

- **Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP)**

Project Development Objective

- To strengthen institutional and community capacity for anticipating and managing land degradation in Bhutan

Global Environment Objective

- To protect trans-boundary watersheds in a manner that preserves the integrity of ecosystems in Bhutan

Guiding principles

- Bottom-up planning approach- community priorities and community decisions
- Phased implementation- initially in 3 pilot geogs, extending to other geogs as SLM capacity is built
- Support to decentralisation
- Ensuring an appropriate knowledge and information base to guide SLM decision making on practices, planning and policies
- Integrated multi-sectoral approach- a strategy for improving the management of natural resources
- Stakeholder consultation-throughout the project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Soil Services Centre
P. O. Box 907, Semtokha
Tel: 0975-2-351 037 or 351 174
Fax: 0975-2-351038
E-mail: nssc@druknet.bt
www.moa.gov.bt/nssc

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 351037 or 351174

Or visit the MOA website and look for NSSC!

NSSC Facilities



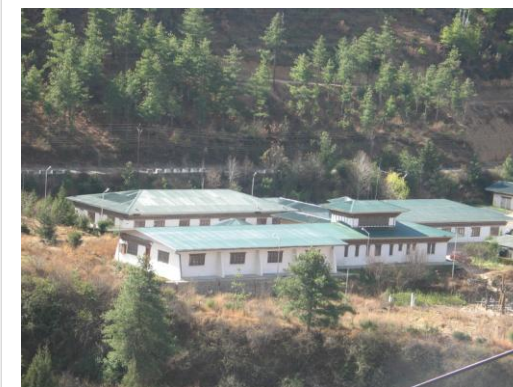
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
National Soil Services centre



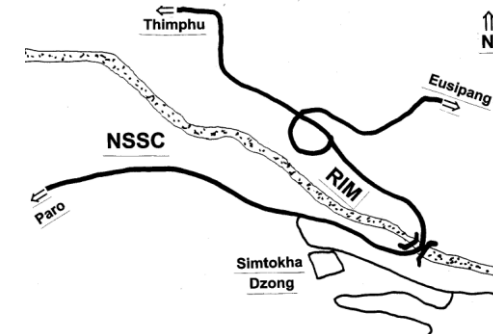
FNRE Extension Material 2008

**WHEN CAN I
SUPPORT
YOU?**

Leaflet No 5



NSSC Complex at Semtokha



Location

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NSSC is the National Soil Services Centre in the MoA site at Semtokha. The Centre was created in the 8th Five Year Plan period (July 1997 to June 2002) and reports directly to the Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB) under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The mandate of the centre is to coordinate soil/land management research activities of the RNR sector & provide analytical services. The centre has four units: -

- Soil Fertility Unit (SFU)
- Soil Survey Unit (SSU)
- Soil & Plant Analytical Laboratory (SPAL)
- Soil Microbiology Unit (SMU)
- Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP)

SPAL (Soil and Plant Analytical Laboratory)

- SPAL analyses soil and plant material (also water and animal feed) to determine their chemical contents.
- Send your soil or crop sample to SPAL for analysis. They will return the results already interpreted to show whether the nutrient levels are normal, too high or too low. The soil results will show soil texture and organic matter.
- This information will help you decide what plant nutrient intervention would be appropriate.

SMU (Soil Microbiology Unit)

- The SMU produces the rhizobia for inoculating legumes to enable them to fix nitrogen from the air effectively and make it available to plants. It also produces EM solutions.

- The SMU will also advise you which legumes benefit from inoculation and will produce the correct rhizobium for you.
- The SMU can also assess the “health” of your soil as measured by the activity of Micro-organisms (a healthy soil has high micro-organism activity).

SFU (Soil Fertility Unit)

- The SFU staff support Dzongkhag Extension and RNR-RCs to implement SF&PNM activities.
- Inform them through your sector head of your interest and plans for SF&PNM or IPNS activities with farmers. They will give you advice and if logistically possible, give you field support.
- SFU can interpret soil results and provide recommendations for fertilizer use and crop selection

SSU (Soil Survey Unit)

- The Soil Survey Unit is capable of carrying out soil surveys, investigate problematic soils and provide baseline soil information through soil survey reports and maps.
- The SSU does land suitability evaluation and advises farmers which crops to grow.
- SSU also provides technical assistance on water harvesting techniques
- SSU has classic soil survey equipment, GIS setup with digitizer, scanner and plotter supported with powerful computing tools (hardware & software)
- SSU has a Bhutan Soil Databank (BHUSOD)

where soil information are stored



Segmented Flow Analyzer

Facilities Available

- SPAL is well equipped with state-of-the-art analytical equipment to provide analytical services
- SSU has classic field equipment, GIS setup with digitizer, scanner and plotter supported with powerful computing tools (hardware & software)
- Soil Microbiology Lab and Effective Microorganism (EM) production plant
- Soil Fertility Unit with qualified & experienced staff fully conversant with participatory approaches in soil management provides training on FEFUT (Farmer Extension Fertilizer Use Trials) and trials on farmer fields.

