



Gasa

Annual Report 2016-2017



Dzongkhag Administration

21st February 2018

Acknowledgments

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At the same time, we would like the Dzongkhag Planning Unit to continue to take the lead in making this publication an annual feature hereafter.

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Dzongdag's Message

Gasa Dzongkhag Administration is honored to publish the Annual Dzongkhag Report for financial year 2016-17 dedicating to the celebration of the 38th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. We the people of Gasa humbly wish and offer our prayers for a very Happy Birthday to His Majesty. We would also like to take the opportunity in submitting our gratitude for the peerless leadership in steering our country to greater heights filled with peace, prosperity and happiness in the last decade and we prayer for the continued leadership and guidance for many more years to come.

The report the first of its kind also marks the twenty five years of creating Gasa as a separate Dzongkhag from Dungkhag under Punakha Dzongkhag in pursuance to the Royal Decree in 1992.

Gasa Dzongkhag over the past twenty five year has experienced unprecedented developments and with visible improvement in the living standards of the people. Dzongkhag now has one Grade I BHU and three Grade II BHUs providing prompt health services to over 3300 people of Gasa. Four Primary Schools in four Gewogs and one Central School at Damji under Khamaed Gewog offer education opportunities to the children of Gasa improving literacy levels in the Dzongkhag. Khamaed, Khatoed and Laya Gewogs have RNR centers providing agriculture and livestock services enhancing the source of livelihood. A well furnished RNR center will also be constructed at Lunana Gewog in the 12th Five Year Plan. Gasa Dzongkhag is also identified for highest annual household income in the country after the legalization of the harvest and sale of cordyceps.

All households of Khamaed, Khatoed and Laya Gewogs are supplied with on grid electricity while communities of Lunana use solar for lighting purpose. Every household in the Dzongkhag have access to mobile services connecting to the rest of the country since 2007. Gasa Dzongkhag was connected by motor road in 2012 from Punakha connecting to the rest of the country and easing transportation. By the end of 2017/18, we have completed 25 kms of first cutting road to Laya, which nowadays takes just about 2 hours drive and 7 hours walk., which was otherwise 2 full days and one night journey from Gasa. We will be also completing 7 Kms of first cutting of road to Lunana from Goenshari. The 5 years conservation project of the Tashithongmoen Dzong also nearing completion thus bringing back its past historical grandeur with significance.

Besides these major development over the past twenty five years, Gasa Dzongkhag is determined to further improve living standards of the people and public service delivery in the Dzongkhag through enhanced decentralization, transparency and participation. Good to Great Gasa Initiative is the quintessence of Gasa Dzongkhag to realize the visions and aspirations of our Beloved Kings, which is to assure our country is Just, Equal and Harmonious.

May Drukpas and Drukyul be always blessed and guided by the compassionate and visionary Monarchs of the Wangchuck Dynasty for all times to come.

Tashi Delek

Palden Drukpa Lha Gyelo !!!

Dorji Dhradhul

Dzongdag

Introduction

Gasa Dzongkhag is situated in the extreme northwest of the country bordering the autonomous Region of Tibet (China) in the North and Thimphu, Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang in the south. Gasa with an area of 3,117.74 km² (1,203.77 sq miles) and a population of little over 3300 is one of the largest; least populated, and thus least densely populated Dzongkhag in the country. It has elevations ranging from 1,500 to over 5000 meters above sea level (masl) and experiences extremely long and cold winters but a short warm summer. It has four Gewogs of Khatoed, Khamaed, Laya and Lunana.

Communities of Laya and Lunana Gewogs are mainly depended on yak rearing, horse portering, medical and aromatic plants and with most income coming from the Cordyceps after its legalization with a Royal Decree in 2004, while agriculture and livestock are the main stay for communities of Khamaed and Khatoed Gewogs.

Gasa Dzongkhag is known for Tshachus and Menchus. Gasa Tshachu is very popular with visitors in thousands coming every year from all other 19 Dzongkhags and foreign tourist.

With the headquarter of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Park (JDNP) in Damji, Gasa, the whole Dzongkhag falls under the Park. Gasa also has this unique status of having in residence all four National symbols, viz – the National animal – Takin; National Tree – Cypress; National bird – Raven; and National flower – Blue poppy. Gasa is habitat for different species of birds and animals viz: musk deer, blue sheep, snow leopard, red panda, raven, wild pheasant, snow pigeons, red billed cough, Himalayan black bear, tiger, black necked crane and many more. The Dzongkhag has about 33% its land area under forest cover, out of which about 35% is scrubs forest, 27% under fir forest, 15% under mixed conifer forest, 4% under broad leafed forest.

Gasa also hold a significant and strategic records in the history of Bhutan due to the fact that the Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel entered Bhutan through Laya and spent his early days in Goen Hobtsho in Khatoed, Gasa.

Table 1. General Information –Gasa Dzongkhag at a Glance

	Dzongkhag	Lunana	Laya	Khamed	Khatoed
Population					
Total number of male	1663	389	610	570	94
Total number of female	1553	433	514	503	103
Total Population	3216	822	1124	1073	197
Total number of households	558	185	199	114	60
Total number of Gungtongs	9	0	6	1	2
Area (sq. km)	3075.00	1713.26	928.94	147.11	285.69
Forest Cover (%)	26.25	78.49	84.06	50.39	57.28
Agriculture					
RNR Center	4	1(LEC)	1	1	1
Number of Farmer's Cooperatives	1	0	0	0	1
Total number of Irrigation schemes (Number)	16	0	0	16	0
Total lengths of Irrigation Schemes (km)	41.5	0	0	41.5	0
Length of Electric fencing	7.29	0	0	1.51	5.78
Number of electric fencing	19	0	0	5	14
Number of Farm shop	3	0	1	1	1
Number of Bio-gas plants	0	0	0	0	0
Number of power tiller	48	0	1	34	13
Health					
Number of Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Basic Health Units	4	1	1	1	1
Number of Out Reach Clinics	5	2	1	2	0
Number of Outpost	1	0	0	0	1
Number of nurses	4	0	0	1	3
Number of HA	7	2	1	2	2
Dentist	1	0	0	0	1
Number of Doctors	1	0	0	0	1
Water and Sanitation					
Number of households with clean drinking water supply	800	160	222	186	232
Number Rural Water Supply Schemes	75	15	21	12	27
Functional Rural Water Supply Schemes (Percentage)	98.60%	83%	99.10%	100%	100%
Number of households with toilets/latrines	711	75	229	182	225
Education					
Extended Classrooms	2	1	1	0	0

Primary schools	2	1	0	1	1
Lower secondary schools	1	0	1	0	0
Higher secondary schools (Central School)	1	0	0	0	1
Number non-formal Education (NFE)Centers	10	1	5	3	1
Number of students in schools	906	59	183	525	139
Number of NFE Learners	142	28	94	10	10
Number of teachers	63	7	17	28	11
Number of students per teacher (Student Teacher Ratio)	1:14	1:09	1:11	1:19	1:12
Central Schools	1	0	0	1	0
Civil					
Number of Chiwogs	20	5	5	5	5
Number of Villages	93	17	21	28	27
Number of constituencies	2				
Number of female DT members	0				
Number of female GT members	1	0	0	0	1
Number of Community Centers	2	0	0	1	1
Electricity					
Number of Households electrified	374	0	200	114	60
Number of villages electrified	73	0	21	28	27
Number of Gewogs electrified	3	0	1	1	1
Communications					
Number of Gewogs with Mobile network coverage	4				
Number of villages with Mobile network coverage	91	15	21	28	27
Number of Suspension Bridges	7	0	0	1	6
Gewog Connectivity Road (km)	21.1	0	20	0.4	0.7
Number of Farm Road	22	1	0	14	7
Length of farm road	28.87	1	0	20.12	7.75
Religion and Culture					
Number of government owned lhakhangs/temples	2	0	0	0	2
Number of community owned lhakhangs /temples	13	2	6	4	1
Number of privately owned lhakhangs /temples	4	3	1	0	0
Number of chortens	81	11	17	17	36

APA (Annual Performance Agreement) Assessment (2016-2017)

Since the initiation of Annual Performance Agreement (APA) mechanism was instituted in the country, Gasa Dzongkhag has been religiously following the new system which was geared towards achieving the following objectives.

- a) To establish clarity and consensus about annual priorities for the Dzongkhag consistent with the 11th Five Year Plan document, and Government's new priorities;
- b) To make the respective Sectors and Units fully responsible for driving implementation and delivering the results against the annual priorities; and
- c) To provide an objective and fair basis for evaluating the Sectors' and Units' overall performance at the end of year.

Since the Performance Agreement was an important accountability mechanism for inculcating a performance based culture, subsequent APA with Sector Heads, Gups and GAO were signed annually to promote the system in the Dzongkhag.

