



BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY

Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration joined the rest of the nation to celebrate the 40th birth anniversary of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo on February 21, 2020. The celebration was held at Chhukha Central School's playground.

The celebration began at 7.00 am with offering of thousand butter lamps and prayers in Ngoedruptse Dzong. Led by Lam

Neten and Dzongdag, the participants planted Japanese peach saplings around the hillock, the model Dzongkhag beautification area. Surrounded by beautiful flowers and waterfall, the hillock with LUMO atop overlooking the Ngoedrup-tse Dzong was dedicated to the 40th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty.

Tsimalakha is usually foggy and quiet place. We do not see public gatherings. The winter morning was still on. However on this day, the general public had gathered at an early hour indicating their interest in celebrating the historic day. The event saw a huge gathering of more than 3000 participants comprising teachers and students of five schools and local business community.

Chhukha Dzongdag was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The school children, teachers, participants and local business communities of Tsimasham and Tsimalakha performed various entertainment and cultural programs. The free lottery draw was the center of attraction for the spectators.



The attractive prizes sponsored by the business communities of Tsimalakha and Gedu were awarded to the winners.

Finally the celebration was marked by awarding Ms. Kelzang Choden, student of Chhukha Central School with cash prize and certificate for securing 3rd place in Class XII Board Exam in Arts Stream, 2019. The day ended with Trashi Leybay.

Ugyen Chada
Dzongkhag Cultural Officer



VISIT OF LYONCHEN TO PAGA

His Excellency the Lyonchen Dr. Lotay Tshering visited Paga Goenpa reconstruction site in Chapcha Gewog.



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

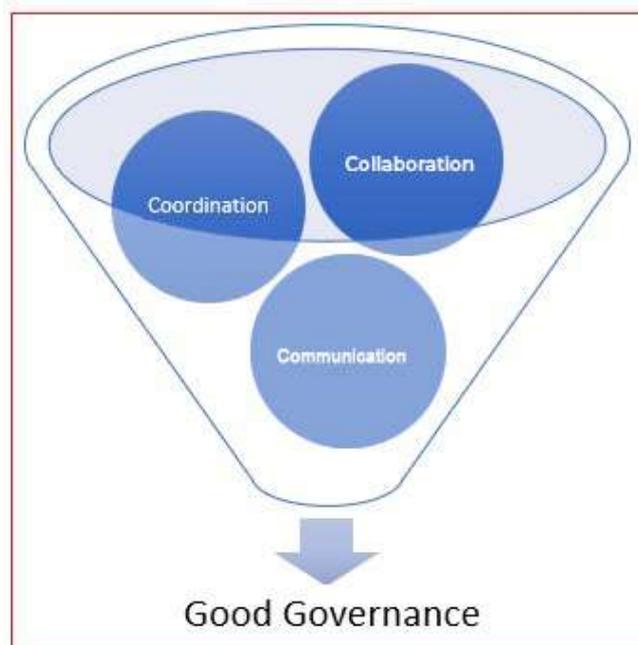
IN PURSUIT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is “a system or process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented” in an organization. Development literature review indicates that improving good governance is a critical approach to maximize administrative efficiency, enhance economic growth and ensure social inclusion. It is a key factor for organizational effectiveness and success.

In order to enhance good governance across the different sectors and local governments, the Dzongkhag has initiated the robust and reliable systems principally based on 3Cs - coordination, collaboration and communication. Some of the undertakings for enhancement of good governance are:

1. THE 3MS INITIATIVE

It stands for Monthly Management Meeting and was introduced in 2017 after renaming the Monthly Progress Meeting. The meeting intends to address continuously the daily managerial and administrative issues faced by different stakeholders and improve overall coordination and performance of the Dzongkhag. It is organized monthly on rotation basis by different sector heads. The meeting focuses more on process improvement of system believing that looking for perfection at the end is too late and, is strictly carried on within the principle framework of high impact, low cost and rapid execution of the Blue Ocean Strategy. As of now 79 rounds of 3Ms have been organized successfully. In line with 3M, all LGs in the Dzongkhag have instituted Gewog Monthly Coordination Meeting and different sector have introduced sector bi-annual coordination meetings at the Dzongkhag level. It not only creates a forum to review, discuss and solve issues formally but also helps promote accountability, transparency, professionalism and efficiency, the four pillars of good governance.



2. SECTOR STRATEGIC ROAD MAP INITIATIVE

In an effort to promote leadership capability framework of strategic views, cultivate working environment and focus strategically in achieving the LGKRAs of 12th FYP, Three Day Sector Retreat Program – Policy Dialogue for Effective Change was organized at Tenzinling Resort, Paro on June 28- 30, 2019. In this program, the participants discussed on how to develop their Sector Strategic Road Map (SSRM), 2019-2030 in line with 12th FYP. The components of SSRM are Sector’s Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies, Areas of Action and Activities. Given below is an example of Sector Strategic Road Map:

CHHUKHA DZONGKHAG ICT SECTOR STRATEGIC ROAD MAP, 2018-23

Vision: To Build ICT- enabled knowledge society. Mission: Strengthen ICT infrastructure and improve public service delivery through reliable, secure network and ICT initiatives in the Dzongkhag.

No.	Objectives	Strategies	Action Areas	Activity
1	Improve public service delivery	- Promote ICT awareness - Enhance ICT security - Digitize traditional working procedures - Establish affordable and reliable infrastructures	Governance	5
2	Invest on ICT friendly environment	- Plan and budget ICT activities - Minimize maintenance cost.	Financial Management	5
3	Enhance ICT leadership	- Educate non-ICT staff-Develop capacity of ICT professionals.	Human Resource	5
4	Improve coordination with stakeholders to minimize downtime of internet	- Collaborate with stakeholders and develop working procedures.	Stakeholder partnership	3

3. ANNUAL CHHUKHA AWARD SYSTEM INITIATIVE

Started in December 2018, Annual Chhukha Award System Initiative [ACASI] is one of the mechanisms to promote good governance in local governments. It intends to leverage the initiatives and best practices of the Local Governments. It is a check-in to see how well internal procedures are meeting the initial objectives of the 12th FYP and LGKRAs. In a nutshell, the ACASI measures the big picture performance of LGs [11 Gewogs] across the broad parameter of good governance, waste management, promotion of culture and tradition, promoting community health and sanitation,



Sl.no	Areas of Assessment & Evaluation	Performing LG
1	Good Governance	Metakha
2	Waste Management	Chapcha
3	Culture Preservation	Bjabcho
4	Community Health and Sanitation	Metakha
5	Education	Bjabcho
6	Agriculture	Phuentsholing
7	Livestock	Sampheling
8	Best Performing LG, 2019	Metakha

education, agriculture and enhancing livestock production. Each range of area is assessed and evaluated out of 100 points. The LG scoring highest in each area is declared as the best performing LG. The winning LG is awarded with the certificate of recognition bearing the signature of concerned Minister, Sector Head and Dzongdag. The overall highest

scorer of 700 (7 areas) is declared as the Best Performing LG of Chhukha Dzongkhag. The winner is awarded with cash prize and certificate bearing the signature of His Excellency Prime Minister of Bhutan.

Recognition of best practices and sharing of information in the form of ACASI creates a sense of competition among the Local Leaders and motivates them to further improve LG governance. In general, the ACASI not only promotes a clear sense of direction for the LGs in pursuing their LGKRAs but also helps sector heads provide professional support services or technical backup to the local leaders. ACASI will be one of the annual events of the Dzongkhag to ensure good governance in local governments in the 12th FYP and beyond.

Sherub Dorji
Sr. Dzongrab



LANG NYELSA - ASPIRING FOR MODEL CHIWOG

Another name for Lobneykha village is Lang Nelsa. The name derives literally from the shape of the village resembling a sleeping ox. Presently there are 75 households and farming is the key occupation. Potato is the primary cash crop of the village but a wide range of other crops also grows there. In the year 2019 the village grew around 476 Metric Tons of potato earning around Nu. 3 Million. It is one of the six Chiwogs of Chapcha Gewog. The Chiwog has one Lobdra, a primary school, an ORC and a NFE center.

The village of Lang Nyelsa is a pristine example of how the Bhutanese way of settlement used to look like in the olden times specifically from the cultural, societal and environmental aspects. In addition to the strong community spirit, the community is well known for its unique architecture, which stands like the northern star against the backdrop of external influence. The strong sense of community vitality is what inspires Lobneps to embrace development and create lasting happiness in the community. To look deeper into the communities, the Chiwog has initiated an Executive Committee a decade ago in order to look after the welfare of the community. This Executive Committee came into full enforcement with clear responsibilities and objectives

in 2018. Striving towards a model Chiwog, the committee works with the following objectives:

1. ENHANCE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RNR PRODUCTS

The Committee works towards facilitation of rural communities in income generation, increase the trend of community vitality and self-help. It has designed framework to boost the cooperation and interaction between the rural communities and different sectors. Mainstreaming environment, climate change and poverty is their core objective. Further, there is Youth Cooperative Group with five office bearers which started a year ago with an aim to mechanize farming system in the community. The group works currently to produce quality potato and vegetable seeds and supply to rest of the Chiwogs under Chapcha Gewog. The group has leased 5 acres of Government land and placed orders for required machineries as of this year.

2. TRANSFORMING LANG NELSA INTO A DESTINATION FOR WITNESSING A COMMUNITY VITALITY

The Committee preserves ancient architecture and restricts the construction of modern structures. Every year they conduct around 37 days of ritual for the well being of all



the sentient beings. The Committee has seed money of Nu. 3.30 m and lends it to interested people at a lower interest rate. The Chiwog prides itself in having constructed 7.5 KMs of farm road connecting the community way back in 1985. Residents also help one another in business fronts and at the times of difficulties faced by individuals.

