

Annex 1: Concept Project Proposal – REDD+ Phase-IV (Revised)

Project Title	Empower Small Scale Bhutanese Farmers to Increase Crop Yields and Sustainable Livelihoods through Climate Smart Agriculture Approaches.
Overall Objective	To promote Climate Smart Agriculture and generate awareness on REDD+ and climate change related issues in Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts, Bhutan.
Target Groups	Identified Farmers and Schools of Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts, Bhutan
Implementing Org.	Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Thimphu, Bhutan
Donor	World Bank or Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines
Duration	4 Months (February 1 – May 31, 2020)
Total Project Cost	USD 22,157.71 (Nu.1,506,724.28.00) at the exchange rate of 1 USD = 68 Nu.

I. Background

Around 60% of the population in Bhutan depends on subsistence farming. Farm lands are mostly in hilly regions and in remote areas and sparsely scattered. Problems from steep slope agriculture arise mainly because 31% of farming is on land with more than 50% slope (NBSAP, 2014). Only 2.93% of the country's area is cultivated agriculture land (LCMP, 2010). Bhutanese farmers are still dependent on highly climate-sensitive agriculture, and delay in rain (monsoon) and long spell of dry season coupled with high temperature causes unpredicted distress to farmers who depend on rain.

Adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector in Bhutan remains a major current and future challenge. If Bhutan envisioned to achieve the National Goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ending poverty, achieving food security, promoting sustainable agriculture towards climate change adaptation and management of natural resources for sustainable utilization of ecosystem services interventions need to be implemented at a pace than what it is.

II. Rationale of Project Areas

Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts are one of the important working areas of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) since 2012, and are chosen to implement the REDD+ Phase-IV program on need based.

Chhukha District in the South West covers an area of 1,882.38 sq. km with elevations ranging from 200 to 3500m above sea level. It has a total arable land of 4.63 percent of the total land. The average landholding is 5.6 acres per household. Majority of the people are dependent on livestock and subsistence agricultural farming. Mandarin, potato and cardamom are the principal cash crops in the District. Despite having sufficient landholdings, farmers are poor and agricultural productivity is low due to lack of agricultural knowledge, rugged terrain, water shortage, climate change, human-wildlife conflicts and limited infrastructure for market access. While Zhemgang District in the Central has a total land area of 2421.74 sq. km. Zhemgang is considered as one of the least developed districts in the country and the livelihood for the people depends on agriculture and livestock farming. In recent years, vegetable and orange cultivation as a source of cash income has been quite encouraging. However, the existing problems include wide-spread poverty and food insecurity due to climate change, shortage of skilled and unskilled manpower, limited arable land, limited accessibility to market and out-migration of young and educated population causing high levels of illiteracy, infant and maternal mortality. In addition, solid waste management due to

increase in purchasing power and change in consumption habit of the communities, and poor access to sufficient clean water both for drinking and irrigation are major issues in both the Districts.

For the implementation intervention of the proposed project activities, Bayul-kuenza village (new site) in Chhukha District (55 farmers and 25 students), Tali, Kikar, Berti and Takabi villages in Zhemgang District (80 farmers) are selected.

III. Objectives

The overall objective is to promote Climate Smart Agriculture and generate awareness on REDD+ and climate change related issues in Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts, Bhutan. The specified objectives are:

- To create awareness on Climate Change, REDD+, Waste and Water Management for effective mitigation and adaptation,
- To build capacity of the farmers on climate resilient agro-ecological farming approaches through training (seed production, soil fertility and pest management, organic farming approaches and natural resource management).

IV. Project Time Frame

The proposed project and its identified activities will be initiated in the identified targeted project areas within duration of 4 months as reflected below. However, the time frame may change as per the donor's requirement.

