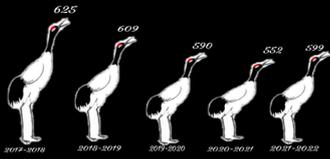




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BNC count for last 5 years



Black necked crane in Bhutan for five years

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The Ministry's Week

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Model Organic Village Nganye, Jarey Gewog, Lhuentse Dzongkhag

NCOA, Yusipang



As the National Center for Organic Agriculture gearing towards the development and mass conversion of farming into organic farming practices in the country through various approaches and one of the approaches is through the strategy of developing an Organic Model Village, the transition from existing

natural production system towards a certified Organic Agriculture.

Owing to the remoteness and minimal use of agro-chemicals and inorganic fertilizers and other external inputs offers immense opportunities to the Nganye village under Jarey gewog to

easily transition its current natural farming system to a certified Organic production system by adopting the principles and practices of organic farming.

Moreover, the Gewog also falls under the Global Environmental Facility for

Cont...on Pg 2



Cont...on from 1

Least Development Country (GEF LDCF) project landscape. One of the thematic areas of the GEF LDCF is to support and promote the Sustainable Livelihoods of the farming communities through the demonstration and promotion of organic production system. In line with the project priority, the development of Organic Model Village (OMV) has been identified as the key strategy to up-scaling and out scaling organic technologies.



And also, with the ongoing Resilient Mountain Solutions (RMS) initiatives of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) which focuses on simple and affordable resilience-building tools and approaches for the mountain farming communities resonates very well with the principles of Organic Agriculture and agro ecology. It has also supplemented in supporting the development of village as a model organic village.

With the support of these projects, various organic

technologies in the village were initiated to implement and also supported in strengthening the farmer's capacity and knowledge on organic farming technologies, standards, principles and practices for all the organic operators in

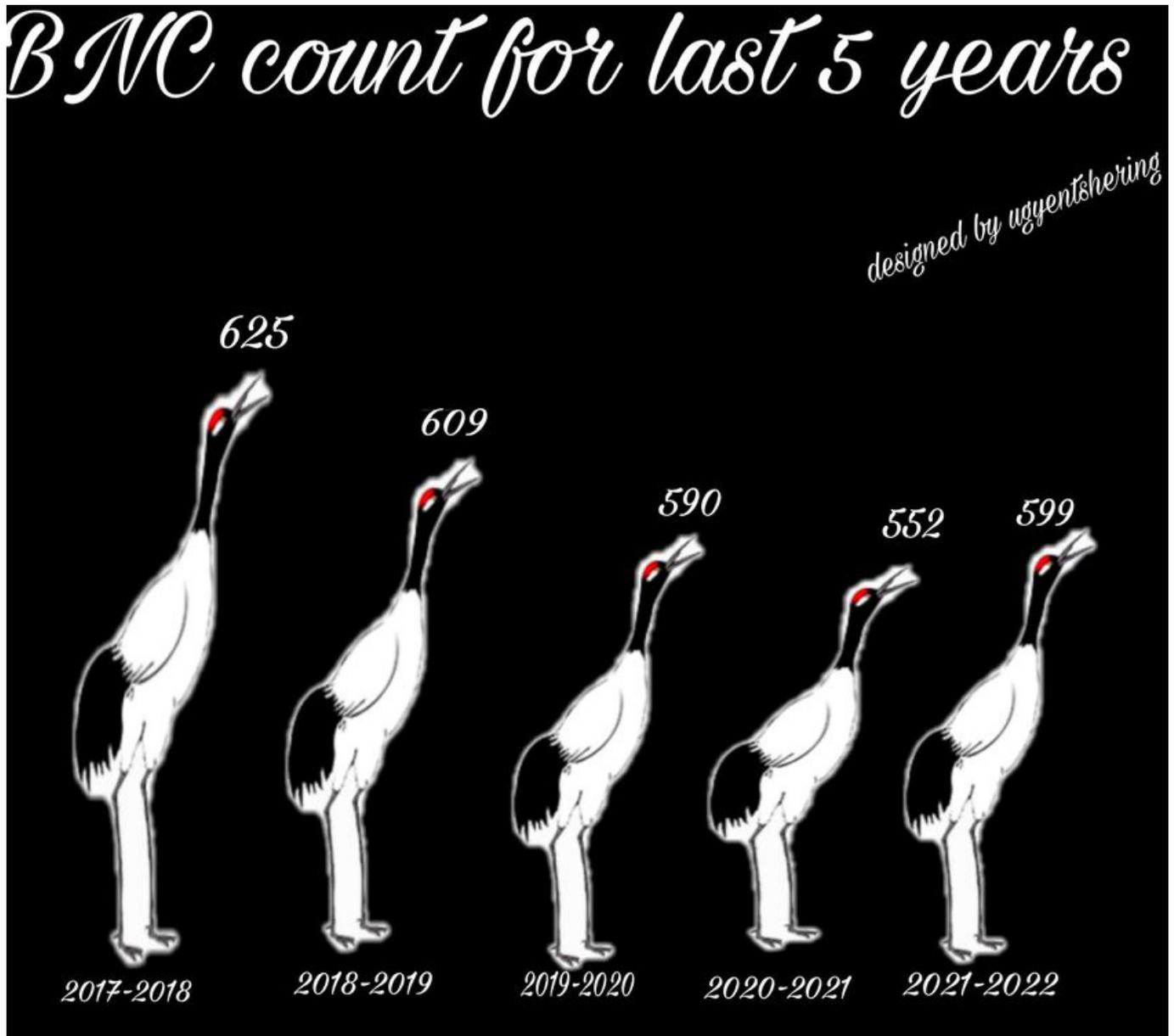
the model organic village. Unlike in most of the other villages, all the households in MOV Nganye was represented by the women participation at all times during training programs and in adopting the organic solution in the village.





