AGRICULTURE EXTENSION IN BHUTAN

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General Agricultural Situation in Bhutan

- 69% of population dependent on agriculture (PHCB 2005)
- Total Arable Land- 7.8% of the total Geographic Area (38394 sq km)
- Altitude- 500-2900 msl
- Subsistence farming
- Main Crops- rice, maize and wheat
- Horticultural Crops- oranges, apples, potatoes, cardamom, hazelnut, asparagus, mushroom etc.
- Livestock- cattle, poultry, piggery and fishery
- Forestry- Community Forestry, Private Forestry, NWFP
Challenges

- Rugged topography
- Shortage of Farm Labor
- Limited scope for farm mechanization
- Limited market linkage and information
- Uneven population density
- Human-Wild life conflict
- National Goal of Achieving Vegetable Self-sufficiency by 2015
- Changing Food habit leading to decline of production of certain important crops
Overview of Agriculture Extension

Ministry of Agriculture and Forest

DoA  DoL  DoFPS  DAMC  CoRRB

District Administration (20)

Gewog (Block) Administration (205)

Farmers
Types of Extension Services

- Advisory services
- Input supply
- Promotional programs
- Project based
- Agriculture Infrastructure Development
- Capacity building of Farmers
Major Challenges in Extension Provision

- Ageing farming community (due to rural-urban migration)
- Marginal Land Holding
- Farmers’ Dependency on free input
- Limited capacity of the Extension agents (class to field)
- Multi-tasked
- Limited funding for capacity development of EAs
- Limited co-ordination and linkages
- Changing system of Administration and Management
Networking

The participants should influence the policy makers to bring about desired changes

Projects for enhancement of capacity for Extension personnel may be initiated through AESA

Experience Sharing: Success/Failure stories