3. DEVELOP THE CHIWOG INTO A SAFE, CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE IN

The Committee conducts regular cleaning campaigns and every household has a properly placed dustbin and pit. A recreational park identified in the middle of the village is well maintained and is the unique identity of the Chiwog. The beautification activities are seen daily at the forefront of other household works. They have 100% achievement of pour

flush toilet coverage and 100% safe drinking water supply to all the households. The Committee members manage drinking water supply system. It is one of the best practices of community management activities in the Dzongkhag. The design for fire safety and preventive measures are in place. There is a checkpoint at strategic location manned properly to ensure safety and security of the Chiwog.

In line with this, the Gewog administration has initiated Annual Gewog Award System (AGAS) to recognize a model Chiwog on annual basis with adequate guidelines and criteria to ensure that it truly helps to promote Chapcha as a Model Gewog.

Tenzin Namgyel
GAO, Chapcha



BEST PRACTICES OF BJABCHOG GEWOG

To have strong Good Governance in the Gewog Administration there should be a proper system to regulate the functioning of officials duties. In every bureaucracy of Government system there are Acts, Rules and laws in place endorsed by the highest legislative body. Relating upon the Acts and laws we discuss in the forum to enforce the implementation process in the block administration. Bjabchog Gewog has initiated a system of weekly coordination meeting. The system was instituted mainly to focus on three tenses i.e. before, present and after. During the the 'Weekly Coordination Meeting' the problems faced in the past are discussed and appropriate resolutions passed. The meeting requires all stakeholders to submit their points one day in advance. The Secretary to Gewog Tshogde, the GAO, compiles the points in draft form and submits to the Chairperson for screening. RNR sectors would be

given opportunity to present their work progress and field motivational inputs are prioritized.

The GAO would mostly present on administrative norms and maintaining discipline for preservation and promotion of our pristine culture. Tshogpas would normally raise their issues on mediation and developmental aspects. When mediation issues are raised, we have a mediation committee for delivering mediation services within two to three days. The overall facilitation process is handled by the GAO the only secretary to Gewog Tshogde and every discussion of agendas are drafted and submitted to the Chairman for adoption. The minutes of the meeting is circulated to all relevant agencies for information and necessary perusal. If situation doesn't allow to hold the meeting then alternative days shall be considered looking at the convenience of all the members. With such a system in place, we never fail to

achieve our targeted plans and programs.

Sometimes, guest speakers are invited to the coordination meeting particularly from the Dzongkhag. When such privileges are provided our local functionaries can share their ideas and get clear picture of administrative functions and particularly their capacity would develop further. The system has greater

opportunities to enhance the service delivery and improve the administrative functions. All the guest speakers have extended their positive feedbacks on this Gewog initiative and recommended for the system in be replicated to other Gewogs.

Pema Loday
GAO, Bjagchhog



WHO IS WHO IN CHHUKHA DZONKGHAG



Minjur Dorji, Dzongdag



Sherub Dorji,
Sr. Dzongrab



Karma Rinchen
Sr. Drungpa



Pema Nidup
Adm Officer



Sonam Jamtsho
HRO



Chimi Dem
Finance Officer



Pema
Chief DzEO



Lhamo
ICT Officer



Tandin Tshewang
Project Officer



Sherab Tenzin
DCDLO



Chewang
DCRCO



Saha Bir Rai
DCDAO



Cheki Gyeltshen
Internal Auditor



Nimala
DSO



Tshewang Dorji
DT Secretary



Ugyen Chada
Cultural Officer



Kinley Gyaltshen
Chief DEO



Lhabchu
Chief DE



Sangay Khandu
Procurement Officer



Wangdi Gyelpo
Planning Officer



Sangay Thinley
Sr. EDO



Sonam Choden
AMCO



Gopal Hingmang
DCDHO



Phub Thinley
LRO



Sherab Pelmo
Legal Officer



Tshering Norbu
Beautification Officer



Kezang Tobgay
Municipal Engineer

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



June 2nd is the most important date in the history of Bhutan which is not only marked as ‘social forestry day’ but also the ‘Coronation Day’ of the Great Fourth Druk Gyalpo who has tirelessly worked for enrichment of the nation on all developmental spheres.

On social forestry day the people from all walks of life plant trees in an effort to conserve and protect our pristine environment. On the auspicious day the Metakha community celebrated in slightly unique way as the whole community (108 households) voluntarily joins hand in glove with the administration to clean GC road (clearing of bushes, shrubs and drainage) from Ringu to Gewog Center measuring approximately eight (8) kilometer which is lifeline for the people in the community and creates awareness on forestry rules and regulations, waste management and management

and operation of common minimum infrastructures (CMI).

Though simple but we celebrate the day with great enthusiasm whereby the community is satisfied with what we have done and has been initiated with the following objectives:

- i. To pay tribute to Great Fourth Druk Gyalpo for His Majesty’s farsighted leadership and connecting the rural areas with modern amenities
- ii. To promote sense of ownership and social responsibility
- iii. To sustain community infrastructures and
- iv. To promote self-help system.

During the day long program, the refreshment was served and for lunch “pot luck” are contributed by the volunteers.

Parladh Mahat
GAO, Metakha



A GEWOG CALLED GETANA

Getana Gewog is one of the farthest under Chhukha Dzongkhag sharing its border with Dagana Dzongkhag. The Gewog is located in South-East Bhutan at a distance of 136 Km from the Chhukha Dzongkhag headquarter, Tshimasham. The Gewog comprises five administrative units namely Bachhu-Getana, Chiyuel- Getag, Daga-Tshebji, Janamo-Phootsha and Tashigang, and according to the PHCB, 2017, Gewog has 157 households with total population of 818 (Male-390 and Female-428) with mixed ethnicity comprising

97% Ngalop and 3 % Lhotsampa.

Lack of road connectivity to the far-flung villages, poor sanitation and illiteracy are the main challenges the Gewog faces at present. Today the Gewog is connected with two farm roads; Bachu to Chiyuel and Chiyuel to Noobja and there are two new farm roads under construction to Daga-Tashigang and Noobja-Pangserla.

There is one Primary Health Center (PHC), Primary School with one ECCD and a NFE in the Gewog. Students who are



promoted continues education at Pakshikha Central School and every year Getana sends 20 to 25 class six passed students to Pakshikha Central School.

People in Getana Gewog depend on agriculture and livestock for their living where rice and maize constitute staple food and cardamom as the main source of cash income. Also, the Gewog has one Food Corporation of Bhutan (FCB) outlet which facilities sale of basic commodities to the people. The FCB outlet serves a major role in ensuring food security in Getana.

Every year the Gewog celebrates its Tshechu conducted on 10th day of 2nd Lunar month of Bhutanese Calendar. The festival offers opportunities to witness unique culture and history of Getana. Nyaro festival, considered as the local

losar of Getana, is celebrated every year. The government's effort to provide common minimum infrastructure to Gewogs and Chiwogs have benefited Getana immensely. The Gewog now aims to develop an excellent infrastructure for socio economic empowerment with ensuring sustainable and responsible utilization of natural resources.

Despite being the remotest Gewog in Chhukha the Gewog with benevolent support from Government is catching in development to compare with other Gewogs in the Dzongkhag and in the country.

Kinley Tshering
GAO, Getana



WHO IS WHO IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

 Peljor Dorji Gup BJABCHO LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Pema Loday GAO BJABCHO LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Tshering Nidup Gup BONGO LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Tshering Pem GAO BONGO LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Tobgay Gup CHAPCHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Tenzin Namgyel GAO CHAPCHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
 Mil Kumar Mongar Gup DARLA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Dancho GAO DARLA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Passang Gup DUNGNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Lhakpa Wangchuk GAO DUNGNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Phub Dorji Gup GELING LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Tshewang Dendup GAO GELING LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
 Kinley Gup GETANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Kinley Tshering GAO GETANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Indra Lal Ghalley Gup LOGCHINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Sonam Jamtsho GAO LOGCHINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Passang Tshering Gup METAKHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT	 Parlath Mahat GAO METAKHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
 Birkha Bahadur Rai Gup PHUENTSHOLING LOCAL GOVERNMENT		 Tenzin GAO PHUENTSHOLING LOCAL GOVERNMENT		 Mani Kumar Rai Gup SAMPHELLING LOCAL GOVERNMENT		 Passang Dorji GAO SAMPHELLING LOCAL GOVERNMENT	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

REDEFINING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHHUKHA - A STRATEGIC PLAN

Since the inception of FYPs, many critical plans and programs in the Dzongkhag has been implemented to boost the local economy and generate employment opportunities. However, there is poverty incidence of 4.8% in the Dzongkhag (PAR, 2017) and has the second highest unemployment rate in the country (BLSS, 2017). Review of local economy indicates that there is no income generating and sustainable projects established in rural villages and Gewogs (Small Cottage Industry Assessment Report, 2018). It is also observed that there is absence of overall conceptual framework that clarifies the process of building a sound local economy and local capacity in the Dzongkhag.

A strategic plan for local economic development of Chhukha is a new approach to achieve the National Goal of Economic Self-Reliance at Grass Root Level that entails changing of mindset, the way of working in building a strong local economy. As such a general plan that provides specific action on how to prioritize, make choices and allocate our limited resources in carrying out the local developmental priorities in coordinated ways within underlying principles of sustainability and equity was conceived in the 14th Dzongkhag Monthly Management Meeting held on August 30, 2019.

In moving forward, the Dzongkhag Economic Development Sector submitted the project proposal in line with the 12th FYP LGKRA -1 (Enhancing Local Economy and Creating Gainful Employment) to the Gross National Happiness Commission. The Commission approved the project under the Small Development Project (SDP) with grant of Nu. 12.6 million from the Government of India. The project is expected to carry out the drafting of a Strategic Plan for Local Economic Development of Chhukha and promote entrepreneurship in the Dzongkhag.

Spearheaded by Dzongkhag Economic Development Officer under the chairperson of Dzongrab, a two - day consultation meeting was organized on June 17-18, 2020 at Tala Hydro Power Project Guest House, for the team comprising of 5 GAOs and 9 Sector Heads.