Black-necked crane in Bhutan for past five years

DoFPS



The Black-necked Crane (BNC) counts for the last 5 years indicate that their wintering in Bhutan hasn't changed much, at least in their number. While the highest, 625 of them visited Bhutan in winter of 2017-2018, the number slightly dropped since then but not

significantly.

This year 599 flew in for their winter roosting in Bhutan, 26 shy of the highest ever. And this is the third-highest number of BNC that has been recorded in Bhutan in last 5 years. RSPN first started their population census in

1986-1987 winter.

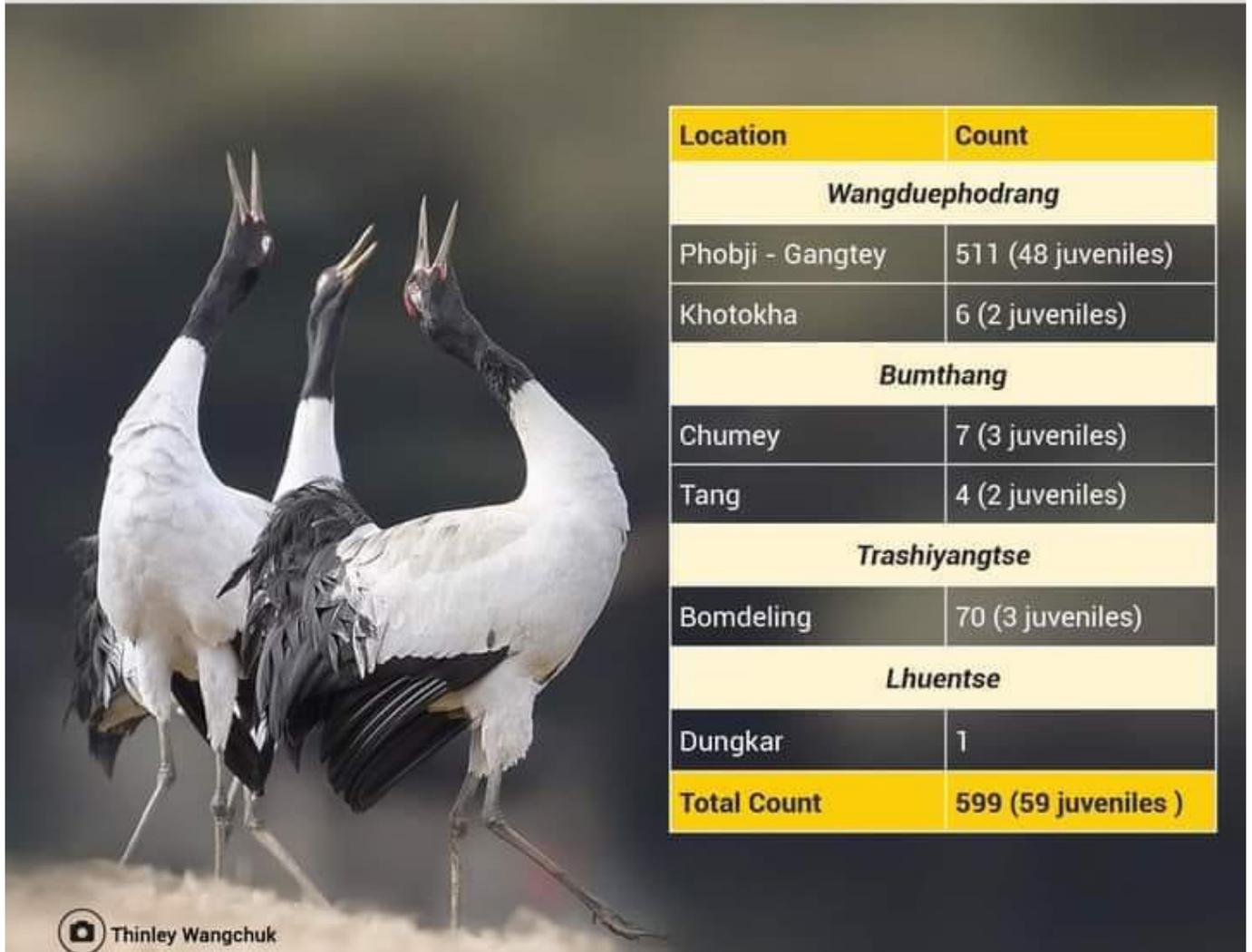
The BNC has been recorded from at least 4 Dzongkhags of Wangduephodrang, Trashiyangtse, Bumthang and Lhuentse, which are the regular winter habitat of BNC in Bhutan. While

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BLACK-NECKED CRANE COUNT, BHUTAN, 2021-2022

(Highest sighting in each of the sites)



majority landed in the wetlands of Phobji-Gangtey valley, as in the past, a lone bird in Dungkar, Lhuentse was spotted.

Bumdeling in Trashiyangtse recorded 70 BNC, the second highest congregation, while Bumthang recorded 11 (7 in Chumey and 4 in Tang). The annual census of BNC was carried out by RSPN Bhutan Black-necked Crane Education Center, RSPN together with the Department of Forests and Park Services.

Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) categorized as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is listed in Appendix I of CITES as well. It was elevated to Near Threatened status from Vulnerable few years ago. Records indicate that there are almost 11,000 BNC in the world.

Leisure

Lychee erinose mites

Erinosemite damage on lychee: Initial attack giving young leaves a distorted and silvery appearance, leaves then become brownish, and finally results in the formation of the dark brown velvety/woolly growth.

What is it?

The dark brown velvety growths result from the feedings of erinosemites on the underside of the leaves. Infested young leaves appear silvery, bumpy and distorted and turn brown as they age, giving rise to the dark brown velvet growth.

Erinosemite damage on lychee: Initial attack giving young leaves a distorted and silvery appearance, leaves then become brownish, and finally results in the formation of the dark brown velvety/woolly growth

What to do if found in your area?

- Cut all infected parts and burn them.
- Sulphur sprays are said to be useful if applied targeting new flushes.
- Contact NPPC for support.

JOKES



A Double Lesson

A carload of hunters, on holiday, were looking for a place to hunt, pulled into a farmer's yard in County. The driver, went up to the farmhouse to ask permission to hunt on the farmer's land.

The old farmer said, 'Sure you can hunt, but would you be doing me a favour? That old donkey standing over there is 20 years old and sick with cancer, but I don't have the heart to kill her. Would you do it for me?'

