

NICHULA GEWOG

NINTH PLAN

(2002-2007)



SARPANG DZONGKHAG
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

Nichula gewog is one of the remotest gewogs in the dzongkhag. It comprises of 11 villages with 124 households. The total area of the gewog is 123.9 Sq. Km and the total arable land is about 672 acres. The forest coverage of the gewog is about 80% of the total gewographical area (*LUPP Data*).

The gewog has about 210 acres of wetland, 387 acres of dry land and 95 acres of tsheri. The crops grown in the gewog are paddy, maize, millet, mustard and orange in agro-climatically suitable areas. Presently, orange is the main cash crop grown by the farmers. The current annual cereal production in the gewog is about 333.82 metric tones (*RNR Census 2000*).

Infrastructure and service facilities in the gewog include 18.5 Km of irrigation channels, five RWSSs, 12 sanitation facilities and 15 Km of mule tracks.

Interconnectivity within the gewog is only through mule tracks. However, the newly constructed suspension bridge over Sunkosk River linking Deorali Gewog has greatly helped the people in their mobility and travel.

2. SUMMARY OF GEWOG PLAN OUTLAY

#	Program/Activity	Outlay	Remarks
1.	Agriculture	0.523	
2.	Livestock	0.108	
3.	Education	0.700	
4.	Health	0.364	
5.	Gewog Administration	1.465	
	Total	3.160	

3. GEWOG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Agriculture Programmes

Paddy Improvement Programme

Though agriculture in Nichula is rice based, the production of rice through use of local varieties is only 255.41 metric tones with yield of 868 Kg/Acre, which is just sufficient to meet the households' need. Under the paddy improvement program, new varieties like Bajo-Kaap and Bajo-Maap that are released by the RNRRCs would be tried and promoted to bring about increased production level to 400 metric tones by the end of ninth plan, thereby securing food self-sufficiency in the gewog.

To substantiate the above improvement programs, extension intervention activities like 2 demonstration programmes, imparting of training on improved technologies to 40 households and an on-farm trial would be carried out. Moreover, as a mandatory and routine work, crop cuts and survey on seasonal production would be carried out to assess the production level involving all stakeholders.

Maize improvement program

New varieties of maize like Yangtsipa and Suwan would be promoted in the gewog, as in other gewogs. These varieties have not been promoted so far in the gewog. The present level of production of local maize is only 72.402 metric tones with average yield of 274 Kg/Acre. With these new varieties, it is expected that total production of maize in ht gewog would be increased to 400 metric tons by the end of ninth plan.

To support the above improvement programs, extension interventions would include two numbers of demonstrations, training on improved technologies to 50 households and one number on-farm trial. As a mandatory routine work, crop cuts and survey on seasonal production would be carried out to assess the production level involving all stakeholders.

Oil Seed Improvement Program

Oil seed production in Nichula is very minimal where the farmers mostly buy from the market for their domestic consumption. Hence, there is a need to explore and promote oil crops cultivation to meet their requirement at household level. Therefore, under its improvement program, new varieties like M-27 released by the RNRRCs would be tried and promoted in the ninth plan to increase production level of oil seeds.

To support the above improvement programme, following extension interventions will be carried out:

- Two demonstrations;
- Training for 20 households on improved technologies;
- One on-farm trial; and
- Crop cuts and survey on seasonal production to assess the production level involving all stakeholders.

Millet Improvement Program

Farmers preferably grow Finger millet (locally called Kodo) as an important millet crop basically for preparation of Bangchang (Fermented wine) and Ara (Locally prepared wine). The present level of production of local millet is only 30.648 metric tones with the average yield of 188 Kg/Acre. So, to bring about further improvement and increase the production to about 100 metric tones, improved varieties released by the RNRRCs would be tried and promoted.

To support the above improvement programme, following extension interventions will be carried out:

- Two demonstrations;
- Training for 25 households on improved technologies;
- One on-farm trial; and
- Crop cuts and survey on seasonal production to assess the production level involving all stakeholders.