The first day deliberated at length on what is local economic development; Sustainable and equitable economic growth and employment generation as guiding principle for local economic development plan, 2018-30. The conceptual work

plan, 2020-2021 for development of local economic plan was finalized with formation of Project Steering Committee, Core Working Group, Hiring of Consultant Services, Gewog Consultation Meetings, Local Resource Assessment and Inventory, Strategic Plan Finalization and Publication.

The second day discussed and reviewed critically on the presentation related to the Dzongkhag. It was carried on specifically to get a clearer picture or status of Chhukha Local Economy:

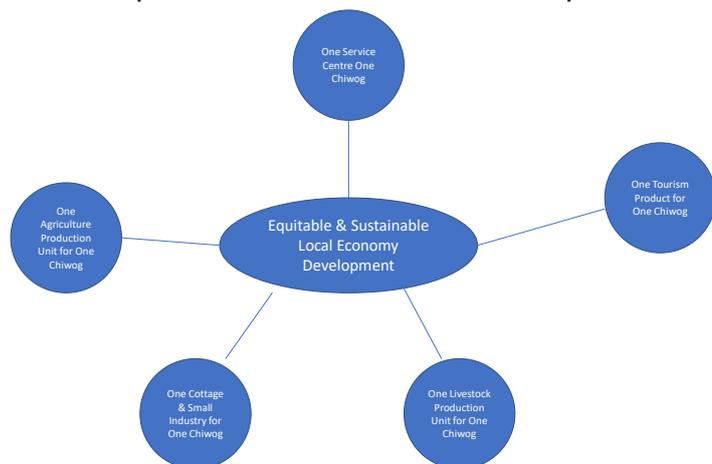
- Current Projects and Activities of Metakha – The Best Local Government, 2019 - Parladh Mahat, GAO
- Resources Inventory Projects of Chhukha: BOIC Publication - Parladh Mahat, GAO
- Status of Small Cottage Industry Projects in Chhukha - Tandin Wangmo, Project Officer, CSI
- Economic Development Status of Chhukha - Nimala, DSO
- Case Presentation on Integrated Farm Project in Doongna - Lhakpa, GAO

From the discussion, the meeting came to conclusion that the Local Governments be it in remote or urban locations like Metakha can enhance their local economy development with proper planning and prioritization of local developmental activities. On this, the participants expressed that if Metakha was to be even more successful, there is need to optimize its local resources and capacity with proper linkage of its marketing avenues at regional, national and international levels. This was observed as the most critical success factor for local economy growth and development. A need for strong multi-stakeholder partnership approach (Agriculture Sector, Livestock Sector, Economic Development Sector, NGOs, Business and Local Communities) to support entrepreneurial initiative (formal, informal, micro, small and large), facilitate market access and create enabling environment (ease for business) to encourage local people invest more on business activities was deliberated at length.

Further, the presentation on status of small cottage industry (CSI) made the participants understand that the small cottage industry establishments are poorly spread across the 11 Gewogs. Thus the meeting suggested that the local economic development strategy Chhukha should incorporate the establishment of followings for balanced



Conceptual Framework of Local Economic Development



Development and Economic Self – Reliance:

- One Service Centre for One Chiwog/big village that includes essential and vegetable shop, electrical repairing shop, beauty saloon, community information center, restaurant and entertainment hall. It should be well planned beautiful community business hub.
- One Tourism Product for one Gewog. It is not necessarily to be at central location but depending on potential of the locality.
- One Agriculture Production Unit for One Chiwog. It

can be of Farmers Agriculture Marketing Group, Mass Cultivation of any summer/winter crops/ vegetable or Processing/Production Unit. This should align with the district agriculture production and marketing strategic plan in place.

- One Livestock Production Unit for One Chiwog. It can be of Farmers Livestock Marketing Group, Chiwog/Community Dairy/Piggery/Fishery/Poultry Group. This should align with the district livestock production and marketing strategic plan in place.
- One Small Cottage Industry/MSE for One Chiwog.

In sum, the participants viewed the two-day consultation meeting as a new concept that would provide a sense of direction, drive local communities and build foundation of strong local economy in the Dzongkhag. The meeting was successful and has offered to the participants a forum to get insight into the local economy of Chhukha, employment creation opportunities and challenges, RNR production and marketing capability issues of communities in the face of connecting to the globalized world. Redefining of old local economic development issues and leading a change with creative approaches for sustainable economic and employment growth was one major realization at the end of the meeting.

**Sherub Dorji
Sr. Dzongrab**



FIRST ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE IN CHHUKHA



The Basic Entrepreneurship Course for 39 participants from 9 different Gewogs of Chhukha Dzongkhag was held at Darla Gewog Centre for 15 days from 27th February to 12th March 2020. The participants came from Bongo, Darla, Doongna, Loggchina, Geling, Meadtabkha, Bjagchhog, Phuentsholling and Getana Gewogs.

The program was conducted as collaboration between Chhukha Dzongkhag, MoLHR and Thimphu Tech Park. The

Economic Development Sector of the Dzongkhag coordinated the program. The course was conducted with the objective to introduce participants on the business environment and business plan development.

They were also introduced to marketing, value addition and financial management aspects of business. Most importantly, participants were trained to develop entrepreneurial mindset and skills to carry out new business startups.

At the end of the course, participants shared that the course was immensely useful for them. A business idea pitching competition was held at the closing of the course. Some unique startup business ideas of operating a highway waste management between Thimphu and Phuentsholling and carrying out bamboo craft work in the rural villages were also pitched by the participants.

Some of the participants have opted to start integrated vegetable and dairy farming with the business knowledge and skills they have gained through the course.

**Sangay Thinley
Sr. Economic Development Officer**



CHHUKHA TOURISM FACEBOOK ACCOUNT AND PAGE LAUNCHED

The Facebook Page and Facebook Account for promotion of tourism in Chhukha “Tourism Chhukha” was launched in a simple ceremony on 18 June 2020 at Rinchentse by Dasho Dzongrab. The page will have contents related to tourism promotion in Chhukha.

This is part of the tourism promotion initiative carried out by the Economic Development Sector of the Dzongkhag. As of today, campsites with toilet and basic amenities were developed in Jigmechu under Bongo Gewog, which is being promoted as a Winter Holiday Destination. Few other tourism products are in line for development as well. In the future, there are few initiatives planned by the sector to have a Tourism Action Plan of Chhukha and collaborate with national and international NGOs to seek fund support to achieve the aforementioned objectives. Do visit the “Tourism Chhukha” Facebook page for catch updates. The Economic Development Sector will operate the page.

Sangay Thinley
Sr. Economic Development Officer



COOPERATING FOR COMMUNAL PROSPERITY: BONGO'S DEVELOPMENT MODEL



I spent a year in 2018 conducting my PhD fieldwork in Bongo village of Chhukha Dzongkhag. The village has one of the most unique development stories where school education has been a large driver of community prosperity. Being located close to the great educational towns of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, Bongops were some of the earliest beneficiaries of Western education. Dasho Babu Nakchung was an influential figure in this region as the Chapcha Penlop initially, and then as Paro and Thimphu Dzongdag. He was instrumental in developing the latent potential of this region. In the process, he opened it up as the gateway in the 1960s

to a modernizing Bhutan.

One of his many initiatives was investing in the education of the children, which helped many Bongops ascend the ranks of the then young Bhutanese bureaucracy. Of the many celebrated Bongops from that generation was Dasho Rigzin Dorji who succeeded his mentor Babu Nakchung as simultaneously the head of the influential Publicity Department and the Editor-in-Chief of Kuensel. On 22 July 1984, Dasho Rigzin Dorji was awarded the *buramarp* (red scarf), becoming the first from Bongo to receive the prestige.

He went on to become the Secretary of the Dratshang



Lhentshog, a post which helped him leverage the rich heritage of his native Bongo and lead its people towards a shared Buddhist civilization and a sense of pride in the community's solidarity. Dasho Rigzin expanded the small community temple and instituted systematic conduct of year-round rituals (kuchoe bumdey), which was collectively organized and patronized by the people.

One of the interesting facets of the ritual culture in Bongo is the very systematic and thorough record keeping by intergenerational village clerks and organizers who could lead the organization of at least one major village ritual event every month. This deeply ingrained capacity at community organization has in recent years been leveraged by new generations of communally minded civil servants from Bongo. Under the caring leadership of the former Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, Dawa Gyaltshen, young civil service officers from Bongo have consolidated and promoted such communal engagements in new spheres of community development.

I have witnessed two major activities carried out by this group in 2018. One was the construction of modern pour-flush toilets and another was the construction of a network of paved footpath connecting almost the entirety of the village. It was hoped that these activities will enhance the livability of the village encouraging village youths not to abandon their homes and elderly family members.

This group of extremely capable and committed civil servants garnered the support of international donor agencies and liaised with Dzongkhag and Gewogs officials to mobilize funds and other resources. On the community's part, their equity in the projects was their voluntary labour contributions and an infectious zeal to develop their community by working in harmony not just among themselves, but with government officials and magnanimous international benefactors.

Success of every project was communally celebrated with rich cultural ceremonies that vindicated the visions of their illustrious ancestors. As an objective outside observer into the fascinating inner workings of this community, I was enamoured by the commitment of the successful members of this community who continue to remain engaged with their community's welfare. The people on their part reciprocated with an uncommon but cultivated enthusiasm and capability to organize their community in a systematic way. This ability to organize and collaborate gave a common medium through which mutually reinforcing relations could be fostered with external patrons and officials in ensuring a shared prosperity.

Dendup Chopel (The author is currently finishing his doctoral thesis at the Australian National University in Canberra based on ethnographic data from Bongo)



EDUCATION

FEATURES OF A MODEL SCHOOL - A PERSPECTIVE

Education is a process of evolution and evolving schools are the ones those are in the frontlines. Children and parents dream to go to schools of their choice and I think the chosen schools are the one where children love to attend and continue to aspire to be in them throughout their lives. Schools should not be places where children and parents are forced to be in only during their schooling phase; they must invite them throughout their lives. Then the question is “What is a model school?” and “What is an ideal schooling process?” The idea and perspectives differ and I would like to initiate a discussion on this vital school of thought. Certain aspects which comes to one’s mind are as they appear in our minds randomly.

