

Achievements

Over the years ARDC-Bajo has built up its research capacity, with a strong foundation on field crops research. The Centre has released 09 rice varieties, 03 wheat varieties, 03 mustard varieties, 29 fruits varieties and 32 vegetable varieties for general cultivation. These varieties have made a big impact on the agricultural production. The Centre has released 08 climate smart technologies (rice husk biochar, rice bran bokashi, low cost water harvesting pond, Bhutan Agri. Microbial (BAMS), Citrus Canopy Management, Sunken Garden - Protected Cultivation, Improved Potting Media & Bentonite Clay Water Harvesting Pond.

Similarly the crop management technologies (sowing time, planting density, seed rate, water management, weed management, soil fertility management, land management, plant protection) developed in Bajo have not only increased the production, but have also reduced the labour requirement and assisted in the conservation of the environment. In horticulture, new production techniques such as grafting, budding, top working, canopy management, nursery management, off-season vegetable production through protected cultivation have been developed and disseminated to the farming community. Now we are venturing into new technologies such as hydroponic farming, Smart irrigation with automation.

Through IHPP/JICA farmers capacity building on horticulture farming has been strengthened along with several demo-orchards promoted as the research outreach program in the region.

Similarly ARDC-Bajo is the pioneering institute in the watershed management research. A decade of integrated approach in research in the Lingmuteychu Watershed has collected a wealth of information exemplary for upcoming watersheds to learn from. It also resulted in formulating the National Water Act/Policy and in stimulating similar programs by other ARDCs.

Staff

ARDC-Bajo is headed by the Program Director, Mr. Passang Tshering. The total staff strength of the Centre including ARD Sub-Centre, Menchhuna, consists of 88 persons, subdivided in:

Program Director	01
Technical	29
Administration	11
Elementary Support Personnel	50

ARDC Bajo

Program Director	01
Dy. Chief Agri. Officer	05
Agri/ Horti Officer	05
Agri./ Horti Supervisor	06
Jr./ Asst. Engineers	02
Administrative Assistant	01
Store-in-charge	01
Drivers	07
Elementary Support Personnel	30

ARDSC, Tsirang

Office In Charge (PAO)	01
Principal Agri. Officer	01
Agri./ Horti. Supervisor	05
Laboratory Assistant	01
Driver	02
Elementary Support Personnel	20

Staff on EOL

Sr. Agriculture officer	01
Agri./ Horti Supervisor	02

TOTAL 91



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བྲལ་བྱེད་ལྷན་ཁག་



**Agriculture Research & Development Centre
Bajo, Wangduephodrang**

**Department of Agriculture
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTS**



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Background

ARDC-Bajo is one of the four research centres in the country responsible for agriculture research and development services with a national and regional mandate.

Brief history

- 1965 Founded as the Agricultural Demonstration Station.
- 1969 Renamed as the Agricultural Extension and Demonstration Farm.
- 1975 Re-designated as Agricultural Commercial Farm.
- 1978 Reorganised as Vegetable Seed Production Farm.
- 1982 Reorganised as the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) to include research on rice and rice based-field crops.
- 1994 Reorganised as the Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre (RNRRC) and its mandate expanded to cover research in the RNR sector as a whole.
- 1997 The Regional Plant Protection Centre merged with the RNRRC.
- 2005 Sub-centre at Menchhuna, Tsirang was reopened as Agriculture Research and Development Sub Centre (ARDSC) to undertake adaptive research on crops for humid sub-tropical zone.
- 2008 To enhance the efficiency of the service delivery to farmers, development mandate was added.
- 2014 Chimipang Royal Project (CRP) was established at Chimipang on Royal Command to demonstrate agricultural technologies and to impart training to extension personnel and farmers.
- 2016 Renamed as Agriculture Research and Development Centre (ARDC) following the organizational development exercise undertaken by RCSC .

Vision

We envision....

To become a dynamic centre of excellence for agricultural research, leading to enhanced knowledge for management and conservation.

Mission

Our mission is

To develop appropriate agriculture technologies and facilitate their dissemination to improve the livelihood of rural populace while ensuring environmental and resources sustainability.

Mandate

Broadly, ARDC-Bajo has two mandates

National Mandate

ARDC Bajo is mandated to coordinate the National Field Crops Research Program. Management of the national mandate is primarily a coordination function to ensure that the research activities carried out under the particular program in different ARDCs are consistent with the national and regional priorities and are interlinked, and not duplicated. The coordinating Centre is also expected to provide technical support to other ARDCs. The Centre is entrusted with nationwide commodity mandates for rice, wheat and citrus.

Regional Mandate

ARDC-Bajo has the regional mandate to undertake agriculture research and development in the Central-West Region (Gasa, Punakha, Wangduephodrang, Daga & Tsirang). The tasks of ARDC-Bajo are:

- To identify regional research priorities;
- To undertake research on field crops, & horticulture and develop appropriate technologies
- To implement the regional research and development program according to the agreed national plans and programs;
- To work with and support the Dzongkhag Agriculture sector staff in technical matters, extension activities, and strengthen capacity building of extension staff and farmers.

Research and Development Programs

ARDC-Bajo has the following programs:

- Field Crops
- Horticulture
- Technical Support Service consisting of Soil , Plant Protection, Agri Engineering & Research Communication.
- National Seed Testing & Referral Laboratory

Location and climate

The Centre is located at Bajo, Wangduephodrang, on the east bank of the Punatsang Chu at altitude of 1100m. The Centre has 50.9 acre research farm, furnished office space and modest laboratory facilities. Bajo enjoys a sub-tropical climate with an average temperature of 21°C . The maximum temperature recorded till date is 33.7°C and a minimum of 0.6°C. Annual rainfall is about 670 mm; July receives the heaviest rainfall (166.8 mm) and lowest in December.

