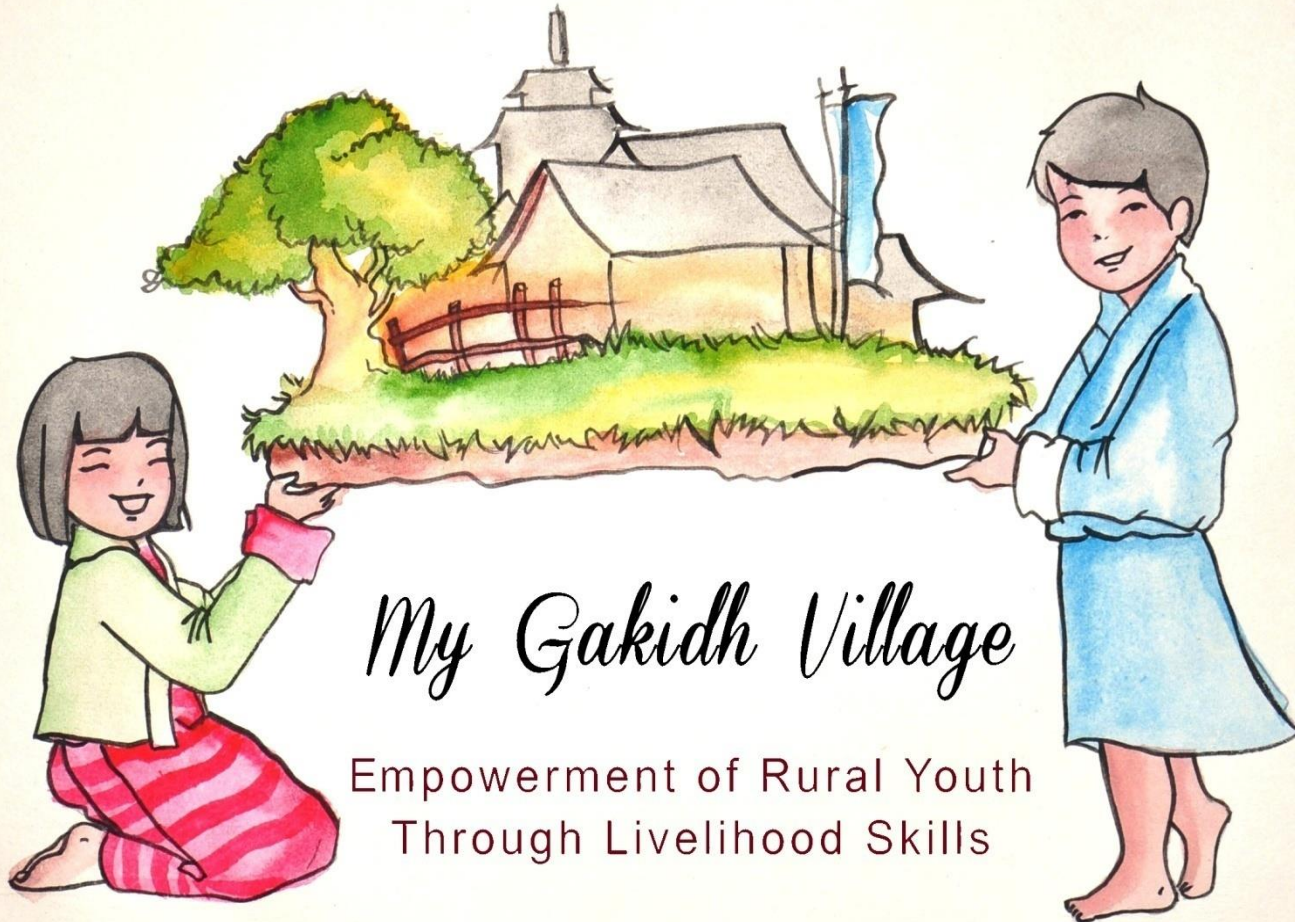




"A better today, a brighter
tomorrow for the youth of Bhutan"



Changing the world through Education



My Gakidh Village

Empowerment of Rural Youth
Through Livelihood Skills



SGP

The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Background

My Gakidh Village is a Joint Initiative of the two organizations (Bhutan Youth Development Fund and Aide et Action International) and first of its kind in Bhutan.



Project Goal: To curb rural urban youth migration by providing livelihood skills and opportunities within their own communities

- **Objectives**

1. At least 21 youth empowered in their villages and do not migrate to urban towns
2. 50% of the youth trained become trainers and change makers in their communities
3. 21 villages become economically self-sufficient
4. Traditional trades are revived in the communities
5. Sustainable utilization and management of renewable natural resources



Project Implementation Strategy – In 3 Phases

Phase 1: Baseline / Feasibility Assessments

- [Identification of Dzongkhag](#)
- [Identification of Villages](#)
- [Identification of Target Youth](#)

Phase 2: Capacity Building

- Leveraging Community-Based Assets for Partnership
- Development of Livelihood Skills Curriculum
- Training by Facilitators and Experts

Phase 3: Implementation and Monitoring

- Produce Products and Deliverables
- Establish Local Enterprises and Businesses
- Identify Gaps and Evaluate

Project Activities

1. Community Based Ecotourism

2. Tea Making

3. Media Lab

4. Consumer Shop

5. Tailoring

6. Organic Farming

1. Community Based Eco-tourism

Activities

- a. Youth to initiate Home stay for tourists/visitors
- b. Youth revive old trail for sustainable trekking
- c. Youth function as local guides with specialized ecological knowledge and offer a youth perspective
- d. Develop the ancient trail of divine madman connecting 21 villages





