



Rehabilitation of barren land

Pg 1 to 2



Ministry's Week

Pg 6

## Rehabilitation Of Barren And Degraded Land: *A success story of Samtenling Geog*

Gem Tshering Divisional Forest Office, Sarpang



*Michelia champaca* plantation

Dungkarling Community Forest was approved by the Department in 2004 and formally handed over to the 62 households of Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) members. The CF has an area of 285.10 acres, which comprise of barren and abandoned unregistered land. These CFMG members were from Tuney dangra, Khempagang and Kopchey, Mongar gaon, Rai

gaon and Ghallay gaon or villages in Samtenling geog. The Dungkarling block has an area of 13 acres. It falls in the degraded and barren tsheri land which once belonged to six settlers who later abandoned the land and left as state reserve forest land. The CFMG members were overwhelmed by the initiation of this CF and 8 acres of barren land was converted to forest plantation in 2003. This is in

accordance to the overall management objective of the CF, which is primarily for its economical, ecological and environmental functions ensuring sustainable production of timber, other forest products and protection from soil erosion.

**Cont.. on Pg 2**





Cont.. from Pg 1

## Rehabilitation Of Barren And Degraded Land

### SHIFTING CULTIVATION PRACTICE

Before 1994 Shifting cultivation or slash and burn agriculture (locally called as tsheri), was one of the main form of agriculture, in the foot hills of Southern Bhutan. In view of the mountainous terrain, settled cultivation constitutes only in a portion of the total cultivated land, which is mostly confined to the valley lands and plain lands. In order to meet the growing food demand, the Tsheri cycle (the intervening period between two successive slashes) got shortened which resulted in the overall decrease of crop yield. Today, the scientists view shifting cultivation as environmentally destructive and a faulty land use practice having very low output-input ratio. So that was the main objective to initiate and establish forest plantation in Dungkarling block.

### PARTICIPATORY FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

During the initial establishment of this CF, quantitative resource assessment was not conducted in Dungkarling block since the area was mostly barren. Only few scattered tree species like Simal (*Bombex ceiba*), Chelowne (*Schimawallichii*) and Seris (*Albezia* species) were found. The opportunity of this block was purely focused for plantation of commercial valued timber species and the management objective was to protect the landscape from land slide and promote regeneration as well. Accordingly, 8 acres of plantation was created in 2003 through labour contribution from all the CFMG members.

Now after the lapse of 10 years, during the final evaluation of the CF, there was a need to carry out quantitative forest resource assessment as the plantation has grown up and the barren area was covered with vegetation of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) Champ (*Michelia champaca*), Khamari (*Gmeliania*



*Diameter measurement by CFMG members*

arborea), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Panisaj (*Termanilia* species) and bamboos. Diameter at breast height was measured for the five species found in the plantation. The change in vegetation cover with the plantation was a big success for the community at large. The quantitative forest resource assessment tally sheet for 8 acres of plantation is shown in the table.

### CONCLUSION

The trend of change in shifting cultivation to forest plantation was a complete change of land cultivation pattern. Comparing the reduction in barren CF area with rise in plantation in the context to this particular CF is showing very good results. It is not possible to accomplish such afforestation program single-handedly. Scientists, planners, policy makers, extension workers should join hands and work together. One

should also keep in mind that CFMG basic need like timber, fuel wood, fodder, food and a secure future. Thus, care should be taken to see that these programs continue not for a day or month but for several years; in the process, bondage will be formed among the foresters and the local people.

One of the most important and recent strategies adopted for Dungkarling CF in Samtenling geog is the raising of economic valued timber plantations. The plantation was conceived to provide a lucrative alternative to all the CFMG members. The plantation option looked attractive because it had the potential of providing the communities with a substantial income in addition to their cash crops like betel nut and orange which were grown in their respective private land.

# Executive Order

In-line with the directives from the Royal Government of Bhutan and further as per the recommendation of Organizational Development (OD) Exercise conducted by RCSC, Information and Communication Services (ICS) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is now renamed as Information & Communication Technology Division (ICTD). ICTD under the Directorate Services shall cater to the following support services:

- Provide coherent view of ICT within Ministry
- Coordinate, identify and prioritize ICT initiatives within Ministry that support its mission and vision
- Responsible for ICT planning and budgeting for the Ministry
- Ensure effective ICT governance within Ministry
- Set policies and standards for the use of ICT in the Ministry;
- Ensure greater integration of data/information across the Ministry (including with regional offices)
- Ensure better connectivity/sharing of information with other agencies
- Ensure quality delivery of ICT systems
- Design, develop and publish IEC materials to promote RNR activities
- Provide media coverage on RNR events for wider dissemination and archive for future reference
- Focal point for Dzongkha related activities
- Liaise with external media agencies on media request, press release and outsourcing.

In order to ensure smooth functioning of ICTD, all the IT & Communication related works including any IT procurement through RGoB or Project shall be routed through ICTD henceforth, to ensure compliance to standard.

Further, due to staff shortage at ICTD, all are requested to provide prior information for media coverage at least a week before so that ICTD can plan accordingly. ICTD shall not entertain any last-minute request.

Therefore, all departments and agencies under MoAF are advised to cooperate and support ICTD for the effective service delivery and better management of ICT service.