During the assessment done by National Technical Committee (NTC) team from Government Performance Management Division (GPMD) Gasa Dzongkhag scored 95.51% (a copy of letter is attached) which was the outstanding category. 2016-17 APA score of 95.51 % was however a slight fall from the 97.21 % scored in FY 2015-16 which was due to some targets not being able to achieve which were beyond the control of Dzongkhag Administration like reliability of electricity, mobile connectivity, immunization coverage, and infant, U5 and maternal mortalities, etc. Gasa Dzongkhag in collaboration with all stakeholders is striving to improve the score in the next fiscal year.

Financial Progress – FY 2016-2017

Despite Gasa being the most remote Dzongkhag in the country, the Dzongkhag fared well in terms of achieving planned developmental activities in the FY 2016-17. Financial achievement of Dzongkhag and four Gewog Administrations stands over 97 percent.

Table below presents the financial progress in FY 2016-17.

Table 2. Financial Progress of Gasa Dzongkhag in FY 2016-17

Agency	Total Capital Budget (Amount in Million)	Total Capital Expenditure(Amount in Million)	Financial Achieved (%)
Dzongkhag	123.916	113.481	99.47
Khamed Gewog	5.127	5.016	97.83
Khateod Gewog	3.215	3.124	97.17
Laya Gewog	13.464	13.215	98.15
Lunana Gewog	14.131	13.772	97.46

Dzongkhag Kidu Program

A unique and sacred features of the Kingdoms social safety net is the Kidu System of the Institution of Monarchy, which has served and continuous to be served as a social security system particularly for the weakest and poorest sections of the society. In the past the major focus of the Kidu was on land but upon ascending the Golden Throne, His Majesty have introduced and implemented through major reforms of other Kidu.

The guiding principal behind the new system is “Taking Kidu to the people” rather than people approaching for Kidu. This approach is facilitated through establishment of Kidu networking mechanism, setting up a systemic and professional chain of actions to be benefited upon identification of most deserving individuals/ households at the grassroots level for the award of Kidu by His Majesty The King.

Further, considering the distance and the economics of our beloved citizens from remote villages, His Majesty entrusted some Kidu function to be initiated by the Dzongdags in the Dzongkhags. Therefore, the Dzongkhag Kidu Officers are appointed to assist the Dzongdags in carrying out the following major responsibilities:

1. Taking Kidu to the People.
2. Verification of direct en-route and other Kidu appeals.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation of existing Kidu Recipients.
4. Disaster relief efforts and other related activities.
5. Coordinate and support with the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon.

Based on the above mandates, some of the most Kidu deserving citizen had received the Kidu from His Majesty upon identified and submission of the list by the Dzongkhag. Following are the list of Kidu recipients in the Gasa Dzongkhag.

Table 3. Gensho Zhabtog Recipients in Gasa Dzongkhag 2017

Sl no.	Name of the recipients	M/F	Village and Gewog
1	Kencho	M	Lubcha, Laya
2	Penjor	M	Pazhi, Laya
3	RinchenZam	F	Tokor, Laya
4	KinleyLhaden	F	Tokor,Laya
5	SangayWangmo	F	Neylu, Laya
6	KenchoPem	F	Wachey, Lunana

7	Dema	F	Baychu, Khatoea
8	Wangmo	F	Bara, Khamoed

Table 4. Gyalpoi Tozey Student in Gasa Dzongkhag 2017.

Sl No.	Name of the School	M	F	Total
1	Bjishong CS	13	8	21
2	Gasa Pry School	1	0	1
3	Laya LSS	1	0	1
4	Lunana Pry School	1	0	1
	Total Tozey	16	8	24

Gasa Dzong Conservation Project-Ongoing Project

Significant historical Gasa Tashithongmoen Dzong has been under renovation since 2014. Under Gasa Dzong Conservation Project, Urtse has been fully restored and works on surrounding structure are under full swing and progressing well. About 80 percent of the work has been completed as of the end of FY 2016-17. Conservation of Gasa Dzong is well on track and is expected to complete by end of the 11 FYP . Under the concept of conservation, Gasa Dzong Conservation Project is in the process of restoring the structure to its former glory without any deviation from the original size, architectural features, using same materials with proper documentation and photographic evidences, drawing and sketching.



Fig.GasaDzong



Internal Audit Service

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) has placed the highest importance to enhancing good governance based on the pillars of efficiency, transparency and accountability. The Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), taking the aspirations of enhancing good governance, during its 152nd Meeting held on 1st March 2000, approved the staffing pattern for the Internal Audit Units (IAU) in the Ministries. Accordingly, Internal Audit Units were established for the first time on 1st June 2000 with RCSC selected civil servants from different fields.

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) established an Internal Audit Service (IAS), as part of its efforts to further enhance good governance, transparency, accountability and efficiency and effectiveness of government operations, including risk management and the internal control framework of Ministries and all government entities that directly receive and manage budget allocations. The internal audit service in the Dzongkhag was first established in 2014 with one internal auditor.

Until financial year 2014-2015, the internal audit service performed internal audit based on the scope or activities determined by the auditor himself or herself but starting from Financial Year 2015-2016 internal audit service in all the government agencies started performing internal audit based on the thematic audit adopted during the first Internal Auditor's conference held in Paro and since then internal audit in all the government agencies started conducting internal audit based on the scope determined under the thematic audit.

HR Audit (2016-2017)

During the Financial 2016-2017, internal audit of the Gasa Dzongkhag administration performed the first thematic audit determined during the first Internal Auditor's conference held in Paro. Human Resource was decided as the broad theme under this thematic audit. As decided, internal audit on Leave, training, recruitment and selection were taken up as audit scope and covered three administrations namely Dzongkhag, Khatoed and Khamoed.

The report on the observations was finalized and issued only after thorough discussions with the relevant officials particularly with the Dzongkhag HR section and Gewog Administrative Officers.

Dzongkhag Tsogdu session in 2016-2017 and its resolutions

- On 28/07/2016, 9th DT session was convened mainly to endorse **97.8%** achievement of 2015-2016 Annual Performance Agreement signed between Dzongdag and Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- First DT session of 2nd Local Government elect was held on 27/10/2016. Since two of the DT members were absent the Chairman for the Dzongkhag Tsogdu could not be elected. As per the Local Government Act Dzongdag chaired the swearing ceremony of newly elected members in presence of Drangpon and Lam Neten of Gasa Dzongkhag.
- On 26/12/2016, 2nd Dzongkhag Tsogdu was called upon to elect the new Dzongkhag Tsogdu Thrizin(Chairman) for the 2nd Local Government elect. Khatoed Gup Mr. Thinley Wangdi was elected as a Chairman and Mr. Tshewang, Mangmi from Laya Gewog was elected as a Deputy Chairman.
- Third session of Dzongkhag Tshogdu was convened on 07/04/2017. The house discussed on border dispute between Khatoed and Laya Gewogs. The floor could not come to consensus and was decided to forward this to National Assembly. Later National Assembly instructed Dzongkhag Tsogdu to maintain status quo on Laya and Khatoed border dispute.

Civil Registration and Census

The vision of Department of Civil Registration and Census is to become an efficient and effective organization delivering civil registration and Census related services of the highest standard and quality to the people of Bhutan.

Abstract report of Dzongkhag Civil Registration and Census Sector, 2017

Name of Case	Gewogs				Total	Remarks
	Lunana	Laya	Khamoed	Khatoed		
New Birth Registration	6	18	7	5	36	
Census Transfer household	7	12	4	4	27	Not included members
CID processing(new, replacement and lost)	320	372	250	97	1039	
CID processing for other Dzongkhag					215	
Annual Census	Done	Done	Done	Done		Annual census of 4 gewogs are completed
Census Dropout	14	5		2	21	Under process

Dzongkhag Land Record Service

“The important feeling of attachment and belief in the future of the country, will only come about if the people have effective and secure ownership to land”.-His Majesty The King, September 24, 2007.

The land reform exercise began in 2007 with the Royal Command to carry out a National Cadastral Resurvey Program (NCRP). His Majesty Commanded that, “Land issues must be resolved once and for all – if we do not take it upon ourselves today to carry out a massive and all encompassing exercise, then like in the past, we will only make small improvements on the existing system but leave the biggest problems unresolved burdening the future generations to suffer as we do.”

Thus, as per the Command the National Land Commission Secretariat carried out the Nation Cadastral Resurvey Program (NCRP) from June 2008 till December 2013 and for Gasa Dzongkhag it was carried out in 2010. However, with the completion of NCRP all the land conveyance works were temporarily freezes till the receipt of NCRP Lagthrams and because of this; landowners were handicapped to carry out any Lagthram related works.

