

ORIO Bhola Island Bangladesh

The Island of Bhola, situated in the delta of the Lower Meghna in Southern Bangladesh, is the largest island in Bangladesh, and has over 1.6 million inhabitants. The greatest challenge at Bhola is severe river erosion, leading to an annual loss of 500-1000 hectares of land, homestead and livelihood of many families as well as loss of associated water management infrastructure. Subsequent effects of loss of infrastructure are regular flooding, inundation and saltation. A consortium comprising Dutch and Bengali partners (TechForce Innovations, Royal HaskoningDHV, AGT Netherlands, EPC, Tiger IT and Institute of Water Modeling) is working on the development of solutions for these erosion problems as part of an [ORIO](#) financed project (Facility for Infrastructure Development) for the Government of Bangladesh.

The project aims to substantially increase safety and security for the Bhola community by improving the water management infrastructure. Therefore the partners work on the development of a design for construction and implementation of a complete water management rehabilitation infrastructure for Bhola.

An Erosion Early Warning System (EEWS) is part of the project. This system monitors underwater protection works to detect faults and weak points in a very early stage. This allows responsible agencies to conduct timely and precise maintenance, ensuring a long lifetime of the structures against minimal costs.



Round table project meeting



Erosion at the coast of Bhola Island

TechForce Innovations is responsible for project reporting to ORIO and we assist in overall project coordination between project partners and stakeholders. This includes organizing and attending progress meetings and providing administrative support. As ORIO facilitates half of the project costs in the implementation phase, TechForce also explores possibilities with Bengali and multinational agencies to co-finance the implementation of the project.

For more information on this project, please contact Aart den Oudsten, a.denoudsten@innovations.nl

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