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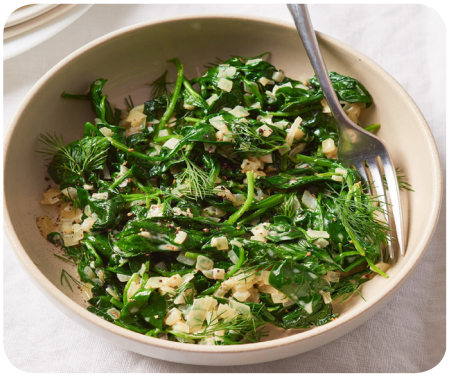
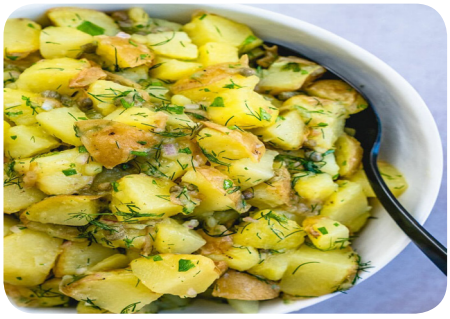
DILL

NCOA, Yusipang





The scientific name of dill is Anethum graveolens and it belongs to apiaceae family. Dill is an annual crop about 60-120cm tall. It is native to Southern Russia, Western Africa and the Mediterranean. It has aromatic leaves and stems. The leaves and tender stems are used for culinary purposes. Dill helps to regulate diabetes, promotes digestion, fortifies bone health, prevents infection and it is a remedy for insomnia.

Dill grow best in full sunlight and well drained sandy or loamy soil. It prefers soil with pH 5-7 and temperature around 15-20°C. It cannot tolerate the heat stress of southern climates. The plants cannot withstand strong wind since they have hollow stems.

The propagation of dill is through seeds. Seeds are directly sown in the field from April through May at the distance of 30cm. Transplantation is not recommended since they have a tap root system. Seeds will germinate within 1week to 2weeks after sowing and light is needed during seed emergence.

Dill can be harvested when the leaves and stems are still tender. Leaves contain the most flavor if picked before flowering. Pick leaf by leaf for daily use.

We can use dill in garnishing varieties of dishes, in making soups, in dal, in meat items, salad and ezzay. Seeds can be used in pickling and extraction of essential oils. To maintain the most flavor and aroma we can put dill in the dishes after cooking.

In order to maximize the shelf life of dill, wrap the dill in a damp towel and place in a plastic bag in the refrigerator and it will keep well around 10-14 days or it can be dried in a shady area and keep in a proper airtight container for later use.

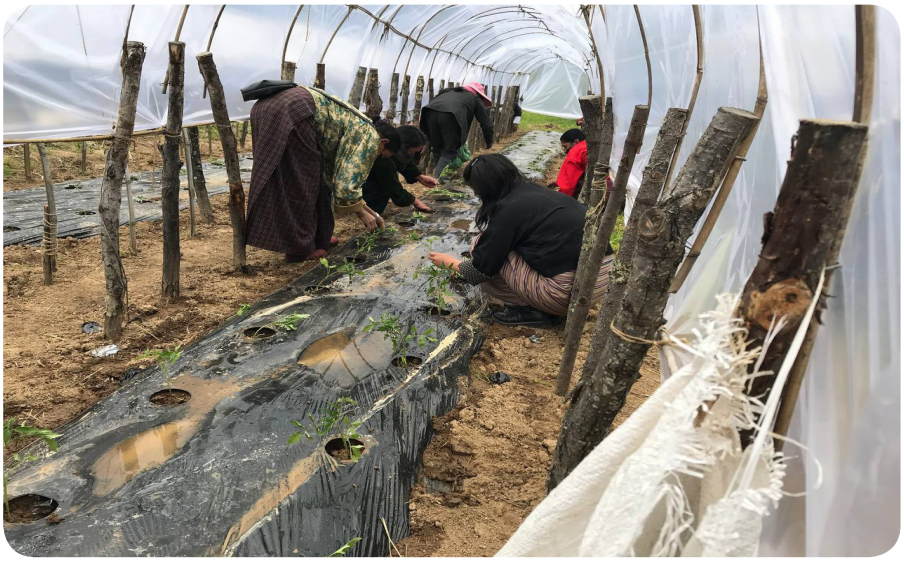
Demonstration of tomato rain shelter technologies