Fortunately, for us the people of Gasa, we had an extra highlight at the 2nd Royal Highland Festival when we received the land Kidu from His Majesty The King on 23rd October 2017 in Laya. The auspicious event was attended by about 94 representing the four Gewogs, Dzongkhag sectors and other regional offices based in Dzongkhag and Laya Gewog. The Royal Address touched upon the importance of safeguarding the scarce and limited alienable land resource. On 27th October 2017 over a formal ceremony, the Gasa Dzongdag received the Kasho and Lagthrams from Hon’ble Secretary of NLCS in Thimphu. Subsequently, the lagthrams and Gewog Chazha Sathrams were handed over to the respective Gewogs for further handing over to the owners.

And the second essential event that took place with regard to land reforms in the history of Gasa Dzongkhag is, on 29th October 2017 His Majesty granted land Kidu to 29 shopkeepers including three shopkeepers from tsachu at Kolikha. For them, it is like light in the darkness since they were operating business on State Land for over more than three decades without the ownership of the land.

Lastly, the sector looks forward to work hand in hand with the vision to deliver excellent land governance services and provide reliable land information for the Dzongkhag’s well being.

Environment Unit

The environment unit under Dzongkhag Administration, Gasa consist of only one staff i.e. the Dzongkhag Environment Officer. For the fiscal year 2016-17, the Dzongkhag Environment Committee had endorsed/issued 12 (twelve) Environmental Clearances for various constructions under Gasa Dzongkhag. The activities mostly consisted of access/farm roads construction, construction of mobile towers, construction of staff quarter/guest houses and so on. The Dzongkhag Environment Committee also received 3 (three) copies of Environmental Clearances

issued by the National Environment Commission Secretariat for the non-listed projects. Accordingly, the DEC in association with Jigme Dorji National Park conducted frequent monitoring of major activities like the construction of Laya GC road and Ramina Farm road. Apart from the issuance of EC and monitoring, the Environment Unit also spearheads in implementing various solid waste management activities in the dzongkhag. The Environment Unit initiated the Gasa Going Clean Day which is a monthly cleaning campaign conducted on 9th of every month in the whole Dzongkhag. The environment Unit also coordinated a program whereby all the staff stationed under Dzongkhag Administration headquarter were divided into different groups comprising of four staff each to install swing bins at various strategic locations to advocate general public on solid waste management and also to make Gasa a litter free district. Various sensitization and advocacy programs on waste management were organized in the dzongkhag by the Environment Unit. Gasa has one of the best state of environment in the country and the environment unit will continue to focus on its conservation with commitment and dedication under the guidance of the Dzongkhag Administration.

Dzongkhag Election Office

The historic Second Local Government election was held on 27th of September 2016. Gasa Dzongkhag has four Gewogs and twenty Chiwogs. All the Gups and Mangmis for the four Gewogs were elected with Lunana Gewog having lone candidate as both the Gup and Mangmi. The Tshogpas for all the chiwogs were also elected except for Pazhi Chiwog and Gylaza_Loong-Go Chiwog under Laya Gewog. The lone candidate of Pazhi secured negative voting whereby he secured more “NO” votes than “YES” votes and the Gylaza_Loong-Go Chiwog remained vacant as there was no candidate contesting for the post of Tshogpa.

The Election for the Vacant Demkhong of Pazhi Chiwog and Gyalza_Loong-Go Chiwog under Laya Gewog held on 18th of April 2017. Pazhi Chiwog had two candidates contesting for the post of Tshogpa whereas Gyalza_Loong-Go Chiwog had only one candidate for the post of Tshogpa. The Election for Vacant Demkhong Election finally had all the seat for the Gewog Tsogdu (GT) filled.

Dzongkhag Engineering Services

Engineering Services in the Dzongkhag involves development of plans related to physical infrastructure in the Dzongkhag such as construction of roads, water supply, buildings, irrigation canals etc.

Following are the procedure for a construction work with approved budget:

- Preparation of BOQ, estimate and drawing.
- Calling NIT through various media.
- Opening of Tender documents and evaluation.
- Awarding of work.
- Processing Material advance and bills.
- Field inspection and monitoring.

- Handing taking, once construction is complete.
- Processing and verification of final bills for necessary payment.

Cultural Programme

Bhutan, though one of the smallest countries in the world, its cultural uniqueness and richness are profound. As such, strong emphasis is laid on the promotion and preservation of its unique culture. And with the modernization, people tend to get influenced by the foreign culture, tradition and fashion. But for the small country like Bhutan, we cannot afford to be influenced by other culture. We need to maintain our unique identity and preserve our culture and tradition. And for this, with the guidance from the monarch, laws and policies are framed to revive our age old culture and to promote them.

The Department of Culture (DoC) was instituted under Ministry of Home and Culture Affairs after the Royal decree and the culture section in every Dzongkhag has the mandate to preserve and promote the rich cultural and traditional heritage of our nation.

Culture section is responsible to revive the old tradition and also to implement plans and policies to promote the culture and tradition. For example, with initiation of Royal Highland Festival in 2016, to revive the old culture of Laya, the age old offering called “Aulay” has been incorporated in program for its sustainability. Goen Zhey (Identity of Gasab) was integrated in National Day celebration for its promotion and different Mask Dances are perform during annual Dzongkhag Tshechu.

The renovation and maintenance of existing monasteries and temples are taken care and as a daily routine, the verification of Lhakhang Tharm is made to ensure the old antique monuments are safe. The occasions and ceremonies of national importance are looked upon by the section and all the rituals and preparation required for the visit of high officials are also coordinated.

Driving Dzongkhag Development Centre in Gasa

Gasa Dzongkhag has an over arching motto, “Good to Great Gasa”. It basically expresses the ultimate goal to make Gasa a Great Dzongkhag.

With this inspiration and motto of Good to Great Gasa, the Dzongkhag has decided to try a different approach to sustainable development which is fast tracked and holistic. So the first step to this approach is 3D (Driving Dzongkhag Development) centre which focus on traditional and contemporary industries and promotion and preservation of culture as their key mandates. This involves production of goods along with creation of jobs.

This centre is the first driving engine of the Dzongkhag Development. The centre is managed by a core team from Dzongkhag which later will be manned by Gasap citizen. The centre has production units (water packaging/bottling plant) as its highlight. One of the maiden projects under this vision is the “Water packaging and bottling” plant to replace the bottled water needs of the Dzongkhag and also to export to other dzongkhags.

This is the pilot project for the production centre. Water packaging/ bottling project known by the product name Gasa Soechu is located right below BHU I of gasa. Water packaging plant is initially set up by Dzongkhag with the funding from Dzongkhag Development Grand, but in the later stage the ownership will be handed to the Gasaps. This is the project that will involve the whole community. The people will be made to invest in the project.

The water is bottled in glass bottle by the product name Gasa Soechu with the Gasa vision logo and the tag line “ Himalayan spring water from the Kingdom of Bhutan ”.

This project is initiated mainly to replace the water consumption use in the Dzongkhag. Though the total volume of imported bottled water consumed in Dzongkhag is not very huge, but in terms of revenue lost to the import of the same is quite substantial in the context of the overall import of goods by the Dzongkhag. Therefore, bottled water produced by this plant will replace the imported bottled water, thereby enjoying import substitution, employment generation and also revenue generation through production. And of course, the use of this natural resource is completely in accord with the enlightened policies of Good to Great Gasa for green, clean and environment friendly development.

Blessed with pristine environment and abundant water source, this project is bound to succeed.

GGG News and Views

The “Good to Great Gasa (GGG)” news and views is quarterly e-publication, covering the news and views of the Dzongkhag for that quarter. The sole purpose to publish the news and views of the Dzongkhag is to create a window to Good to Great Gasa for other fellow Bhutanese. Apart from that it also serves as a means for better coordination, collaboration and cooperation amongst all the stakeholders in the Dzongkhag namely the Dzongkhag Administration, Rabdey, Dangthrim, Local Government functionaries, citizen of Gasa and all other regional and central offices. For the FY 2016-2017 Gasa Dzongkhag have published issue 1 and issue 2 under volume I.

When the Nation celebrated the first birth Anniversary of the Nation’s most Precious son, His Royal Highness Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuk on 5th February, 2017, the GGG’s first issue of the news and views was published to offer special prayers and humble wishes for The Gyalsey. The volume I, issue 2 was published on 4th June, 2017 dedicating to the 27th Birth Anniversary celebration of Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck. The GGG presents the news and views in Dzongkha and English language and it covers the events, initiatives, awareness and advertisement from the Dzongkhag. For giving the clear idea of what is happening in the Dzongkhag, the upcoming events in the Dzongkhag and highlights are also covered. To make the publication more enthusiastic the authors includes their composed poems, stories and experience sharing as the part of news and views.

Do read and support the all the publication of GGG news and views!!!!