Horticulture Crops Promotion

Increasing the purchasing power of the farmers has become very important aspect of socio-economic development of the rural population by improving the sources of cash income to the farmers. However, the farmers of the gewog do not have adequate knowledge and skills on horticulture

Horticulture crops like orange seedlings and ginger rhizome would be supplied to the potential farmers with training on new packages, establishment of demonstration plots and on-farm trials the field. Crop cuts and seasonal production survey would be continued to establish a baseline for future planning and monitoring.

Marketing Support

With respect to marketing support to the farmers, one community based farmers' cooperative society would be formed. The main aim is to streamline the sale and disposal of marketable farm produces to the nearest market or to other agencies. The dzongkhag would monitor and keep necessary records on the sale of produces and would also initiate the cooperative formation and impart necessary training to the members.

Mushroom Production

Paddy straw mushroom production has been identified as a new venture for the farmers. Farmers would be trained on new packages using the locally available materials like paddy straw and 10 Kgs of spawn supplied by the dzongkhag to 20 households locally identified by the extension agent and Gup. The outstanding 4 mushroom growers would be sent on study tour to National Mushroom Center and RNRRCs for enhancing their knowledge and skills. Thus, this would enable the farmers to generate cash income and increase their nutritional intake level.

Apiculture Program

Apiculture has been identified as one of the sources for cash income generation for the farmers. Four households would be identified and supplied with materials for the first time, imparted with training and sent on study tour to RNRRCs. Apiculture on *Apis cerena indica* would be explored with proper management practices.

Renovation of One and Half Kilometer Irrigation Channel

The aim of the program is to have assured irrigation facilities round the year basically for wet land cultivation thereby increasing the productivity and production of rice with further expansion of wet land cultivation. The said irrigation channel located at Bichgaon that was constructed during late 80s has been washed away by heavy monsoon rainfall. Since then, renovation of the said channel could not be taken up owing to anti-national activities in the region.

Hence, the public of the gewog proposed for the renovation of the irrigation channel in the ninth plan. This irrigation channel would benefit a total of 28 households having catchments area of 32.35 acres of wetland and 36.87 acres of dry land. Also, this irrigation channel would benefit the nearby villages in terms of utilizing for other farming purposes like conventional kitchen gardening and livestock purposes. Further, through such assured irrigation facilities there is a scope to increase the production area and yield level from 225.41 metric tones with 868 Kg/Acre to 1200 Kg/Acre. Thereafter, the beneficiary public through formation of Water User Association, following national irrigation policy, would look after the said irrigation channel. For this, a sum of Nu.0.180 million is provisioned. Further, future maintenance and minor repair works, called as put right activities, would be carried out by the community with a technical guidance from the dzongkhag.

Assistance to Small Farmers

The main aim of the program is to assist farmers in generating cash income for domestic purposes. For the above activity, seeds like sunflower, Niger, banana suckers and papaya seedlings would be supplied to the farmers of the villages as identified by the extension agents.

Farm Mechanization

As per the demand from the farmers, farm machineries and other tools and implements would be supplied on cash payment as indicated in the budget estimate. Training and study tour to AMC on farm mechanization to 5 households would be given.

Training on Reduction of Post Harvest Losses

Lack of training on reduction of post harvest losses has become a major impediment in the gewog in general in addition to the loss already incurred during pre-harvest time. So, in order to mitigate such unwarranted losses from pests and diseases' infestation and infection, the public expressed the need to have them imparted with training on new technologies and skills. Hence, farmers training to 20 Households on better storage methods would be given after carrying out trials and survey on post harvest losses.

Plant Protection Program

Presently, the gewog does not have any commission agent and the farmers have difficulty in availing timely supply of chemicals from the dzongkhag. So, streamlining of timely deposit of money and supply of chemicals to the farmers has become an important element both for the gewog and dzongkhag. At gewog level, farmers' organization on plant protection would be formed. The objective is to have them organized and coordinate in procuring plant protection chemicals through the Dzongkhag Agriculture Officer. A jointly operated bank account would be opened where they will withdraw the money as and when required for the procurement. The extension agent in the gewog will monitor and keep strong vigilance on judicious utilization of the chemicals. Moreover, farmers training on Integrated Pest Management would be given to the farmers in order to mitigate total dependence on chemicals.

Soil Fertility Development

Under Soil Fertility Development Program, Dhiancha seeds as a green manure fertilizer would be promoted to after imparting proper training to the farmers. Moreover, training on organic farming would be given to them.