The driver replied, 'Of course I will,' and strolled back to the car. While walking back, however, the driver decided to play a trick on his hunting friends. He got into the car and when they asked if the farmer had said if it was alright, he said, 'No, we can't hunt here, but I'm going to teach that old fellow a lesson he won't forget.'

With that, he rolled down his window, stuck his gun out and shot the donkey. As he shouted, 'To be sure, that will teach him,' a second shot rang out from the passenger side and one of his hunting mates yelled, 'And me, I got the cow.'

Did you know?

Bananas are the 4th largest crop after wheat, rice, and corn. India is the biggest producer of bananas than any other country.

Please submit your articles for RNR-Newsletter at

communication@moaf.gov.bt



The Ministry's week

Better dairy value chain facility for Lhuentse farmers



The Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo attended the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture, Agricultural Ministers Meeting organized by the Federal Government of Germany on 28 January 2022 under the overarching theme "Sustainable Land Use: Food Security Starts with the Soil."

Speaking to the forum, Lyonpo highlighted the importance of soil health and land management for enhancing food security. During the deliberation, Lyonpo

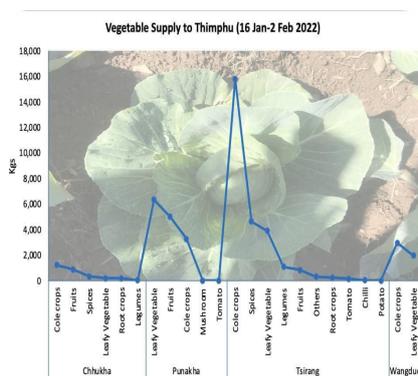
emphasized the issues of agriculture farming in Bhutan where agriculture is practiced in steep topographical terrain prone to frequent soil erosion and other forms of land degradation.

In hindsight, Lyonpo also informed on the initiatives taken in addressing soil health and land degradation issues such as organic agriculture, sustainable soil and land management technologies, and protected agriculture.

Domestic sourcing and distribution of vegetables and Fruits

Local Fruits and Vegetables Sourced and Supplied to Thimphu Market between 16th Jan-2nd Feb 2022

65 MT different varieties of vegetables, 15 MT of potatoes, 3.7 MT of mushrooms, 10 MT of fruits and 5.5 MT of spices produced locally and distributed



to five dzongkhags between 16th January and 2nd February 2022. About 51% of the vegetables and fruits sourced were supplied to Thimphu market while 42% consumed were within dzongkhags and 7% traded for dzongkhags besides Thimphu.

List of essential items

The Ministry of Economic Affairs issued notification on list of essential items for importation and distribution.

Under the RNR sector, the essential items included animal feed, milk, cheese, butter, rice, edible oil, doma and pani,

vegetables and fruits, eggs and agriculture and livestock items (inputs).

While doma-pani, vegetables & fruits, and eggs allowed for imports based on domestic availability.



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
THIMPHU



MoEAC/COVID/01602

February 6, 2022

NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Economic Affairs would like to notify the following list of essential items that should be made available in the economy. The Ministry solicits support and cooperation from relevant agencies in facilitating their importation and distribution.

Sl. No.	Commodity Description
1	LPG and Fuel (HS MS.A.P.D)
2	Industrial raw materials
3	Raw materials for hydropower construction.
4	Animal Feed
5	Milk
6	Meat
7	Food (Ales and Maida in 1kg, 2kg & 5kg packer)
8	Chicken
9	Sun-dried Fish
10	Cereals/Kernels/baby foods/milk
11	Batter
12	Baby Diapers and Wipes
13	Baby Industries (cosmetics, soaps, oils, baby wash)
14	Batteries (household use)
15	Chips, biscuits and Chocolate
16	Salt
17	Ten and Coffee
18	Sugar
19	Sono, Shampoo and Conditioners
20	Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
21	Toilet Paper
22	Detergent (Washing and Cleaning) Disinfectant
23	Pharmaceutical products
24	Rice
25	Edible oil
26	Noodles
27	Doma and Pani
28	Vegetables and fruits

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(wash your hands, wear a mask and watch your distance)

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