My domains of discussions are as a visitor (what comes to a person’s mind) enters a school and expectations which the person perceives.

School Ambience – The mood of any visitor going to a place is affected by the weather conditions and the hospitality of that place. Visiting a school is no exception. The first thing that greets you when you enter a school is the staff and students. Their action sets the tone for the rest of the school. If these personnel are inviting, cheerful and hospitable, then, these are the indications that, school leadership values customers’ service. Our school is an important place where so many varied customers come to be served. However, if the staff and students are unhappy and rude, one should question whether the school as a whole, including the Principal, has an ideal attitude towards students, parents and teachers. Therefore, it is of the utmost significance to have ‘good feel’ of the school and if this feeling is absent, then the school may not be as popular as it would like to be with its customers; parents, staff, students and others.

Leaders’ Manners and Attitudes - Meeting the Principal or the deputy is a major event and the feel of the atmosphere in the school is determined to a good extent. The leaders’ attitudes are extremely vital for any visitor and to the whole school. These people should be open, encouraging and innovative. They must be student-centered in all their decisions. They should have the skills to empower teachers while providing them with necessary support and coaching; to grow every year. At the same time, leaders should also



ensure that the teachers in turn create soothing and lovable atmosphere for all students to grow openly and not under coercion.

Leaders who do not present themselves during activities, or are not open to innovations will be difficult to work for; thus, resulting in disgruntled teachers and staff. And the danger here is, it may have trickling down effect and eventually affect the students adversely altogether.

Student Centered Program – A school and team within should all be geared towards producing wholesome graduates from these important institutes. Leadership and management must create a system where the core values cater to the needs of the children. This must be shared to and valued by all members of the team. The common theme to each of the core values must be student-centered view of education.

Staffroom Culture – This is the place where teachers and staff come to learn, prepare, plan and decide to implement to the best of their abilities. New teachers come with vigor to innovate and teach. Most feel that they can make a difference. However, they should also know that classroom management and school working culture should also be taken into care to deliver with efficacy. On the contrary, senior teachers are relatively better in terms of these aspects, but may be wary of innovations and new ways of education. A staffroom with a mix of veterans and young entries can motivate to learn and assist the team to grow.

Usually, mentoring and coaching activities take place during the first few years for novice teachers and staff in some schools. However, this has not been instituted well in most schools. All schools should provide new teachers with a mentor whether the incoming teachers is a fresh one or joining from another school. Mentors can assist new colleagues comprehend the culture of the school and navigate other domains. For instance, this could include how to get an administrative approval for a class picnic or how to get teaching - learning materials from a store.

Another vital practice is the policy of nominations for enhancement programs and routine works. A good school should have clear policies and goals in place for such programs. This is vital to promote and maintain a





collaborative environment in schools.

Schools where teacher's feedbacks and opinions are given due importance by the management, facilitates building of trust in the teachers and thereby results in greater innovations and more effective teaching

Teaching-learning processes. The confidence of staff increases and they derive more job satisfaction; ultimately resulting in higher self-esteem. They become proactive and forward-looking in their profession.

Quality schools strive to create an atmosphere of sharing culture. Educational plan and programs are evolving every day and the paradigm shift is gradually moving into the domain of technical and digital world. Sharing of ideas and professional know how should be at individual, intra - departmental and inter - departmental levels. This will result in quality teaching - learning and maintain the tempo of modern education process.

Sound System of Information Dissemination - School Managers and Leaders play a vital role in making the information highway in schools smooth and functional all the time. Timely communication about the happenings inside and outside of the school makes staff, students and others well aware, and prevents hiccups like rumors and gossips which is unhealthy for a system.

The system should be open to suggestions from students, staff and other stakeholders; administrations should encourage open-door policy so that questions and concerns reach office in time before turning into talk of the town.

Parental Participation - I strongly believe that students provide a whole lot of Information about the mechanism operating in schools. Children act as a channel of information



flow between the school and parents, and in a good number of schools in our country, our parents rely mostly on their children to know what is happening to their children and inside the schools. Some of us feel that school business is purely school's and parents have no or very little role to play, which is not true.

Parental involvement can make huge difference in the functioning of schools and upbringing of our children. Schools should pull in the parents and work in partnership with them.

The more a school involves parents, the better students will perform and students shall also exhibit positive trends in their behaviors; both inside and outside the educational arena. Therefore, our schools must stress on parental contact for both positive and negative reasons. Such schools will become more effective over time. Teachers and staff must work closely with parents. They should be proactive in this area and walk the extra mile to achieve a successful relationship. They should not wait for parents to come towards them rather they should use their expertise and experience to build on the bridge and overcome parents' ignorance or reservation, if any. There may be other features of an exemplary school which can be complementary and supplementary to the ones described above. The primary purpose of school education is to produce a graduate who possess all the attributes of a good human being. Therefore, our schools should accommodate all practical and real-life aspects which are part and parcel in making a good human being.



Kinley Gyaltsen
Chief DEO



SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES AND PRACTICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA



Hand Washing Station at Tashilakha PS



Druk Water Solution installed at Tsimalakha LSS



Improved Hand Washing Station at Darla MS

All the schools are engaged in implementing Education in Emergencies (EiE) amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The EiE includes google classrooms, e-learning, self-instructional materials (SIMs) and learning programs designed by respective schools. The programs are organized to engage students meaningfully and keep them abreast with learning goals. Besides teaching and learning programs through various media platforms, the schools have strengthened its physical ambience and general cleanliness.

Schools under Chhukha Dzongkhag are trying to focus on enhancing and improving its access to drinking water and hand washing facilities which is the key to prevention of COVID-19. Based on the needs of respective schools, hand washing stations/filtration equipment for drinking water was provided.

The mode of execution was done through award of direct contract or departmental by respective schools under the supervision of Principals. Likewise, the water supply maintenance works were also carried out to ensure continuous flow of water. Today the schools have immensely uplifted its aesthetic greenery. Schools look green and clean despite its closure for quite some time. The teachers and support staffs have played a key role in maintaining and

improving the school ambience. Some of the initiatives to be mentioned are: tilling land for orchid/agriculture garden, white washing walls, roof painting and ensuring cleanliness in hostels, toilets, classrooms, multipurpose halls, etc. The schools have also taken advantage to carry out minor maintenance works with the material support from Dzongkhag.

The feeding schools within the Dzongkhag are taking extra precautions to manage the food commodities supplied by Government. A common consensus was drawn to sell the remaining food commodity based on the duration of its expiry date and likewise to avoid food being infested by pests, rats and rodents. Later, this step would also ensure continuous food supply once the schools reopen. Similarly, the schools have also come up with plans and measures to manage stores.

In spite of the schools having been closed for quite some time, the unanimous effort from the education fraternity has enabled the schools to be in a position to start anytime with the remaining academic session.

Pema Kelden
Dy. CDEO



THE SHOW MUST GO ON-LINE: A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE INITIATIVE AS A PART OF EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY

Considering the COVID 19 pandemic situation across the globe, all schools were instantly closed to avoid the spread of corona virus in the country.

The closure of schools did help to avoid mass gathering, maintaining social and physical distance and keeping oneself safe by staying at home. But the question was “how to go

about learning?” That’s where Google Classroom was sought as a means of teaching students during the closure of schools.

Raj Kapoor, one of the greatest and most influential actors once said, “The Show Must Go On.” Apparently, The Show Is Going On-line. Schools are closed but with such closure, it

has opened up an alternative mode of teaching - breaking the conventional teaching-learning practices confined in the four walls of classroom. The current online teaching – learning practice has confirmed that teaching and learning can take place in myriad ways. One among the online mode of teaching and learning Google classroom believed to have been fascinating method wherein students are efficaciously kept engaged in the study/learning.

The Google Classroom provided platform to post tutorial videos, share links on relevant topics, pose questions and lessons and at the same time students can clarify doubt and teachers can assess and awardgrade on the work of students making it interactive. This virtual teaching-learning strategy involved both teachers and students’ productive activities.

For Online teaching-learning, many parents some- how manage a cell phone for their children. While some were able to buy, some shared their mobile phone with children to classes. However, some parents could neither share nor buy. “Hats off” to those students who go to neighbors’ house to watch BBS2 and learn through friends’ cell phone because the show must go on-line!

Fingers crossed! I pray that students should never experience watching a TV through a hole in the neighbor’s house just to learn lesson broadcast on in BBS2. I offer my deep adulation to those students trying to cling on, more importantly to all the teachers and VTOB for their relentless effort. However, it has been realized that Google classroom offers moot. These days teachers are like hardworking batsman raising their bat towards the pavilion like those cricketers celebrating on conquering a century but sadly there are few spectators only in the stadium. Most of the students are seen actively taking part in Tik-Tok and PUBG rather than in Google classroom.

Recently it was announced that no assessment would be taken on online classes. Thereafter there has been a significant drop in participation in Google classroom. Teachers have become more or less like toothless tiger.

E-learning in Bhutan for now is like an elusive pot of gold at the end of rainbow. Teachers and parents are working



Fig.01.number of students signed in for Google Classroom

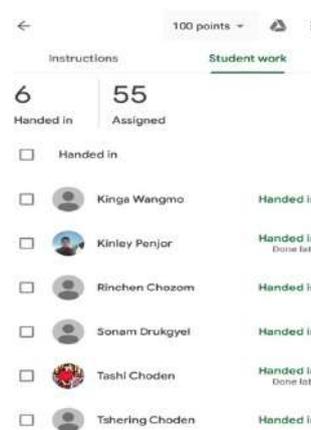


Fig.02. Students’ participation in Google Classroom

hard to elicit the true essence of e-learning. But the use of cell phones has only given a license to students for online thuggery, not online learning. I am blatant in saying this because one of my colleagues was helping his student download Google classroom app. In so doing he disinterred a lot of “Hi”, “sup” messages popping out in his student’s Facebook account. How can one focus with so many puppy love texts? It wouldn’t be wrong in saying that letting to use phone for learning has given student a recipe for disasters.

