

Agriculture sector promotes Adzuki beans as a promising cash crop in Wangduephodrang.

Adzuki bean is an annual legume commonly known as adzuki bean, red bean, and red mung bean originated in East Asia, where it has been cultivated and used for many centuries. It has good source of fatty acids, fiber and minerals.

In eastern Asia it is used in confectionary or sweet bean paste. Adzuki bean paste is used as a filling in pastries and a topping for desserts, especially ice cream. Adzuki beans could be cooked and added to sweet soups or rice, used as flour or eaten as candied beans. The beans also known to taste similar to kidney beans and can substitute for kidney beans in recipes.



In Bhutan, Adzuki bean is cultivated in small areas as a marginal crop for household consumption and cash crop for export to Japan. The research study by NCOA, Yusipang, found that it has a great potential in health food, high value crop for export and a good source of nitrogen for soil fertility management.

Initially in 2021, two farmers from Haebesa, Gasetshowom under Wangduephodrang were supported to grow adzuki beans on trial basis since the chiwog was identified as organic grower. They were supplied with 2 kgs adzuki beans each. Adzuki bean has a potential legume crop for the organic production system with a high nutritional and commercial value and with potential export market to Japan.

In 2022, with the support from National Organic Program (NOP), NCOA, Yusipang, 80 kgs of adzuki bean seed were supplied to the 37 households from Haebesa, Bjaphu and Samthang/Migtana of Gasetshowom, Ruebisa and Athang gewog covering an area of about 5.25 acres. Details are shown in the table below:

Sl.No.	Village/Gewog	Area (acres)	Production (Kg)	Households benefited
1	Haebesa, Gasetshowom	3.2	640	13
2	Bjaphu, Ruebisa	1.25	190	7
3	Samthang & Migтана, Athang	0.80	50	8

	Total	5.25	880	
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During cultivation experienced damaged by the birds, wild animals and white grub infestation in some areas during seedling stage.

Farmers expressed that if there is assured market, they would prefer to cultivate adzuki beans since adzuki bean cultivation requires less management activities and it gives a good yield. Among the farmers cultivated adzuki beans found that one of the farmers in Haebesa earned around Nu.30000/- from the sale of 150 kg adzuki bean @Nu.200/kg.

Beside saving their own seeds for coming season by the beneficiaries. The dzongkhag Agriculture sector bought back around 777 kgs worth of Nu. 1,55,400 from the farmers. This will be redistributed to the potential farmers during this season under Organic Programme and normal farming for crop diversification and soil fertility improvement.

Compiled by: Deki Pem (Sr.AS I), Gasetshogwom and Agriculture sector, February 2023.