2. Tea Making

Activities:

- Tea foraging (Amcheka from *Scrrula elata*, Nashingthui from *Viscum album* and Younten Dem from *Schima wallichii*)
- Tea processing
- Formation of Cooperatives and marketing



3. Media lab

Activities

- a. Training on basic's of Computer
- b. Personal Development
- c. Life Skills



LIST OF YOUTH				
SL NO	NAME	VILLAGE	LEVEL OF EDUCATION	CONTACT NUMBER
1	Chimi Wangmo	Bemsisi	VII	17235657
2	Kinley Wangmo	Bemsisi	IV	17973323
3	Kinzang Wangmo	Tokha	VII	17459156
4	Tandin Choden	T/gang	IX	77217685
5	Kaka	T/gang	IX	77385055
6	Yangchen	T/gang	VI	17635245
7	Ugyen Zam	T/gang	X	77321891
8	Penden Om	T/gang	IX	17520147
9	Kinley	T/gang	VI	17396471
10	Sherab Dorji	T/gang	X	17704084
11	Pema Rinzin	T/gang	X	17240030
12	Jigme Drukayel	T/gang	XII	17248151
13	karma Tenzin	Jalu	XII	17437355

LIST OF MONKS			
SL NO	NAME	VILLAGE	LEVEL OF EDUCATION
1	Mindu Dorji	T/gang	III
2	Sonam Tobgay	T/gang	III
3	Ugyen Wangchuk	T/gang	II
4	Dawa Gyeltshen	T/gang	
5	Lhawang Kencho	T/gang	II
6	Tandin Wangchuk	T/gang	IV
7	Tshewang Penjor	T/gang	II
8	Tandin Dorji 'A'	T/gang	V
9	Tandin Dorji 'B'	T/gang	IV
10	Kinley Namgyel	T/gang	III

4. Consumer Shop

Activities

- a. Formation of Youth Cooperatives
- b. Income generation
- c. Convenient store for the community
- d. Youth Employment



5. Tailoring

Activities:

- a. Training on tailoring
- b. Training on Entrepreneurship
- c. Formation of Cooperatives
- d. Opening of a Business
- e. Youth Empowerment





MGV's Organic Farming.



Background

- Today MGV organic farming stands as one of the latest operational co-operative under My "Gakidh" Village in Toepisa. The farm is currently being established in an area measuring [3.87](#) acres and situated in an elevation between [1700](#) and [2000](#) masl. Additionally, having located right below Thimphu Punakha national highway the farm is expected to reap immense advantages especially in terms of marketing accessibility.

History reveals that the farm had been left fallow for more than a decade by Tshering's parents owing to shortage in farming labour and could not revert it back. Had there been no current intervention initiated by Tshering's team, the farm land would have turned into a dense forest. In the face of the current rural to urban migration, there are many more similar situation throughout the country whereby rural farming has come to an abrupt halt.

The initiative demonstrated by Tshering and team would not only be an exemplary model to the nearby communities but would also encourage many unemployed youth.

Objectives

- Youth employment.
- To reduce imports of vegetables.
- To earn a reasonable profit for survival, growth and expansion.
- Promotion of organic farming, networking and marketing.
- To set up a model organic vegetable enterprise under Toeap gewog.



Activities carried out so far

- Cleared 2 acres of land.
- Cultivated few vegetables like spinach, garlic, onion, coriander, two types of radish, turnip, beans and carrot.
- Made fencing



Results/Outcome

- Sold grown vegetables on high way, at Thimphu Centenary Market and few offices where we can meet consumer directly.
- Almost all the community people are aware of our farming.
- Community people helped us with seeds and we helped them by providing sapling where we keep good relation with community people.
- Every people appreciate what we do and encourage us more to work hard where we reached to individual's heart.



Selling vegetables on highway and in Thimphu CM.



Challenges and Opportunity

challenges

- Entrant of new organic farming outlets.
- Natural calamities.
- Pest and disease outbreak.
- Stiff completion with the imported products which are cheaper than local products

Opportunity

- Produce high quality of organic vegetables.
- Youth employment.
- To meet trade deficit by increasing exports and reducing inorganic imports.
- Strong policy support from the government and other organizations.



Way forward plan.

- As there are many upcoming farms cooperatives and imports of vegetables, it seems there might be difficult in selling and marketing. Therefore I would like to maintain cooling facilities as well as drying. Aiming for “Local Yet Global” creating specialty products that can pass not only in our country but also to outsider as there is no risk of damage and decay.
- Now a day’s most of the farmers are depending on import seeds so I want to initiate a traditional seed bank. I am also keen on making sales or transaction through online facilities as well as provide door to door service where possible. Further, in future, amongst others, I would like to produce tree tomato paste by way of diversifying my product range given that tree tomato is gaining popularity.
- On top of that I would like to apply the idea of Decentralized Hand on Exhibition (DHO) by giving opportunities to youth and community people to work on seeding, transplanting, weeding, and so on for their experience and knowledge during winter and summer vacation

Community Youth Representatives

- Election of youth representatives
- Terms of reference for Focal Persons
- Agreement signing
- Community Ownership
- Youth Leadership



Community Youth Representatives for My Gakidh Village Project



Tshering Penjor
Overall Project Focal Person
Male



Chimi Wangmo
Tea Making Focal Person



Tshering Dema
Overall Project Focal Person
Female



Kinley Penjor
Eco-Tourism Focal Person
Male



Ugyen Choden
Consumer Shop Focal Person



Tshering Wangmo
Eco-Tourism Focal Person
Female



Nima Yoezer
Media Lab Focal Person



Thank You