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13 Desuups participated in the Seventh edition of the Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition

Tashi Yangzom, PPD



Thirteen Desuups comprising of eight boys and five girls participated in the seventh edition of the Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition (RBFEX).

The group attended the four months skilling program on floriculture and landscaping jointly organized by the Desuung Skilling Program (DSP) Office Thimphu and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF).

This year, the group got an opportunity to exhibit their firm skills in floriculture, bamboo and wood works at the seventh RBFEX held in Mongar and Gyalpozhing from 2nd May till 6th May 2022.

The group was fully engaged with the RBFEX preparation work from landscaping to raising of flowers and its decorations.

They also displayed around 25 varieties of indoor plants for sale

at the 'Desuup skilling program on floriculture' stall to raise revenue for the group's further skilling programs.

Chencho, a Sherubtse college graduate joined Desuung in 2017. Prior to the pandemic, he worked as a tourist guide.

Desuup Chencho had volunteered in many occasion but his interest laid in Agriculture sector

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especially in hydroponics and horticulture.

Therefore, when Desuung skilling program on floriculture and landscaping was announced, he applied for it. Today he is Gojay of 13 Desuups who undertook the DSP program on floriculture and landscaping.

Chencho shared that most of his friends had never experienced such labor intensive work but he said “today, when I look at my nyamros, I am proud of them for contributing equally no matter how challenging

DSP stall



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a task can be.” Chencho also expressed his interest to raise a small floriculture of his own after he completes the skilling program.

Similarly, Meto Pema one of the team member said floriculture meant just putting flower in a pot to her. So when the floriculture skilling program began, they were taught and made to mix soil for potting.

She said it felt like mortar mixing for a house construction. ‘It was really difficult and I almost gave up’ said Meto Pema. She said later she got accustomed and working with friends made it easier for her.

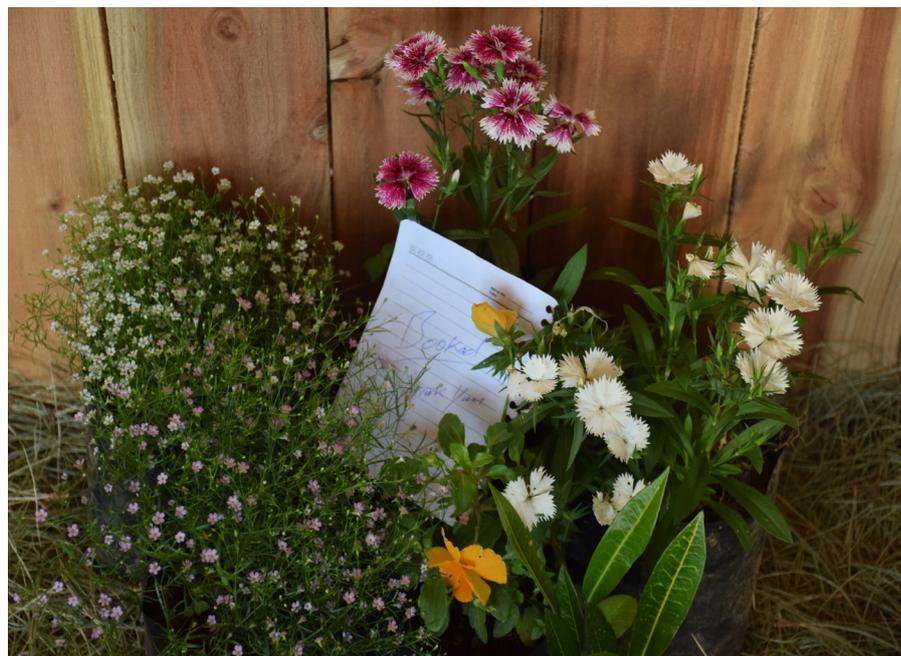
She said caring the flower like a child and finally when it bloomed, it became the great source of her pleasure. Meto also shared her

interest to open her own small indoor plant outlet.

Meto shared that through the DSP on floriculture and landscaping and also by participating in the flower exhibition, she had acquired so much knowledge and skills. She said the way

flower exhibition uplifted the Gyalpozhing inaugural site was just amazing.

She also added that participating in the exhibition got her to learn about hydroponics and the Bonsai tree which was displayed beautifully.



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The Desuung Skilling Program in Floriculture and Landscaping was carried out at the Agriculture Research and Development Sub-Center, Lingmithang with logistic support from ARDC Wengkhari and the Desuung Liaison Office based in Gyalpozhing. The program was structured with the minimum classroom teaching and more hands on training and practice.

