

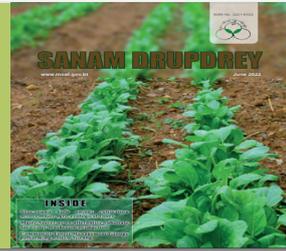


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Rainwater Harvesting infrastructure irrigates vegetable fields in Shali

Page 3



The Ministry's Week

Page 6

Climate Smart Village Ngarpentang linked with Bhutan Agro for Pineapple farming

ARDC Wengkhar



Climate Smart Village (CSV) Ngarpentang under Thangrong gewog in Mongar with some 50 households is one of the worst impacted by climate change. Drought, wild animal damage to crops, insufficient water, and poor access to the market were the community's major constraints.

Some 5 years ago, Mongar

Dzongkhag and ARDC Wengkhar identified this village for climate-smart interventions through a participatory vulnerability assessment. An intervention plan was developed in partnership with CARLEP - IFAD / MoAF Project and gewog grant support.

A dryland irrigation scheme was established which today provides sufficient drinking and irrigation

water connected to every household with a reservoir tank, pipelines, and reservoir tank at the source. A community electric fence was established which helps the community reduce human-wildlife conflict. Multiple cropping of fruits mango, avocado, pineapple, chili, vegetables, and maize integrated with dairy farming and biogas in

Cont. in page 2



Cont. from page 1



some of the households were established.

Fruit trees such as mango and avocado have now reached the fruiting stage. Farmers practice integrated farming, multiple cropping, and the use of crop residues and weed residues for incorporation in soil. Farmyard manure is their main soil fertility management technology. ARDC Wengkhar is also promoting liquid manure and other organic crop protection technologies.

Amongst all these, a 10 acres pineapple plantation (5 acres completed and 5 acres to be done this year) is now linked with Bhutan Agro under an assured market contractual farming following organic practices. This Linkage not only allows farmers under the program but others too to have access to assured market

The climate change impacts are unavoidable for which the CSV approach in which a package of interventions focused on a village over a period of time has started to enable the community to mitigate the impacts and ensure a sustainable livelihood.





Rainwater Harvesting Infrastructure Irrigates Vegetable Fields in Shali

Sha Bahadur Barakoti, Agriculture Extension Office, Shumar Gewog



People of Shali village under Shumar gewog in Pemagatshel have been battling an acute shortage of water for drinking purposes, let alone for irrigating fields. Therefore, farmers could never cultivate vegetables on a commercial scale and instead cultivated vegetables on a small scale and anticipated the rain to irrigate their fields.

Farmers have reported an increasing incidence of erratic rainfall, which has a detrimental effect on vegetable production. This has discouraged farmers from taking up commercial vegetable production.

Therefore, Shumar Agriculture Extension Office and Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector have set up

rainwater harvesting infrastructure in three households in Shali, with fund support from CARLEP (MoAF_IFAD).

The materials such as cement, GI Rod, gutter, PVC pipe, and reducer are supported by the project while beneficiaries contributed labour and sand for reservoir tank construction. Each rainwater harvesting infrastructure includes a reservoir tank with a capacity of 7000 litres, which can irrigate 0.5 acres of land for a month.

The people of Shali have effectively utilized the rainwater harvesting infrastructure for vegetable production.

A 45 year old, Ugyen Zangmo from Shali, is one of the farmer,



Cont. in page 2

**Cont. from page 3**

reaping benefits from rainwater harvesting infrastructure. She is a member of the Shali Vegetable Group. The group has three members only.

The water collected from Ugyen Zangmo's house is used to irrigate the 0.5 acre vegetable field where the group has cultivated chili, cabbage, radish, ginger, carrot, and tomato.

The group has earned more than 0.1 million ngultrum in the last six months from the sales of vegetables, especially chili. They sell the vegetables to Shali primary school and the rest to Pemagatshel throm.

The group received support in vegetable production such as mulching plastics, low cost greenhouses, pipes, drip irrigation, sprinklers, shed nets, and improved seeds. With the money earned from vegetables sale, the group is buying a fabricated greenhouse (20*5) on cost sharing basis this year.

Pemagatshel Agriculture Sector has implemented several rainwater harvesting infrastructure development program in other gewogs in the Dzongkhag.



Leisure

Ginger

- Ginger (*Zingibe rofficinale* Rosc.) is a herbaceous perennial belonging to the Zingiberaceae family. There are different methods of mulching: the most commonly used are plastic mulching, paddy straw and debris of plants.
- Ginger grows well in warm and humid climate and is cultivated from sea level to an altitude of 1500 m above sea level. Ginger can be grown both under rain fed and irrigated conditions.
- Ginger thrives best in well drained soils like sandy loam, clay loam, red loam or lateritic loam. A friable loam with a pH of 6.0 to 6.5 rich in humus is ideal.
- The best time for planting ginger is during the first fortnight of April with the receipt of pre-monsoon showers.
- Ginger is cultivated as rain fed crop in high rainfall areas (uniform distribution for 5 to 7 months) and irrigated crop in less rainfall areas where distribution is not uniform.
- Ginger is propagated by portions of rhizomes known as seed rhizomes.
- Though transplanting in ginger is not conventional, it is found profitable.

