

GASETSHO GOM GEWOG

NINTH PLAN

(2002-2007)



WANGDUE PHODRANG DZONGKHAG
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

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1. Current Situation

Gasetsho Gom is the smallest gewog in the dzongkhag with an area of approximately 28.6 sq. Km. (LUPP, 1995). The gewog is connected by 12-km feeder road from the Wangdue-Tsirang highway bifurcating at Hesothangka. This gewog is one of the most developed gewog under the dzongkhag and enjoys other facilities such as safe drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, electricity and telephone network connections.

The gewog has one BHU-II, one Jr. high school, one livestock extension center, one agriculture extension center, one PWD regional workshop, one power generating station, one forest range office and several community lhakhangs at Masikha, Khatoekha, Dzongselo, Masipoto and Shiripangkha.

Gasetsho Gom gewog enjoys a dry sub-tropical to sub-temperate climate with an annual rainfall of about 727.8 mm – 2000 mm. The gewog is situated at an altitude ranging from 1300 to 3400 meters above sea level. The soil types found in the gewog are Sandy to clayey loam and are in general fertile and suitable for farming.

Gasetsho Gom gewog is located on the gentle slopes of *Daga La* facing northeast and the settlements are scattered between the altitudes of 1300 metres to 2200 metres above sea level. The river Nahi Chhu and Hestho Chhu drains the gewog into the river Tsang Chhu.

The different types of land use patterns as per the agriculture extension's record are 339.4 acres wetland, 140.29 acres dry land, 10.27 acres Tseri, 12.80 acres Tshesa, 35.45 acres pangshing and 9 acres orchard.

The gewog has the potential for expansion of area under cultivation especially by improving the irrigation facilities and by encouraging farmers to convert dry land to wetland for cultivation.

There is also possibility for farm mechanisation as most of the agriculture lands are on gentle to moderate slopes and where most villages have access to feeder roads.

2. Summary of Gewog Plan Outlay

#.	Sector	Outlay			Remarks
		Current	Capital	Total	
1	Agriculture		1.800	1.800	
2	Livestock		0.044	0.044	
3	Forestry		0.256	0.256	
4	Health		0.680	0.680	
5	Education		-	-	
6	Road (Mule track & Suspension bridges)		0.050	0.050	
7	Gewog Administration	0.550	0.500	1.050	
	Total	0.550	3.330	3.880	

3. Gewog Development Programs

Agriculture Programs

The principal crops grown in the gewog are rice, wheat, mustard, barley, and maize. Vegetables dominate other cash crops as the main source of cash income with mandarin oranges and asparagus gaining importance in certain pockets.

Food Security Program

The following sub-programs were identified as priority by the farmers in the Gewog under this program:

- Rice improvement
- Wheat improvement
- Oilseed improvement

Following are the some of the activities identified to enhance farmers' knowledge on the above mentioned crop management for higher productivity:

- Farmers training
- Demonstration
- Field day
- On-farm trial
- Supply of improved HYV seeds

Rural Livelihood Support Program

Under this program, the farmers in the gewog have identified the following activities:

- Four kilometers irrigation channel renovation of Drapcheykha *Yuwa*
- Eight kilometers irrigation channel renovation at Pangsho
- Supply of five power tillers, four knapsack sprayers, four gator-rocking sprayers, 13 paddle threshers and four paddly hullers.

Institutional and Capacity Development Program

Farmers study tours within and outside the dzongkhag is proposed to give exposure to the farmers and to share and learn from other dzongkhag's experience.

Livestock Program

The gewog enjoys a sub-tropical climate. Although the people are mostly occupied with crop cultivation they also rear livestock to supplement their daily requirements like milk, butter, cheese etc. The livestock extension Center at *Gumina* which is about 12 kms. from Wangdue Phodrang Dzong provides Artificial Insemination facilities. Since the introduction of this technology, cattle breed improvement has been quite a success and marked an increase in the population of improved breeds in the gewog. The gewog has no improved pasturelands since the farmlands are prioritized for crop production. The animals thrive mostly on natural pasture and crop residues. The gewog has a cattle population of 902, equine 51, pigs 165 and poultry birds 402 in total.

Due to the accessibility of the gewog to motor able road, good communication network and electricity facilities, the gewog has good potential for setting up backyard farms.

Income Generation Program

Under this program the farmers will be encouraged to establish small-scale backyard farms. This is aimed to generate additional income for the family and at the same time achieve self-sufficiency level in livestock products at least at the gewog level. The Dzongkhag livestock sector will provide the necessary training, technical support, help to acquire loan from the BDFC, procurement of input supply etc. For the plan period at least 11 dairy backyard farms, 19 backyards Piggery farms and 24 backyard poultry farms will be established.

Rural Livelihood support program

Under this program the sector will lay more emphasis to increase the improved breeds and at the same time reduce the number of local cattle. Since the gewog is well connected by motorable roads, Artificial Insemination will be provided as usual as a tool for breed improvement.

Farmers interested in pasture development will be supported by the sector in terms of seed supply and technical support. Farmers will be encouraged to develop pastures in their own lands. A total area of five acres of sub tropical pastures will be established. To overcome feed scarcity during the winter months, ten acres of oat will be cultivated in the barren lands during the winter season. 400 numbers of fodder tree seedlings will be distributed to areas suitable for fodder tree plantation and farmers will be encouraged to plant Napier grass through the promotional program from RNRRC Bajo.

