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Dear Friends of Tarayana,

The past month has been very eventful with the successful celebration of our 17th Tarayana Annual Fair coinciding with the 68th Birth Anniversary of our Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. We saw a series of launches together with the Fair- "Stories of Rural Transformation," a collection of stories of change from different sites; a Gallery Walk presenting the journey of Tarayana since its inception; and the Bhutan TSHAR Institute. Tarayana also organized the 7th Annual Green Technology Challenge at the College of Science and Technology in Phuentsholing, Chhukha. We were able to achieve so much due to your unwavering support for our initiatives, and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of our journey.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our monthly newsletter.



1. The 7th Annual Green Technology Challenge was held on 2nd June 2023 at the College of Science and Technology in Phuentsholing, Chhukha.
2. The 17th Annual Tarayana Fair, themed "20 Years of Rural Transformation," took place from 9th to 11th June 2022.
3. To commemorate the 68th Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the community members of Loggchina, Metabkha & Dungna blocks under Chhukha district carried out the plantation of 4,500 citrus and 5,500 teak saplings on 10th June 2023, facilitated by Tarayana Foundation with support from Bhutan Ecological Society.
4. Advocacy on EVAC and PACE was completed in Rookha & Lawa villages under Athang block and Zamding village under Rubesa block in Wangdue Phodrang district, and Pateri & Tsetena villages under Kabesa block in Punakha district.
5. Under the project Living Landscape: Securing High Conservation Values in South Western Bhutan (IKI), monitoring visits to assess the project activities and community consultation on Human-Wildlife Conflict, SAFE Strategy were conducted in Chubarthang village under Umling block and Dechenpelri village under Samtenling block in Sarpang district from 21st to 28th June 2023. The monitoring team also visited Sheriphu village under Singye block in Sarpang district.
6. Under the IKI Project, the laying of 1.5 kilometers of water pipeline and construction of a pressure breaker tank was completed at Rangtse village under Gakiling block in Haa district.
7. The final consultation meeting to disseminate findings, lessons learned, recommendations, and the way forward on the project "Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (Nutrition & health advocacy to help rural and vulnerable population groups eat & stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic & beyond) was conducted with relevant stakeholders from 16 villages under eight blocks in four districts of Lhuentse, Trongsa, Tsirang and Zhemgang.
8. To reduce drudgery and increase the production of crops and vegetables, an oil expeller machine, a vegetable peeler, and a multiple-purpose machine were supplied to Darna village in Trashigang district with support from the Bhutan Foundation.

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17th Tarayana Fair

Tarayana Foundation reintroduced the Annual three-day Fair after a long hiatus caused by the Pandemic. To commemorate the 20 years of existence, the 17th Tarayana Fair, themed "20 Years of Rural Transformation," was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, on 9th June 2023.

The inauguration was also graced by His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuck, His Eminence Gyelsay Trulku Jigme Tenzin Wangpo, Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, His Royal Highness Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, His Serene Highness Dasho Jigje Singye Wangchuck, Excellencies, Dignitaries, and friends of Tarayana.

While addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Founding President thanked His Majesty The Fourth King for the inspiration to embark on this journey of service to those in need. Her Majesty said, "Had it not been His Majesty The King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Tarayana would not have materialized. His Majesty encouraged me to look into the welfare of our rural people. It was my duty to embark on journeys into rural Bhutan, where I saw many in need of help, and I wanted to do something to address the need, and that's when Tarayana was born".

At the opening of the grand event, Her Majesty also launched "Stories of Rural Transformation," a collection of stories of change from different sites. A Gallery Walk presenting the journey of Tarayana since its inception was also launched at the event.

61 community members from 14 districts of Zhemgang, Mongar, Sarpang, Trongsa, Trashigang, Pema Gatshel, Bumthang, Tsirang, Haa, Wangdue Phodrang, Samtse, Paro, Lhuentse and Dagana participated during the Fair. The community members could earn a little more than Nu. 1.6m in the three days. The Foundation also facilitated market linkages for the communities with the business entities in Thimphu, which will pave more opportunities for rural products.

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Launch of the Bhutan TSHAR Institute

The Bhutan TSHAR Institute was launched on 10th June 2023, coinciding with the 68th Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. With fund support from the SAARC Development Fund, Bhutan TSHAR Institute was constructed under the project "Promoting Integrated Bamboo-Based Enterprise Development Among SAARC Countries." The institute will cater to cane and bamboo product development, training, and promotion through the use of innovative technologies and skill enhancement.

The Launch was attended by the His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuck, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, His Royal Highness Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, Their Serene Highnesses, Dasho Tashi Wangmo, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Mr. Satya Shiva Sasvat, the Officer Incharge, SAARC Development Fund & his team, and Hon'ble Members of the Board and Executive Committee.



Annual Green Technology Challenge

Coinciding with the Coronation Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the 7th Annual Green Technology Challenge was held on 2nd June 2023 at the College of Science and Technology in Phuentsholing, Chhukha. The theme this year revolved around the critical aspect of Cold Storage, addressing the need for efficient preservation methods. Top five teams showcased their prototypes and presented them before the students, guests, & distinguished panel of judges, and were awarded with cash prizes for their effort and hard work.

The event was co-organized by the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Development (CRSED) and the Electrical Engineering Department in collaboration with the College of Science and Technology Fablab. This annual event aims to promote environmentally-friendly solutions and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices.



Food Processing Training

A hands-on food processing training at Lumang block in Trashigang district was successfully conducted on the 22nd and 23rd of June, 2023. It aimed to enhance the capacity of farmers, promote the value addition of local cereals and vegetables for future market promotion, and empower the local farmers with knowledge and skills in post-harvest techniques. A total of 42 (36F & 6M) participants from Lumang, Duangmanba, Khashingri, Kharphu, and Moshi villages attended the training. They prepared 17 items during the training and were excited to replicate the recipes at home using locally available food resources and provide their children with a diverse and nutritious diet.

To encourage the participants in their food processing endeavor, Tarayana provided them with equipment such as an electric dryer, oil expeller, flour mill, and sealing machines, supported through the Bhutan Foundation. The participants were also trained to operate these machines effectively. At the end of the training, the participants showcased the prepared items in the presence of officials from the Local Government and Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sector heads to receive feedback. The officials encouraged the farmers to continue improving their skills and implementing sustainable value chains in their food processing activities.

To further support the farmers, the Foundation, in collaboration with the district and block administrations, identified a site to construct a farmers' sales outlet at Reserbu village. This outlet will serve as a platform to market the farmers' produce and connect them with the local market. The training was supported through the project "Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation," funded by the Third Millennium Foundation, and facilitated by Ms. Tashi Pem from the LING-ZHI Foods.



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Our mailing address is:

Tarayana Center, Chubachu

P.O. Box 2003

Thimphu, Bhutan

Phone: +975 2 329-333

Fax: +975 2 331-433

Email: tarayana2003@gmail.com

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