



Farmers Group and Cooperatives: a pillar of agricultural development and food security

Key Observations

Farmers Group (FGs):

- A total of **539** different types of Farmers Groups (FGs) were registered between 2010-19.
 - The top three dzongkhags with the maximum no. of FGs were **Samtse (14%)**, **Monggar (13%)** and **Trashigang (9%)**.
 - There is a total of **10,391 registered members** with **539** FGs and women account for **47%** of the total members.
 - In terms of the economic activity, agriculture and livestock are the key sectors for many FGs.
 - **Agriculture** and **livestock** sector, respectively accounts for **58%** and **34%**.
 - In Agriculture sector-**production and marketing of vegetables** by FGs are predominant nature of activity while in livestock sector-**production of dairy products and marketing** is the key activity.
 - **Forestry** and **Non-RNR** related sectors, on the other hand, respectively accounts for **8%** and **1%**.

Co-operatives:

- There were **79** different types of Cooperatives registered between 2010-19.



About the release

Farmers Groups (FGs) and Cooperatives play an important role in supporting small scale agricultural holders in the country through market opportunities and creating sustainable employment. In several countries, agriculture, including farming, forestry, fisheries and livestock, is the main source of employment and income in rural areas. Functional farmers group and Cooperatives, therefore, play critical role in income generation for sustainable livelihoods and improve food security.

In Bhutan, to cater the needs of the rapid transition of the agriculture sector from a primarily subsistence to a major market economy, the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) was established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests in October, 2009. DAMC functions with three main divisions and two regional agricultural marketing and cooperatives offices located in Monggar and Sarpang.

The statistical release provided herein on farmers group and cooperatives are based on the information received from DAMC. The information on the distribution of farmers group and cooperatives are important to understand their socio-economic development impact on the lives of smallholder farmers in rural areas. It is also important to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the government and agricultural cooperatives to analyse the enabling environment for their sustainable growth and continue contributing to the national food security. In Brazil, cooperatives contribute 37.2 percent of agricultural GDP and 5.4 percent to the overall GDP.

- The top three dzongkhags with the maximum no. of Cooperatives were **Zhemgang (18%), Thimphu (15%) and Trongsa (11%)**.
- 79 Cooperatives have **3,233** registered **members** and women account for slightly more than **47%** of the total members.
- Agriculture and livestock sector are important even for many cooperatives, respectively accounting for **23%** and **57%**.
- Cooperatives are prominent in non-RNR related sectors compared to FGs and it accounts for almost **16%**.
- However, their engagement in forestry sector is only about **4%**.

Farm shops:

- There are **124** active and **15** franchised farm shops in the country as on April, 2020.
 - The top three dzongkhags with the maximum no. of active farm shops are **Samtse (10%), Dagana (10%)** and **Trashigang (9%)**.
 - **Paro** is the only dzongkhag with no active farm shops.
 - **Wangdue Phodrang** (3 shops), **Zhemgang** (3 shops) and **Monggar** (2 shops) have the maximum no. of franchised farm shops in the country.
 - About **50%** of the dzongkhags in the country do not have franchised farm shops.

Key observation (cont.)

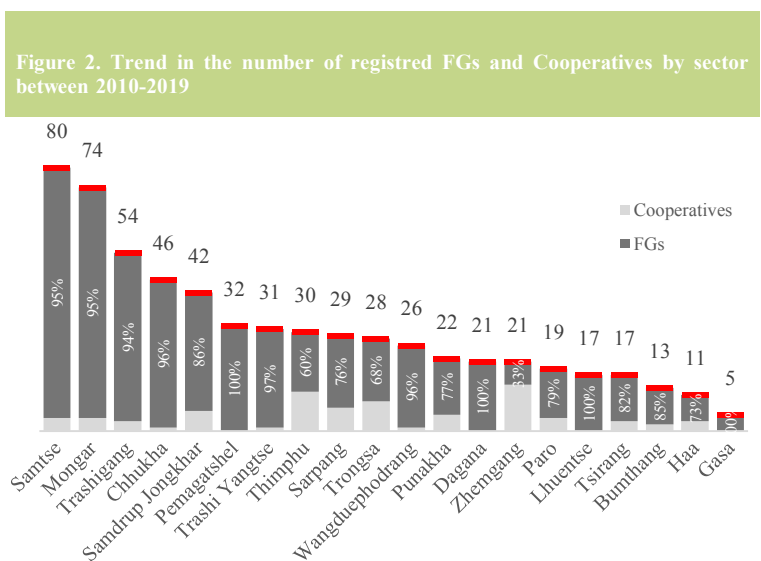


Figure 1 shows the distribution of FGs and Cooperatives in the country from 2010 to 2019. Samtse, Monggar and Trashigang have the highest number of Cooperatives and FGs. Majority of the dzongkhags have FGs as opposed to cooperatives. Some dzongkhags (e.g. Pemagatshel, Dagana, Lhuentse and Gasa) have no cooperatives registered as on Decemer, 2019.