Figure 1: Project Action Planning

No	ACTIVITIES	Months of 2020					
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1	Consultation with Local/Blocks and Communities						
2	Awareness and Advocacy on Climate Change, REDD+, Waste and Water Management to farmers and students in Chhukha District						
3	Awareness and Education on Climate Change, REDD+, Waste and Water Management to farmers in Zhemgang District						
4	Training on climate resilient agro-ecological farming practices (seed production, soil fertility and pest Management, Organic Agriculture Approach, NRM) to farmers of Chhukha District						
5	Training on climate resilient agro-ecological farming practices (seed production, soil fertility and pest Management, Organic Agriculture Approach, NRM) to farmers of Zhemgang District						
6	Monitoring of Project Progress						
7	Presentation of Project Outcomes to RSPN Management and REDD+ Unit/agriculture related office						
8	Project closing and final report submission to donor						
9	Auditing and audit report submission						

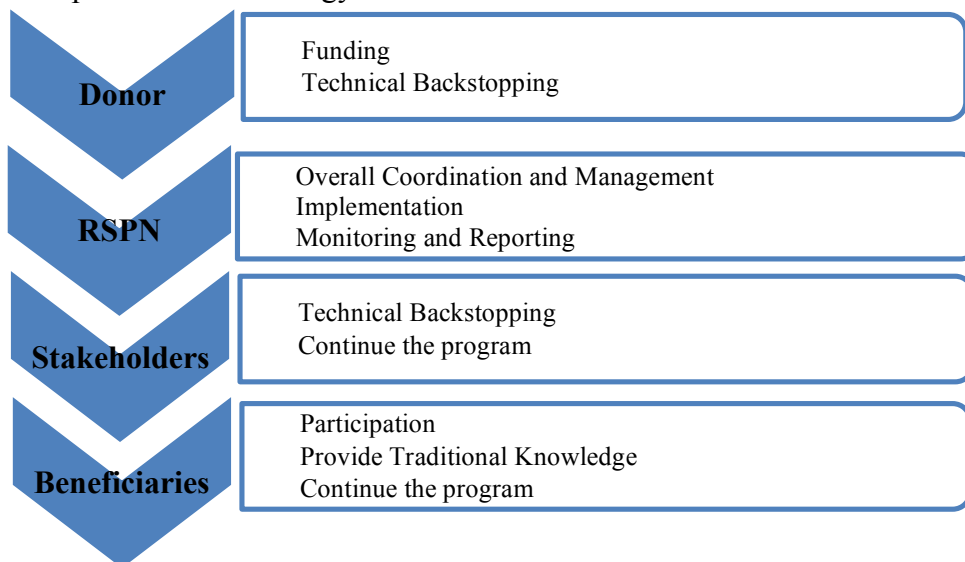
V. Description of the Activities

1. *Awareness and Advocacy of farmers and students:* This component will include sensitization of farmers and students of identified villages and schools under Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts on impacts of climate change, REDD+, waste and water management for sustainable utilization of ecosystem services interventions in their locality. This activity will be implemented by two Project Officers and Livelihood Division Chief of RSPN using pictorial PowerPoint, Stand Banners and Short Video Documentaries on climate change, waste and water in the national language (Dzongkha) and English .
2. *Capacity building of farmers on climate resilient agro-ecological farming approaches:* This component will include training of farmers of identified villages under Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts on climate resilient seed production, soil fertility and pest management, organic farming approaches and natural resource management as part of mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts. This activity will be implemented liaising with relevant Agriculture Extension Officers of the project areas and Organic Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, government of Bhutan.
3. *Participatory community-based climate resilient agriculture and nature resource management action planning and implementation:* The project team will facilitate the farmers to develop the simple action plan and resource mapping of their locality for sustainable management and utilization of ecosystem services. Based on the action plan, afforestation, watershed management and some simple activities on climate resilient agriculture will be carried out independently by the local communities while some will be done in collaboration with the Forestry and Agriculture Sectors of the government of the project areas.

VI. Methodology/Implementation Strategy

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature will lead the overall coordination, management and implementation of the proposed project activities. The activities will be carried out involving the local communities and concerned sectors and will use the technical experts from concerned sectors, departments and agencies.

Figure 2: Implementation Strategy



VII. Expected Results

The proposed project, in its entirety, is therefore designed to address the most urgent issues outlined thereby to sustain the rich ecosystem and maintaining the integrity and harmony between the health of the biosphere and human well-being, eventually contributing to the conservation goals of the country. Following are the expected results of the project in the long-run:

- Increase knowledge of the farmers and students on impacts of climate change, REDD+, waste and water management enhanced through awareness and advocacy programs.
- Livelihood of the farmers enhance through implementation and practice of agro-ecological farming techniques.
- Capacity and technical skills of the farmers on climate smart agriculture enhance through training.
- Food production increases due to the practice of climate smart agriculture techniques.
- Improve the status of the local environment through water and natural resources management programs.