Nevertheless, the show must go On-line keeping aside the grey areas otherwise an empty mind is devil’s workshop.

This COVID era has given us an amazing insight on Teaching and learning. Google classroom was an abrupt reflex and response to closure of schools. In the process parents, teachers and students have faced many glitches, but a new dimension towards teaching learning is evolving. I am happy to see the education of Bhutan trotting discreetly towards better learnings.

Tenzin Chopel
Teacher, Arekha MSS

REPORT SUMMARY

Class and section	Subject	Total number of activities assigned through various digital platforms	Average number of students who responded (Total responses/No of activities)
XII Science	Mathematics	4	2
XII Com A	Mathematics	3	7
XII Com B	Mathematics	3	7.67
XI Science	Mathematics	1	8
XI Arts A	Mathematics	1	17



LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTION

PHUENTSHOGLING GONOR CHITHUEN DETSHEN-TOWARDS COMMERCIAL DAIRY ENTERPRISE

The Phuentshogling Gonor Chithuen Detschen, A Dairy group was initially formed in 2011 with group of 37 volunteers. It was officially registered with the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperative in 2013 and has been in its 9th year of progressive operations. This group started with its sole purpose to facilitate marketing of the milk produced by the farmers of Phuentshogling Gewog to make the local residents in Phuentshogling access to the locally produced milk for their daily consumption.

Over the years, the group has strengthened its members that helped them increase the milk inflow widening the scope of marketing the milk as far as beyond the border town in Jaigaon, India. With the constant assistance and guidance of the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, the milk producer's group



Group Management Committee Meeting

started processing products into Yogurts and ice cream to offer choice to the customers in the market. More than 1000 liters of milk pour in daily to the milk collection center which is further marketed in the form of raw milk and in processed form at two places: the newly completed vegetable market center, and the milk sales counter in Damdara.

Besides offering a good opportunity in easy marketing of the milk, each group member had benefitted largely through easy access to credit and loan facility from the group savings



Milk Processing Unit

accumulated from the net income generated through sale proceeds. As per the current group Chairman, Mr. Padam Bdr Ghalley, the income generated from the sale helped to buy processing equipment required for value addition and storage. Currently the group has a savings record of Nu. 1.2 million.

With the recent incidence of COVID-19 Pandemic and due to closure of international border, there has been slight hindrance in the normal marketing of the products. The group already started exploring the market elsewhere within the country. The Dzongkhag Livestock Sector is constantly providing support to sustain its operation to meet the growing demand for local products. Soon the members will be provided relevant trainings to improve skills and knowledge on the group growth and sustainability, product diversification, value addition and marketing of the products in effective and efficient manner.

The group is managed by a three-member management committee elected amongst the group members.

Sherab Tenzin
Dy. Chief DLO



MR. KHEM RAJ CHETRI- PRO ACTIVE BEE-FARMER IN DARLA GEWOG

“Where wise action is the fruit of life, wise discourse is the pollination”. Mr. Khem Raj Chettri from Sillangsa village under Darla Gewog who studied up to grade six, had no knowledge of bee-keeping initially. However, he was deeply inspired by the story on pollination that he heard from someone. It was never his expectation that he would sustain his livelihood from beekeeping. From then on, he developed his interest of taking up beekeeping as hobby and a source of income generation. He was so interested and had tried to explore various means to initiate beekeeping with the little knowledge he had since 2004. Fortunately, he was

enthused by the Livestock Extension Officer, RNR- EC Darla who provided him basic idea on beekeeping.

The year 2012 somehow saw a prospective year for Mr. Khemraj for having acquaintance with the National Research & Development Centre for Animal Nutrition (NRDCAN), Bumthang. The Centre provided training on skills and knowledge on bee-keeping and honey production technique and was given the opportunity to visit Nepal to explore more ideas on beekeeping for the first time. Likewise, due to his continued support and interest in beekeeping he was given yet another opportunity by Dzongkhag Livestock sector to



visit Nepal in 2018.

For Mr. Khemraj, beekeeping is the main source for his livelihood. Currently he has 25 beehives of Apies cerena, 18 of Putka hives which earn him Nu. 25000 to 30000 per year.

Beside beekeeping, he also manufactures bee-keeping equipment. So far, he supplied more than 400 beehives box and seventy bee colonies to the farmers in the locality, neighboring Gewogs and other Dzongkhags as well. The demand for such equipment from rest of the Dzongkhag keep him constantly engaged and help him earn good income.

Mr. Khemraj plans to further expand his business and venture into commercial business, share his expertise with friends and those who are interested in beekeeping. He is indeed the best example of a progressive and successful beekeeper in Darla Gewog.

Garjaman Rai
LES, Darla



INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW ON FARMERS' COOPERATIVE GROUP(S)

In order to foster the competitiveness of the food supply chain, the Ministry of Agriculture is committed to promote and facilitate the restructuring and consolidation of the agricultural sector by encouraging the creation of voluntary farmers' cooperative groups. To support the policy making process, Agriculture and livestock sector has started Support for Farmers Cooperatives that provides insights into successful cooperatives as well as effective support measures for these cooperative groups. These insights can be used by farmers themselves, in setting up and strengthening their collective organization, and by the Agricultural and Livestock sector in its effort to encourage the creation of agricultural mass production in the country. Agriculture and Livestock sector under this administration has also committed to promote and facilitate farmers through forming cooperatives and the sector has initiated to form around 45 different farmers' cooperative groups of which 23 were registered cooperatives. All registered cooperatives were provided with minimum structure and equipment support as initial establishment by the Government.

OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

- To determine whether there is adequate internal control system on the management and operation of farmers' cooperative groups.
- To examine whether the support of government like subsidy and supply of installation materials is transparent and accounted.
- To identify any non-compliance with applicable rules and regulations.
- To identify the areas that would benefit from review in order to increased efficiency and effectiveness.

METHODOLOGY

The evidence gathering and audit techniques used to meet

our audit objectives included but not limited to:

1. Conducting test checks to determine the completeness accounting records and the accuracy of the asset custodian.
2. Discussing with the relevant sectors to obtain an understanding of the proper management and its processes.
3. Test checking of physical verification of assets to ensure its physical presence, accurate specifications, and its use of rightful purposes and for verifying the up-dated custodian of the assets.

GENERAL FINDINGS:

The internal audit unit observed most of the cooperative groups initiated by Dzongkhag Livestock sector with the help of Government subsidy has benefited the group members and public in general. The impact of benefits is tangible at communities through social and economic development as compared to those communities still in the process of initiating to form cooperative groups. However, few cooperative groups found non-functional and some even at the risk of dissolution. Following are the few factors that affected the functioning of cooperative groups accounted during this review:

Inadequate training on book-keeping to extension supervisors and co-operative group members has resulted in poor management and in fact question the sustainability of Groups:

On review, the unit observed that all co-operative group members were not aware of the need to maintain books of accounts and its importance. Even the extension supervisors are also not adequately trained and aware of the importance of maintaining proper books of accounts for transparency and accountability. As a result, unit found margin turnover over the years for all groups are very invisible and minimum.

On enquiry with Dzongkhag Livestock sector, it was explained that it was due to lack of human resource and sufficient budget to train all extension supervisors and group members. However, sector committed the constraint will be sort out in this financial year with the help of other relevant sectors and stakeholders.

Moreover, unit also observed lack of proper monitoring from the Livestock sector and also from Gewog Extension Staff regarding functionality of the group. The unit learnt lack of human resource and trained personnel in this specific field is again a contributing factor.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Dzongkhag Livestock Sector must be proactive while planning and in case if such project is initiated at later stages, the monitoring must be made mandatory and there should be proper follow up on if the farmer groups are taking the ownership seriously.
2. If such projects have to be a success, the livestock sector must also provide assistance in studying the market feasibility. Even if the groups are able to produce dairy products in large scale, access to market will be a challenge. The diversion of old highway for Chapcha dairy groups may pose a serious challenge towards sale of dairy products. Therefore, livestock sector must provide support and assistance

in transporting dairy products to key areas.

3. Dzongkhag livestock sector must also introduce trade fair at both Dzongkhag and Gewog level during occasions. This will encourage the farmer group in large scale production and also the stability of group will solely depend on the success of business.
4. The farmer groups must be given assurance on the longevity and stability of the groups, and must make them aware of the support from livestock sector in case of insolvency.

CONCLUSION

Despite some constraints in functioning farmer groups, the livestock sector had tremendously helped farmers in 11 gewogs in forming groups and majority have success stories. The farmer group is still keen on continuing with the project, if they receive support and financial assistance from the livestock sector. The livestock sector is optimistic of reviving the farmer group and ensuring that proper monitoring and planning will be done regularly. Forming such group will not only enhance socio economic development, but will also keep alive the culture and tradition of cattle herding and rearing, which was practiced for generations in Rural Bhutan.

