed that using such ideas in front of their husbands might lead to anger or more domestic violence. They agreed that collective empowerment of women (or contributing to women empowerment) is key to increase their status in the family and community.

The group work identified the following opportunities for women's (domestic) empowerment:

- They have their homestead land that they can use for vegetable cultivation, poultry keeping, apiculture and raising selling cow milk and cow dung.
- Selling small/medium, selling baskets of natural bamboo baskets woven or making paper bags.

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## Summary [\[edit | edit source\]](#)


Report on pilot joint UP-BGP workshops on Women's Empowerment

Union Parishad - Union Council chaired by an elected Union Chairman

Blue Gold Program

## File history

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current <a href="#">19:25, 20 April 2021</a>		1,240 × 1,754, 7 pages (903 KB)	<a href="#">Bigblue</a> ( <a href="#">talk</a>   <a href="#">contribs</a> )	Report on pilot joint UP-BGP workshops on Women's Empowerment <a href="#">Category:Training reports</a> <a href="#">Category:Training</a> <a href="#">Category:Women's Empowerment Courses</a> <a href="#">Category:Documents in English</a>

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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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