Figure 3: Logical Framework of the Expected Results

Objectives	Indicators	Baseline	Final Target	Means of Verification	Impacts/Expected Results
Obj 1: To create awareness on climate change, waste and water management for effective mitigation and adaptation.	#Number of students and farmers sensitized on climate change, waste and water management.	#Basic knowledge on climate change, waste and water management	135 farmers and 25 students sensitized on climate change, waste and water management. Schools adopted a waste management system in the school. Farmers and schools are aware of basic water conservation measures.	#Awareness Report #Awareness Materials	1.Knowledge of the farmers and students on impacts of climate change, waste and water management enhanced through awareness and advocacy programs. 2.Livelihood of the farmers enhance through implementation and practice of agro-ecological farming techniques.
Obj 2: To build capacity of the farmers on climate resilient agro-ecological farming approaches through trainings.	#Number of farmers trained on climate resilient agro-ecological farming approaches. #% of farmers increased knowledge on climate resilient agro-ecological farming approaches.	#Basic understanding on agro-ecological or organic farming concept	#135 farmers (70 female and 65 male) trained on climate resilient agro-ecological farming concepts. #70% farmers adopted at least 5 organic farming techniques (e.g: mulching, composting, crop-rotation, seed production, bio-pesticides and manure) #70% of farmers established their own vegetable garden. Farmers earned income from the sale of vegetables. #70% of the farmers enhanced the knowledge on climate smart agriculture farming approach.	#Training Report #Training Materials #Farm products (e.g. chilli, turmeric, watermelon, beans, ginger, ground apple, etc)	3.Capacity and technical skills of the farmers on climate smart agriculture enhance through training. 4.Food production increase due to practice of climate smart agriculture techniques. 5.Improve the status of the local environment through water and natural resources management programs.
	#Number of farmers trained on basic action planning and resource mapping.	#Basic understanding on importance of natural resource management	#Developed simple Local Action Planning for implementing future climate related programs. #Developed simple Local Resource Mapping for nature resource management. #Enhanced social cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst the farmers.	#Action Planning #Resource Mapping	

VIII. Gender Mainstreaming

The proposed project will entail the involvement of all genders (50% female), age group and considered the socio-culture and economic status of the targeted project areas. The proposed project will involve both men and women, boys and girls (15-24 years) and concerned agencies, and proposed activities will be implemented involving above mentioned beneficiary farmers, schools and will use the technical expertise from concerned sector, departments and agencies.

IX. Project Beneficiaries and Sustainability

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be about 135 local farmers (70 female, 65 male) and 25 students from the identified villages and school of Chhukha and Zhemgang Districts.

The proposed project, in its entirety, is therefore designed to address the most urgent issues outlined above thereby sustaining the rich ecosystems and maintaining the integrity and harmony between the health of the biosphere and human well-being, eventually contributing to the conservation goals of the country.

The project proposes to view such programs in the country through the lens of the local communities' perspective to allow implementing agencies and conservation NGOs to effectively carry out their conservation activities. Upon completion of the project, will ensure and instill a sense of awareness and self-responsibility in the minds of beneficiary farmers and schools on improving the state of environment through a planned community-based climate resilient agriculture and natural resource management system is achieved.

X. Project Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring will be carried out at two levels, one at the field level and another at the management level mainly to ensure the quality and timely implementation of project activities. At the field level, the field staff or concerned Project Officer will implement and monitor the project on a daily basis and report to the Division Chief. At the management level, either the Division Chief or Program Director will monitor the project against outcomes, outputs and indicators as outlined in the project logical framework mainly to assess the overall impact of the project, the achievements and the shortcomings of the project. The lessons from the monitoring will be used to improve the existing programs, the project management as well as to help plan new programs.

Report of the implemented activity will be prepared by concerned Project Officer after completion of every activity and will submit to respective Division Chief, which will be ultimately compiled and submitted to Programme Development Division (PDD). The Program Director of PDD will review the reports to ensure its quality and submit to the donor as per the reporting requirement. Monthly reports (activities and finance/expenses including supporting documents such as but not limited to participants lists, photos/video, official receipts of expenses, travel authorization) should be submitted to Tebtebba not later than the 15th of the following month. A self-evaluation by RSPN on the project may also be requested and an audit report.