Education

All four Gewogs has a school each to provide education opportunities to the people of Gas Dzongkhag. Khatoed and Lunana Gewog has a primary school each and Laya Gewog has a Lower Secondary School. Total of 73 teachers and 42 supporting staff in all four Gewogs provided education to 947 students in 2016. In order to provide higher secondary level education with in Gas Dzongkhag, Bjishong Central School was upgraded to Middle Secondary School level, starting first class XI Arts section in 2016 and class XII section in 2017. Gas now has a Higher Secondary School in the Dzongkhag. These schools will further be improved with additional facilities in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Gas Dzongkhag also has two Extended Classrooms (ECRs) at Lungo under Laya Gewog and Mendrelthang under Lunana Gewogs to provide primary level education (upto class III) to children from villages that are far from presently established schools.

Gas Dzongkhag also boasts of three Early Child Care Development (ECCD) centers in Gas Primary School, Laya Lower Secondary School and Bjishong Central School that provide basic education and child care development program to children between three and five years. These ECCDs are staffed with well motivated facilitators providing professional ECCD services.

The table below demonstrates schools with student strengths and education staff who provide education in the Dzongkhag.

Table 5. Number of Teachers and Schools (*Numbers*)

SN	School	No. of Teacher	Supporting Staff	No. of Student	
				Male	Female
1	Bjishong CS	35	26	257	242
2	Laya LSS	15	8	70	67
3	Gas PS	13	5	85	54
4	Lunana PS	6	3	29	9
5	Lungo ECR	2	0	9	9
6	Mendrelthang ECR	2	0	9	12
7	Gas ECCD	2	0	21	20
8	Laya ECCD	2	0	18	10
9	Bjishong ECCD	1	0	19	7
Total		73	42	517	430

Health

Health is one of the priority sectors in the Dzongkhag and Gas has one BHU Grade I in Khatoed Gewog with one Doctor, one Dental Surgeon and one Drungtsho supported by well trained health staff. Gas BHU I also has an ambulance to provide emergency health services and

referrals to Punakha Hospital and Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH).

Khamaed, Laya and Lunana Gewogs have BHU II manned two Health Assistants (one male and one female HAs). Since Lunana is very far from Dzongkhag Administration separated by very treacherous routes, Lunana BHU II is yet to be placed with female health staff to provide equal health services to women in the Gewog. We have five Out Reach Clinics (ORCs) to provide health services to communities living far away from BHUs.

Following table presents health infrastructure in the Dzongkhag.

Table 6. Type of Health facilities (Numbers)

Facility Type	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hospitals	0	0	0	0
BHU grade I	1	1	1	1
BHU grade II	3	3	3	3
ORC with shed	4	4	4	4
ORC without shed	1	1	1	1
Indigenous Unit	1	1	1	1
Ambulance	1	1	1	1

Following table presents number of health staff present in the Dzongkhag.

Table 7. Health personnel by type (Numbers)

Health personnel	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Doctors (MBBS/Specialist) ¹	1	1	1	1	1
Drungtshos (Indigenous Physicians)	1	1	1	1	1*
Clinical Officers	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant Clinical Officers (ACO)	0	0	0	0	0
Health Assistant	8	7	7	8	8
Basic Health Worker	0	0	0	0	0
Physiotherapists	0	0	0	0	0
Nurses (Assistant Nurse/GNM/B.Sc. Nurse)	2	2	2	4	4
Sowa Menpas	1	1	1	1	1
Pharmacists	1	1	1	1	1
Technicians	3	0	1	2	2
Medical Lab. Technologists	0	0	0	0	0

Administration & Supporting Staffs (Ward boys/Ward Girls, Caretaker, Cleaners, Drivers, etc.)	5	5	5	7	7
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**on long term study*

Despite Dzongkhag's efforts to provide prompt health services, Gasa Dzongkhag experiences unfortunate Maternal and child mortalities almost annually especially in Laya and Lunana Gewogs. This is primarily because our communities live in extremely harsh climatic condition and highly dispersed location with their Yaks making difficult for our dedicated health personnels to reach and provide basic medical services. Emergency medical evacuations are often aborted due to bad weather conditions in places where our Yak herders live. Dzongkhag is however, trying our best to reduce mortalities through vigorous advocacy programs and these advocacies will be continues to prevent unfortunate incidents of mortalities.

Table 8. Sanitation Facility coverage by type (2012-2016)

(Percent)

Facility	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Latrine	91.9	86	88	86.1	96
Water Supply	91.4	98	98.6	96.9	n.a
Household with Vegetable Garden	76.6	69	69.2	68	86.3

As presented in the table above, in 2016, 96 % of the households had latrine and over 96 % have access to clean water supply. 86.3 % of the households have vegetable garden to supplement nutrition.

Livestock

The practice of rearing dairy and poultry along with agriculture continues to be an integral part of folklore for the people of Gasa Dzongkhag. Unlike in lowland areas, two northern Gewogs are entirely depended on highland animals for their livelihood. These activities have contributed not only to the food container and draught animal power but also by maintaining ecological balance. Their existing tradition, culture, and religious beliefs have also contributed to the continuance of these activities.

As per the livestock population census conducted in 2016, Gasa Dzongkhag has 1116 cattle, 6553 Yaks, 2224 horses, 2080 poultry, 189 cats and 218 dogs. While cattle and yaks provide dairy products to our communities, horses are one of the main source of income to the communities in Laya and Lunana Gewog through provision of transportation services to tourists along the trekking routes falling in the Dzongkhag.

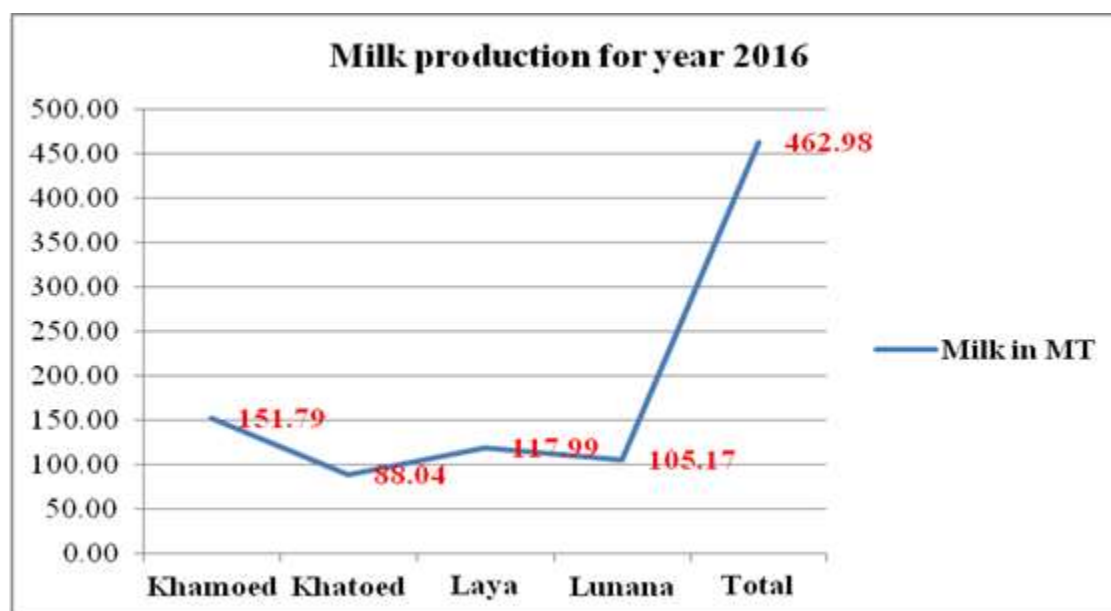
Table 9. Livestock Population (Source: Livestock Census 2016)

Gewog	Species					
	Cattle	Yak	Horse	Poultry	Cats	Dogs
Khamoed	788	0	102	1038	107	31
Khatoed	277	0	51	838	21	28
Laya	51	3571	1532	0	61	159
Lunana	0	2982	539	204	0	0
Total	1116	6553	2224	2080	189	218

Milk Production

In line with Government's objective of enhancing food security, Gasa Dzongkhag has been able to increase milk production achieving the Annual Performance Target 2016-2017. The line graph below shows that overall milk production of Gasa Dzongkhag is 462.98 MT against the target on 397 MT.

The table below indicates that Laya Gewog contributed highest volume of milk production with 117.99 MT, followed by Khamoed 151.79 MT, Lunana 105.17 MT and Khatoed 88.04 MT respectively. The volume of milk production has directly linkage with number of milch cows, milk yield per lactation and also species of milking cows. The milking cows in Gasa Dzongkhag can be segregated in two category namely jersey breed cows for Khatoed and Khamoed and yaks for Laya and Lunana Gewogs..

Table 10. Gewog wise milk production 2016

Egg Production

In Gasa Dzongkhag, poultry production is steadily increasing with support to communities in four community and Gewog Administrations. In recent past, eggs were brought in from Punakha

or other nearby Dzongkhags for consumption. Today, with promotion of small scale poultry farms, the Dzongkhag has 20 poultry farms with 1703 improved birds and also one native poultry farm established mainly for rural nutrition promotion. Table below shows poultry farms established in Gasa.