JOKES



Milk production on a dairy farm

Milk production on a dairy farm has slowed down. The Management needs to figure out what's going wrong, so they hire three consultants. A psychologist, an engineer, and a physicist.

The psychologist spends a few days wandering the fields before returning to the farmer and saying "The cows are stressed out. Give them a window for natural light and more room to move, and they'll make you more milk".

The engineer studies the dairy equipment for a few days and writes up a report. There are major sources of inefficiency that are bottlenecking capacity. Replace some of the tubing, and production will increase by 15-30%.

The physicist spends months and months on the problem before finally publishing his perfect solution. Unfortunately, it only applies to spherical cows in a vacuum.

Did you know?

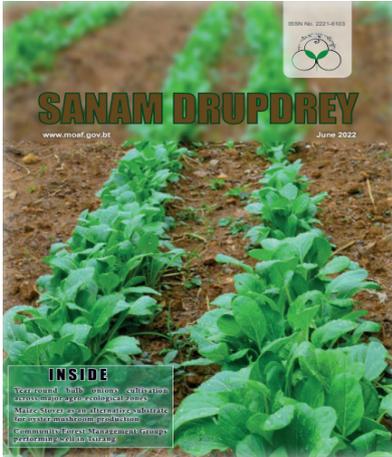
There are no identified ginger varieties in Bhutan, several cultivars of ginger are grown in different parts of Bhutan and they are generally named after the local area where they are grown.

Please submit your articles for the RNR-Newsletter at
communication@moaf.gov.bt



The Ministry's week

RNR Magazine 2022 published online



Sanam Drupdreya is the annual publication that has been sharing fruitful stories from the field for the past eleven years indicating that our farmers are reaping the fruit of agriculture development and progressing the nation towards National Food Security.

The RNR Magazine highlights some of the motivating stories and innovations in the field

of agriculture, livestock, and forestry.

The 12th edition of the magazine features several success stories, farming tips, and new discoveries made in the RNR Sector which will contribute to enhancing agricultural production in the country and inspire our readers. The soft copy of the magazine is uploaded in the ministry's website.

Announcement for Skills Development Program

As a part of the Skills Development Program, Ministry of Labor and Human Resources is pleased to announce the availability of various Institute Certificate level skills training at various locations fully funded by the ministry. The courses include Farm Machinery Technology, Floriculture, Dairy Production, and Avocado

Production and Management.

In addition, after the completion of the course, all individuals are required to attend Basic Entrepreneurship Course which will be conducted for 2 weeks. Free accommodation and stipend of Nu. 3500 per month will be provided for the entire duration of the course.

Course	Slot	Minimum Qualification	Course Duration	Course Commencement Date	Venue	Apply here
Farm Machinery Technology	30	Class X & below	2 months	08 August 2022	AMTC-Paro	Please click here
Basic Floriculture	30	Class X & below	1 month	15 August 2022	RDTC-Zhemgang	Please click here
Dairy Production	30	Class X & below	1 month	15 August 2022	RDTC-Zhemgang	Please click here
Avocado Production & Management	25	Class X & below	1 month	15 August 2022	ARDC-Wengkhari/Lingmithang	Please click here

RNR Theme song open competition

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests would like to announce an open competition to compose a Theme Song for the Ministry. The details of the theme song are attached herewith or can be downloaded from the Ministry website: www.moaf.gov.bt the last date to submit the theme song is Monday, 22 August 2022 before 5 PM.

The theme song should cover the main theme of MoAF with traditional and modern blend of music and song with overall mission of MoAF, His Majesty the fourth and The fifth Druk Gyalpo's vision, Focus on food and nutrition security, RNR transformation, etc.. The selected theme song will be awarded a cash price of Nu. 50,000.

RNR Theme Song Concept

R Theme Song/MTV Concept

- Main theme for MoAF TV/Radio Programme
- Style: Traditional with modern blend of music and song
- Content
 - Overall mission of MoAF
 - His Majesty the Fourth and The Fifth Druk Gyalpo's vision
 - Focus on food and nutrition security
 - RNR Transformation: various supports measures with focus on new tech and IT
 - Opportunities for all interested with special attention to youths
- Conclusion
 - Support of all
 - Responsibility of each and every Bhutanese.

selected theme song will be awarded cash prize of Nu. 50,000.00.

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