The program was aimed to provide skills for interested youths and enhance capacity in the art of floriculture and landscaping. It also aimed to enhance innovativeness of youths to take up floriculture and landscaping related activities as an enterprise development activity.



Leisure

Ginger

Ginger (*Zingibe rofficinale* Rosc.) is a herbaceous perennial belonging to the Zingiberaceae family. Ginger is associated with many health benefits and used in ayurvedic preparations.

The rhizomes are mainly used as spices. It is also used in the preparation of pickles, beverages, medicines and confectionaries, but in Bhutan it is used mainly for fresh consumption. Processing of fresh ginger into dried ginger powder, ginger tea sachets and ginger pickles.

Ginger is one of the important cash crops for the farmers of sub tropical region in Bhutan. Chhukha, Samdrupjongkhar, Samtse, Sarpang & Pemagatshel, are the major Ginger growing areas in Bhutan.

Although there are no identified ginger varieties in Bhutan, Some of the prominent indigenous cultivars are Tsirang type which fetches better with the local customers while Chuzergang type fetches better price in auction yards.

JOKES



Counting Your Chickens

Sonam, the farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chicken's his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open.

The Chickens scurried off in different directions, but Sonam, being determined walked all over the neighbourhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate.

Hoping he had found them all, he reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst.

'Pa, the chickens got loose,' Sonam confessed sadly, 'but I managed to find all twelve of them.'

'Well, you did real good, son,' the farmer beamed.

'You left with seven.'

Did you know?

Dragon fruits is a fruit of several cactus species, most importantly of the genus, Hylocereus. It is native to South and Central America and belongs to perenial epiphytic plant. It is also commercially cultivated in subtropical to tropical Asian countries. In the same region of Bhutan, Dragonfruit is gaining popularity.

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The Ministry's week

Chemshing (*Ziziphus buddhensis*) Program



In Bhutan the planting of a small number of *Ziziphus buddhensis* was initiated in 2016 by planting *Ziziphus buddhensis* seedlings on Zhabdrung Kuchoe and in 2018, the Department of Forest and Park Services procured 1000 numbers of *Ziziphus buddhensis* seedlings from Nepal and distributed across all the 20 Dzongkhags for trial plantation. Some of the Chemshing planted are fairly doing

well, particularly in Punakha, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse, Zhemgang, Dagana, Samdrup Jongkha, Tsirang but it was reported chemshing seedlings does not grow well in the moist areas.

As a part of the Million Fruit Tree Program, about 5000 chemshing seedlings were brought from Temal village in Nepal and distributed.

Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo Completes Tour in the Eastern Bhutan

Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo completes 8-day visit in the six eastern Dzongkhags. During the tour, Lyonpo visited farms and agriculture centers, met with agricultural groups and cooperatives, De-suups of National Water and Irrigation Services and Million Fruit Tree Plantation Project, and officials of the agricultural extension services



and Dzongkhags.

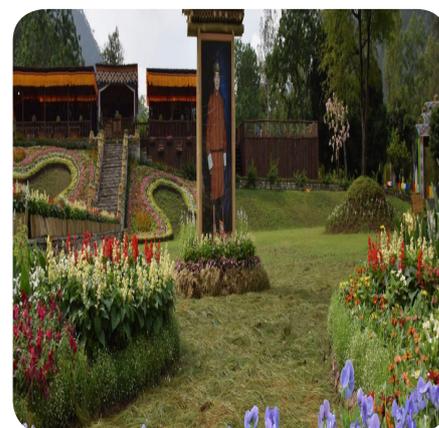
In Trashigang, Lyonpo visited Chithawong farm in Radhi Gewog which is spread over 21 acres operationalized by 27 members. Later in the afternoon, Lyonpo visited Gongthung Milk Collection center in Yangneer Gewog where 64 members are engaged in supply of milk.

7th RBFE launched in Mongar

Her Majesty the Gyalum Tshering Yangdoen Wangchuck inaugurated the 7th Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition at Namgyel Chorten in Gyalpozhing. Her Majesty, the Royal Patron for RBFE was accompanied by His Royal Highness Gyaltshab Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Ashi Yeatso Lhamo. The exhibition is a tribute to the 93rd Birth Anniversary of the third Druk Gyalpo Jigme

Dorji Wangchuck and is being held at Gyalpozhing and Mongar covering around 18 strategic sites.

Besides the locally produced flowers, the exhibition showcases improved technologies including hydroponics and smart irrigation. Around 20 stalls have been set up displaying various technologies, souvenirs, artworks and biodiversity species.



Published by:

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