Chheki Gyeltshen
Internal Auditor



HEALTH STATUS IN CHHUKHA

STATUS REPORT ON POUR FLUSH TOILET CONSTRUCTION AS OF JUNE 2020



Gewog	Achievement %	Name of the Chiwog	Achievement (%)	HH With PF Toilet
Bongo	81.5	Bongo	95.0	132
		Ketokha	95.2	79
		Gedu-Meritshemo	93.2	246
		Chungkha	100.0	110
		Beayulkunza	100.0	71
		Togtokha	5.9	4
Metakha	100	Pangu	100	27
		Gumina	100	27
		Metab Maed	100	6
		Metab Toed	100	27
		Eukha	100	25
		Pangu	100	27
		Papaling Village	100	13
Chapcha	77.9	Shemagangkha	64.2	43
		Dorgoen Rimtakha	77.9	60
		Tshamdra -Rinchenling	72.2	26
		Paga	76.7	23
		Lobneykha	80.0	60
		Bunakha	96.2	25
Darla	94.3	Sinchula-Samerchen	96.2	202
		Tabthangbu	91.1	215
		Sahrphu	98.7	75
		Kezari-Gamana	97.8	178
		Chumedlakha	87.2	164
		Nimgang-Tabjee	95.0	208
Geling	84.6	Gaygoen	100.0	23
		Dilip	75.0	24
		Tsanglina	63.6	14
		Nayakha	97.4	37
		Dhap	86.9	73

Gewog	Achievement %	Name of the Chiwog	Achievement (%)	HH With PF Toilet
Samphe-ling	90.5	Pedtshelngang	100.0	92
		Sengyegang-Tshogchuna	94.5	173
		Pekarling-Rinziling	87.1	54
		Khempaithang-Sonamthang	72.6	45
		Gongbogang-Pangna	98.5	130
Lokchina	97.1	Chimuna	96.3	78
		Jachu-Dolepchen	97.4	76
		Dzedokha	98.1	51
		Chadokha-Damchakha	100.0	86
Bjabcho	100.0	Amaleg-Dofam	93.6	160
		Tsimakha	100	94
		Mebisa	100	26
		Wangkha	100	46
		Bjabchhog	100	67
		Tashigatshel	100	30
Getena	79.2	Bachu	50.0	15
		Cheyul	100.0	32
		Phusa	91.4	32
		Tashigang	54.5	6
		Daga	100.0	15
Dungna	63.6	Doongna	51.1	69
		Drukdingsa	71.4	25
		Mondokha	76.2	16
		Yuezhi	66.7	4
		Babana	52.4	11
Phuntsholing	88.5	Pachu	89.3	175
		Deling-Marbj	91.3	84
		Lindgen	68.4	134
		Chongaykha-Dophulakha	100.0	194
		Dophuchen-Wangdig-stahel	93.6	103

Total PF toilet coverage for Chhukha Dzongkhag= 87.0%



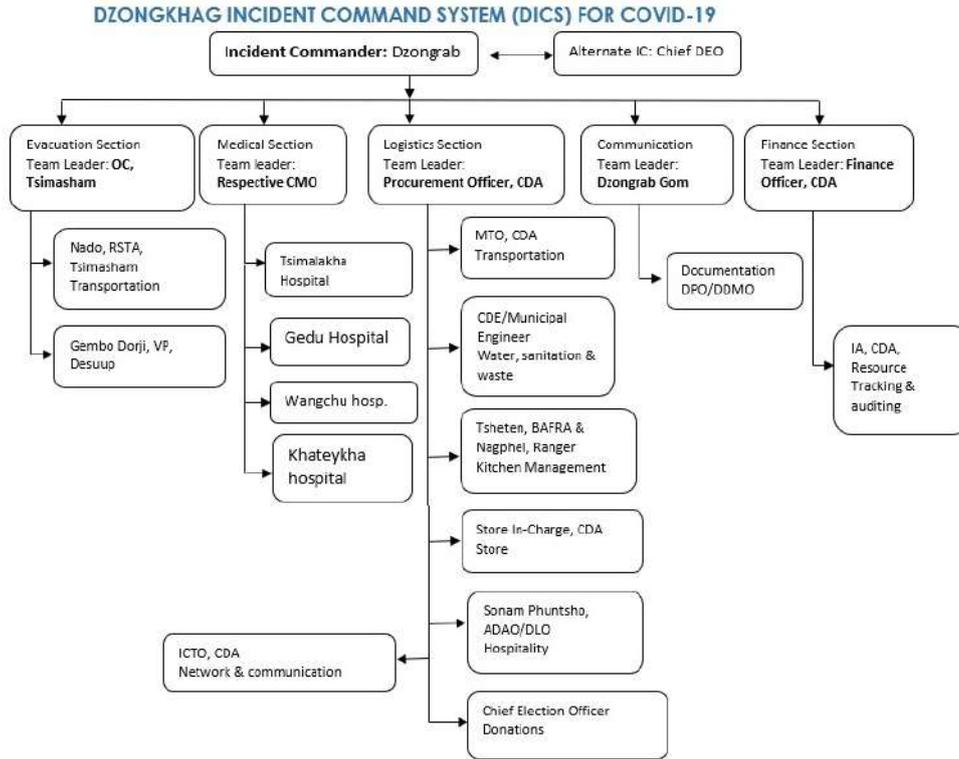
CHHUKHA DZONGKHAG PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLAN, COVID-19

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, Chhukha Dzongkhag formed COVID-19 Task Force and developed a Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) to combat COVID-19 in the Dzongkhag. Similarly the Local Government's Corporate Agencies and Institutions also developed their contingency plans. These plans were aligned with the National Preparedness and Response Plan developed by the Ministry of Health. Thus the COVID-19 Task Force decided to face against the COVID-19 situation primarily focusing on two strategies of preventive measures and preparing for the worst situation based on principles of 3Cs - coordination, collaboration and communication.

As the preventive measure strategy, the Task Force focused more on creating awareness in general public that was on Government directives, Plans and Policies and COVID-19 Protocols (hand washing, use of face mask, physical distancing) with involvement and support from De-suups, RBP and local leaders. The awareness programs were carried out in Gewogs or regions-wise. The trainings on infection control and Psychological First Aids were also provided to De-suups and RBP officials to ensure their safety

and protection. The community volunteers were activated in villages and De-suups and Police were deployed along the borders and towns to monitor on compliance of COVID-19 protocols and Government directives. To ensure continuity of critical services and safety of the civil servants, the remote working system as per the instruction of the RCSC was implemented. Daily monitoring and reporting system was instituted and issues pertaining to the COVID-19 were gathered through Focal Points to address them in the Task Force meetings.

For the worst situation preparedness strategy, the Task Force discussed and established four incident command systems at Tsimalakha, Gedu, Khatekha and Phuentsholing Drungkhag. This was in the view of existing hospital facilities and other service accessibility to people and for easy administration in the worst situation. Together with these, the required facilities such as holding, quarantine and isolation were created at these four incident command systems and in Gewogs too. More importantly the economic contingency plan was developed with specific mention of storing of essential items for six months at Gewog Farm



Shops and identified FCB Stores (Chhukha, Gedu and Darla). The Agriculture and Livestock Sectors also developed food security contingency plan worth Nu.3.9m and Nu.33.7m. Further the HM’s Kidu Relief HELP Desk was set up at Dzongkhag Head Office, Gedu BCS and Phuentsholing HSS. Ration, multivitamin and vitamin C for six months were distributed as HM’s Soelra to the identified elderly citizens and Kidu recipients in the Dzongkhag.

In addition to the C-19 Incident Command System at the

Dzongkhag, we also have the Southern C-19 Task Force in Phuentsholing which oversees the Southern Dzongkhags. Chhukha Dzongdag is a Task Force member and attends daily Task Force meetings held at the RIGSS, Phuentsholing.

The standard operational procedures for different responsibilities required to be carried out by various sectors and agencies at the time of worst situations were developed and reviewed for implementation.

**Gopal Hingmang
Dy. CDHO**



LOCAL HEALER IN BHUTAN

Local healing has been defined by World health Organization (WHO) as “diverse health practice, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant, animal and mineral based medicine, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercise applied singularly or in combination to maintain well-being, as well as to treat, diagnose and prevent illness. WHO reports that a growing numbers of countries are adopting national policies and developing specific regularity capacity on traditional medicine, and moreover, there is strong scientific evidence for some traditional approaches like Acupuncture. The traditional (local) healing practices are profusely existent in Japan, Malaysia, China, Korea, Nepal, Africa, Singapore, India and Bhutan,(Tae and Gaylek, 2010). All medicine like modern allopathic medicine, traditional medicine, local healing, and Ayurveda originated from India (Burn, 2010).

In Bhutan, there are two forms of traditional medicine local healing practices and official traditional system known

as sowai rigpa, meaning “the science of healing” and local healers have different names pawo, pamo, terdag, nyeljom, lhapa, jankhri, bonpo, comparable to shamans. Bhutanese believe that diseases are due to an imbalance in the different channels which compose the body and that they are often caused by one of the numerous revengeful spirits which are associated to certain symptoms.

It is therefore necessary to find out which spirit is upset with the patient and then provide a cure for the patient as well as appease the spirit. Besides the traditional healers, monks or lay religious practitioners, are called, if they are available, to perform specific rituals for the patient in order to remove obstacles and impurities which cause the sickness. All the local healers are not exclusive of each other, as people use them one or the other according to the urgency and proximity.

**Karma Wangchuk
ADHO**



VISIT OF SECRETARY, GNH COMMISSION TO CHHUKHA DZONGKHAG



A team from GNH Commission led by Hon'ble Secretary visited Chhukha Dzongkhag from 29th May to 1st June, 2020. The main purpose of the visit was for:

1. Monitoring of the development activities implemented in the Dzongkhag
2. Reprioritization of 12th Five Year Plan in the wake of COVID-19 situation

During the visit to Dzongkhag, they monitored major

development activities implemented in Bongo, Darla and Geling Gewogs. The Secretary also conducted meeting with Dzongkhag officials and discussed on the prioritization of the 12th FYP of the Dzongkhag. The meeting also discussed on the confronting issues while implementing the development activities especially in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Wangdi Gyelpo
Dzongkhag Planning Officer



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The first batch of Digital Literacy training for the Dzongkhag staff and nearby office (DVH/Tsimalakha Hospital) was conducted at Chhukha Central School Computer Laboratory and later shifted to Dzongkhag Conference Hall. The training started on 3rd February and ended on 7th February 2020 with the completion certificate awarded by DASHO DZONGRAB. Though 35 participants registered via online google form registration system, only 25 participants turned

up since some of them had to attend the COVID-19 duty at Phuentshogling. The ICT Sector has printed 150 copies of the certificate and this can be used in future training of digital literacy programs.

