

LIFE



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1. A villager in traditional attire takes part in a spring farming ceremony in a village in Lhokha city, Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA 2. More than 200 villagers gather for the ritual, praying for a bountiful season. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA 3. Villagers present *khata* scarves to tractor drivers and women sowing seeds during the opening ceremony. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA

Planting hope on high ground

Spring ceremony marks seasonal renewal as villagers celebrate farming heritage while embracing evolving tools across the plateau.

On Monday, annual spring farming ceremonies unfolded across agricultural areas of Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region, blending tradition with modern agricultural practices.

For local farmers, spring plowing and sowing mark one of the most important events of the year, when villagers dress in festive attire and gather in the fields. Tractors and other agricultural machinery are decorated with red tassels, colorful *khata* scarves and ringing bells.

They hold *chemar*, a wooden box filled with barley flour and roasted barley grains, symbolizing a good harvest, and offer each other highland barley wine, their faces beaming with joy and anticipation. Following elders' prayers for a bountiful season, iron plows gently turn the dormant soil, while women

carefully sow seeds, planting hope in the fertile land.

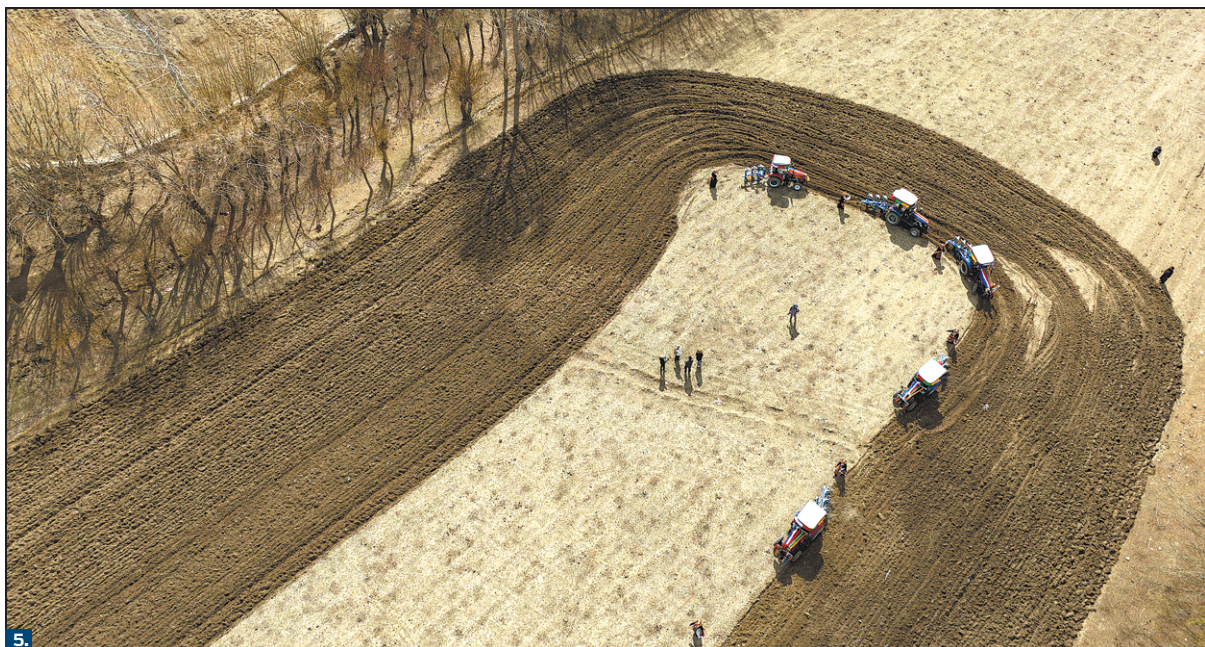
Glinting under the sun, shiny iron plowshares work alongside traditional wooden ones, as the hum of the machinery mingles with laughter, a prelude to spring plowing.

Spring plowing lays the foundation for the year's grain harvest. More than an agricultural activity, it is a cultural ritual, reflecting continuity and change, the resilience of local communities, and their hopes for the future, painting a vibrant picture of rural revitalization on the roof of the world.

Since the onset of spring, townships and villages across the region have deployed technical teams to inspect and service agricultural machinery, while transporting high-quality seeds, such as plateau barley and wheat, to ensure smooth spring farming.



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4. Villagers in Lhokha sow the season's first seeds at the foot of Yumbulagang Palace, known as Xizang's earliest farmland. KUNGA LEZANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE 5. An aerial drone photo shows villagers taking part in the ceremony, blending tradition with modern agricultural practices. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA 6. Women loosen the topsoil to prepare the land for sowing. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA



From left: A woman sows seeds on a freshly plowed field during the ceremony. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA Spring plowing and sowing remain among the most important events of the year for local farmers. JIGME DORJE / XINHUA The first sowing of the season continues agricultural traditions that date back centuries in the region. KUNGA LEZANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