Table 12. List of Poultry Farms

Sl.No	Name	Gewog	Village	No. of birds
1	PassaDorji	Khatoed	Zamina	450
2	Chado	Khatoed	Mani	200
3	Dem	Khatoed	Thangkha	5
4	Tshechu	Khatoed	Beychu	5
5	Gaki	Khatoed	Beychu	7
6	Passa	Khatoed	Nuchukha	15
7	Sangay	Khatoed	nepkha	10
8	DorjiDema	Khatoed	Datakha	15
9	Tshering Om	Khatoed	Beychu	4
10	Senazam	Khatoed	Tshebgang	3
11	Damcho	Khatoed	Datakha	5
12	Karma Dem	Khatoed	Tsherikha	3
13	PemZam	Khatoed	Beychu	10
14	Sangay	Khatoed	Beychu	7
15	YesheyWangchuk	Khamoed	Damji	315
16	Wangchuk	Khamoed	Jabesa	22
17	TsheringDorji	Khamoed	Damji	240
18	Rinchen	Khamoed	Jasdingkha	100
19	Namgay	Khamoed	Gathana	40
20	BijshongCentral School	Khamoed	Bjishong	247
Total				1703

The egg production for the year 2016-2017 was 41568 dozen again the Annual Performance Target of 33333 dozens. The performance achievement comes to 124.7 % which were attributed by backyard and semi-commercial farms in Khamaed and Khatoed Gewogs. In the following year, the egg production is expected to increase steadily as the Dzongkhag has supported School Livestock Program at Bjishong Central School. Besides, the native poultry birds were distributed to the farmers of Khamoed Gewog for rural nutrient supplement to have protein rich food.

In addition, poultry birds were distributed to communities of Luanana Gewog which contributed in fall in egg price to Nu.35/egg from Nu.50/egg in the Gewog. Making eggs more affordable in remote and far-flung Gewogs like Lunana.

Biogas Technology

Based on the Annual Performance Target, the sector has target to construct 3 numbers of biogas as part of new technology introduction to the Dzongkhag. Surprisingly, Dzongkhag achieved

more than the intended target. Biogas plant was constructed with the joint support from Bhutan Biogas Program, Department of Livestock, MoAF and Dzongkhag. A total of 7 biogas plants (6 in Khamoed and 1 in Khatoed) were installed in the Dzongkhag. In addition to subsidy received from the Bhutan Biogas Program, the Dzongkhag had also supported in term of materials and technical interventions.

List of bio gas plants installed are as below.

Table 13. List of bio gas plants

Sl. No	Name	Village	Chiwog	Gewog
1.	Pema	Churawog	Jabesa	Khamoed
2.	TsheringDorji	Damji	Damji	Khamoed
3.	Pasang	Damji	Damji	Khamoed
4.	Dorji	Zachukha	Yemina	Khamoed
5.	NamgayLham	Yemina	Yemina	Khamoed
6.	TandinPem	Gathana	Yemina	Khamoed
7.	Dem	Thangka	Tserikha	Khatoed

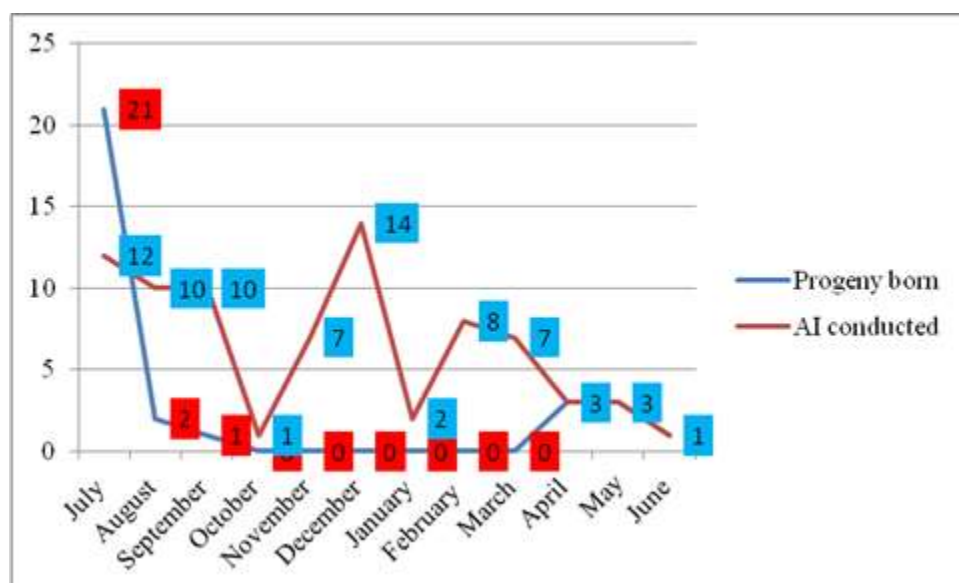
Farmers were sensitized on the benefits of biogas which includes reduction in fossil and fuel wood consumption, expenditures on the purchase of LPG gas, and mitigates greenhouse gas emissions. It also reduces smoke-borne diseases particularly acute respiratory infections and improves sanitation and hygiene in the villages. As expected, the beneficiaries have already experienced the advantages of biogas and welcoming more in the subsequent year which will contribute achieve the concept of green livestock farming.

Dairy Breed Improvement

One of the mandates of the livestock sector is to promote and enhance the improve breed for better productivity and ensure sound economic returns. Accordingly to the APA, the sector was assigned outsourcing 40 dairy cows to enhance milk production and promote dairy production in the Dzongkhag. Gasa Dzongkhag supplied 45 jersey cows in 2016-17 which is expected to increase milk production in the following year.

In addition, two AI (Artificial Insemination) centers are under operation for the dairy breed promotion which is also supported by supply of breeding bulls in far-flung locations.

Performance of Artificial Insemination in the Dzongkhag

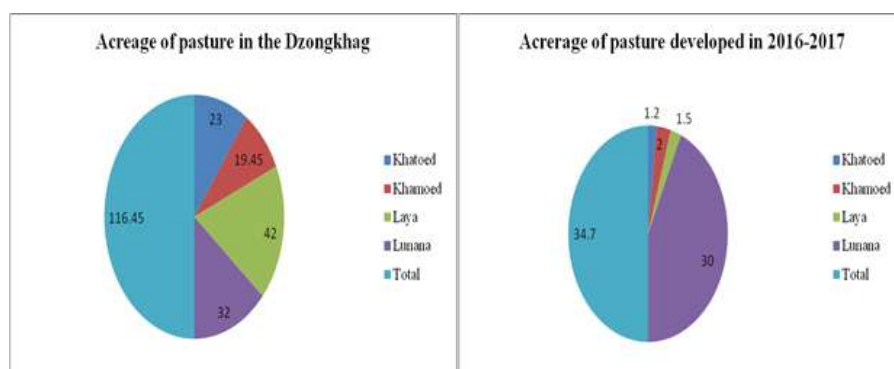


The table above shows the correlation between the Artificial Insemination (AI) conducted and numbers of progeny born from July 2016-June 2017. This record is from two AI centers of Khatoed and Khamoed and generally it can be concluded that the AI centers have performed poorly in upgrading the dairy breed. One good thing is that during this period a total of 31 progenies were born and out of which 23 were female calves which will add in the dairy sector. It can be noted from the graph above that progeny will be more in this ongoing year as they have conducted considerable numbers of AI.

Feed and Fodder Production

As green fodder plays a major role in milk production, pasture development is one of the priorities in the Dzongkhag. Currently Gasa Dzongkhag has a total of 116.45 acres mostly the temperate pasture for the livestock. In FY 2016-2017, total of 34.7 acres of new pastures were developed. Pasture development was mainly focused to combat winter fodder shortage for yak and to ensure enough roughage is fed at the time of snowing.

Overview of improved pasture in the Dzongkhag



Support on Dairy Shed Construction

Dairy cows need to be well-housed to harness optimum genetic potential through creation of ideal environment and enhance animal welfare. Gasa Dzongkhag has good stock of dairy cattle and the feeding management system is changing from free forest grazing to semi-stall over the years. Nonetheless, the dairy production infrastructure are still lacking behind despite the improved dairy cows they have. To address dairy housing problem, Dzongkhag sector supplied with shed construction materials to 22 the needy farmers of Khamaed and Khatoed Gewogs. It is expected to promote animal welfare and also enhance clean milk production up to genetic production capacity. Dzongkhag also supplied towels and aluminum buckets as the first step for clean milk production. List of beneficiaries are as listed in the table below.