The Training was divided into different phases - one phase for each day. Day 1 was assigned solely for understanding computer fundamentals and applications with some practical sessions at Chhukha Central School Computer Lab.

On the 2nd day, the stress was more on basic networking and troubleshooting because we still have many people who still depend on ICT personnel to connect to the internet.

Online security and social media literacy including communication tools were covered on the 3rd day with some interactive activities to understand it more.

There are many G2C and other online services yet many are not aware of it and some were not confident to use the services. The session of G2C and online services were covered on 4th and 5th day.

Most of the services were demonstrated online but few

were demonstrated using live data like BoLTS and online ticket bookings.

Towards the evening, DASHO DZONGRAB awarded the certificates to the participants. Though some of the participants found the training next to intermediate level, most of them were happy to learn many things because whatever was covered was useful in our daily life.

The other batches were scheduled at Gedu, Phuentsholing and Gewogs but were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Lhamo
Sr. ICTA



ELECTION AND DEMOCRACY

THABLAM “CHI, NGA, CHUGCHI” (STRATEGY 1,5,11)

The table below represents the eligible registered voters under Chhukha Dzongkhag.

Details	2008	2011	2013	2016	2018
EV 18+ year	18,286	19,586	21,317	22,945	25,057
Male		9,873	10,747	11,453	12,437
Female		9,713	10,570	11,492	12,620

Chhukha Dzongkhag Election sector in accordance to 6th Annual Conference resolution of Election Commission of Bhutan has developed and adopted a strategy entitled Thablam “Chi, Nga, Chugchi (Strategy 1, 5, 11). The strategy was adopted aiming both long term and short-term plans of the Election Commission of Bhutan which was conceived from His Majesty the King’s address. The strategy was planned in conformation to the 12th Five Year Plan and targeted towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Of the 17 SDGs adopted, the ECB as an Election Management Body (EMBs) can contribute towards achieving Goal 5 and 16 - Gender Equality and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions respectively. Similar to SDGs, 12th FYP is also designed into 17 National Key Result Areas. ECB has been tasked with responsibilities to contribute to achieve NKRA 10 and 13 that is Gender Equality and Vibrant Democracy and Decentralization respectively.

Election Commission of Bhutan conducted a series of Democratic Elections (Parliamentary, Local Government, Bye-Elections and Re-Elections) since 2007. The elections, over the period, were conducted successfully and viewed to be most free and fair, peaceful and efficient. However, we cannot remain complacent. Consistency must be maintained in our effort towards building a vibrant Democracy.

The most important and concerning factor in every electoral cycle is voter turnout and its trend. ECB came up with a series of initiatives. Every Dzongkhag strategized Postal Ballot Facilitation Booths to facilitate voter’s participation in the 3rd Parliamentary Elections.

Chhukha Dzongkhag was no exception. Considerably, these initiatives had huge benefit on the voter’s participation

and resulted in increased voter turnout during the 3rd Parliamentary Elections.

Chhukha Dzongkhag has received positive feedback for its high voter turnout since 2007 when the first ever democratic election was conducted in the country. The voter turnout of 50.25% in 2013 Parliamentary elections rose to 61.8% in 2018 Parliamentary elections. Similarly, the Dzongkhag achieved the voter turnout of 62.05% as compared to the national average of 55.8% turnout in the Local Government elections 2016. One of the most alarming factors that affect democratic elections is the voter turnout and its eligible registered voters. Bhutan’s Constitution and Election Acts provides that Bhutanese citizens attending the age of 18 years and above, and under applicable election laws to exercise their franchise in an election.

The Election Office, Chhukha Dzongkhag has been spontaneously working on the delimitation issues as raised and forwarded by the various local leaders and general public. The election personnel of the Dzongkhag have personally visited the affected places and discussed in detail the issues with the people and forwarded the minutes/recommendations to the Election Commission Head Office, Thimphu.

As every organization and Agency conduct their daily routine activities based on their work plan and strategy developed, the Election Commission of Bhutan on 6th ECB conference has resolved to develop individual Dzongkhag Strategy aligning with that of the Head Office. The strategy termed Thablam 1-5-11 is therefore developed by all the Dzongkhag Office. However, in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic almost 90 percent of the activities of the Election Sector could not be carried out as almost all the activities requires field visit to Gewogs and Chiwogs. The social/physical distancing and ‘work from Home’ rules during the COVID-19 Pandemic prohibit the movement of officials to the field to carry out the planned activities. The budget constraint is yet another hindrance to carrying out the activities effectively and efficiently.

Pema
Chief Dz. EO

Following are the delimitation issues under the Chhukha Dzongkhag

Gewog	Chiwogs	Remarks
Bjagchhog	Mebisa	Need separate Polling stations
	Tashi gatsel	Name of Polling stations to be changed in VPIC
Bongo	Baeyuel Kunzang	Proposal of additional polling station at Gedaphu
	Gedu-Meritsemo	Proposal of additional polling station and chiwogs
Darla	Genju-yagang	Shifting of Yagang ORC polling station to Yagang/Lakbari
Doongna	Babana-Papaling	Mismatch of demarcation between Doongna and Metakha Gewog (boundary issues)
Geling	Dagpa-Sorchen	Mismatch of Chiwog name and spelling
	Dilibkha-Lamjokha	Mismatch of Chiwog spelling and boundary issue with Bongo gewog
	Gelingkha-Tsangli Ngna	To be named as Tsangli ngna
Loggchina	Dolepchen-Bjagchhu	Needed separate polling station (distance)
Maedtabkha	Gumina-Tenchhukla	Gumina 'B' peoples want to be included with Maedtab- Maed
	Uekha	Voters of Uekha are wrongly placed Gumina ORC Polling station
Phuentshogling	Chong-Gyekha-Dophulakha	Mismatch of demarcation (12 household of Chong-Gyekha, census in Gelling gewog and is located under Phuentshogling Gewog.
Samphelling	Sengyegang-Tsho- Chhongma	Gewog Admin proposes for an additional chiwog for Sengyegang.



DE-SUUNG-GUARDIANS OF PEACE

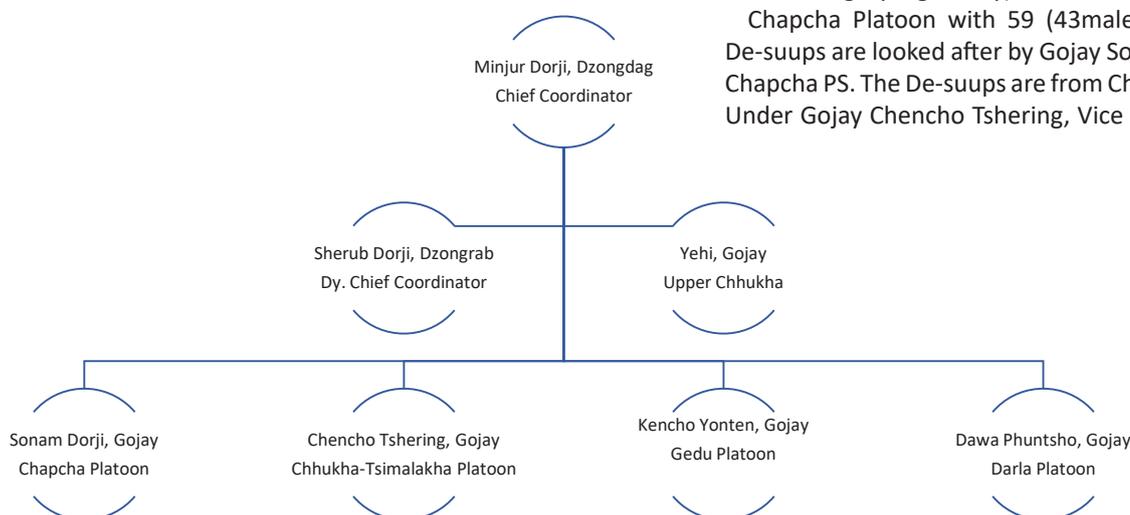


Chhukha De-suung consists of two divisions: Upper Chhukha and Phuentsholing. It is organized so for effective and efficient service delivery and administration. With joining of 41st Batch of De-suups, there are total of 1199 (821 males and 378 females) De-suups in Chhukha of which 721 (501 males and

220 females) are in Phuentsholing Division inclusive of Thromdey and Drungkhag Desuups(four Gewogs of Sampheling,

Phuntsholing, Dugna and Metakha). Spearheaded by Gojay Yeshe, Sr. Cultural Instructor, Gedu College of Business Studies, there are 478 (320 males and 158 females) De-suups in Upper Chhukha Division. The Upper Chhukha De-suups is divided further into four Platoons spreading in 6 Gewogs; Chapcha, Chhukha, Gedu and Darla. It has collectively started Annual Upper Chhukha De-suup Work Plan, 2020-21 with total seed fund of Nu. 356,888/-(Three hundred fifty six thousand eight hundred eighty eight only).

Chapcha Platoon with 59 (43males and 14 females) De-suups are looked after by Gojay Sonam Dorji, Teacher, Chapcha PS. The De-suups are from Chapcha Gewog area. Under Gojay Chenchu Tshering, Vice Principal, Wangchu





Gojays of upper Chhukha De-Suung

MSS, there are 188 (117 males and 71 females) De-suups in Chhukha Platoon. The De-suups are from Bjabchog Gewog of Tsimalakha, Tsimatsham, Tashi Gatshel and Wangchu towns. Gedu Platoon has 133 (86 males and 47 females) Desuups under Gojay Khencho Yonten, Vice Principal, Gedu HSS. It includes De-suups from Gedu town, Gedu College, Bongo

and Getana Gewogs. Darla Platoon with 98 (74 males and 24 females) De-suups covers DHPC and Darla Gewog. The Platoon is lead by Gojay Dawa Phuntsho, Principal of Sinchula PS.