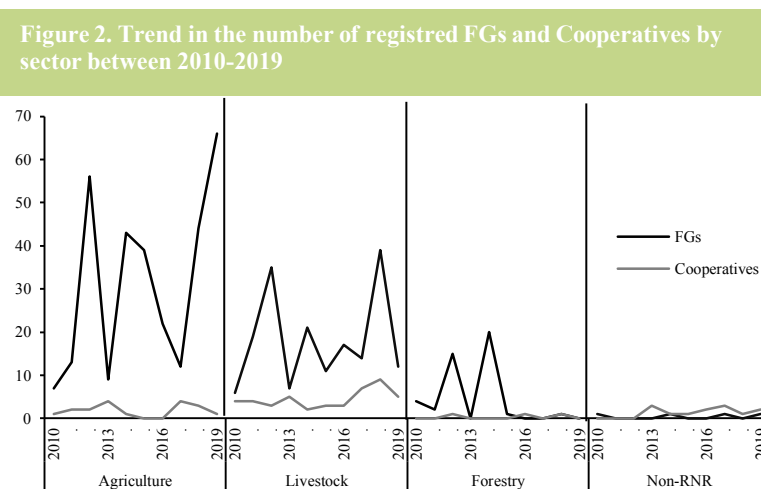


Figure 2 shows the trend in the number of registered FGs and Cooperatives by sector between 2010 and 2019. While the number of FGs in agriculture sector has seen impressive growth over the years, it's growth in other sectors is almost abnormal. The rate of growth in the number of FGs is more compared to Cooperatives. The detailed statistical tables are provided in the **annexure**.

Acknowledgement

The RNR Statistics Division (RSD) extends our deepest appreciation to officials in DAMC for extending their constant support and co-operation and sharing such critical information for the statistical release.

Table 1. Number of Farmers Groups & Cooperatives registered from 2010 to 2019			
Dzongkhag	FGs	Cooperatives	Grand Total
Bumthang	11	2	13
Chhukha	45	1	46
Dagana	21	0	21
Gasa	5	0	5
Haa	8	3	11
Lhuentse	17	0	17
Monggar	70	4	74
Paro	15	4	19
Pema Gatshel	32	0	32
Punakha	17	5	22
Samdrup Jongkhar	36	6	42
Samtse	76	4	80
Sarpang	22	7	29
Thimphu	18	12	30
Trashhi Yangtse	30	1	31
Trashigang	51	3	54
Trongsa	19	9	28
Tsirang	14	3	17
Wangdue Phodrang	25	1	26
Zhemgang	7	14	21
Total	539	79	618

Table 2. Number of members with FGs and Cooperatives						
Dzongkhag	FGs			Cooperatives		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bumthang	37	125	162	103	17	120
Chhukha	408	178	586	16	11	27
Dagana	321	122	443	-	-	-
Gasa	56	63	119	-	-	-
Haa	55	94	149	53	55	108
Lhuentse	152	178	330	-	-	-
Monggar	263	644	907	68	97	165
Paro	136	181	317	23	67	90
Pema Gatshel	697	431	1,128	-	-	-
Punakha	104	205	309	64	79	143
Samdrup Jongkhar	832	441	1,273	401	159	560
Samtse	687	436	1,123	104	58	162
Sarpang	227	127	354	295	114	409
Thimphu	129	129	258	137	208	345
Trashhi Yangtse	293	297	590	11	4	15
Trashigang	490	402	892	60	140	200
Trongsa	124	353	477	99	246	345
Tsirang	224	90	314	39	14	53
Wangdue Phodrang	238	346	584	19	71	90
Zhemgang	34	42	76	220	181	401
Total	5,507	4,884	10,391	1,712	1,521	3,233

Table 3. Number of FGs and Cooperatives registered by sector from 2010 to 2019										
Year	FGs					Cooperatives				
	Agriculture	Livestock	Forestry	Non RNR	Total	Agriculture	Livestock	Forestry	Non RNR	Total
2010	1	4	0	0	5	7	6	4	1	18
2011	2	4	0	0	6	13	19	2	0	34
2012	2	3	1	0	6	56	35	15	0	106
2013	4	5	0	3	12	9	7	0	0	16
2014	1	2	0	1	4	43	21	20	1	85
2015	0	3	0	1	4	39	11	1	0	51
2016	0	3	1	2	6	22	17	0	0	39
2017	4	7	0	3	14	12	14	0	1	27
2018	3	9	1	1	14	44	39	1	0	84
2019	1	5	0	2	8	66	12	0	1	79
Grand Total	18	45	3	13	79	311	181	43	4	539

Table 4. Number of active farm shops and franchised farm shops as on 30th April, 2020

Dzongkhag	Active FS	Franchised FS
Bumthang	2	-
Chhukha	5	-
Dagana	12	-
Gasa	2	-
Haa	3	1
Lhuentse	8	1
Monggar	10	2
Paro	-	-
Pema Gatshel	10	-
Punakha	5	-
Samdrup Jongkhar	8	1
Samtse	13	1
Sarpang	9	-
Thimphu	2	1
Trashi Yangtse	6	-
Trashigang	11	1
Trongsa	4	1
Tsirang	4	-
Wangdue Phodrang	4	3
Zhemgang	6	3
Total	124	15

For any queries or feedback

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