Table 14. Distribution list of dairy shed construction materials

Sl.No	Name	Village	Sl.No	Name	Village
1	Peday	Zomina	11	Pem Lham	Amochu
2	Domchoe Dem	Lamtaba	12	TandinGyem	Jabesa
3	Nado	Damji	13	Gemba	Jabesa
4	Gyeltshen	Khailo	14	Chenzom	Panikong
5	Wangdi	Zomina	15	Pem	Yedo
6	PassangLham	Zomina	16	GyemLham	Damji
7	Pasang	Kabjilangkha	17	Sera	Gayza
8	Seka	Jabesa	18	GyemGyentshen	Barsha
9	Dekiyangdon	Batsa	19	Kaka	Remi
10	Jangchuk	Potogang	21	TsheringZam	Bachong
			22	Passang	Lungchokha

Agriculture

Organic products certification

Since Gasa Dzongkhag was declared as an organic in 2004 by the then Ministry of Agriculture, farmers have refrained from using synthetic fertilizers and plant protection chemicals



Fig. Three certified organic products

considering the environmental and health benefits in addition other associated benefiting principles. However, not a single product was certified as organic which hindered the sale of organic produce in getting comparatively higher price in absence of organic certificate from the competent authority.

In order to overcome the said problem and also to contribute towards achieving the National vision of becoming organic by 2020, the Dzongkhag Administration in 2015 initiated the formation of Gasa Rangshin Sonam Detshen in Khatoed Gewog, comprising of 50 members officially registered with the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Corporative (DAMC) and also with the National Organic Program (NOP) with an aim of producing certified organic potato and Garlic to start with.

The group members fully complied with the required norms, procedures and guidelines for certification and finally their Potato, Garlic and Carrot products have been successfully certified



Fig.Certified Organic Certificate

as organic vide certificate No.BOCS/Gasa/GP/ of the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regularity Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests on 10 October 2016.

Thus, Gasa Dzongkhag in close collaboration with Department of Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC), initiated contract marketing for certified organic products through conducting

meetings with proprietors/managers and representatives of high-end hotels and institutions such as schools, hospitals and with private booths. Gasa Rangshin Sonam Detshen now supplies organic vegetables to these markets in Thimphu.

Trial Paddy plantation in Khatoed Gewog

Khatoed Gewog is traditionally associated with wheat, barley and buckwheat basically indicating it's higher and chiller climate unfit for paddy. It was tried once about 12 years ago but had to discontinue due to too much depredation of crops by wild animals.



Fig.Paddy plantation in Baychu village

After the installation of electric fencing in Gasa Dzongkhag our farmers have started to experience the benefit of electric fencing where farmers need not have to guard as it was very effective of electric fence in guarding fields from wild animals. After the introduction of electric fencing, paddy was cultivated in Baychu for the first time after the first trial. It was reported that the paddy field was never visited by any wild animals except for birds although the field was in the middle of a forest.

With a crop cut result of about 1930 kgs/acre, the yield appears to be above national average and which was very exciting for the farmer and Dzongkhag as the farming was done completely natural without any chemicals.



Fig.Paddy harvest

Royal Highland Festival-2016

The first ever Royal Highland Festival graced by His Majesty The King was organized from 16–18 October 2016 at Langothang at Laya Gewog, Gasa Dzongkhag. The festival was born out of His Majesty's concerns on the emerging challenges and opportunities of highlands. Besides the Layaps and Lunaps of Gasa, highlanders of nine other northern Dzongkhags: Haa, Paro, Thimphu, WangduePhodrang, Trongsa, Bumthang, Lhuentse, Trashiyangtse and Trashigang also participated to showcase and exchange their yak based farming lifestyles. The event was mainly supported by Department of Livestock, Department of Forest and Park Services under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the Office of Gyalpoi Zimpoen and Royal Bhutan Army. In addition, many other government, non government, private companies and individual also rendered their invaluable support.

The objective of the Royal Highland Festival 2016 was to highlight and create awareness among tourists and Bhutanese on the yak based livelihood, existence of nomadic culture and serene environment of Laya for paying visits. The festival was expected to encourage and motivate the highlanders in preserving and further strengthening their yak farming tradition perpetually through enhanced income. The festival was also expected to create and provide new economic opportunities to the highlanders by increasing and developing home-stay facilities, value adding in unique culture and showcasing the diverse yak related events.

At the higher level, the festival sought to promote and publicize potential of Bhutanese Highlands as tourist hotspot destinations characterized by challenging and breath taking trekking routes, rich and diverse flora and fauna, age old unique culture and traditions of Highlands and Highlander.

The Royal Highland Festival aimed to achieve the following:

- Highlight the importance of the highlanders and their lifestyle for the Nation's Social, Political, Economic Well-being and Security.
- Conduct stakeholder consultation for the development of highlands and highlanders' yak based livelihoods through sustainable income.
- Preserve and promote unique culture, arts and crafts of the highlanders.
- Promote and attract tour operators in developing highlands as hot spot destination for tourist.
- Provide platform for Bhutanese Highlanders to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices.



Fig. Yaks gathered for cattle show



Fig. Highland animals in parade



Fig. Strongman competition

Snowman Run

As a part and parcel of the Royal Highland Festival, the 53 kms two stages cross country race from Gasa Tshachu to Laya was conducted which was very challenging to participants. 26 women and 82 men took part the run with 70-year-old from America and the youngest was a 15-year- old student from Thimphu.

Foreign Minister Lyonpo Damcho Dorji flagged off the run on 15th October 2016 at Gasa Tsachu at 9:00 AM with traditional Marchang ceremony, special prayers to local deity and recitation of Zhabten to His Majesty. Yangphel Tours and Travels provided technical and logistics support to runners and organizers. Tashi Group of Company sponsored the supplies for the feeding stations.

Human Resources in Gasa Dzongkhag

Gasa Dzongkhag Administration is resourced with total of 79 officials including Dzongdag and Dzongrab. Following table show staff strength in the Dzongkhag Administration.

Table 15. Human Resource Summary – Dzongkhag Administration

sl.no	Sector	No. of Staff	Remarks
1	Education	2	
2	RNR	4	
3	Engineer	15	
4	Health	2	
5	Accounts	7	One staff on long term study
7	Land Record	4	
8	Civil	42	
9	Election	3	
Total		79	

Meritorious Civil Service Award Recipients for Bronze Medal for Year 2016

Eight officials were awarded with Bronze Medals in 2016 for their dedicated service to the Tsawa Sum. Six officials were awarded with Bronze medals for their 10 years service and two Silver medals were awarded to two officials for their 20 years dedicated service.

Table below demonstrates the officials who received their medals.

Table 16. List of Civil Servant recipients Bronze Medal for Year 2016

Sl.no	Name	EID No.	Position Title
1	Sonam Thinley	200509005	Planning Officer
2	Phuntsho Tshering	200607030	Sr. ICT Associate
3	Sangay Rinchen	200508100	Sr. Store Keeper
4	Shacha Gyeltshen	200607282	Asst. Lab Technician
5	Choki	200507217	Asst. Engineer
6	Wangchen Dorji	200601240	Teacher -I

Table 17. List of Civil Servant recipients Silver Medal for Year 2016

Sl.no	Name	EID.No	Position Title
1	Kinzang	9509017	Officiating Census and Registration Officer
2	Sherub Gyeltshen	9507298	Deputy Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer

Staff Promotions in 2016-2017

In order to keep our staff motivated and enhance their efficiency in public service delivery all staff under Dzongkhag are promoted based on the number of years served and their Performance Evaluation (PE) ratings. In June 2016 nine Dzongkhag officials and 12 officials were promoted on January 2017 by the Dzongkhag Human Resource Committee.

Table below shows list of officials promoted in 2016-17.

Table 18. List of Staff promoted on July, 2016

Sl. No	Name	Before Promotion	After Promotion
1	Tshering Lhadon	Teacher – II	Teacher – I
2	Rinchen Dorji	Asst. DHO - III	ADHO - II
3	Yonten Dorji	Sr.ES – III	Sr. ES – II
4	Sherab Chophel	GAO – II	GAO – I
5	Jochu	GAO – III	GAO – II
6	Jigme Rinzin	ES – II	ES – I
7	Tshering Samdrup	ES – II	ES – I
8	Yeshe Wangdi	ES – II	ES – I
9	Damber Kumar Kharka	Driver – III	Driver-II

Table 19. List of Staff promoted on January, 2017

Sl.no	Name	Before Promotion	After Promotion
1	Hemant Gurung	Asst. Accounts Officer	Accounts Officer
2	Kinzang	Admin. Asst. II	Admin. Asst I
3	Namgay Tenzin	Surveyor IV	Surveyor III
4	Ngawang Namgyel	Driver III	Driver II
5	Dhan Maya Tamang	Junior Engineer	Junior Engineer IV
6	Sherub Dorji	Sr. Technician III	Sr. Technician II
7	Deki Wangmo	Asst. Nurse III	Asst. Nurse II
8	Shacha Gyeltshen	Asst. Lab Technician	Lab Technician
9	Karma Tshetrim	Teacher II	Teacher I
10	Dorji Phub	Teacher II	Teacher I
11	Kinga	Teacher II	Teacher I
12	Kezang Choden	Admin. Asst. III	Admin. Asst. II

Transfer of Dzongkhag staff

As per the civil service norms, annually, civil servants are transferred from Gasa Dzongkhag to other Dzongkhags and some civil servants join Gasa Dzongkhag. In 2016-17, 14 Dzongkhag officials including Sr. Dzongrab were transferred to other Offices from Gasa Dzongkhag Administration. Since Forestry sector was merged with Divisional Forest Offices and National Parks, majority of civil servants transferred from Gasa Dzongkhag were forestry sector staff who were transferred to Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) at Damji.