Soil Conservation

In the soil erosion prone areas of the villages, 40000 numbers of vetiver grass slips would be supplied to the farmers initially, where the farmers shall multiply and grow in the soil erosion areas. This would also prevent the fertile soil especially in the sloppy areas being washed away by heavy rain during the monsoon season. Growing vetiver grasses in the sloppy areas can help form contour bunds. For this, farmers training with on the spot demonstration would be given initially.

Livestock Programmes

Establishment of Piggery Backyard Units

Though piggery farming in the gewog is not a new enterprise, yet the public expressed their need to have improved piglets to substitute their existing local breeds. Moreover, the gewog has a very low population of 27 pigs (RNR Census 2000) of both local and improved pigs inclusive of piglets. Hence, in order to further increase the population of pigs in terms of the public's income generation and increase in nutritional uptake level, establishment of more piggery backyard units initially to about 13 households has been proposed by the public. Such initiation of backyard units would not only help the farmers to generate cash income and improve their nutritional intake level but also enjoy its advantage in terms of availing bio-manure for their agricultural farming purposes that is eco-friendly. The modality for establishment of such backyard would be through extension intervention where the Livestock Sector on cash payment basis would supply the piglets.

Under this program, 20 households would be imparted with training on piggery husbandry and management and out of which, three outstanding farmers locally identified by extension agent would be sent on study to various Research centers, Center Farms and other dzongkhags.

Establishment of Dairy Backyard Units

The gewog has a local cattle population of 1,351 and 124 improved breeds. Hence, in order to further increase the population of improved breeds to enhance public's income generation and increase in nutritional uptake level, establishment of more dairy backyard units on improved ones initially to about 13 households has been proposed by the public. Such initiation of backyard units would not only help the farmers to generate cash income and improve their nutritional intake level but also enjoy its advantage in terms of availing bio-manure for their agricultural farming purposes that is eco-friendly. The modality for establishment of such backyard units would be through extension intervention where the Livestock Sector on cash payment basis would supply the improved Jersey cows. Under this program, 30 households would be imparted with training on dairy husbandry and management and out of which, 4 outstanding farmers locally identified by extension agent would be sent on study to various Research centers, Center Farms and other dzongkhags.

Establishment of Poultry Backyard Units

In order to further increase the population of improved poultry breeds to enhance income generation and increase in nutritional uptake level, establishment of more poultry backyard units on improved ones initially to about 10 households has been proposed by the public. Such initiation of backyard units would not only help the farmers to generate cash income and improve their nutritional intake level but also enjoy its advantage in terms of availing bio-manure for their agricultural farming purposes that is eco-friendly. The modality for establishment of such backyard units would be through extension intervention where the Livestock Sector on cash payment basis would supply the improved poultry birds.

Under this program, 30 households would be imparted with training on dairy husbandry and management and out of which, three outstanding farmers locally identified by extension agent would be sent on study to various Research centers, Center Farms and other dzongkhags.

Cattle Breed Improvement Program

The gewog does not have either pure Jersey or Jersey-X bulls for cross breeding with their local ones. In order to bring about increased improved cattle population, the farmers have proposed for one number each of pure and cross Jersey bulls. This would enable the farmers to have enough dairy products for their livelihood through progenies born for high production capacity. To encourage the farmers further, progeny born allowances to the owners would be awarded with a sum of Nu.50/progeny as an incentive. For this, a sum of Nu.0.024 million is provisioned in the ninth plan.

Feed and Fodder Development

Tough the forest cover of Nichula gewog is over 80%, there is need to develop pasture for maintaining coherent supply of fodder for cattle round the year. For this program, the farmers of the gewog have proposed to develop 10 acres of pastureland in the gewog. The dzongkhag would supply 2857 numbers of fast growing fodder tree species to the farmers. Moreover, the farmers would be trained on urea treatment of paddy straw as a supplementary fodder during the winter months.

Education Programmes

Establishment of One Community School

Nichula has 124 households where the children of the goeg attend school at Lhamoy Zingkha Primary School that is about three hours walk. Moreover, the gewog is located at a remote place both from Dungkhag and Dzongkhag. Hence, to mitigate the problems faced by the growing population of school going children, one number community school would be established basically to provide primary education within the gewog.

