



# The Blue Gold Program

Innovation in Crop and Water Practices

**Hero Heering**

**Project Director**



# Content

- General Introduction
- Impression of the Coastal Area
- Upscaling Innovation
- Remarks & Questions



# General introduction





---

**Project**  
The Blue Gold Program

---

**Client**  
Bangladesh Water  
Development Board  
Department of Agricultural  
Extension

---

**Location**  
Bangladesh

---

**Expertise**  
Water resources mgmt  
Institutional strengthening  
Agricultural production  
Market development

---



## Challenge

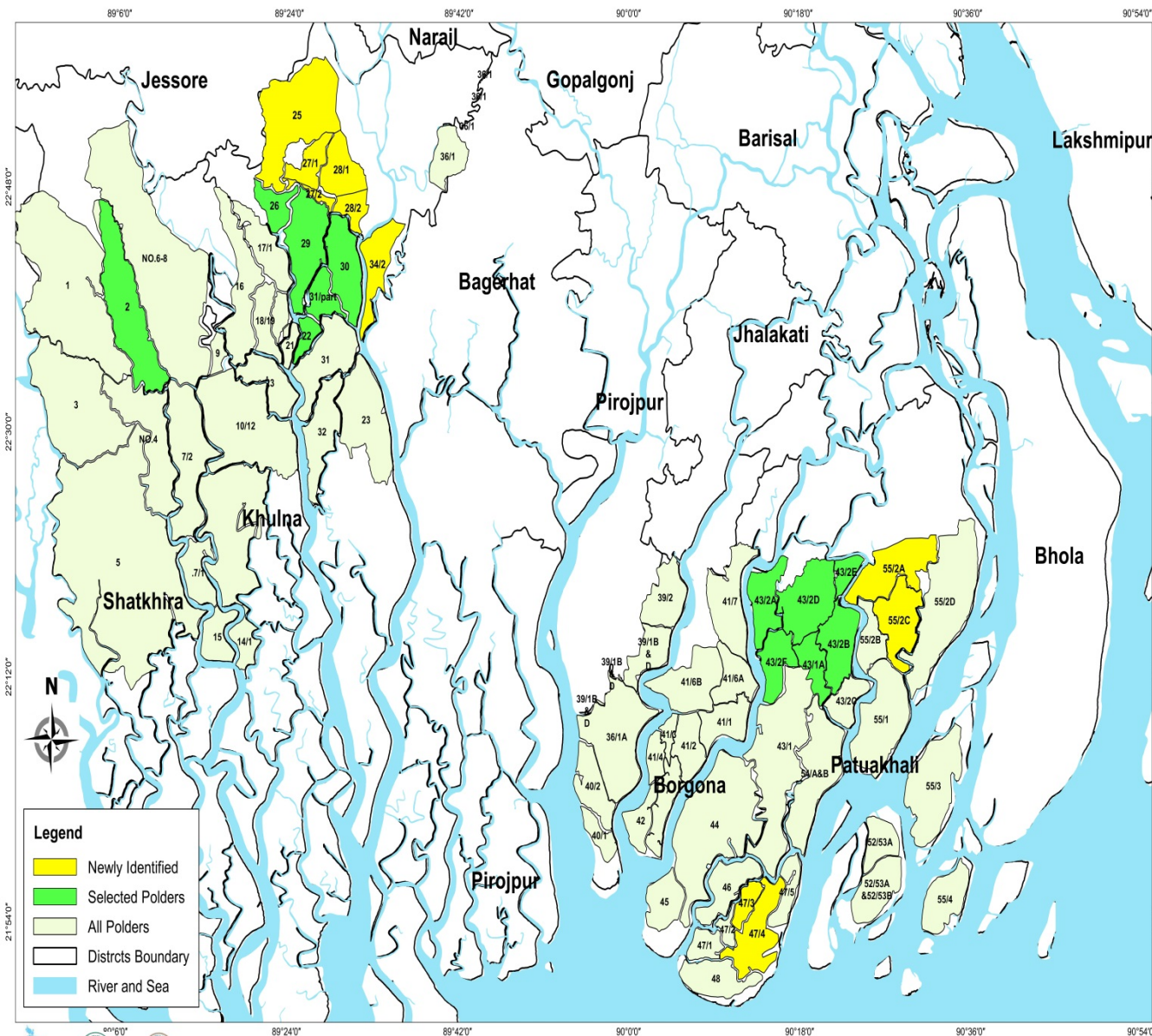
Over half the population in coastal Bangladesh lives below the poverty line, lack adequate governmental service provision and face high (disaster) vulnerabilities in terms of insecurity of food, income, water, health and poverty.