NCOA, Yusipang

The Horticulture Program of National Centre for Organic Agriculture conducted a field demonstration of tomato rain shelter technologies in Yusipang for the farmers of Yusipang and Hongtsho villages under the Neighbour First Policy. The objective of the demonstration was to make farmers aware about the rain shelter technologies which were proven to be low-cost and efficient for growing tomato.

Tomato grown in open field conditions during summer is highly prone to blight disease. This devastating disease infects and destroys the leaves, stems as well as fruits and gives the entire plant population a blighted black appearance. Tomato is one crop that is highly recommended to be grown inside protected structures. Planting tomatoes in protected structure increases length of harvest (early and late harvest) and increases yield.

Domed shaped rain shelter and sloppy roof rain shelter were two tomato rain shelter technologies demonstrated to the farmers. These structures are constructed using bamboo or wooden poles of about 1-2



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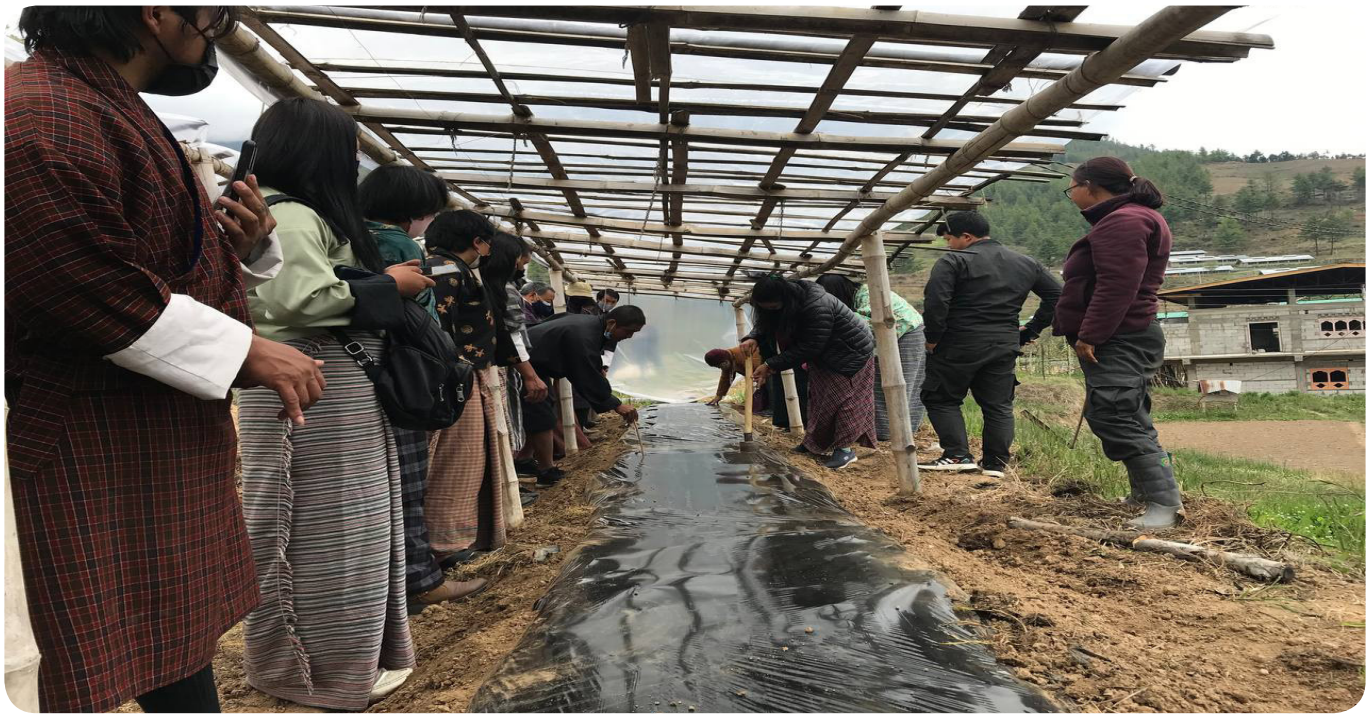