In order to achieve the above aim, a community school at Nichula would be built, which would accommodate an estimated number of 361 students encompassing all the children from 11 villages within a radius of 2-3 hours walking distances. A resource center at Lhamoy Zingkha Primary Center would be established to monitor and devise resource management strategies. For this, a sum of Nu. 0.700 million is provisioned for construction of three classrooms and head teacher's quarters and purchase of furniture.

Health Programmes

Construction of One ORC

In order to cater basic primary health care to the public of Bichgaon village comprising of 77 households with a population of 539, one number ORC construction is being proposed. This ORC would serve the purpose to other farmers of the villages like Apgachy, Solmolay, Nichula and Mangalabaray. Catering of basic health care to the villages is usually extended from Lhamoy Zingkhah BHU during dry seasons. But, during the peak monsoon seasons, the Sunkosh River running in between the two gewogs becomes an unbecoming obstacle where the BHU Officials are not accessible to the villages on being called for their service during the peak outbreak of common diseases in monsoons. Hence, the public of the gewog proposed for one number ORC construction at Bichgaon that would serve the other aforementioned villages. For this, a sum of Nu.0.110 million is provisioned.

Construction of One RWSS

In order to cater clean drinking water supply to the public of the gewog, one number RWSS construction is proposed at Allay that would serve around 20 households. Hence, a sum of Nu.0.132 million is provisioned for the purpose.

Rehabilitation of One RWSS

The present RWS scheme constructed earlier need to be rehabilitated in order to have adequate and safe drinking water supply to the public of Bichgaon village. Hence, a sum of Nu.0.122 million is proposed for the rehabilitation works.

Gewog Administration And Management

Construction of Gup's Office

The need to strengthen gewog administration has become crucial program in keeping with the process of decentralization. With the clear-cut bifurcation of the goeg and Dzongkhag programs in the ninth plan as a separate entity, gewog level administration system need to be strengthened further. The program activities that are to be implemented in the gewog have to be transparent and accountable to all the concerned. In doing so, it's mandatory that the Gup should maintain proper records and files and pass on to the successors. Proper filing and records keeping in a manner workable to local institutions at par with Dzongkhag system is a felt necessity, as most of the programs in the ninth plan are decentralized to the gewog institutions.

Hence, the public of Nichula gewog requested for construction of Gup's office in the ninth plan that would be carried out by themselves with technical support and guidance from the Dzongkhag.

In order to strengthen and supplement the gewog administration, the following stationery and office equipment are provisioned:

- Construction of Office (Nu. 0.300 million)
- Stationery (Nu. 0.050 million)
- Office furniture (Nu. 0.040 Million)
- Electricity (0.015 million)
- Equipment like Type Writers (Both English and Dzongkha) (Nu.0.040 million)
- Telephone Installation (0.150 million)
- Establishment Cost -For Gup, mangmi and Dungyig's salary (Nu.0.870 million)

A sum total of Nu.1.465 million is provisioned for gewog administration and management.

5. BUDGET ESTIMATES

#	Program/Activity	Unit	Target	Unit Cost (Nu)	Budget		Total	Remarks
					Rec	Cap		
	Rice Improvement							
	Promotion	Kg	1660	18		0.030	0.030	
	Farmers Training	Hhs	40	150		0.006	0.006	
	On-farm trial	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
	Demonstration	Nos	2	5000		0.010	0.010	
	Crop cut	Nos	15					
	Survey on production	Nos	5					
	Sub Total				0.000	0.047	0.047	
	Maize Improvement							
	Promotion	Kg	500	14.5		0.007	0.007	
	Farmers Training	Hhs	50	150		0.008	0.008	
	On-farm trial	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
	Demonstration	Nos	2	5000		0.010	0.010	
	Crop cut	Nos	6					
	Survey on production	Nos	5					
	Sub Total				0.000	0.026	0.026	
	Mustard Improvement							
	Promotion	Kg	200	37.5		0.008	0.008	
	Farmers Training	Hhs	20	150		0.003	0.003	
	On-farm trial	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
	Demonstration	Nos	2	5000		0.010	0.010	
	Crop cut	Nos	5					
	Survey on production	Nos	5					
	Sub Total				0.000	0.022	0.022	
	Millet Improvement							
	Promotion	Kg	200	14.5		0.003	0.003	
	Farmers Training	Hhs	25	150		0.004	0.004	

