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**Breaches to Polder Embankments  
Key Messages from Blue Gold**

Good morning Your Excellency, Ambassador of the Netherlands and Director General BWDB, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen



**SLIDE 1**

**Introduction**

1. All of those who live and work in the SW face the consequences of erosion damage to polder embankments. And the majority of the engineering professionals here in the audience will have practical experience of the consequences of breaches to polder embankments in the SW coastal region of Blue Gold.
2. But those who are resident in the polders, and whose families and livelihoods are dependent on the exclusion of flood waters from the polder bear the brunt of the consequences when polder embankments fail. And there can be an enormous social and economic impact when this happens.



**SLIDE 2**

3. The flooding which results from a breached embankment impacts on the lives and livelihoods of polder communities.
  - a. In severe cases, loss of life
  - b. Immediate loss of economic production - crops, fish/shrimp/prawn, poultry, livestock, and businesses
  - c. Damage to infrastructure – roads, utilities, homes, shops, schools
  - d. Longer term impacts - If the waters that enter the polder are saline either during the initial flood event or when the breach remains open in the longer term when more saline river waters are able to enter the polder, long term damage can be caused to the soil structure, resulting in lowered crop yields over a number of years until unwanted salts have been leached through the soil profile.



**SLIDE 3 - Overview**

4. My presentation today is not from the perspective of a specialist river engineer, but as a team leader who witnesses the impact of embankment breaches on people's lives and the difficulties faced by BWDB's field staff in the O&M Divisions in taking appropriate action. And I bring as a particular illustration, a breach in Polder 29 close to Chandghar village, on the banks of the Lower Bhadra River.
5. This is a location that some of you will have visited over the years – including the Ambassador and First Secretary..



Notes for workshop 24 April 2017

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23 April 2017

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Key messages to workshop with slides - BGP presentation

24-Apr-17

Blue Gold Program

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This page was last edited on 10 March 2021, at 05:20.

## 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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