



Japan International Cooperation Agency



## JICA's Activities in Bhutan - 2021



Bhutan's first interaction with Japan started in 1962 when the Bhutanese government requested for an agricultural expert to cooperate in agricultural development in Bhutan. The Government of Japan dispatched Keiji Nishioka as an agricultural expert in May 1964, and since then started sending farm machineries, building farm roads, rehabilitating irrigation channels, dispatching JOCVs, accepting trainees and various other technical knowledge.

## Agriculture & Rural Development

### ■ Agriculture Mechanization

JICA has been providing various agriculture machines, most notably power tillers, and technical assistance to end drudgery, save costs, and enhance productivity of farmers' work in the field.



- Improvement of Farm Machinery for Hiring Services of Tillage(Phase II) 【GA】

### ■ Commercial Agriculture Promotion

JICA has been promoting new/improved vegetables and fruits to help farmers increase their incomes. JICA is currently rolling out the success in the eastern region to the western central region.



- Integrated Horticulture Promotion Project in the West Central Region 【TCP】

### ■ Irrigation

JICA has started to enhance technical capacity of irrigation, from planning to construction management.

- Capacity enhancement on Irrigation Planning, Design and Construction Management 【TCP】

## National / Infrastructure Development

### ■ Comprehensive Development Plan

JICA intends to achieve inclusive, well-balanced development and maximize happiness across the entire country, in both rural and urban areas.

- Formulation of Comprehensive Development Plan for Bhutan 2030 【TCP】
- Formulation of Southern Central Regional Plan 【TCP】

### ■ Road Connectivity

In order to ensure efficient and safe road transport, JICA has been committed to replacing old bridges, providing construction machines, and providing new technologies for managing bridges and slopes.



- Capacity Development in Construction and Maintenance of Bridges 【TCP】
- Capacity Development on Countermeasures of Slope Disasters on Roads 【TCP】

### ■ Rural Electrification

JICA has been contributing to achieving access to electricity for 99% of the rural households.



- Rural Electrification (Phase II) 【LA】

### ■ Power Systems Master Plan

- Power Systems Master Plan 2040 【TCP】

### ■ Geo-spatial Data Infrastructure

JICA has developed 1/25,000 digital topographic maps covering the southern region of Bhutan as the foundation of various agricultural and infrastructure development programs.



- Utilization of Geospatial Information through Development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure【TCP】

### ■ Disaster Risk Reduction

- Construction of Disaster Resilient Emergency Mobile Network 【GA】
- Development of Business Continuity Plan for Disaster Control 【TCP】
- Evaluation and Mitigation of Seismic Risk for Composite Masonry Building 【TCP(SATREPS)】

## Supporting Entrepreneurship and Revitalization

### ■ Rural Business Development

JICA has started to raise income of small-scale farmers through establishment of agribusiness enterprises and enhancing Market-Oriented agricultural production

- Regional Agribusiness Promotion by Introduction of Market-Oriented Agriculture and Value Chain Model 【TCP】

### ■ Innovation and Community Development

JICA has been working to enhancing innovation by linking the technological capacity for empowering individuals not only to gain skills but tap into ideas and innovations of the local community towards employment creation and promoting revitalization in the rural areas of Bhutan.

- Promotion of Technology Education and Diffusion through Digital Fabrication Laboratory (Fab-Lab) 【TCP】

# Public Services Improvement

## Local Government and Decentralization

JICA's projects for capacity development of local governments were instrumental to identify needs and design various training curriculums for the local government officials. Since 2015, JICA is supporting the government efforts to promote community engagement through the development of mechanism to strengthen the ownership and engagement of community groups in local governance such as "Community Engagement Platform/CEP" in Chiwogs.

- Strengthening Community Engagement in Local Governance [TCP]



## Medical Services

Through the provision of medical equipment such as CT Scanners and Ambulances, it is expected to enhance the medical referral system in Bhutan. To address the important issue of health human resource development, JICA started to work for improving quality medical education and to strengthening laboratory testing capacity as required by COVID-19.

- Improvement of Medical Equipment at the National and Regional Referral Hospitals [GA]
- The Project for Strengthening Quality of Medical Education [TCP]
- The Project for Strengthening the COVID-19 Test and Health Service Delivery [TCP]