This is issued for information and compliance of all concerned.

**- ICTD , Directorate Services**

## Meat ban notification

This is to bring to the notice of all the concerned that the slaughter of animals, import and sale of meat is prohibited from 16 February 2018 to 17 March 2018 coinciding with the first month of the Bhutanese calendar which is in accordance with the Section 16.5 of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001.

**-BAFRA**



ॐ འོ་གསར་བགྲིས་བདེ་ལེགས་ལྷ།

*Happy Posar*

*The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
wishes all a Happy and Prosperous  
Earth Male Dog Year*

# Leisure

## Riding The Train

A lady from the city and her traveling companion were riding the train through Vermont when she noticed some cows. "What a cute bunch of cows!" she remarked. "Not a bunch, herd", her friend replied. "Heard of what?"

"Herd of cows."

"Of course I've heard of cows."

"No, a cow herd."

"What do I care what a cow heard. I have no secrets to keep from a cow!"

## Two Cows in a field

Two cows were out in a field eating grass. One cow turns to the other cow and says, "Moooooo!"

"Hey", the other cow replies.... "I was just about to say the same thing!"

## Religious Cowboy

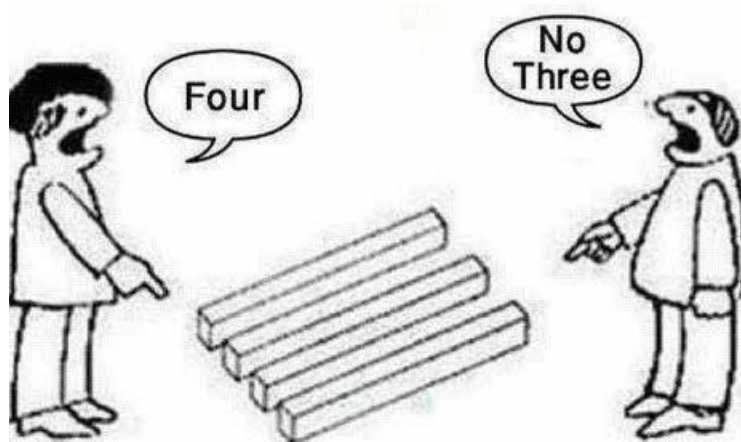
The devout cowboy lost his favorite Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later, a cow walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the cow's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the cow.

"Your name is written inside the cover."

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/animaljokes/cowjokes.html>

It is really confusing!!!



## Distribution of Sanam Drupdrey and RNR Extension Manual 2018

The Sanam Drupdrey (RNR Magazine) and the Extension Manual (Diary) 2018 is ready for distribution. Therefore, all Departments/Agencies/Central and Dzongkhag offices under the Ministry are requested to collect both publications from ICTD during office hours along with the staff list (with designation for Manual) please. The list can be submitted to [communication@moaf.gov.bt](mailto:communication@moaf.gov.bt).

For any queries, kindly contact ICTD office at #323765/321142.

– ICTD

Submit articles for  
RNR-Newsletter  
to  
[tandindorji@moaf.gov.bt](mailto:tandindorji@moaf.gov.bt)





## The Ministry's week

### National Veterinary Hospital inaugurated

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the inauguration ceremony of the National Veterinary Hospital on February 5. The hospital located in Motithang will provide better facilities and services to the animal and meet the increasing demand for modern animal care and treatment. The current record of the old Hospital at Chubachu has seen a total of 5649 new and 12361 follow up cases in

2017 alone. It is said that about 6000 pet dogs and cats were registered within Thimphu and this increasing demand for quality and modern veterinary services has led them to come up with this new infrastructure. The hospital was constructed at the cost of Nu.57 million with fund support from the Government of India.



### Tiger successfully radio-collared for the first time in Bhutan

The National Tiger Centre (NTC) has successfully radio-collared a three-year old female tiger weighing 110 kilograms (kg) on February 9 in the Royal Manas National Park (RMNP). This is the first time a tiger has been radio-collared by a team of Bhutanese biologists and foresters led by Dr. Tempa Tshering, officials from NTC along with forest officials from RMNP, Nature Conservation

Division (NCD) and Sarpang Forest Division. The tiger collaring team has been in the forests of RMNP looking for tiger signs and monitoring their movements for almost a month. 'We have imported trapping kits from the USA and used humane ways of snaring the tiger,' said Dr. Tempa. 'We tested with our bare hands to confirm that the traps would not injure the cat.'



### Cleaning campaign along the Snowmen Trek Route

As a part of the monthly cleaning campaign, the Wangchuck Centennial National Park (WCNP) conducted the cleaning program along the famous snowman trek route (Gomthang & Tsampa route) from 8-11 February. The park management considers waste management as one of the important activities in its management regime particularly for

mitigating anthropogenic threat to the wildlife and its habitat. More than half a tonnes of wastes were collected by the park staffs. Such programs are mainly conducted for creating awareness about impact of wastes for conservation of biodiversity and its landscape with the communities and other stakeholders who use the trek route for different purposes.



#### Published by:

Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Post Box: 1095, Thimphu-Bhutan  
Tel(PABX): 02-323765/321142/322855  
Fax: 02-324520  
Email: ics@moaf.gov.bt  
Website: www.moaf.gov.bt

---



---



---



---



---