



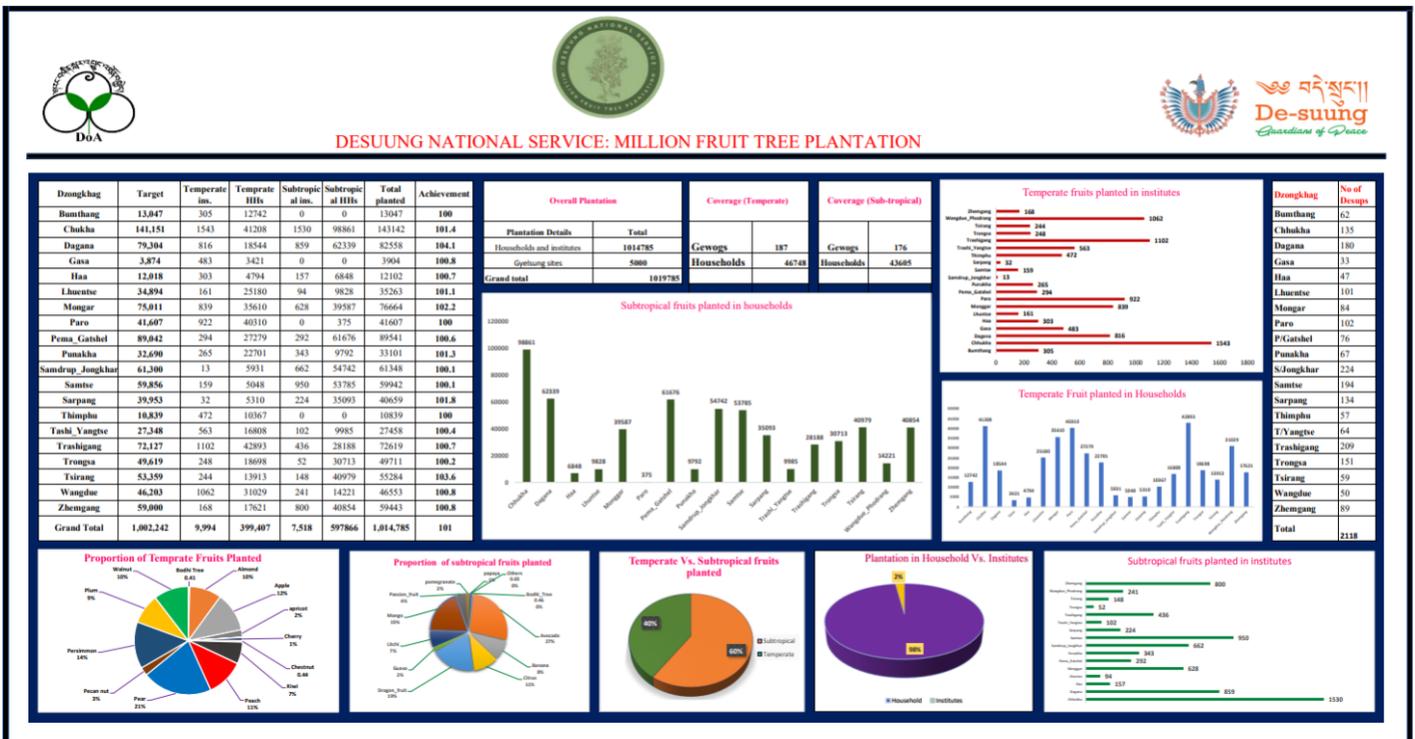
PRESS RELEASE

Completion of one million fruit tree plantation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests in partnership with the De-Suung National Service (DNS).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests in partnership with the De-Suung National Service has embarked on **DNS: Million Fruit Tree Plantation** as three-month project starting from 15th March, 2022. The fruit trees were granted as Royal *Soelra* to the farmers with the vision of enhancing income and uplifting the rural livelihood.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is pleased to announce the completion of one million fruit trees plantation. As of 10th June, 2022, about **1,019,785** number of fruit seedlings were planted and the project is completed ahead of the completion deadline which is 15th June, 2022. In the temperate region, **409,401** number of fruit saplings were planted and similarly, in the sub-tropical region, **605,384** number of saplings were planted. The assorted fruit saplings were also distributed to the five National Service Academy sites, and about 5000 number of Chemshings (bodhi tree) were also distributed and planted in seven Dzongkhags, based on past survival indications. All the saplings planted were Geo-coded using Mobile Operation Data Acquisition platform for ease of monitoring and follow-up interventions in future.

The one million fruit trees constitute 12 types of temperate fruits, 10 types of sub-tropical fruit crops and a variety of bodhi tree, which were selected considering their high economic value, export potential, and technical suitability. These were distributed and planted in all the 20 dzongkhags covering 46,748 number of households in temperate region and 43,605 households in sub-tropical region. On an average, each household have received 5-20 saplings, depending on the availability land for fruit plantation. The fruit trees were also planted in 1,249 various institutes (Schools, RNR Centres, Gewog Centres, BHUs, Lhakhangs etc.) and five National Service Academic sites. The summary of achievement status as of 10th June, 2022 is as in figure below:



The Department of Agriculture has skilled 234 De-Suups on fruit tree plantation and management and deployed as De-Suup Gojays in 202 Gewogs, who have led 1,884 other De-Suups for million fruit tree plantations.

As a follow-up to this project, the Ministry will vigorously monitor the plantations to ensure survivability of plants and realize the vision of enhancing the income of the farmers. Towards this, the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the De-Suung National Service will conduct field survey to determine the mortality based on geo-coded records and replace the dead or damaged seedlings in the coming season.

Further, realizing the expected economic impact of million fruit tree plantation to the rural farmers from this Royal Vision, the Department of Agriculture will continue to implement the next phase of million fruit tree plantation in 2023 in similar modality.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
11th June, 2022