



# NEWSLETTER



**Welcome to the Spring Semester 2025 edition of the College Newsletter!**

As we step into new academic season filled with growth and renewal, we bring you the latest updates, achievements, and inspiring stories from our vibrant college community.

Stay tuned as we take you through the key moments and milestones of this semester!

## Highlights of This Edition

**Research & Innovation**

**Community Engagement**

**Celebrations**

**Guest Lecture Series**

**Enhancing Skills & Preparedness**

**Special Updates**



# Research & Innovation Updates

## Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment in Thimphu

The Bhutan Ecological Society (BES) in collaboration with CNR, has successfully completed an Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment in Thimphu under the Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) initiative. The study was a crucial step in understanding freshwater biodiversity, water quality, and plastic pollution across 12 streams and rivers in Thimphu.

The preliminary findings indicate a concerning decline in aquatic biodiversity following the August 10 2024 flash flood, with a nearly 75% drop in recorded samples. The findings also detected microplastic contamination in multiple sites, particularly in areas receiving urban runoff and wastewater discharge.



## Training on Technology Driven Agri-Business Proposal Development, Investment Analysis, and Digital Marketing for the Youths of Bhutan



Nine passionate members of the Entrepreneurship Club, CNR, participated in an insightful training focused on technology-driven agri-business proposal development, investment analysis, and digital marketing, tailored for Bhutanese youth. The training provided valuable knowledge on leveraging technology in agriculture, making informed investment decisions, crafting business proposals, and effectively utilizing digital marketing strategies.



# Community Engagement Updates

The Dissemination Seminar bringing together experts to share valuable insights



The PhD scholars in Climate Studies at CNR, in collaboration with the B-KIND Tarayana Foundation Research Project, shared and validated their research findings with stakeholders, addressing the following key aspects:

1. Livelihoods strategies in three agroecological zones and Gender Transformative approaches.
2. Climate change impacts livelihood in the three agroecological zones and Hot spring and hot stone bath therapy.
3. Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment (LVI&LV IIPPC).
4. Food Diversity and Food Habits Towards Food Security in Western Bhutan.
5. Human-wildlife interactions: Economic losses and their impact on livelihood (count of domestic animals killed by wild animals)
6. Sustainability status of agriculture and comparative analysis of conventional and organic potato production.

## Community Service Society Club Supports Elderly in Need

The Community Service Society Club made a visit to Angay Keza, an elderly grandmother living alone. During their time with her, they brought essential supplies to lift her spirits. The club expressed gratitude for the generous donations from fellow students, which made it possible to provide her with necessary food items and clothing.





# Community Engagement Updates

## Student Volunteers for Waste Management during Drubchen & Tshechu

Student volunteers from the college took an active role in waste collection, segregation, and awareness campaigns to promote proper waste disposal and recycling. This initiative seeks to foster a sense of responsibility among students and the public, encouraging waste management practices and environmental stewardship.



## Celebrated Earth Hour with Action



The Earth Guardians of Bhutan, CNR, along with the Community Service Society Club, contributed to a cleaner and greener future by collecting waste from the college premises to Pulami in celebration of Earth Hour. The event showcased the power of collective action, demonstrating how small efforts from individuals can lead to significant positive environmental impact.



# Celebrations

## Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the 5th Druk Gyalpo



The College of Natural Resources joyfully celebrated the 45th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the 5th Druk Gyalpo with deep gratitude and reverence. The event began with the sacred Marchang ceremony, followed by prayers and vibrant cultural performances. This celebration reaffirmed CNR's commitment to contributing to the nation's progress under His Majesty's visionary and compassionate leadership.





# Guest Lecture Series

## Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Dr. Victor P. Karunun, a dedicated expert with a strong passion for sustainable development, conducted a seminar on the progress, challenges, and future directions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the session, he highlighted key achievements, addressed persisting barriers, and discussed innovative strategies to accelerate progress. The seminar also provided a platform for discussions on emerging global issues, such as climate change, technological advancements, and policy reforms, that influence the implementation of the SDGs.



## Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's Visit to the College



The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor visited the College, actively interacting with both staff and students. Dasho's visit provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on essential aspects such as professionalism, teamwork, work ethics, workplace conduct, and personal growth. Emphasizing the importance of these values, Dasho encouraged students to develop a strong sense of purpose and responsibility, not only in their academic pursuits but also in their future contributions to society.



# Guest Lecture Series

## School for Field Studies (SFS) Visit to College



The College warmly welcomed 26 students from the School for Field Studies (SFS), USA, through the Bhutan Ecological Society's program. To help them feel at home, a reception dinner, cultural night, and friendly sports matches, including volleyball and basketball, were organized to foster connections.



## Seminar on Creative Economy and Cluster Economy

The delegates from the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) conducted a seminar to the students. The seminar was an insightful session that provided valuable perspectives on the role of creative and cluster economies in sustainable development.