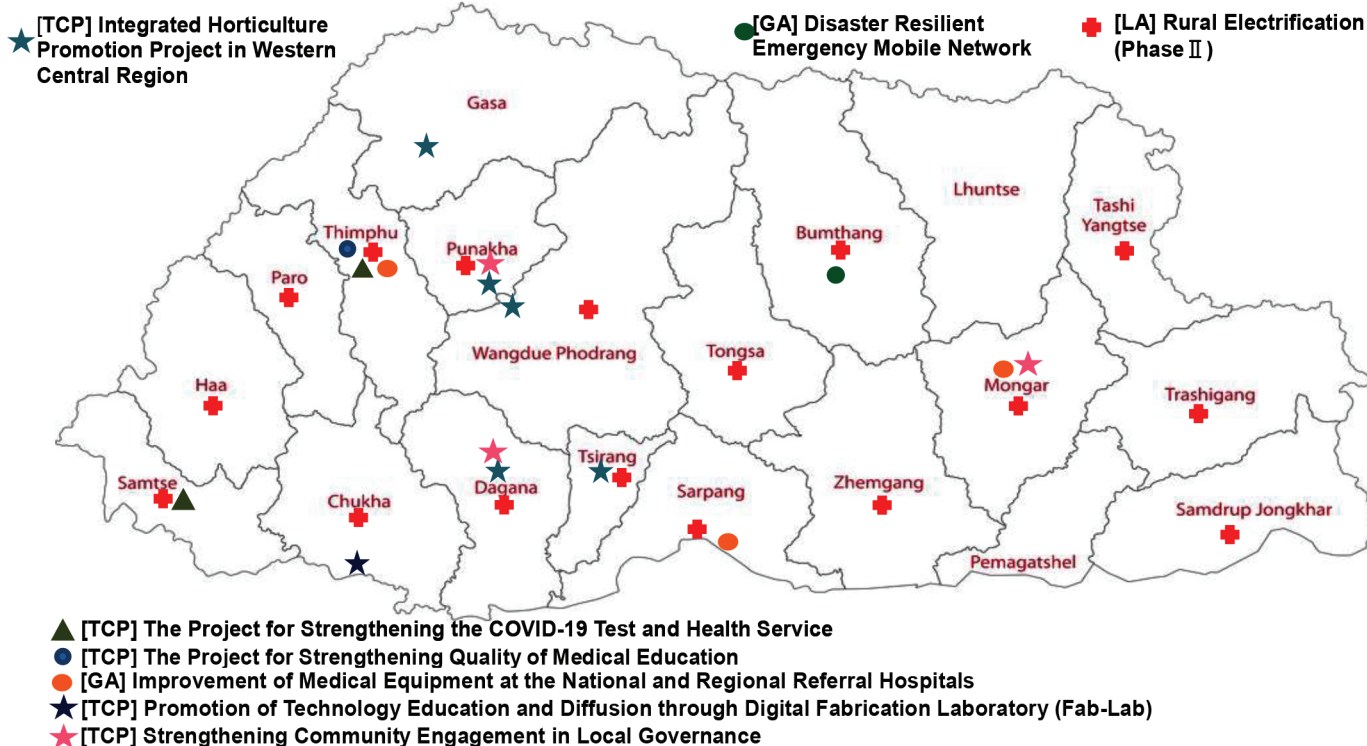
## Inclusive Services and Development

JICA has been supporting gender-focused perspectives to facilitate more community-friendly public administrations and women empowerment for equitable development.

- Country Focused Training on Gender Mainstreaming, Women's Empowerment, Child Well-being and Child Rights [TCP]



# Typical Projects' Sites



### [Whole Country]

- [GA] Improvement of Farm Machinery for Hiring Services of Tillage (Phase II)
- [TCP] Capacity enhancement on Irrigation Planning, Design and Construction Management
- [TCP] Formulation of Comprehensive Development Plan for Bhutan 2030
- [TCP] Formulation of Southern Central Regional Plan
- [TCP] Capacity Development in Construction and Maintenance of Bridges
- [TCP] Capacity Development on Countermeasures of Slope Disaster on Roads
- [TCP] Power Systems Master Plan 2040
- [TCP] Utilization of Geo-Spatial Information through Development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- [TCP] Development of Business Continuity Plan for Disaster Control
- [TCP (SATREPS)] Evaluation and Mitigation of Seismic Risk for Composite Masonry Building
- [TCP] Regional Agribusiness Promotion by Introduction of Market-Oriented Agriculture and Value Chain Model
- [TCP] Country Focused Training on Gender Mainstreaming, Women's Empowerment, Child Well-being and Child Rights
- [GA] The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)

- TCP : Technical Cooperation Project
- GA : Grant Aid
- LA : ODA Loan
- SATREPS : Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development

## JICA Volunteers

JICA's volunteer program is one of Japan's technical cooperation schemes operated as part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA). The program dispatches eager Japanese citizens who wish to participate in assisting developing countries and also have the calls for assistance from their governments.

The program has three objectives:

- (1) To cooperate in the economic and social development, as well as the reconstruction of developing countries
- (2) To deepen mutual understanding and coexistence in cross-cultural societies
- (3) To give back the volunteer experience to society



2018 marked the 30th year of operation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Program in Bhutan. The first JOCV, a farm machinery engineer was dispatched on 12 July, 1988 for Agriculture Machinery Centre (AMC) in Paro based on the Exchange of Notes between the government of Bhutan and the government of Japan. The Senior Volunteers (SVs) program started in 2001. Through the period of over 30 years, 459 JOCVs and 151 SVs have been dispatched to Bhutan in various work fields.



## JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

JICA Partnership Program aims to bring direct benefits to the lives of the people in collaboration with Japanese development partners, mainly NGOs/CSOs, local governments and universities, by harnessing their accumulated experience and technologies for development at the grassroots level.

【Typical Projects】

- Enhancing the ability to teach art and vitalize local communities through Art.
- Capacity Building of Poultry Farmers Focusing on Effective Micro-organism Farming
- Pilot Project for Eradicating Gastric Cancer



## Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

JICA has been promoting the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for the further development in Bhutan.

【Typical Projects】

- SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Road –Side Slope Disasters Countermeasure Technologies and Methods
- SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Organic Shiitake Mushroom Cultivation with Raw Wood by Low-cost Business in Bhutan
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Introduction of Organic Farming Skills and Crop Rotation Systems to Smallholders



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