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A Low Cost Technology for Production of High Quality Organic Tomatoes

"A neighbor first policy"

NCOA Yusipang



Tomato Blight disease is one of the key limiting factors hampering tomato production. Heavy rainfall in summer season enhances tomato blight. NCOA, Yusipang has adapted and demonstrated a very simple rain shelter which can be used to produce high quality tomatoes.

In 2019, NCOA designed and

evaluated simple low cost rain shelters using bamboos and polythene sheet for successful tomato production at Yusipang which is at an altitude of 2600 masl.

In 2020, the yield obtained from farmers' field was 18933 kg per acre. Farmers sold the tomatoes at Nu. 60 per kg. This technology

was tested in Dugna Geog, Geling Geog and Lokchina Geog in Chukha Dzongkhag and Luni Gewog in Paro Dzongkhag.

In 2021, NCOA Yusipang initiated neighbor first policy whereby 67 Yusipang farmers were supported with plastic sheets, seedlings and technical support on tomato production in

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rain shelter. Hybrid variety cosmic was used which yielded between 20-25 MT per acre in rain shelter. Farmers sold the tomatoes at Nu. 60 -70 per kg.

It was found that the organic tomato production was successful even under the roof of house apart from plastic rain sheltered house as it also helped to keep away from rain and water. According to the data recorded by one of the households, production was found to be very successful considering the area cultivated. The total area cultivated was 4m by 1.5 m which yielded around 32kgs. It was sold at Nu. 78 per kg making an income of Nu 2500.

Tomato is an easily marketable crop ensuring quite a good amount of revenue generation. With a successful outcome from organic tomatoes production the farmers expressed their interest and motivation to continue for the same in coming season.

NCOA encourages farmers to practice organic tomatoes cultivation for sustainable environment and healthy life. For technical assistance you can visit NCOA, Yusipang.



ARDC Wengkhar and Post Skilling Program establishes commercial mushroom enterprise

ARDC Wengkhar



Desuup Phub Gyeltshen from Panas Ngatshang was one of the participants of first batch of Desuung Skilling Program in farming enterprise organised by DSP and DoA, MoAF. After completing his training at ARDC Bajo and attachment at ARDC Wengkhar, Phub with assistance of ARDC Wengkhar developed a commercial oyster mushroom production project.

A 1000 bag unit was established with joint support of Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood Enhancement Program (CARLEP- MoAF), a project in east Bhutan and co-financed through Credit investment from CSI Bank.

Established in December, Desuup Phub Gyeltshen's interest in commercial mushroom production is seeing signs of fruition with the first sprouting which began earlier this week. So far almost 700 bags have been inoculated and are reaching fruiting stage

phase wise. Phub Gyeltshen was also helped by his relative, an engineer to set up mushroom shed developed innovatively through use of construction steel rods as frames for net house converted to mushroom shed.

Recently, he had also received a grant support to begin commercial vegetable program from YERE - MoAF for which a commercial vegetable production is planned with help of ARDC and Ngatshang gewog Agriculture Office to

diversify his farming enterprise.

Meanwhile another participants of the same batch of DSP - DoA MoAF skilling, Desuup Ugyen Tenzin is following Phub Gyeltshen in setting up one similar unit at Lumang, also in partnership with CARLEP - IFAD / MoAF through ARDC Wengkhar and ARDSC Khangma. Both Desuup Phub Gyeltshen and Ugyen Tenzin are linked to a another Youth Mushroom entrepreneur in Kalapang (Lead Farmer of



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ARDC Wengkharch) following a entrepreneur to entrepreneur linkage also referred as farmer to farmer extension.

Youth engagement in farming is not so easy as well as not a preferred choice for youths but few who comes forward could set a role model to encourage others.

Memey Dechen of Chali, Mongar. Aged he may be, but his strength and passion in farming

is something today's generation cannot challenge with him. Driving a Kubota Power tiller, Memey is a regular supplier of fresh veggies in Mongar Vegetable market.

A clear indication of how severe rural urban migration is when people like Memey Dechen, instead of pulling his rosary still continue to till the land.

ARDC Wengkharch is coming up

with skilling and post skilling program targeting youths from the eastern region to take up farming. The programs cover establishing commercial farming enterprises - mushroom, cereal crops, fruit crops, agro processing and value addition.

Youths from 6 eastern Dzongkhags interested to give a break to parents like Memey Dechen may contact the Program Director, ARDC Wengkharch @ 17644921.