inches diameter and transparent UV stabilized plastic sheet of 35 or 45 GSM which makes it cheaper compared to other protected structures.

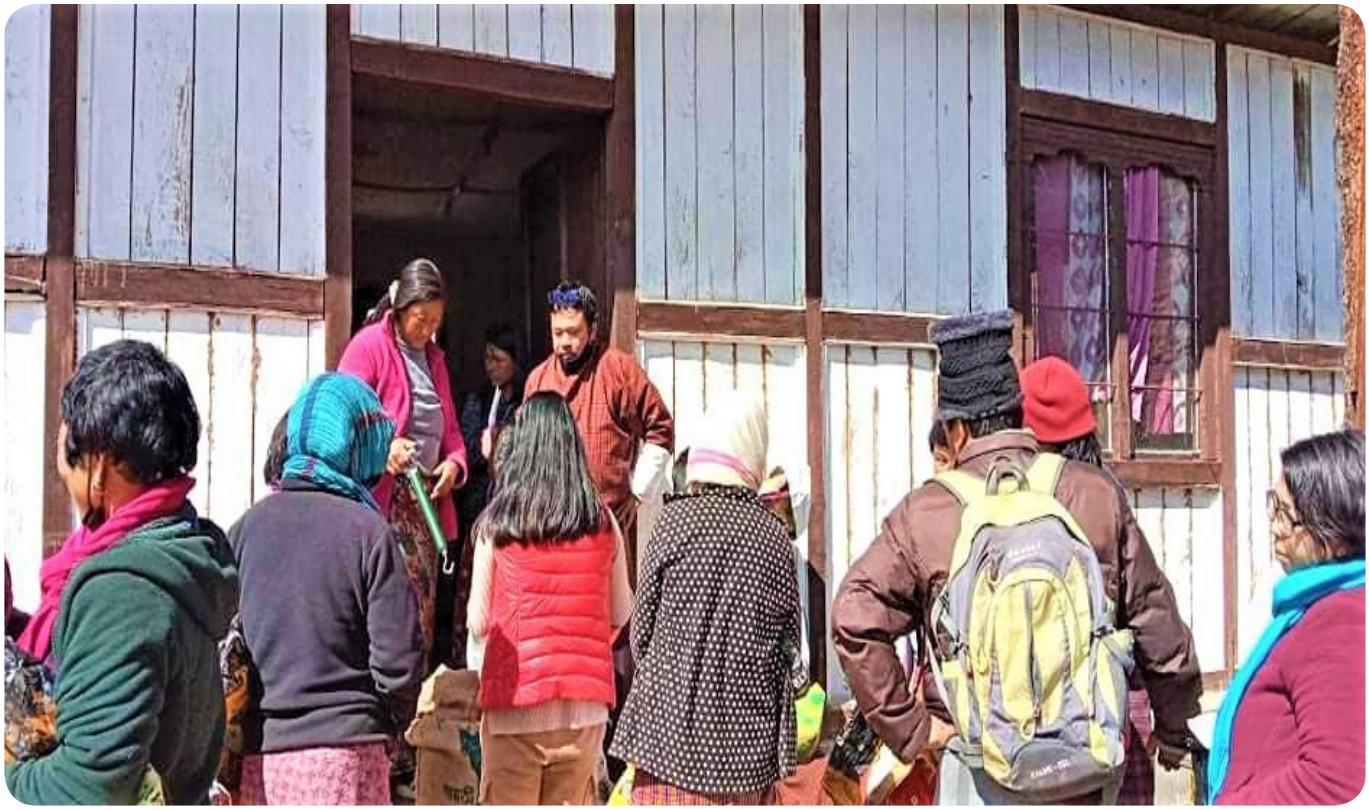
The demonstration of tomato rain shelter technologies was graced by Program Director of National Centre for Organic Agriculture. A total of 36 farmers (Yusipang: 13 and Hongtsho: 19) actively took part in this demonstration which comprised of both theory and practical activities. In the end of the demonstration, the farmer participants were supported with plastics sheets and tomato seedlings so that they can apply the knowledge of tomato rain shelter technologies in their farms.