Figure 4: Budget Breakdown Summary

Budget Breakdown						
SI #	Activities	Unit	No. of Units	Unit Cost (Nu.)	Total Nu	Total USD
1	Awareness and Advocacy Program - 'Climate Change, REDD+, Waste and Water Management' in 2 Districts (Chhukha and Zhemgang) - 6 numbers of awareness trainings (inclusive of Climate Change, REDD+ orientation, Waste and Water Management of 1 day awareness training in each school (1 school) and villages (5 villages))					
1.1	DSA for 3 trainers of RSPN	3	11	2,100.00	69,300.00	
1.2	DSA & Travel Allowance for 2 Resource Persons	2	8	3,000.00	48,000.00	
1.3	DSA for 135 participants	135	1	215.00	29,025.00	
1.4	Food for 135 participants	135	1	250.00	33,750.00	
1.5	Refreshment and lunch for student (25) participants	25	2	250.00	12,500.00	
1.6	Training Materials Cost	1	1	15,000.00	15,000.00	
1.7	Vehicle Hire	1	2	45,000.00	90,000.00	
	Sub Total A				297,575.00	4,376.10
2	Training on climate resilient agro-ecological farming – ‘Seed production, soil fertility and pest Management, Organic Agriculture Approach, NRM’ in 2 Districts (Chhukha and Zhemgang) 5 numbers of training (inclusive of seed production, soil fertility and pest management, Organic Agriculture approach and NRM) for 3 days training in each village (5 villages)					
2.1	DSA for the 160 participants	135	3	215.00	87,075.00	
2.2	Food and Refreshment for the 135 participants	135	3	250.00	101,250.00	
2.3	DSA for 3 trainers of RSPN	3	11	2,100.00	69,300.00	
2.4	DSA and Travel Allowance for 3 Resource Persons	3	8	3,000.00	72,000.00	
2.5	Training materials development	1	1	20,000.00	20,000.00	
2.6	Vehicle Hire	1	2	45,000.00	90,000.00	
	Sub Total B				439,625.00	6,465.07
3	Demonstration on climate smart agriculture garden in 2 areas					
3.1	1 Medium size green house for demonstration unit	1	2	65,000.00	130,000.00	
3.2	Dip irrigation facilities	1	5	6,500.00	32,500.00	
3.3	Vegetable seeds	1	5	10,000.00	50,000.00	
3.4	Agriculture tools	1	5	10,000.00	50,000.00	
3.5	Transportation cost for materials	1	1	45,000.00	45,000.00	
3.6	DSA and travel allowance for resource person	2	4	3,000.00	24,000.00	
3.7	DSA for RSPN officials	2	8	2,000.00	32,000.00	
3.8	Vehicle Hire	1	1	45,000.00	45,000.00	
	Sub Total C				408,500.00	6,007.35
4	Project Administration Cost					
4.1	2 Project Offices 100% for 4 months	2	4	35,378.00	283,024.00	
4.3	Office Rent	1	4	7,000.00	28,000.00	
	Sub Total D				311,024.00	4,573.88
5	Auditing	1	1	50000	50,000.00	735.29
	Sub Total E			50000	50,000.00	735.29
	Grand Total (A+B+C+D+E)				1,506,724.00	22,157.71

Note: Exchange Rate used 1 USD=68 Ngultrum

Project Management Team

Sl.	Name	Designation and Organization	Email	Role for the Project
1	Dr. Kinley Tenzin	Executive Director, RSPN	ktenzin@rspnbhutan.org	Overall Advisory
2	Ms. Rinchen Wangmo	Director, Program Development Department, RSPN	rwangmo@rspnbhutan.org	Overall Advisory and correspondence with donor
3	Mr. Tsheten Dorji	Chief, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Division, RSPN	tdorji@rspnbhutan.org	Overall project management, correspondence with donor, monitoring, technical backstopping and implementation of activities
4	Mr. Narayan Ghalley	Project Officer, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Division, RSPN	nghalley@rspnbhutan.org	Implementation of activities and monitoring at field level
5	Mr. Dhendup Wangchuk	Project Officer, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Division, RSPN	dwangchuk@rspnbhutan.org	Implementation of activities and monitoring at field level
7	Ms. Dechen Tshomo	Finance Officer, Finance and Investment Division, RSPN	dtshomo@rspnbhutan.org	Financial management and reporting