On-farm trial	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
Demonstration	Nos	2	5000		0.010	0.010	
Crop cut	Nos	5					
Survey on production	Nos	5					
Sub Total				0.000	0.018	0.018	
Horticulture Promotion							
Supply of Mandarin Seedlings	Nos	1300	16		0.021	0.021	
Supply of Ginger Rhizomes	Nos	500	25		0.013	0.013	
Farmers Training	Hhs	30	150		0.005	0.005	
On Farm Trial	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
Demonstration	Nos	2	5000		0.010	0.010	
Crop Cut	Nos	10					
Survey on Production	Nos	5					
Sub Total				0.000	0.049	0.049	
Marketing Support							
Formation of Cooperative society	Nos	1	5000		0.005	0.005	
Farmers Training	Hhs	40	150		0.006	0.006	
Sub Total				0.000	0.011	0.011	
Mushroom Production							
Supply of paddy straw Spawn	Kgs	10	90		0.001	0.001	
Farmers Training	Hhs	20	150		0.003	0.003	
Study Tour	Hhs	4	5000		0.020	0.020	
Sub Total				0.000	0.024	0.024	
Apiculture							
Supply of Materials	Sets	4	500		0.002	0.002	
Farmers training	Hhs	4	150		0.001	0.001	
Study tour	Hhs	4	5000		0.020	0.020	
Sub Total				0.000	0.023	0.023	
Renovation of irrigation channel							
Renovation of Irrigation Channel	Km	1.2	150000		0.180	0.180	
Sub Total				0.000	0.180	0.180	
Assistance to small farmers							
Supply of sunflower seeds	Kgs	100	20		0.002	0.002	
Supply of Niger Seeds	Kgs	25	20		0.001	0.001	
Supply of banana Suckers	Nos	1000	11		0.011	0.011	
Supply of Papaya Seedlings	Nos	1000	13		0.013	0.013	
Sub Total				0.000	0.027	0.027	
Farm Mechanization							
Supply of rice Huller	Nos	6					
Supply of corn Flake Machine	Nos	1					
Supply of Paddy Thresher	Nos	10					
Supply of gator machine	Nos	10					
Supply of Knap Sack sprayer	Nos	10					
Supply of Improved Plough	Nos	15					

Supply of secateurs	Nos	50					
Supply of tools and implements	Sets	50					
Farmers Training	Hhs	5	150		0.001	0.001	
Study tour	Hhs		5000		0.000	0.000	
Sub Total				0.000	0.001	0.001	
Post Harvest							
Farmers Training	Hhs	20	150		0.003	0.003	
Trial on Storage Methods	Nos	1	1000		0.001	0.001	
Survey on Storage Loses	Nos.	5	1000		0.005	0.005	
Sub Total				0.000	0.009	0.009	
Plant Protection							
Farmers organization	Nos	1	5000		0.005	0.005	
IPM Training	Hhs	12	150		0.002	0.002	
Sub Total				0.000	0.007	0.007	
Soil Fertility							
Promotion of Dhiancha	Kgs	1200	20		0.024	0.024	
Organic farming Training	Hhs	40	150		0.006	0.006	
Sub Total				0.000	0.030	0.030	
Soil conservation							
Supply of Vetiver Grass	Slips	40000	1		0.040	0.040	
Farmers Training	Hhs	80	150		0.012	0.012	
Sub Total				0.000	0.052	0.052	
Estb of more Piggery backyard							
Backyard unit	Nos	10					
Farmers Training	Hhs	30	150		0.005	0.005	
Study Tour	Hhs	3	5000		0.015	0.015	
Sub Total				0.000	0.020	0.020	
Estb of more Dairy backyard							
Backyard unit	Nos	13					
Farmers Training	Hhs	30	150		0.005	0.005	
Study Tour	Hhs	4	5000		0.020	0.020	
Sub Total				0.000	0.025	0.025	
Estb of more Poultry backyard							
Backyard unit	Nos	10					
Farmers Training	Hhs	30	150		0.005	0.005	
Study Tour	Hhs	3	5000		0.015	0.015	
Sub Total				0.000	0.020	0.020	
Breed Improvement							
Supply of Jersey Bull	Nos	1	12000		0.012	0.012	
Supply of Jersey Cross	Nos	1	10000		0.010	0.010	
Progeny Born Allowances	Nu.	100					
Sub Total				0.000	0.022	0.022	
Feed and Fodder development							
Purchase of Urea	Kgs	100	5.5		0.001	0.001	

