



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



October 2025



Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo attends World Food Forum 2025 edition in Rome, Italy.

His Excellency Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), accompanied by officials from the Ministry are in FAO HQ Rome, Italy to participate in key segments of the World Food Forum (WFF) 2025 and the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi) Investment Forum from 13th to 17th October 2025. On 13th October 2025, Honorable Sanam Lyonpo (HSL) and his delegation formally attended the Grand Opening of World Food Forum 2025, held at FAO headquarters under the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future", in celebration of FAO's 80th anniversary. During the opening ceremony, dignitaries from across the globe delivered remarks emphasizing the need for renewed political will, cross-sector partnerships, and investment to accelerate agrifood systems transformation. Later that day, HSL visited the Bhutanese youth-led exhibition booth, which showcased Bhutan's agrifood journey from traditional farming, sustainable practices, to emerging innovations aligning with the World Food Forum's Indonesia chapter's youth programming and exhibitions. The Bhutanese display drew attention to how youth across regions are bridging heritage and modern agritech solutions, contributing to WFF's youth engagement pillar. On 14th October 2025, HSL joined the Opening Session of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi) Forum Investment, a core pillar of WFF that convenes countries, investors, and development partners in matchmaking dialogues. The 2025 edition gathers representatives from over 31 countries and six regions, underlining FAO's role as a facilitator connecting investment opportunities with countries' agrifood priorities. The HiHi now supports more than 80 member countries, leveraging geospatial analysis, national planning, and partnership building to drive inclusive agrifood investment. In the evening, HSL delivered a keynote address entitled "From Potential to Progress: FAO Driving Excellence in Youth Programming for Agrifood Systems Transformation", highlighting how young people globally are stepping forward with creativity, resilience and urgency. He emphasized their role in rethinking production, distribution, consumption and emergence of youth led agrifood enterprises and climate smart solutions that have the potential to shift entire systems. His Excellency also delivered a keynote address during the event organised by the Bhutan youth Chapter, "Mindful Food Futures – Bhutan's Living Wisdom Meets Global Agri-food Innovation," jointly organized by FAO Bhutan and the World Food Forum. The forum brought together government representatives, development partners, youth networks, and innovators from across the globe. The event, "Mindfulness in Action," offers an immersive journey into Bhutan's mindful approach to sustainable agrifood systems, combining reflection, innovation, and storytelling. The Ministry's active participation in the WFF and Investment Forum underscores Bhutan's commitment to youth empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and global cooperation in transforming agrifood systems. The Ministry's engagements and address projected Bhutan's vision of inclusive, youth centered agrifood development within the global framework of FAO's 2030 goals.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD FUTURE.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has commenced a series of regional consultations to take stock of the implementation of the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation. The consultations, which will cover 20 Dzongkhags and 205 Gewogs across Bhutan, began with the first session held in Phuentsholing from 13–14 October 2025.

The event brought together key stakeholders from Chukha, Haa, and Samtse Dzongkhags to review progress in implementing Bhutan's National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation. As part of the pathways for transformation and impact, participants were also sensitized on the National Crop and Livestock Insurance Scheme (NCLIS) and its operationalization, a key mechanism for de-risking Bhutan's agrifood sector and safeguarding farmers against crop and livestock losses.

Around 100 participants, including Local Government leaders, and agriculture and livestock officials from the three Dzongkhags took part in the two-day event that featured plenary presentations, group discussions, and Q&A sessions focused on strengthening resilience and sustainability in Bhutan's food systems. Through these consultations, the Ministry aims to strengthen collaboration, enhance policy coherence, and accelerate Bhutan's transition toward a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food system.

The Ministry extends its sincere appreciation to the Dzongkhag Administrations of Chukha, Haa, and Samtse for their strong support and looks forward to continued collaboration from other Dzongkhags in the upcoming consultations.





Five-Day Training of Trainers on Cost of Production (CoP) of Agricultural Commodities at Bumthang

1 October 2025: The Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in partnership with FAO-implemented EU TAAS, project is hosting a 5-day training of trainers on Cost of Production (CoP) of agricultural commodities at Bumthang. This vital knowledge helps guide farm profits, pricing, and policies. The ToTs are mandated to share knowledge and skills with the rest of their colleagues.

The training covers how to analyze costs, use financial tools, and make smarter decisions for farms and the nation.

A total of 45 ToTs from all 20 Dzongkhags, Agriculture Research and Development Centre (ARDCs) and Center Programs are taking part in this hands-on experience.

Courtesy Call on Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

8 October 2025: Professor K.K. Aggarwal, President of the South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock.

Professor Aggarwal briefed Lyonpo on SAU's mandate as a regional university established by SAARC Member States to promote excellence in higher education and research. He shared updates on the University's academic programs and its ongoing efforts to revamp and reform its structure in line with current regional needs. Hon'ble Lyonpo appreciated SAU's contribution to regional human resource development and suggested exploring ways to enhance Bhutanese and regional faculty representation. Lyonpo further encouraged the University to channel such initiatives through its Governing Board to ensure stronger SAARC-wide ownership and support.

