

# Lessons learnt for scaling-out Participatory Water Management

## Blue Gold Program

“The participation of all project-affected persons, individually and collectively, will be ensured in the planning, design, implementation, and operation and maintenance (O&M) of publicly funded surface water resources development plans and projects.”

**Government of Bangladesh, National Water Policy, 1999**

“The true strength of this policy emanates from its decentralized and democratic nature that gives every user the opportunity to vote for the use and sharing of water in an efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable manner.”

**Sheikh Hasina**

## What is Participatory Water Management?

Water management activities carried out with consent and active involvement of local stakeholders.

Small-Scale Water Resources Sector Projects (LGED)

Blue Gold Program (BWDB/DAE)

Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project (BWDB)

Char Development and Settlement Project

Others

## Lessons learnt

- Water Management Groups and Associations are more effective when they work in partnership with Local Government Institutions and line agencies
- Water Management Groups and Associations are stakeholders in main infrastructure and initiators of small scale water management infrastructure
- Commercial agriculture and improvement of water management go hand-in-hand
- With 20 years of experience, it is time to reassess the policy framework for Participatory Water Management
- Participatory Water Management (combining infrastructure, stakeholder partnerships and agricultural commercialisation) should be part and parcel of future water sector investments

## Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

Acknowledge local stakeholders in strategies

## Future water sector projects

Effective implementation through stakeholder participation

## A safe, climate resilient and prosperous delta

Stakeholders should be able to participate and benefit

BGP aims to reduce poverty of an estimated 186,000 households living on 119,000 ha (gross) of selected 22 coastal polders through Participatory Water Management and agricultural and economic development.