Leisure

Citrus Mandarin basic tips

1. The mandarin that belongs to the species *Citrus reticulata* 'Blanco' is the most widely grown citrus in Bhutan.
2. There are two varieties; Sikkim mandarin and Khasi mandarin. the first is concentrated in the south west districts while the second one in southcentral and south-east districts.
3. Farmers prefer these varieties due to their ease of management and availability.
4. The optimum temperature range for growth is generally considered to be between of 130C and 35oC for citrus.
5. Most preferred soil types for citrus are sandy loams, loams and clay loams which generally have good drainage, water holding and nutrient storage capacity.
6. Proper planning is highly important for the establishment and success of citrus orchards. It is important to fully assess the soil and climatic conditions before planting, as citrus orchard establishment is a costly exercise.

JOKES



The four true friends

The four true friends from a local church joined together on Saturdays at a local farm during deer season. There was the farmer who provided the land, a doctor who was skilled at cutting up the meat, a lawyer who provided the hunting buggy, and the preacher who always had a story to share.

One Saturday, the group had hunted together all day with no luck. When they got back to the hunting buggy they saw a magnificent buck emerge from the woods. He was huge! This was a mature, 12-point buck. They all raised their rifles and fired at the same time. The deer went down. An argument immediately ensued as to whoa fired the shot that actually killed the buck.

About that time, the local game warden drove up, who knew them well. He said he had heard them arguing and asked what it was about. They told him it was about who had actually shot the buck. After checking all their licenses to make sure they were hunting legally, he said he would go look and see who shot the buck. They asked him how he was going to find out. He told them to just wait at the vehicle.

When the game warden returned, he congratulated the preacher on his fine kill. The other three began arguing again. "How do you know that for sure?" they said. The game warden replied, "If the lawyer had killed it, he would have shot it in the rump. If the doctor had killed it, he would have shot straight through the heart. If the farmer had killed it, the shot would have been through the neck to save the best meat. But there was no doubt, however, that the preacher was the one who shot it, because the bullet went in one ear and out the other."

Did you know?

Citrus represents Bhutan's largest fresh fruit export, significantly contributing to Bhutan's economy by generating annual export revenue of Nu. 464 Million. It is one of the main sources of income for more than 38.5% of rural households and benefits more than 60% of the population.

Please submit your articles for RNR-Newsletter at

communication@moaf.gov.bt



The Ministry's week

On job training of De-suups and Livestock staff on NADPM & RCP



As a part of the NADPM&RCP, the Department of Livestock and De-suung office in collaboration with the Dzongkhag administration and Regional Livestock Development Center has started On Job Training (OJT) program in six Dzongkhags (Wangdue, Mongar, Samtse, S/ jongkhar, Sarpang and Thimphu) with eight clinics from 7th January 2022. Currently, the ongoing OJT includes about 60 De-suups and

9 livestock staff undergoing the training in each clinic with a training duration of 10 days for every batch.

The main objective of the OJT is to train about 2500 De-suups in clinic management, animal welfare, dog catching and restraining, and 366 livestock staff in catch neuter vaccinate and release (CNVR) protocol by the end of 1st week of March 2022.

Training on Green and Climate Smart Technology Business Development underway

More than 25 participants comprising of Planning Officers, Economic Development Officers, Gewog Administration Officers, Gewog Extension Officers and Youths from Punakha, Trongsa and Wangdue are attending the training on Green and Climate Smart Technology Business Development from 10-14 January



2022 at Drubchhu Resort, Punakha.

The main objectives of the training are to create awareness on Green and Climate Smart Technologies (CST), explore opportunities on Green and CST business, learn and identify challenges in green and CST development in the RNR sector.

JICA hands over Tsirang's EMT model poultry farm to the Department of Livestock

The JICA Bhutan Office handed over the Effective Microorganism Technology model poultry farm and facilities including the EM activator plant and equipment in Tsirang to the Department of Livestock on January 14.

The project is a collaborative project between the DoL and Miyagi Farm Co., Okinawa, Japan' was implemented for

three years starting from 2019 with technical expertise and fund support from Miyagi Farm Co. and JICA. It is aimed to introduce the EM solution technologies in poultry farming as an intervention to increase production efficiency, explore avenues to utilize local resources for poultry feed production and improve farm management practices through training and on-farm exposure trip.



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