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Dear Friends of Tarayana,

Greetings! We are delighted to bring you the latest updates from the Tarayana Foundation in this newsletter. The highlight of the past month was the visit of the Founding President of Tarayana Foundation, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck's visit to the four eastern districts of Mongar, Lhuentse, Trashigang, and Pema Gatshe, as part of the Foundation's 20th Anniversary celebrations. During the visit, Her Majesty engaged with numerous rural communities, reaffirming the Foundation's commitment to grassroots development. The interactions were not only informative but also served as a platform for Her Majesty to connect with the people and understand their needs and aspirations.

As we reflect on the past month, we feel immensely blessed to have a very passionate and determined leader whose leadership is extraordinary and serves as a beacon of hope for those facing adversity. Her Majesty's ability to envision a better future and to take concrete actions to bring about positive change is an inspiration to all of us. The hard work and dedication that Her Majesty demonstrates as the Founding President of Tarayana not only transforms individuals but also has a ripple effect on communities and society as a whole.

We also express our gratitude to the communities and individuals who allow us to serve them and fulfill our mission.

We hope you enjoy reading about the inspiring stories, achievements, and progress captured in this edition of our monthly newsletter.

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1. As part of the Foundation's 20th anniversary celebrations, Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Tarayana sites in the four eastern districts of Mongar, Lhuentse, Trashigang and Pema Gatshel from 13th to 21st October 2023.
2. Gender empowerment and financial inclusion training for four villages under Laya block in Gasa district was completed for the B-KIND project implemented by the Tarayana Centre for Research and Development.
3. Training on oyster mushroom cultivation under the project 'Developing Climate Resilient Communities Through Appropriate Adaptation and Mitigation Interventions in Yay-gyur and Khengzor' was conducted at Yay-gyur village under Khar block in Pema Gatshel district. 16 (10F & 6M) community members participated in the training which was supported by GEF-Small Grants Programme under the United Nations Development Programme.
4. Under the IKI Project, hands-on training on the conversion of invasive alien plant species of *Ageratina adenophora* (local name: Assam) and *Ageratum conyzoides* (local name: Chickweed) into vermi and heap compost, was conducted for five villages under Metakha block in Chhukha district.
5. Seed management training was conducted at Khebisa block under Dagana district, and Semjong and Tsirangtoe blocks under Tsirang district, with support from Green Climate Fund.
6. Awareness programme on sustainable land management and its feasibility study was conducted for the seven villages of Metakha and Loggchina blocks under Chhukha district.
7. Social auditing and accountability training was held at Langthil block in Trongsa district, under the Project 'Nyamdrel: Support to Parliament of Bhutan and CSOs,' funded by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and EU-Helvetas.
8. The first batch of trainees of the Bhutan TSHAR Institute in Kalapang, Mongar, completed Bamboo Furniture Production Training which was held from 28th September to 28th October, 2023.
9. Community consultation and awareness on springshed management, the importance of water recharge areas, the formation of water-user groups, and improved sanitation practices were conducted at Lichibi village under Goshing block in Zhemgang district, under the project 'Climate Resilient Water Management in Rural Bhutan' funded by the City of Vienna through Friends of Bhutan Association Austria (FOBA).
10. Tarayana Foundation and RENEW submitted the alternate report for the 86th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Tarayana sites in the four eastern districts of Mongar, Lhuentse, Trashigang and Pema Gatsel from 13th to 21st October 2023, as part of the Foundation's 20th anniversary celebrations.



On 13th October 2023, Her Majesty met and interacted with the community members of Sengor village under Saling block in Mongar district. The community members were overjoyed to receive Her Majesty along with Mongar district administration officials at Sengor and expressed their gratitude to Tarayana for aiding the promotion of cane and bamboo crafts and enhancing their agricultural productivity.



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Her Majesty also met with the students and faculty of Lhuentse High School and the Tarayana Club members of Khoma Lower Secondary School. The Tarayana Club Coordinators of the two schools presented reports on the club activities. Her Majesty thanked all the club members for spreading love and compassion to those in need and urged all to continue the commendable work.



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Her Majesty met with the students and faculty of the Sherubtse College, Jigme Sherubling Central School, Wamrong Lower Secondary School, and Kangpara Lower Secondary School at Trashigang district on 18th October 2023. The Tarayana Club Coordinators of Sherubtse College and the three schools presented the club reports and the planned activities of the Clubs, and the students and faculty also interacted with Her Majesty during the meet. Her Majesty thanked each and every member of the clubs for their compassionate act of volunteerism, and the noble works contributing to the welfare of the society.

During all the School and College visits, Her Majesty reminded the students on how hard our beloved King, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is working tirelessly to take this nation forward and secure a brighter future for all of us. Her Majesty instructed that as responsible citizens, we should all play our role by putting our minds to what we do, and do it with the best of our abilities. Her Majesty also rejoiced the birth of our Gyalsem and offered gratitude to His Majesty and The Gyaltsuen for the three Royal Children, our beacon of hope for a brighter Bhutan.

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