Forestry Program

About 78% of the gewog are under forest cover. The major forest types are Chirpine in the lower ridges and mixed broadleaf at the upper regions. The gewog has approximately 62% of broadleaf forest. The people import blue pine as main timber supplemented by chir pine from the local areas. Wild mushrooms and ferns are collected for household consumption. Owing to the shortfall of timber for construction the Community has proposed two community forest and private forest in ninth plan period.

Community Forestry

The principal behind this program is to hand a piece of forest over to the villagers who will manage, conceive and use that piece of forest for their own timber and firewood requirements, thereby reducing the pressure on the Government Reserved Forest. The other objective is to involve the community to participate in sustainable forest management and educate them about nature conservation. This will be carried out on the basis of a community forest management plan prepared by the users group with assistance from Dzongkhag Forestry Office. In order to ease the timber constraints in future and to maintain healthy environment the Dapchekha and Masepoto village altogether proposed 200 acres of community forest out of which 10 acres are degraded and barren. To rehabilitate and afforest this area a sum of Nu.0.256 million is proposed for procuring seedlings, fencing, inventory and CFM planning purposes.

Health Program

Under this gewog there are 13 RWSS covering 108 households and 1 BHU II. The health services coverage is quite satisfactory in Gasetsho Gom gewog as the services are extended from the new Gaselo BHU, which was opened in the year 2000. As a result there is no proposal for new infrastructure development during the ninth five-year plan.

Maintenance of Out Reach Clinic

The existing ORC will be renovated and maintained by the community themselves without any budgetary support from the government.

Construction and Rehabilitation of RWSS

Four new RWSS will be constructed and two existing schemes will be renovated and maintained. The details are presented in the budget estimate table.

As usual, the beneficiaries will execute the proposed schemes within the plan period when the materials are made available by the dzongkhag.

Roads Programs

Improvement of Mule Track

The 5 kilometers mule track from Gumina to Sharipangkha Gonpa is the only existing mule track under this gewog. It will have to be improved and maintained by the community on annual basis.

Gewog Administration and Management

Construction of Gup's Office

With the increased role and responsibilities of the gups from the ninth plan the communities and the GYT members feel that it is necessary to have a proper office for the gup. Therefore, construction of a gups office is proposed at Jangjobangchu.

As discussed during the GYT, communities will contribute labour, while the dzongkhag is requested to provide technical support and material inputs like CGI sheets and cements.

4. Budget Estimates

#.	Program/Activity	Unit	Target	Outlay			Remarks
				Cur.	Capital	Total	
	Agriculture Program						
1	Paddy Development:						
-	Bajo-maap I & II	kg	1630				Beneficiaries
-	Chhumro	Kg	500				Beneficiaries
2	Wheat Development:						
-	Bajoka-1	kg	660				Beneficiaries
-	Sonalika	Kg	338				Beneficiaries
3	Mustard Development:						
-	Mustard Seed	kg	304				Beneficiaries
4	Farm machineries:						
-	Power tiller	Nos	5				BDFC
-	Paddle thresher	Nos	13				BDFC
-	Rice huller (7BHP)	Nos	2				BDFC
-	Rice huller (14 BHP)	No	1				BDFC
5	P.P.Equipment:						
-	Knap-sack sprayer	Nos	4				BDFC
-	Gator sprayer	Nos	4				BDFC

6	Renovation of irrigation channel:					
-	Drapcheykha Yuwa	km	4	0.600	0.600	41hh/200 acres
-	Pangsho Yuwa	km	8	1.200	1.200	41hh/200 acres
	Sub-total			1.800	1.800	
	Livestock Program					
7	Establishment of Backyard Farms:					
-	Diary backyard farms	Nos	11			
-	Poultry backyard farms	Nos	24			
-	Piggery backyard farms	Nos	19			
8	Breed Improvement:					135 HH
-	Supply of AI(mithun/jersey)	Nos	250	0.026	0.026	
9	Feed and Fodder Dev.:					
-	Sub-tropical pasture Dev.	acres	5	0.006	0.006	
-	Napier planting	Nos	200			45 HH
-	Fodder Tree Seedlings	Nos	400	0.002	0.002	94 HH
-	Winter fodder development	acres	10	0.010	0.010	82 HH
	Sub-total			0.044	0.044	
	Forestry Program					
10	Community forestry:					
-	Dapchekha	acres	100	0.128	0.128	
-	Masepokto	acres	100	0.128	0.128	
	Sub-total			0.256	0.256	
	Health Program					
11	Maintenance of ORC	No	1	-	-	
12	Rural Water Supply:					
i.	New Schemes:	Nos	4	0.480	0.480	
-	Khatoethoukhar					19 HH
-	Martsekha					8 HH
-	Hesothangkha					5 HH
-	Lhashing Gang					5 HH
ii.	Rehabilitation:	Nos	2	0.200	0.200	
-	Drapchekha					11 HH
-	Khamedrangra					7 HH
	Sub-total			0.680	0.680	
	Road Program					
13	Improvement of mule track	km	5	0.050	0.050	Gumina to Sharipangkha gonpa
	Sub-total			0.050	0.050	
	Gewog Administration					
14	Construction of Gup's Office	No	1	0.500	0.500	Jangobangchu
15	Establishment cost			0.550	0.550	
	Sub-total			0.550	0.500	1.050
	Total			0.550	3.330	3.880

5. 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 *Tshogpas* 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.