## Objective

The Blue Gold Program aims to reduce poverty and improve food security through improved water management and increased and diversified agricultural production in approximately 115,000 ha in 22 coastal polders in Bangladesh.

## Outcomes

- Improved Water Resource Infrastructure
- Water Management Partnership
- Adopted new practices and innovations
- Increased agricultural production and income



### Location

12 Polder in the districts of Khulna, Patuakhali and Sathkira

### Characteristics

- Remote and isolated
- Poor infrastructure
- Agriculture & Aquaculture
- Low tech farming
- Saline intrusion
- Water logging
- Poor drainage
- Annual floods

### Aim

- Mobilize community
- Improve water management infrastructure
- Increase productivity
- Improve agri value chain
- Develop local businesses

MAP OF SELECTED POLDERS OF BLUE GOLD PROGRAM



**1. Organize the communities in water management groups / cooperatives**



**2. Protect the communities and their land (risk reduction)**



**3. Increase agricultural / fisheries / livestock production**



**4. Improve marketing by developing business links with private sector (value chain development)**

# Impressions of the Coastal Area





# Drainage canal siltation





Flooding & water logging



Poor maintenance of water management infrastructure

# Small scale irrigation





Traditional agriculture



# Upscaling Innovation: Blue Gold Innovation Fund



## Blue Gold Innovation Fund

---

### **Aim**

Created to accelerate the development in the Blue Gold Program area

### **Goal**

Financing innovative approaches and new initiatives to agriculture and water management

### **Eligibility**

Setup to establish links between the Blue Gold Program and Bangladesh and Netherlands-based businesses /organisations.

# Two routes for Application to the Innovation Fund

## 1 - Unsolicited proposals

Maximum funding €50,000  
Focus on smaller interventions  
Feasibility studies, pilots  
Applications open till end 2019

## 2 - Solicited proposals

Maximum funding €500,000  
Initiated through call for proposals  
Separate terms sheet and TOR

Expected topics:  
-ICT in agriculture  
-Food processing

Total fund size €  
4.3 million

Water Management  
€ 2.4 million

Productive Sector  
€ 1.9 million



## Current projects under implementation

---

Organization	Topic
Consiglieri consultancy	Renewable energy possibilities for the Blue Gold polders
Practical action	Caged fish & vegetable production (aqua-geoponics)
WorldFish	Empowering women through homestead fish production
Flood Hazard Research Centre (FHRC)	Collective water management
MetaMeta	Impact of roads on flood protection and water management
Social Business Youth Alliance (SBYA)	Entrepreneurship development in Blue Gold polders

## Upcoming tenders from the Innovation Fund

---

Topic	Details
ICT in agriculture	<p>How can ICT technology increase the productivity of agriculture?</p> <p>Expected launch in March 2017</p>
Food processing	<p>Which food processing technology(s) can bring economic prosperity to the Blue Gold polders?</p> <p>Expected launch end 2017</p>

More information on the  
Innovation Fund

## **Blue Gold website**

<http://www.bluegoldbd.org/more-information/innovationfund/>

## **Contact**

Boudewijn Sterk Innovation Fund  
Manager

[boudewijn.sterk@bluegoldbd.org](mailto:boudewijn.sterk@bluegoldbd.org)





**Blue Gold website:** [www.bluegoldbd.org](http://www.bluegoldbd.org)  
**Facebook page:** <https://facebook.com/bluegoldprogram>

# Questions & Remarks



M

MOTT  
MACDONALD

M