Eleven civil servants joined Gasar Dzongkhag Administration in 2016-17 from other Dzongkhags

Table below shows the lists of outgoing and incoming civil servants in Gasar Dzongkhag in 2016-17.

Table 20. Transfer-Outgoing

sl.no	Name	Designation	From	To
1	Deki Wangmo	Asst. Nurse III	Damji BHU-II	Bajo, Wangdue
2	Dr. Sonam Wangchuk	GDMO	Gasar BHU-I	JDWNRH, Thimphu
3	Chewang Jurmi	Sr. Dzongrab	GasarDzongkhag	ThimphuDzongkhag
4	Kinley Dorji	DKO	GasarDzongkhag	MoE
5	Nima Wangchuk	ICT Officer	GasarDzongkhag	SamdrupJongkhar
6	Dorji Tenzin	Asst. HRO	GasarDzongkhag	JDWNRH
7	Sonam Wangchuk	Accounts Asst.	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
8	Namgay	Sr.DzFO	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
9	Sangay Tenzin	Forest Ranger I	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
10	Sherub Tenzin	Forest Ranger II	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
11	Rupa Rai	Sr. Forester	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
12	Deki Wangmo	Asst. Nurse III	GasarDzongkhag	Bajo, Wangdue
13	Sonam Thinley	Forest Ranger II	GasarDzongkhag	JDNP, Damji, Gasar
14	Namgay Tenzin	Surveyor	GasarDzongkhag	NLCS

Table 21. Transfer-Incoming

sl.no	Name	Designation	To	From
1	Sonam Choden	Radiographer	Gasar BHU-I	SamtseDzongkhag
2	Sonam Dorji	Lab. Technician	Gasar BHU-I	ParoDzongkhag
3	Rinzin Dema	Sr. AdmAsst IV	GasarDzongkhag	PunakhaDzongkhag
4	Dorji Wangda	Sr. AdmAsst IV	GasarDzongkhag	PunakhaDzongkhag
5	Yangchen	Adm. Asst. III	GasarDzongkhag	HaaDzongkhag
6	Sangay Dorji	Sr. AdmAsst IV	GasarDzongkhag	TsirangDzongkhag
7	Karma	Accounts Officer	GasarDzongkhag	WangdueDzongkhag
8	Thinley Jamtsho	ADLO	GasarDzongkhag	Trashigang
9	Choeki Wangchuk	ADAO	GasarDzongkhag	WangdueDzongkhag
10	Loday Jamtsho	Store Asst.	GasarDzongkhag	Trashiyangste
11	Leki Tshewang	Sr. Planning Officer	GasarDzongkhag	ChukhaDzongkhag

In addition, 26 new staff also joined Gasar Dzongkhag Administration on new appointment. New civil servants placed in Gasar Dzongkhag from other central agencies includes health staff like General Dental Surgeon, General Dzongkhag Medical Officer, Staff nurse and HAs, new Gewog Administrative Officer of Laya Gewog, drivers and supporting staff recruited by Gasar Dzongkhag Administration.

Table below show list of new officials and supporting staff who joined Gasar Dzongkhag Administration in 2016-17.

Table 22. New Appointment

sl.no	Name	Designation	To
1	Dr. Kuenzang Tshoki	GDD Surgeon	Gasa BHU-I
2	Sangay Dorji	Staff Nurse III	Gasa BHU-I
3	Sonam Lhamo	HA III	Laya BHU-II
4	Ugyen Thinley	HA III	Laya BHU-II
5	Pema Singye	GAO II	LayaGeog
6	Gyeltshen Wangdi	Driver	KhamoedGeog
7	Damcho Dorji	Driver	KhatoedGeog
8	Tandin Phuntsho	Driver	LayaGeog
9	Dr. Tandin Om	GDMO	Gasa BHU-I
10	Kinley Choki	GAO II	LunanaGeog
11	Chandra Mann Nesor	Caretaker	Gasa BHU-I
12	Damcho Dorji	Caretaker	Damji BHU-II
13	Pelney	Driver III	LunanaGeog
14	Sangay Phurpa	Asst. HRO	GasaDzongkhag
15	Chencho Wangmo	Asst. ICTO	GasaDzongkhag
16	Kelzang Dorji	Land Inspector	GasaDzongkhag
17	Tshering Dorji	Land Record Asst.	GasaDzongkhag
18	Sangay Dorji	Driver	GasaDzongkhag
19	Dorji Khandu	Driver	GasaDzongkhag
20	Tshering Bidha	Gardener	GasaDzongkhag
21	Damber Bdr. Chetteri	Misungpa	GasaDzongkhag
22	Deki Wangmo	Caretaker	Gasa Guest House
23	Sonam Choden	Wet Sweeper	GasaTsachu
24	Ngawang Namgyel	Dry Sweeper	GasaTsachu
25	Dorji Chedup	Bang NgaDungmi	GasaDzongkhag
26	Rinzin Gyeltshen	Driver	GasaDzongkhag

Meanwhile, three staff also resigned from Gasa Dzongkhag Administration in 2016-17 who either opted for new and better jobs in other offices or on personal reasons. Following table specifies the list of staff who resigned from Gasa Dzongkhag in 2016-17.

Table 23. Resigned

sl.no	Name	Designation	From
1	Somraj Ghalley	Cook	Bjishong CS
2	Sangay Dendup	Driver	15/2/2017
3	Ugyen Wangchuk	Jalingphumi	15/7/2007

Formulation of 12th Five Year Plan of Gasu Dzongkhag

Gasu Dzongkhag in preparation of the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) has convened several consultation meetings with the public, Local Government Functionaries Sector heads and other relevant stake holders. As per the 12th FYP preparation guidelines developed by Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) and advice from Local Development Division (LDD), we have prepared eleven Local Government Key Result Areas (LGKRAs) which is aligned to sixteen National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) and eleven LGKRAs . We are in the process of a comprehensive 12th FYP matrix in line with sixteen the eleven LGKRAs.

It was observed that there is twofold increase in the resources for the 12th FYP of Gasu Dzongkhag compared to the resources allocated in the 11th Five Year Plan. Brief summary of LGKRAs, resource allocation criteria and tentative resource allocation is a below.

Table 24. Local Government Key Result Areas (LGKRAs)

S N	NKRAs	LGKRAs	Tentative KPIs
1	NKRA 1, 2 & 11	LGKRA 1. Gainful employment created and Local economy enhanced	11
2	NKRA 3	LGKRA 2. Food and nutrition security enhanced	10
3	NKRA 4	LGKRA 3. Community Health enhanced & water security ensured	19
4	NKRA 8	LGKRA 4. Quality of education & skills improved	10
5	NKRA 5 & 6	LGKRA 5. Culture & Traditions preserved and promoted	6
6	NKRA 7	LGKRA 6. Livability, Safety and Sustainability of Human Settlements Improved	17
7	NKRA 10	LGKRA 7. Transparent, effective and efficient public service delivery enhanced	18
8	NKRA 13 & 16	LGKRA 8. Democracy & decentralization strengthened	5
9	NKRA 9 & 10	LGKRA: 9. Carbon Neutral, Climate and disaster resilient development enhanced	7
10	NKRA 14	LGKRA 10. Gender Equality Promoted and Women and Girls Empowered	6
11	NKRA 12	LGKRA 11. Livelihood of Highland communities enhanced	4
		Total KPIs	113

Table 25. Criteria for Resource Allocation Formula

SN	Criteria	10th Plan Formula	11th Plan Formula	Revised New Formula
1	Population	70%	35%	35%
2	Poverty	25%	0%	-
3	Area	5%	10%	10%
4	Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	-	45%	45%
5	Transport Cost Index TCI)	-	10%	10%

Table 26. Tentative Resource allocation for Four Gewogs under GasaDzongkhag

Dzongkhag /Gewog	Equal share in Million	Resource Allocation (Nu. In Millions)				12th FYP Outlay	11 FYP Outlay	% Increase
		Population	Area	Poverty	Transportation			
Khamey	5.000	5.121	2.691	0.883	5.442	19.138	13.330	44%
Khatoe	5.000	0.938	5.181	0.004	5.866	16.990	11.609	46%
Laya	5.000	5.364	17.436	1.024	7.342	36.166	26.978	34%
Lunana	5.000	3.917	31.035	0.321	10.294	50.567	38.519	31%
Dzongkhag	300.000	38.12	136.98	122.400	140.24	737.74	379.887	94%
Total	320.00	53.46	193.323	124.632	169.184	860.601	470.323	

Dzongkhag Development Grant (DDG)

Dzongkhag Development Grant (DDG) is one of the mechanisms in translating the overarching motto of Gasa Dzongkhag **“Good to Great Gasa”** into action. With the introduction of DDG under the benevolent initiative of the current Government, each Dzongkhag has embarked in bringing additional infrastructure development through empowerment of Local Government’s (LG) authority in managing budgets at its disposal on need basis unlike the annual grants which is ultimately decided by the Department of National Budgets (DNB) during the annual budget discussion. DDG has immensely contributed in actual implementation of the decentralization policy to the Local Governments.