Supply of FTS	Nos	2857	4		0.011	0.011	
Pasture development	Ac	10	1100		0.011	0.011	
Sub Total				0.000	0.023	0.023	
Establishment of CS							
Construction of School & Quarter	Nos	1	500000	0.000	0.500	0.500	
Purchase of Furniture	Sets	1	200000	0.000	0.200	0.200	
Sub Total				0.000	0.700	0.700	
Construction of ORC	Nos	1	110000		0.110	0.110	
Sub Total				0.000	0.110	0.110	
Construction of RWSS	Nos	1	132000		0.132	0.132	
Sub Total				0.000	0.132	0.132	
Rehabilitation of RWSS	Nos	1	122000		0.122	0.122	
Sub Total				0.000	0.122	0.122	
Constr & estb. of Gup Office							
Construction of Office	Nos	1	300000		0.300	0.300	
Purchase of Furniture	Sets	1	40000		0.040	0.040	
Electricity	Nos	1	15000	0.015		0.015	
Purchase of Stationery	Sets	1	50000	0.050		0.050	
Office Equipment	Sets	1	40000	0.040		0.040	
Telephone	Nos	1	150000	0.150		0.150	
Establishment cost	Nos	3	290000	0.870		0.870	
Sub Total				1.125	0.340	1.465	
Grand Total				1.125	2.036	3.160	

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The GYT Chathrim 2002 delineates specific roles and responsibilities to all functionaries involved in development administration and management in the Gewog. It is, however, deemed necessary to underscore some essential processes that must be observed in executing the above roles and responsibilities.

The financial powers and authority of the Gewog Administration for the implementation of the planned activities are also enshrined in the GYT Chathrim 2002.

Plan Implementation

The Gup, GYT *Tshopas* and the community as a whole will take on full accountability and ownership of gewog development activities. The clear delineation of implementation time frames, responsibilities and contributions from the community should be developed for the effective implementation of gewog activities.

Annual and Quarterly Plans

Based on the Five-Year Plan, the Gup will prepare Annual Plans and Budgets (AP&B) in consultation with the gewog sectoral staff and submit it to GYT. After the GYT discusses and approves the Draft AP&B, it will be put up for approval to the DYT.

Once the DYT approves the AP&B, the GYT will develop a Quarterly Work Plan and Budget in consultation with the sectoral staffs and other functionaries in the gewog such as Mangmi, Chimi and Tshogpas. The implementation of the Quarterly Work Plan will be the responsibility of the Gup and the Tshogpas with technical support from the staff of the concerned sectors.

Based on the Quarterly Work Plan, the concerned sectoral staff responsible for the implementation of any planned activity will elaborate a detailed implementation plan and budget for approval and budget release by the Gup. Copy of this plan will be sent for information to the concerned sectoral heads and relevant agencies. Upon completion of the activity, the responsible person will submit a report to the Gup and the concerned sectoral heads and relevant agencies.

Monitoring And Evaluation

Monitoring

The GYT in the Gewog will be responsible for progress and performance monitoring of the planned activities. The GYT should convene monthly meetings with technical staff and other responsible persons for implementation to review the progress in the implementation of every activity and to take timely corrective actions when required. The Gewog will seek technical back-up services from the Dzongkhag Administration when necessary.

Based on the received reports and monthly meetings the Gup will submit a quarterly report to the Dzongkhag administration. Technical reports from the different sectors will be attached to the Gup's quarterly report.

The Gup will verify the travel claims of all sectoral personnel in the gewog so that the performance of the Gewog staff can be monitored.

Evaluation

To assess the impact and benefit of development programs and projects in the Gewogs, the Government will launch periodic evaluation missions in coordination with the Dzongkhag Administration.