This demonstration was conducted with support from Global Environment Facility_ Least Developed Countries Fund (GEF_LDCF) and Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) projects.

The Centre is looking forward to demonstrate tomato stacking and pruning techniques to this group of farmers in future.

NCOA leads the high-altitude rice research activities

NCOA, Yusipang

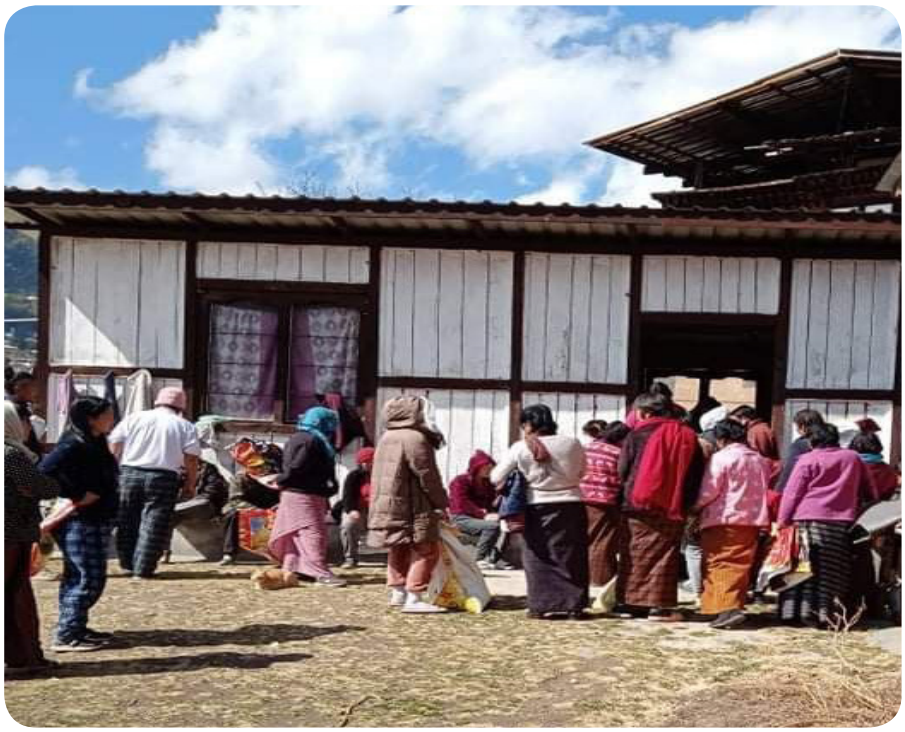


The National Centre for Organic Agriculture leads the high-altitude rice research activities in the country. The rice research station is based at Tsento-Shari village under Paro district. In 2021, due to an unprecedented rainfall from 16-21 October, damaged paddy was harvested across the country.

The Paro dzongkhag was hit hardest among other high-altitude paddy growing regions with total of about 923.44 acres of paddy fields affected across 962 households.

Since the Centre has the national mandate to coordinate high-altitude rice research and development activities, NCOA supported the farmers of Paro with more than 1MT of rice seeds for 2022 season. The seeds were supplied to more than 100 farmers under Tsento gewog, Dopshari gewog and Dogar gewog. The high-altitude rice research is funded by GEF-LDCF project.