Under the DDG modus-operandi, Gasa Dzongkhag has established Production Center that operates water bottling plant to primarily boost the local economy through job creation, revenue generation and import substitution. Besides, DDG greatly benefited Gasa Dzongkhag in conducting the Royal Highland Festival (RHF)- 2016 which was graced by His Majesty the King as the annual plan approved by DNB budget fell way short of actual expenses incurred to conduct the Mega festival of such magnitude and national importance.

RHF-2016 conducted through DDG had large scale benefit to the communities of Gasa Dzongkhag. RHF provided avenues for communities to create additional rural income through sale of local products, farm house and restaurant services, and porter services availed by tourists and visitors who attended the function.

Further, in line the with DDG guideline, the Dzongkhag has allocated 10% of the total grant for the ‘Construction of Choekhang for Meonlam Chenmo’ during the financial year 2016-2017.

Gasa Dzongkhag, therefore, has used the fund in most efficient and effective manner during the financial year 2016-2017 under the provision and guidelines of DDG.

Annual Good to Great Gasa Award

One underlying reason to start the vision of Good to Great Gasa is to boost up the morale and drive of the civil servants. While the civil servants of Gasa may not be much different from the

rest civil servants in terms of motivation to walk the extra mile or burn extra energy in terms of their work, but the given uniquely difficult situation in Gasa, the case could be worsen.

In general, there was never a satisfactory system that recognized and rewarded the hard worker and punished the lazy and non performer. Such a system encouraged and promoted the lazy and non performer and discouraged the hard workers. These conditions must have contributed to the flourishing of the culture of complacency of the civil servants.

So, we instituted the annual GGG award to recognize the 3 individuals who had contributed the most to the vision of Good to Great Gasa for that year. Therefore this award was open to all, though some bonus points were reserved for those nominees who are resident in Gasa Dzongkhag. The first 3 recipients of this awards were all civil servants, viz. Pema Dorji, Principal of Gasa Primary School, Namgay Dorji, teacher in Lunana, Kinley Gyeltshen, Project Manager of the Dzong Conservation Project. This award was expected to trigger and spark off some new interest to work harder.

The award carries a plaque bearing the GGG logo; a certificate of Good to Great Gasa; and a cash of Nu 5000. With the time the cash prize is expected to increase. The first Annual Good to Great Gasa Awards were awarded during the 2016 National Day Celebration.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY 2016-JUNE 2017 EVENTS

Gasa Dzongkhag Administration has observed some important events which of importance to the Dzongkhag. Some of the important events that happened in 2016-17 in Gasa Dzongkhag are as below;

- Dzongda signed 2016/17 APA 2016 with sector heads and Dzongrab signed-2nd August 2016
- Organic certification for potato and garlic received-10 October 2016
- Photo exhibition on Gasa at the Mountain Echoes-26 to 28 August 2016
- The Snowman Run – 15 to 16 October 2016
- Royal Highland Festival-16 to 18 October 2016
- Dzongrab Chewang Jurme left on transfer to Thimphu – 22 November 2016
- Gasa Going Clean launched – 9 December 2016
- Annual Good to Great Gasa Award launched – 17 December 2016
- Community Based Scouts instituted – 17 December 2016
- Gasa Better Business Committee formed – 31 December 2016
- Sertoe for Dzong Utse installed – 18 December 2016
- Salang Tendril for ex-uniform force's Chorten – 18 December 2016
- First snowfall of 2016/17- 26 December 2016
- DzongrabSonamWangdi joined us on transfer from Trahiyangtse – 22December 2016
- Royal Initiated Village Skills Development Programme for 43 Lunaps in TTI Khuruthang, Punakha – 10 December 2016 to 21 December 2017.
- Punakha – Gasa – Punakha Bus service – 6 January 2017
- 2017 Youth meet – 20 to 21 January 2017
- Completed distributing diary shed construction material in Khatoed and KhamoedGewogs – 7 February 2017
- MOU signed between Gasa Dzongkhag and 11 hoteliers to outline the commitment of the two Parties to buy and sell certified organic products – 9 February 2017
- Distributed the aluminum milking bucket for production of clean milk- 10 February 2017
- Out reach clinic done for the people of Laya Gewog – 14 February 2017
- Installation of Bio-gas technology – 20 February 2017

- Gasa Dzongkhag celebrated the 37th birth anniversary of His Majesty the king – 21 February 2017
- Led by Lam Neten, Gasa Rabdey offered Kurim for the long life and happiness of His Majesty, the Gyeltshuen and the member of the Royal Family – 25 February 2017
- Observed the international women's day – 8 March 2017
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Damcho Dorji and Ap Babu Gyeltshen donated 3 statue to Tsechudra – 9 March 2017
- Spotted Black necked crane at Tshebgang and Baychu area under Khatoed Gewog – 10 March 2017
- Ven. Dorji Lopen met with the Tsampas meditating at Zabso-goenpa- 10 March 2017
- Heavy snowfall measuring more than 10 cm high – 11 March 2017
- Dzongkhag education conference-towards excellence held at Jawathang – 14-22 March 2017
- Cleaning campaign done by the team of health professionals led by the Dr.K P Tshering, Director KGUMBS at Jawathang – 17 March 2017
- Orientation and placement of new teachers for Gasa Dzongkhag – 21 March 2017
- Appointment of 1st two female civil servant (teacher) for Lunana Gewog – 21 March
- Bjishong Central school celebrated the 10th foundation day – 23 March 2017
- Laya Telecom network restoration done – 25 March 2017
- Driglam-namzha training for the sector heads done at Wangdue – 29 March 2017
- Late. Lam NetenKuenzangNamgyel passed away – 31 March 2017
- Inaugrated ECCD centre at LayaGewog – 1 April 2017
- GasaTsechu – 2-6 April 2017
- Cleaning campaign done at Jawathang area by the GNHC team led by the Secretary – 12 April 2017
- Organized the mass cleaning camp for the 9th of every preceding month – 12 April 2017
- Annual school Health programme done by Gasa BHU-1 – 17 April 2017
- BY- LG election was done for Laya Gewog – 18 April 2017
- Completed roof painting for the Mani-dungkhor at lower market – 22 April 2017
- Observed the national Teachers Day – 2 May
- Hon'ble Foreign Minister Lyonpo Damcho Dorji inaugurated a farm shop and gifted 2 mini power tillers to Lunana Gewog- 3 May 2017

- A team from RCSC led by the director Aum Tashi Pem talked about the updation of BCSR 2012 – 4 May 2017
- Gasar Dzongkha joined the nation in observing the most sacred Zhabdrung Kuchoe – 5 May 2017
- 1st Moenlam Chenmo – 7-10 May 2017
- Health Service Center during Moenlam Chenmo led by the Medical officer – 7-10 May 2017
- Gasar Dzongkhag received 147 new chajasathram – 27 May 2017
- Gasar Dzongkhag joins the 3 days nationwide conduct of Population Housing Census, 2017 – 30 May to 1 June 2017

Conclusion

This Annual Report 2016-2017 of Gasa Dzongkhag tried to highlight some of developments to our readers on modern developments observed in Gasa Dzongkhag till now. It is our endeavor to further develop Gasa to the greatest heights possible, therefore the vision ‘Good to Great Gasa’ is being seriously pursued. We have also instituted Good to Great Gasa Fund to fund special out of plan activities. We have also instituted the annual “Good to Great Gasa Award” to recognized Outstanding Performers from all walks of life. We have also started the “Good to Great Gasa News and Views” an e-newsletter to inform ourselves and others on what’s happening in Gasa and it is also a platform for our staff to showcase their literary talents.

We thank all readers for going through the Annual Report 2016-2017 of Gasa Dzongkhag and hope the report succeeded in letting you know more about our Dzongkhag. Since it is our first attempt in coming up with such report, we are certain that our readers might have observed some rooms for improvement. In our continued effort to publish annual report, we will continue to improve in our successive reports in future.