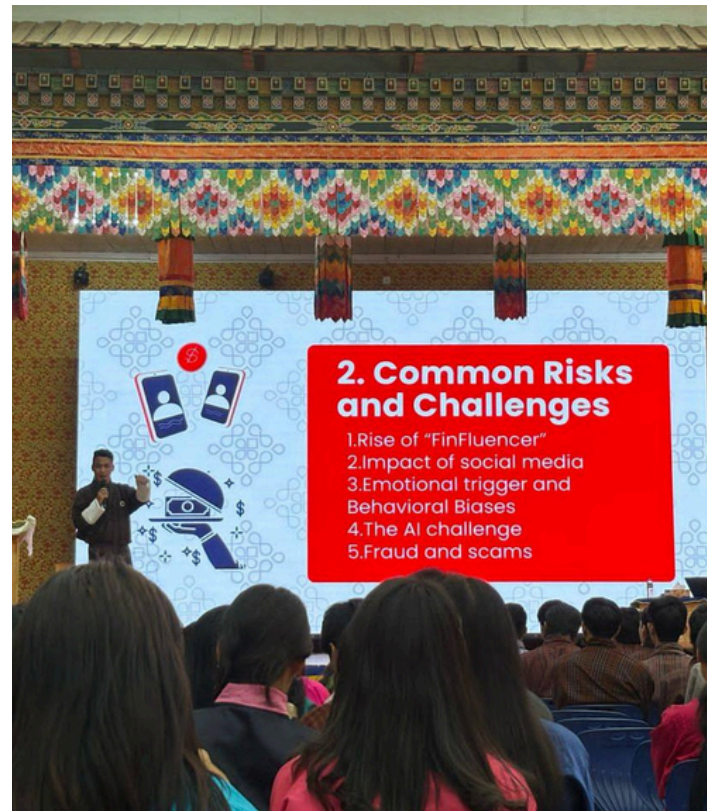




# Guest Lecture Series

## Seminar on Financial Literacy

Coinciding with the Global Money Week, a talk on Financial Literacy was given by BNB officials under the theme “Think Before You Follow, Wise Money Tomorrow,” focusing on a secure future. Key topics included the Eight Golden Rules of Financial Literacy, understanding digital financial products, and identifying common financial risks like fraud and impulsive spending. Strategies for building a strong financial foundation were discussed, emphasizing savings, emergency funds, and responsible credit use. The seminar aimed to enhance financial awareness and empower individuals with practical money management skills.





# Enhancing Skills & Preparedness

## In house capacity building on molecular biology and bioinformatics

The in house capacity building was facilitated by Mr. Karma Wangchuk, Associate Lecturer at CNR, aimed to equip participants with advanced knowledge and practical skills in molecular biology and bioinformatics. Through hands-on training and expert guidance, attendees enhanced their understanding of modern techniques in taxonomy, molecular biology, and bioinformatics.

The initiative was a step towards empowering the next generation of professionals in these critical areas of study, fostering research excellence at CNR.



## Disaster Preparedness in Action

The disaster earthquake mock drill was conducted to foster preparedness and safety awareness. Mock drills serve as invaluable training grounds, refining response strategies and ensuring efficient coordination during real emergencies. The drill focused on educating students about proper safety measures and response during emergencies, ensuring the college community to handle real-life situations.





# Special Updates

## International Conference on “Climate and Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Development – Policy, Investment, and Innovation”



The four-day conference held in Thimphu, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), convened leading experts, policymakers, researchers, donors, and private sector representatives to discuss strategies for promoting climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable development in Bhutan and across the Asia-Pacific region.

Recognized as the world's first carbon-negative country, Bhutan provided a fitting backdrop for in-depth discussions on nature conservation, food security, and scalable innovations to address climate change challenges.

The conference underscored the importance of cross-sectoral partnerships and policy-driven investments to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the region.





# Special Updates

## National Conference on “Connecting Practitioners and Researchers”

The National Conference, focusing on Climate Crisis, Natural Disasters, Environmental Sustainability, Agriculture, and Food, was held at the College of Natural Resources. It was jointly organized by the Department of Academic and Research Services, the Office of the Vice Chancellor, and the Centre for Rural Development Studies, CNR.

The event brought together researchers from the Royal University of Bhutan, representatives from various government and non-governmental organizations, agri-entrepreneurs, practitioners, scholars, and experts. They presented papers on pressing and emerging issues concerning the climate crisis, natural disaster, environmental sustainability, agriculture, and food security. The conference was co-sponsored by the B-KIND Tarayana Foundation, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), and Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) based in South Korea.







As we conclude this edition of the College Newsletter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all students, faculty, and staff for their dedication and contributions.

We look forward to the journey ahead, filled with new opportunities, achievements, and shared experiences.

Stay inspired, stay engaged, and keep making a difference!

Until the next edition, wishing you all a productive and fulfilling semester ahead!

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