Since the nursery time coincided with 3rd national lockdown, the agriculture extension officer of Tsento gewog assisted NCOA in supplying the seed to farmers.



Leisure

Asparagus

Asparagus (Asparagus officinalis) belongs to the family Liliaceae. Cultivated variety of asparagus was first introduced into Bhutan in 1971. It is a perennial vegetable, either erect (Mary Washington) or climbing (Bhutan's wild asparagus). Asparagus plantscan be either male or female. Males are higher yielding than females and are identifiable only after one year. It has economic lifespan of 15 years and is grown for its shoots (spears).

Asparagus is nutritionally well-balanced vegetable and high value crop with fewer incidences of pests and diseases.

Proper varieties should be selected to limit weeds and pathogen problem. Mary Washington and UC-157 are the released asparagus varieties in Bhutan. However, Mary Washington is the most cultivated openpollinated variety among the two. Locally available wild asparagus is adapted to the local conditions and are resilient to adverse conditions of climate change.

JOKES

Four true friends joined together on saturdays at a local farm during the 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 who fired the shot that actually killed the buck.

About that time, the local game warden drove up, who knew the foursome well. 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. 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?

There are six breeds of dairy cows: Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Milking Shorthorn. A Holstein's spots are like fingerprints. No two cows have exactly the same pattern of black and white spots.

Please submit your articles for RNR-Newsletter at

communication@moaf.gov.bt

The Ministry's week

Hon'ble MoAF Minister visits Samtse Dzongkhag

On 9th May, 2022 en-route to Samtse, Hon'ble Minister, MoAF met with forestry officials of Gedu Forest Division at the Division Office and advised them to work toward enhancing public service delivery and serving the nation with utmost integrity and loyalty.

In the evening, Hon'ble Minister met with the members of the dredging community and sorted out various field issues such as requirement of differentiated reserved price for domestic and export markets, boundary issues, lease land for storage of dredged materials and export route issues among others.

On 10th May 2022, Hon'ble Minister graced the passing out Parade of the 49th batch of the De-suung training programme held at Tashichhoeling Wing V, Samtse.

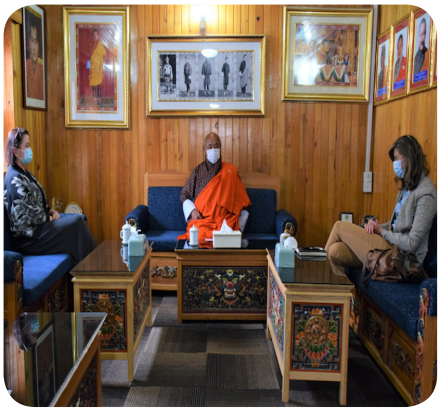
7th RBFE in Mongar Dzongkhag concludes

Her Majesty the Gyalyum Tshering Yangdoen Wangchuck graced the closing ceremony of the 7th Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition at the main venue, Namgyel Chorten in Gyalpozhing. Her Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Gyaltshab Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Ashi Yeatso Lhamo.The exhibition was open to the public for five

days from May 2-6 which saw more than nine thousand visitors including students. The parks, gardens and structures developed for the exhibition were formally handed over to the Mongar Dzongkhag Administration through a handing-taking note signed between the Hon'ble Agriculture Secretary and the Officiating Dzongda of Mongar.

Courtesy Call by UN Resident Coordinator

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Karla Robin Hershey called on Hon'ble Minister Yeshey Penjor, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. Hon'ble Minister welcomed Ms. Hershey and shared some of the priorities of the ministry such as production enhancement through mechanization and establishment of integrated commercial farms, strengthen RNR marketing through provision of infrastructures and enabling policy environment. They also discussed possible areas of cooperation such as production of edible oils, commercialization and climate change adaptation. Hon'ble Minister also acknowledged continued support from UNDP, FAO, WWF and other UN agencies in Bhutan.



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