



Farmers' Training on FAW Management

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Farmers' Training on Fall Armyworm Management under AFACI PMP+ Project



The **National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC)**, under the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (**AFACI**), successfully conducted farmers' training on the management of Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in five Dzongkhags.

Understanding the Threat

Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is an invasive pest that primarily attacks maize and can cause significant yield losses if not managed properly. Since its detection in Bhutan, NPPC has been actively working to strengthen surveillance, awareness, and integrated management practices.

Training Objectives

- Identification of FAW at different growth stages
- Identification of damage symptoms.
- Field scouting and monitoring techniques.
- Use of sex pheromone traps to monitor adult moths.

- Safe and judicious use of recommended pesticides.
- Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

Training Coverage and Participation

The farmers' training covered six gewogs across five dzongkhags. A total of 225 farmers participated in the program. The Dzongkhag- wise participation as follows:

- Samdrup Jongkhar (*Lauri Gewog* – 62 farmers)
- Samdrup Jongkhar (*Gomdar Gewog* – 46 farmers)
- Trashigang (*Yangneer Gewog* – 25 farmers)
- Trashiyangtse (*Toedtsho Gewog* – 36 farmers)
- Trashiyangtse (*Khamdang Gewog* – 41 farmers)
- Tsirang (*Sergithang Gewog* – 15 farmers)
- Total farmers trained = **225 farmers**
- Total male participants = **96 farmers**
- Total female participants = **129 farmers**

Through the AFACI Project, NPPC continues to enhance technical capacity and build farmers' resilience against FAW. While training programs have been conducted in the highlighted gewogs, NPPC is also planning to expand the initiative to additional maize-growing dzongkhags to ensure wider coverage and strengthened national preparedness. The program has contributed to improved awareness and better adoption of sustainable pest management practices.

First JCC Meeting Held for WiCoMP Project

The first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting of the Community-Based Human–Wildlife Conflict Management Project (WiCoMP) was held on 12th February 2026 at the Agriculture Research and Development Centre, Bajo. The project is implemented by the **National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC)** in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a duration of three and a half years (May 2025–November 2028).



Chaired by the Director of the Department of Agriculture, the meeting brought together officials from DoA, JICA Bhutan Office, Japanese technical experts, the Nature Conservation Division (MoENR), Local Governments, and the project team. The JCC serves as the key coordination and decision-making platform to review progress, provide strategic guidance, and strengthen stakeholder collaboration.

The Chair highlighted the urgent need to address increasing human–wildlife conflict and emphasized field validation of a prototype monkey-management technology introduced from Japan. JICA reaffirmed its continued commitment to supporting Bhutan through technical cooperation and expressed confidence in institutionalizing successful interventions.

Project updates covered stakeholder consultations, pilot site selection, installation of fencing systems, and development of technical guidelines. Discussions also addressed implementation timelines, balancing the need for accelerated rollout with sustainable system development.

The 2026 work plan focuses on continued technology testing, development of fence management guidelines, and phased implementation. While NPPC/WiCoMP will facilitate technical guidelines and bylaws, Local Governments and communities will establish governance systems, including leadership, maintenance, and cost-sharing mechanisms.

Participants also visited *Zamding, Nyalakha* (Rubesa, Wangdue Phodrang), where the first Universal Hybrid Fence was inaugurated, marking a key milestone in promoting innovative and climate-resilient fencing solutions.



The meeting reaffirmed strong collaboration among government agencies, development partners, and communities in advancing sustainable, community-led human–wildlife conflict management in Bhutan.

[!\[\]\(f60b7a900783ac3fd531bfd9c111be6d_img.jpg\) Read More: First JCC Meeting Held for Community-Based Human–Wildlife Conflict Management Project \(WiCoMP\)](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plant Protection Product Price List (FY 2025–2026)

The **National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC)** is pleased to announce the approved price list for Plant Protection Products for Fiscal Year 2025–2026.

The updated price list includes:

-  **Insecticides**
-  **Fungicides**
-  **Herbicides**
-  **Non-toxic/Bio-pesticides, Pheromone Lures & Traps**

Farmers, extension officials, Local Governments, and stakeholders are kindly advised to refer to the revised rates while procuring crop protection inputs from authorized outlets. The updated pricing aims to ensure transparency, affordability, and effective plant health management across the country.

