

Background

To institutionalize a system of farmers training, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests established Rural Development Training Centre in Zhemgang with support from Swiss Development Cooperation and Helvetas. Initially started with an interim office at Lobesa in May 2004 with 5 instructors supported by expatriate staff from HIS as advisors. In 2005, RDTC initiated its first Community Leaders Training (CLT) and Farm Business Training (FBT) in Lobesa. The training centre at the present location at Zhemgang was inaugurated in May 2008.

RDTC initially targeted literate farmers and school leavers with the aim to contribute to enhancement of rural income and employment opportunities. By 2008, the centre developed 3 main training programs: i) Skills based Farm Business Training ii) Community Leaders Training for groups and cooperatives and iii) School Agriculture Program for school children, conducted during the vacation.

The centre aims to fulfill the mandate with continued dedication to provide skills-based training for the farmers and school leavers attending the training programs.

Vision

RDTC envisions building up a critical mass of educated farmers who are interested and capable to participate in the commercial farming on an economically and environmentally sustained basis.

Mission

RDTC sees itself as the knowledge centre that is able to meet the skill and knowledge needs of the modern day farmers and contributes to an improve image of the farming profession.

Objectives

- ❖ Providing the farmers with easily accessible knowledge and skills that will enhance production of crops and livestock.
- ❖ Support the farmers' groups and cooperatives through providing group management and record keeping training and networking them through experience exchange program.
- ❖ Enhancing the image of farming by creating awareness about the potential of agriculture for gainful self-employment and meaningful livelihood.

Training Programs

	Modules	Target group	Duration
1.Farm Business Training (FBT)	1. Vegetable farming	Early school leavers/potential rural youth/ farming communities	3 weeks
	2. Fruit farming		3 weeks
	3. Mushroom farming		2 weeks
	4. Dairy farming		3 weeks
	5. Poultry farming		3 weeks
	6. Pig farming		3 weeks
Community Leaders Training (CLT)	1. Leadership	Office bearers of farmers' groups and Cooperatives (chairman/secretary/accountant)	2.5 days
	2. Planning		2.5 days
	3. Meeting management		2.5 days
	4. Conflict management		2.5 days
	5. Record keeping		2.5 days
	6. Book keeping		2.5 days
School Agriculture programme	Basics on all FBT modules	Students	Summer 1 week, winter 2 weeks
Farmers' Experience Exchange program (FEEP)	Visit progressive farms/RDCs	Ex-participants	10 days
Focal Agriculture Teacher Training	Basics on all FBT Modules	Focal Teachers	10 days

Infrastructure

The centre has adequate facilities and infrastructure in place for effective service delivery and teaching and learning purposes.

Particular	Qty (Nos.)	Type
Office building	1	2 storied
Academic block	1	2 storied (5 class rooms)
Hostel (2 storied)	2 (One each for girls and boys)	2 storied (40 bedded)
Guest house	1	Single storied (2 rooms)

Multipurpose cum dining hall	1	2 storied
Poultry shed	1	2 unit (layer & broiler)
Piggery shed	1	Concrete
Dairy shed	1	Concrete
Staff quarter	11	Single storied (16 units)
Labour quarter	4	Temporary shed (8 units)
Bus	1	Coaster (20 sited)
Pool vehicle	2	Hilux
Tractor	1	
Power tiller	2	
Green house	3	length-10 m, breadth- 5 m

Human Resource

RDTC has a pool of experienced Instructors, administration and support staff led by Director.

Staff	Head
Director II	1
Instructors	7(3 Agriculture, 3 livestock, 1 farm economics)
Adm. Assistant	1
Accountant	1
Technician	1
Store Assistant	1
Driver	3
Wet-sweeper	1
Cook	1
Night Guard	1
Dairy attendant	1
Farm labour	6

Demo-Farms

Farms	Specific	Nos.
Orchard	1.Peach	89
	2. Pear	111
	3. Hazel nut	
	4. Chest nut	46
	5. Persimmon	4
Livestock farms	Dairy farm	
	Poultry farm	387(187 layers, 200 pullets)
	Piggery farm	10 (Boar-1, Gilt-9, Flattening-1)
Vegetable farm	Cabbage/ cauliflower/ broccoli/chilli/ potato	

Land Use Type with Area

Name	Area_ acre	Area_hactre
RDTC total area	56.51	22.95
Forest	18.55	7.5
Archery range	0.57	0.25
Hazelnut orchard	1.28	0.52
Pasture land	10.25	4.15
Fruit orchard	2.6	0.87
Vegetable farm	2.66	1.07
Fodder trees	2.1	0.94

Trend of Participants Trained (2007-2016)

Programs	Year										Total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
CLT	113	105	189	109	0	0	56	55	29	105	761

FBT	42	74	228	154	145	232	230	283	206	119	1713
SAP	19	51	63	70	95	64	77	203	110	0	752
FEEP	0	0	0	23	35	18	31	0	0	32	139
FAT	0	0	0	0	20	0	19	0	20	0	59
Grand Total											3424

Demographic Information