De-suup Yeshi
Upper Chhukha De-Suung Coordinator



CELEBRATION OF DE-SUUNG RAISING DAY

The 9th De-suung Raising Day for Upper Chhukha De-suups was celebrated at Gedu College of Business Studies Auditorium. The day was honored with presence of Mr. Kencho Gyeltshen, Associate Director of Tala Hydro Power Plant as the Chief Guest. The other distinguished guests were Colonel Karma Samphel, RBA, Namgay Dzing, OC RBP, Gedu and Regional Heads. Dasho Dzongdag, Chief



De-suup Coordinator and Dzongrab, Deputy Chief De-suup Coordinator of the Dzongkhag were present for the celebration. The celebration began with lighting of hundred butter lamps by Chief Guest, guests and De-suups followed by cutting cake, and chanting of His Majesty's Zhabten.

The Chief Guest, other distinguished guests and De-suups gathered outside and Khuru, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and table tennis were some of the game's guests played till lunch.



Sumptuous lunch was served to all. After lunch, for 3 long hours De-suup coordination meeting was organized by the Chief and Deputy Chief Dzongkhag De-suup Coordinator in the College Conference Hall. House welcomed the 37th Batch De-suup graduates by offering Tashi Khadar. The house reviewed 2019 plans and programs and developed plan of action for the year 2020-21.

Gojay Dawa Phuntsho
Darla Platoon



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE DZONGKHAG

MARKET DRIVEN PRODUCTION APPROACH: A SUCCESS STORY OF FMG MODEL IN CHHUKHA



Figure 1: Legalizing FMGs for school linkages 2018

Like in any nation, agriculture sector in Bhutan is also an inevitable sector that is required to be self-reliant and independent. The Royal Government of Bhutan has recognized the importance of a strong agriculture sector and thus has already given top priority in the 12th Five Year Plan (2019-2023). However, hill agriculture is different from conventional agriculture in several ways. Undulating terrains, frequent changes in micro-environments of small valleys, small land holding and thus very less volume of surplus production and lack of mechanization pose different hurdles in enhancing productivity and profitability of hill agriculture as compared to the low land agriculture. Thus, agriculture in mountainous area needs special attention and approaches depending on the specific geographical situations. Sustainability rather than profitability is of utmost importance in hill agriculture.

In order to attain the sustainable agriculture in Chhukha Dzongkhag, a market driven production approach has been initiated by the sector since 2017 wherein there is at least one Farmers Marketing Group (FMG) per gewog whose primary mandate is to collect the little surplus from the villages and transport to market in bulk, add value by taking up processing, certification or branding. The FMG are also mandated to create market for their produces and products

and support farmers in taking up those commodities in demand.

Dzongkhag Administration supported the initiation and legalized the FMG with support from Department of Agricultural Marketing & Cooperatives (DAMC). Dzongkhag Tshogde unanimously supported FMG and created assured markets for them by legalizing the supplies of local vegetables and dairy products to schools by FMGs that greatly motivated the young entrepreneurs to continue the activity. As of December 2019, the 10 FMGs have supplied vegetables and dairy products to 19 schools amounting to Nu. 14 million. The amount has been ploughed back to the communities which otherwise used to flow out of our system thus adding value in the community.

Subsequently, the FMG model has been and is being strengthened by Food Security and Agriculture Productivity Project (FSAPP) of Department of Agriculture. Supports from Education and Livestock sector

There are 10 FMGs in 11 Gewogs under Chhukha Dzongkhag. With support from Dzongkhag Administration, all the 10 FMGs and several production groups and youth groups have come together to form a cooperative whose primary mandates are processing, value addition, certification, branding and marketing of produces and products within



Figure 2: Training of FMGs 2018



Figure 3: Logo of Chhukha Sanam Nyamley Tshogde

Dzongkhag, country and outside country.

The Chhukha Sanam Nyamley Tshogde (Chhukha Farmers' Cooperative) is a registered cooperative, instituted on December 14, 2018 with an aim to transform RNR sector into a business enterprise and develop into a full-fledged business entity in the country. It consists of 35 members. The cooperative shall operate with a registered "Natural Chhukha" brand and shall operate from Gedu Farmers' Outlet under construction with support from FSAPP.

Among several indicators, an impact assessment showed the FMG model helped to increase the surplus production by more than 50% in rural areas due to assured markets created by FMGs for the produces and products of farmers.



Figure 4: A brand of Chhukha Sanam Nyamley Tshogde

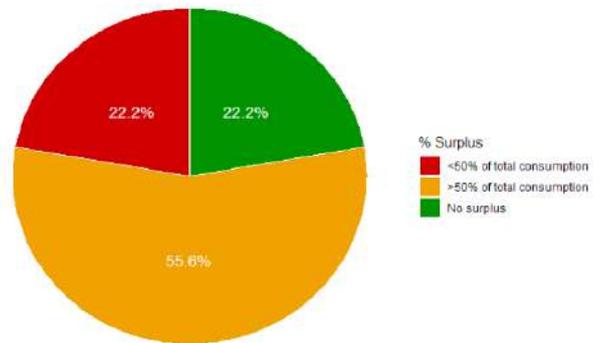
Pledges of CFCoop:

- Shall keep diversification of markets (local, domestic and international)
- Shall diversify products and keep abreast of the market demands



Figure 5: Architectural drawing of Farmers' Outlet at Gedu

Impact-Percent surplus



- Shall initiate and continue value addition activities (processes, packaging, labelling, branding, certification)
- Shall instill the system of fair price to support both the producers as well as consumers
- Shall improve and institutionalize the marketing channels
- Shall provide credit facilities to the members of the cooperative

Cooperative/ FMGs' contribution during the recent lockdown period

The preparedness of the FMG model has been successfully proved during the recent lockdown period. The FMGs has been of a great rescue to Dzongkhag Administration where they were authorized to provide door to door vegetable delivery service to consumers.

This success would have not been possible if there were no collaborative efforts with and between various agencies such as Department of Agriculture through FSAPP and ARDC, DAMC, Dzongkhag and Gewog Administrations, Dzongkhag Education Sector, Dzongkhag and Gewog RNR Sectors. However, the FMGs and CFCoop needs further supports to lift them up and enable them to become a self-sustaining business enterprise in the country to which we would like to keep seeking all possible supports where and when necessary.

Saha Bir Rai
Dy.CDAO



10 ༡༠	Ruins of Zhabdrung Jigme Norbu's residence ཞབས་རྩེ་འཇིགས་མེད་འཛེགས་ལུང་གི་ཤུལ་གྱི།	Dungna གཏུང་ནག	Dungna Gup #77948569 གཏུང་ནག་གྲོ་པོ། #༧༧༩༤༨༥༦༩
11 ༡༡	Reo Ding Ting Mey Ney, Khopee Dham Nowdokey Dham རིའོ་དུན་ཏིང་མའི་གནས།ཁོའི་རྩམ་སྒྲིག་དགའི་གནས། རྩེ་ཏེ་ཀོ་རྩམ་ེ།	Phuentsho ling/ Samphelling ཕུན་ཚལ་གླིང་དང་བསམ་འཕེལ་གླིང།	Pling/Samphelling Gups #17581585 #17464891 ཕུན་ཚལ་གླིང་གྲོ་པོ།/ བསམ་འཕེལ་གླིང་གྲོ་པོ། #༡༧༥༨༡༥༨༥ #༡༧༤༦༤༨༩༡
12 ༡༢	Phuentsholing Shedra ཕུན་ཚལ་གླིང་ཤེད་ར་གླེ།	Pling Throm ཕུན་ཚལ་གླིང་ཁྲོམ།	Khenpo #17603809 མཁན་པོ། #༡༧༦༠༣༨༠༩
13 ༡༣	Druk Mila SeykharGuthog འབྲུག་མེལ་སྲེ་འཛོལ་གྱི།	Samphelling བསམ་འཕེལ་གླིང།	Lam # 17473977 སྐུ་མཁན་པོ། #༡༧༤༧༣༩༧༧
14 ༡༤	Pasakha Dasho Ugyen Dorji Shedra པ་སཀ་ཧ་ཤོ་འུ་ཡེན་དོ་རྟ་ཤེད་ར་གླེ།	Samphelling བསམ་འཕེལ་གླིང།	17662200 Khenpo མཁན་པོ། #༡༧༦༦༢༢༠༠
15 ༡༥	Druk Namgyel Choeling Shedra འབྲུག་ནམ་རྒྱལ་ཚལ་གླིང་ཤེད་ར་གླེ།	Pling བསམ་འཕེལ་གླིང།	Khenpo #17973648 མཁན་པོ། #༡༧༩༧༣༦༤༨
16 ༡༦	Rinchending Lhakhang རིན་ཆེན་རྒྱེད་སཀ་ལང་གྱི།	Pling Throm ཕུན་ཚལ་གླིང་ཁྲོམ།	17648821 Lam སྐུ་མཁན་པོ། ༡༧༤༨༨༢༡

Ugyen Chada
Dzongkhag Cultural Officer



BRIEF PROFILE OF LAM NETEN OF NGOEDRUP-TSE RABDEY, CHHUKHA DZONGKHAG



Lam Ugyen Dorji has been the Lam Neten of Ngoedrup-Tse Rabdey of Chhukha Dzongkhag since 2010. Prior to the appointment, Lam served as Drukpoen at Tshamdra. Lam completed his meditation at Chari monatery between 1996-1999.

For four years from 1992-1996, Lam was the Lopen at Tango Buddhist Institute, the institue where Lam also started his education in the year 1996. Lam joined the monastic body in 1954, at the age of 13.

Lam is known in Chhukha Dzongkhag for his humility and excellent religious teachings provided to the public during occasions.



NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION TEAM

Chief Advisor
MINJUR DORJI
(DZONGDAG)

Chief Editor
SHERUB DORJI
(SR. DZONGRAB)

Editor
SANGAY THINLEY
(SR. EDO)

Editor
PEMA
(CHIEF DzEO)

Design/Layout
LHAMO
(OFFGT. ICTO)

Design/Layout
DORJI TSHOMO
(ICTA)