

Yak Cooperative Formation in Chhokor Toe under Bumthang Dzongkhag





8th to 10th March 2020: The team from Research & Extension Division (RED), National Highland and Research Development Centre (NHRDC) and Dzongkhag Livestock sector met with 40 yak herders from Chhokor Toe at Thangbi to sensitize and form a Yak Cooperative in the Dzongkhag. Chhokor Toe has two yak groups, Khendrock and Dhurdrock which involves 40 herders in total.

During the three days yak cooperative formation program, the selected 7 cooperatives principles were discussed and identified as voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; Members economics participation; Autonomy and independence; Education; Training and Information; Cooperation among cooperatives and Concern for the community. The

selection of cooperative leaders such as chairperson, secretary, accountant, board of directors and other management committee members were held in presence of all the observers. The advocacy and awareness on the benefits of yak cooperative formation and further joining to the National level yak federation are also discussed with all the members.

More focused and priority was given to the drafting and amendment of cooperative by laws based on the cooperative act 2009 and rules and regulation 2010. The members discussed in detail on defining and setting up the roles and responsibilities of members, malmanagement committee, funds and savings, business plans, marketing, fines and penalties and termination of members.

At the end of three days sensitization program, 40 herders (30 males and 10 females) formed a yak cooperative and was named "Bumthang Chhokor Lanor Nyamlay Tshogdey". The names of the members were registered with the geog and Dzongkhag Administration. Action plans were drawn in close collaboration with all the stakeholders for immediate registration of the cooperatives by the geog and Dzongkhag Livestock in close collaboration with RED, Department of Livestock, MoAF Thimphu. The formation of Yak Cooperative in Bumthang will enable to institute Bhutan Yak Federation which is supported through Kanchenjunga Landscape Program, ICIMOD, Nepal and National Highland Development Program, Bhutan.

Reported by Research & Extension Division