The complete list provides detailed information on product name, formulation, pack size, and approved price for the financial year 2025–2026.

Farmers are strongly encouraged to use plant protection products responsibly and strictly follow recommended dosage and safety guidelines provided by NPPC and extension officers to ensure safe and sustainable crop production.

 **Read More: View the Full Plant Protection Product Price List (FY 2025–2026) on NPPC Website**



WHEAT RUST ADVISORY NOTE



**(Based on Regional Risk Assessment:
09–15 February 2026)**

The **National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC)** advises all Regional Plant Protection Officers, Gewog Agriculture Officers, and wheat-growing farmers to remain vigilant for **wheat rust diseases** (stripe rust, leaf rust, and stem rust).

Current regional surveys and weather-based forecasts in South Asia indicate that climatic conditions are favorable for disease development. Although *no outbreaks have been confirmed in Bhutan*, preventive monitoring is strongly recommended, particularly in southern and western districts.

Areas Requiring High Vigilance

Southern belt districts including:
Samtse, Sarpang, Tsirang, Chhukha, and Dagana

What to Look For

- Yellow or orange stripes on leaves (Stripe Rust)
- Brown or reddish pustules on leaves and stems (Leaf & Stem Rust)
- Early yellowing and drying of infected plants

Recommended Action

- Conduct *weekly field inspections*.
- Immediately report any suspected symptoms to the Dzongkhag Agriculture Office or NPPC.
- Follow official fungicide recommendations if rust is detected.
- Avoid panic spraying without confirmation.

Important Note

Early detection and timely intervention are critical to preventing disease spread and minimizing yield loss. Farmers and extension officers are encouraged to maintain close communication and promptly share field observations.

 **Read More: Wheat rust advisory – risk assessment from surveys and forecasts in South Asia**

NEWS & EVENTS

Presentations by Interns on Completion of Internship Programme

The **National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC)**, successfully concluded its Internship Programme with presentations by three interns.

College of Natural Resources



Ms. Sonam Zangmo & Ms. Karma Deki Yangzom



Norbuling Rigter College



Ms. Dorji Dema



- **Lab Skills:** Operation of entomology equipment & specimen preservation
- **Herbarium Work:** Digitization, cataloguing, and management of insect collections
- **Pest Studies:** Fall Armyworm life cycle and insecticide evaluation
- **Rearing & Monitoring:** Artificial diet preparation and pheromone trap usage
- **Analysis & Planning:** SWOT of pesticide procurement and distribution system

- **Plant protection & IPM basics:** Core principles and weed management strategies.
- **Herbarium management:** Digitization, inventory, collection, preparation, and storage.
- **Pest surveillance:** Field reporting systems to NPPC.
- **Records & documentation:** Bookkeeping and chemical indenting.
- **Environmental & organizational awareness:** Pesticide impacts, rural development, food security, and agency workflow.



NPPC extends its appreciation and best wishes for their continued academic and professional success!

[Read More: Presentations by Interns on Completion of Internship Programme](#)

QUICK FACTS / EDUCATIONAL CORNER

DID YOU KNOW? Wheat Rust Can Spread by Wind

Why Wheat Matters?

Why Wheat Rust Awareness is Critical?

- **Global Staple:** Wheat feeds over 2.5 billion people daily and is a cornerstone of global food security.
- **Economic Significance:** It supports farmers' livelihoods, trade, and national economies worldwide.
- **Nutritional Value:** Rich in carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, and minerals, essential for human health.
- **Wheat Rust Threat:** Stripe, leaf, and stem rust are fast-spreading fungal diseases that can destroy entire crops if unchecked.
- **Early Detection Saves Crops:** Awareness and timely management reduce yield loss, protect farmer income, and ensure food availability.

Message:

"Protect wheat today, secure tomorrow's food."



Stripe rust/ Yellow rust



Leaf rust/Brown rust



Stem rust/Black rust



Early Stages of FAW: *Fall Army Worm Identification Tips*





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