

Adapting integrated crop management technologies to commercial citrus enterprises in Bhutan and Australia



Key details

Location

Bhutan

Duration

Start Apr 2012

End Dec 2017

Budget

AUD 1,192,861

Commissioned organisation

Department of Primary Industries, Australia

Partners

Department of Agriculture; National Seed Centre; National Soil Services Centre; Western Sydney University

Project Leader

Graeme Sanderson - Department of Primary Industries

Program

Horticulture

Project code

HORT/2010/089

and employment for at least 60% of the rural population. The average fruit yield of only 4 tonnes to the acre is, however, well below other Asian countries such as Thailand and Taiwan. Traditional cultural practices and failure to adopt new management practices is an impediment to achieving the Bhutanese government target of exporting 100,000 tonnes of citrus fruit to Bangladesh and India.

The project improved citrus productivity through management practices such as pruning, more targeted nutrition and irrigation, and implementing control methods for pests and diseases. It improved the knowledge and capability of Bhutanese horticulture personnel through more specialised training and research. Australian scientists had the opportunity to identify, diagnose and manage exotic citrus pests.



ACIAR

Australian
Aid 

Overview

This project aimed to provide Bhutan with a clean healthy source of citrus germplasm so it could produce grafted trees for its citrus industry.

Citrus is one of the most important agricultural commodities to the economy of Bhutan; it provides valuable export income for the country, and income