

# AGRICULTURE EXTENSION IN BHUTAN

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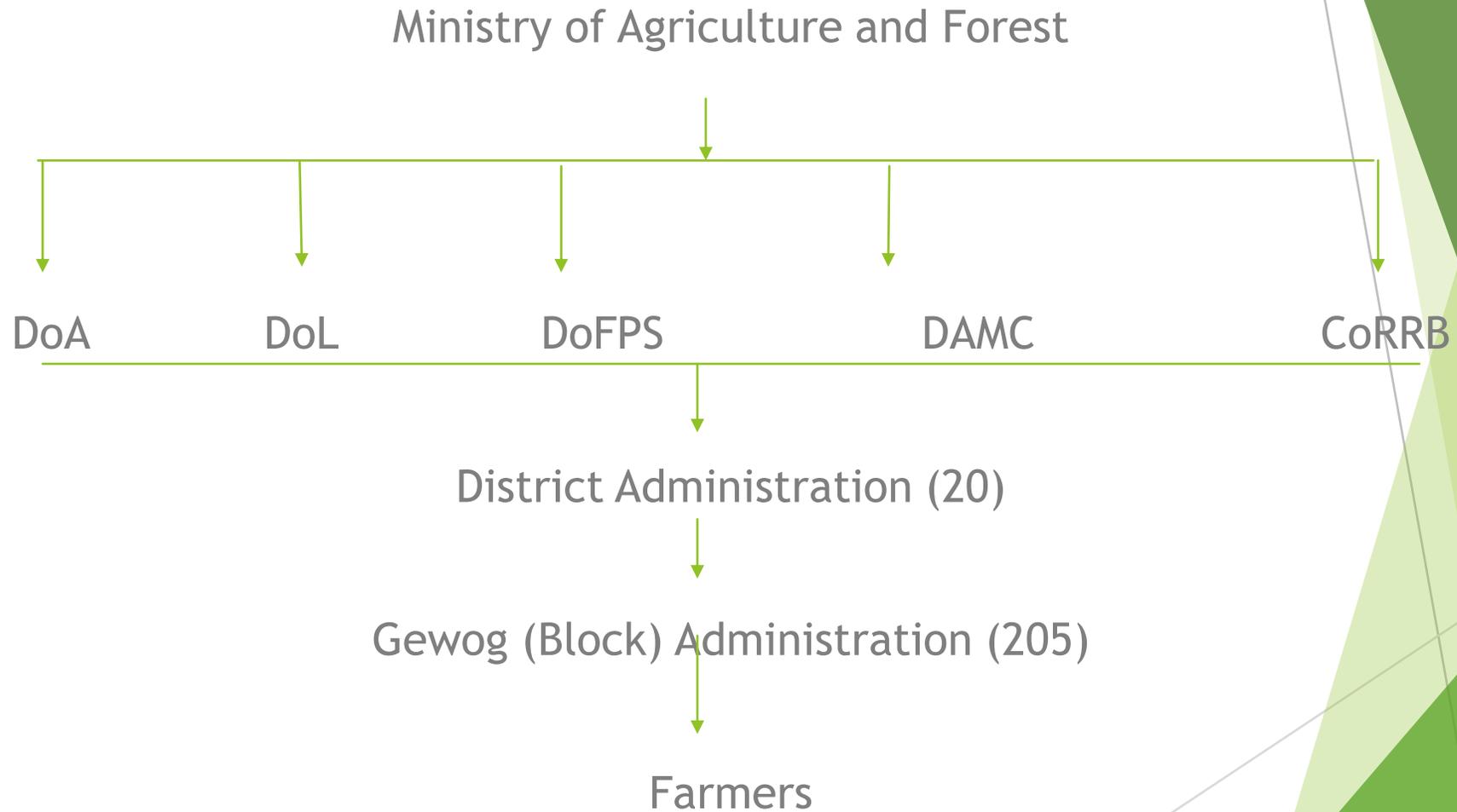
## General Agricultural Situation in Bhutan

- 69% of population dependent on agriculture (PHCB 2005)
- Total Arable Land- 7.8% of the total Geographic Area (38394 sq km)
- Altitude- 500-2900 msl
- Subsistence farming
- Main Crops- rice, maize and wheat
- Horticultural Crops- oranges, apples, potatoes, cardamom, hazelnut, asparagus, mushroom etc.
- Livestock- cattle, poultry, piggery and fishery
- Forestry- Community Forestry, Private Forestry, NWFP

# Challenges

- Rugged topography
- Shortage of Farm Labor
- Limited scope for farm mechanization
- Limited market linkage and information
- Uneven population density
- Human-Wild life conflict
- National Goal of Achieving Vegetable Self-sufficiency by 2015
- Changing Food habit leading to decline of production of certain important crops

# Overview of Agriculture Extension



# Types of Extension Services

- Advisory services
- Input supply
- Promotional programs
- Project based
- Agriculture Infrastructure Development
- Capacity building of Farmers

# Major Challenges in Extension Provision

- Ageing farming community (due to rural- urban migration)
- Marginal Land Holding
- Farmers' Dependency on free input
- Limited capacity of the Extension agents (class to field)
- Multi-tasked
- Limited funding for capacity development of EAs
- Limited co-ordination and linkages
- Changing system of Administration and Management

# AESA and Extension in Bhutan

- ▶ Networking
- ▶ The participants should influence the policy makers to bring about desired changes
- ▶ Projects for enhancement of capacity for Extension personnel may be initiated through AESA
- ▶ Experience Sharing: Success/Failure stories

**TASHI DELEK**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text 'TASHI DELEK' is centered in a bold, dark grey sans-serif font.