Hon'ble Lyonpo thanked Professor Aggarwal for his visit and expressed his continued support.



Launch of the “Accelerate Bhutan’s Job Transformation through Renewable Natural Resource (RNR) Value Chains Project”



30th October 2025, Thimphu: The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, launched the “Accelerate Bhutan’s Job Transformation through Renewable Natural Resource (RNR) Value Chains Project” on 30th October 2025 in Thimphu. The launch was graced by Hon’ble Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, and Mr. Tomás Rosada, Practice Manager, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank. With a total funding of USD 34.7 million, the five-year project aims to enhance value addition, employment, and competitiveness in key RNR value chains, including dairy, citrus, potato, and forest-based products. By empowering approximately 42,000 beneficiaries (65% women) and promoting climate-smart, market-driven, and private sector-led growth, the initiative represents a significant milestone toward achieving Bhutan’s vision of a high-income country under the 13th Five-Year Plan. Following the launch, a sensitization session was conducted to familiarize relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries with the project’s objectives, components, and implementation approach.



The Hon'ble Minister attends the 8th Royal Highland Festival



27 Oct, 2025: Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Livestock attended the 8th Royal Highland Festival with the theme "Celebrating Highland Resilience and Prosperity" held from 23–24 October 2025 in Laya, Gasa Dzongkhag. Initiated by His Majesty The King, the annual festival celebrates the highlanders' culture and traditions while promoting sustainable development among the highland communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), a key partner in the event, showcased various products and technologies suited for highland conditions. The Department of Livestock, under the "Lanor" brand, exhibited high-quality yak cheese, yak fibre, and sheep wool products, and coordinated competitions for yak and Mastiff categories, with visitors also invited to vote for the best animals. The Department of Agriculture demonstrated sunken-bed greenhouse technology, ideal for high-altitude vegetable cultivation, along with displays of rice, fruits, nuts, and mushrooms to promote local food diversity.

The event also saw participation from Dasho Dzongdags, DYT Chairpersons, Agri entrepreneurs and highland cooperatives from different dzongkhags. During the festival, the Hon'ble Minister met with local officials and ministry staff, expressing appreciation for their dedication and commending those serving in remote highland areas despite challenging conditions.





Second Regional Consultation on Food Systems Transformation Held in Bumthang

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock conducted the second regional consultation to take stock of the implementation of the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation in Bumthang from 20–21 October 2025, engaging key stakeholders from Bumthang, Trongsa, Tsirang, and Zhemgang Dzongkhags. The consultation served as a platform to review progress, share experiences, and discuss practical actions to advance resilient and sustainable food systems. Approximately 105 participants actively took part in the workshop, contributing valuable insights and perspectives to the discussions.

Third Regional Consultation on Food Systems Transformation Held in Mongar

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in collaboration with **FAO Bhutan** and the **United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub**, convened the third regional consultation on the implementation of the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation in Mongar from 23–24 October 2025. The two-day consultation brought together 97 participants from Mongar, Lhuentse, and Trashiyangtse Dzongkhags. It concluded with participants reaffirming their dedication to advancing Bhutan's food systems transformation agenda through stronger coordination, innovation, and local actions.





Courtesy Call by Mr. Tomás Rosada, Practice Manager, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group

28 October 2025: Hon'ble Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, welcomed Mr. Tomás Rosada, Practice Manager for Agriculture and Food Global Practice at the World Bank Group, and expressed appreciation for the Bank's continued partnership in strengthening Bhutan's agriculture sector.

Lyonpo highlighted the RNR Jobs Project as more than just a project — a launchpad for deeper and lasting transformation in Bhutan's agriculture. The World Bank reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Bhutan's agri-food systems through job-focused investments, data-driven insights, and future collaboration in digitization, traceability, trade facilitation, and certification.



The National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), with financial support from the Pandemic Fund, organized the National Veterinary Laboratory Coordination Meeting.



13 October 2025, Bumthang: A total of 54 participants, veterinarians and laboratory technicians from the National, Regional Centres, and District Veterinary Hospitals and Laboratories across the country attended the meeting. The event was graced and addressed by Hon'ble DASHO DZONGDA DASHO (Dr.) R.B. Gurung, who emphasized the importance of collective purpose, and the critical role of veterinary laboratories in safeguarding animal and public health in the country.

The meeting aims to bring laboratory professionals to strengthen diagnostic capacity, harmonize standards, and enhance information sharing for more effective disease surveillance and response. Bhutan's veterinary laboratories play a vital role in early detection and diagnosis of animal diseases, enabling timely control and prevention measures. The National Veterinary Laboratory at NCAH serves as the national referral lab, while regional and district laboratories form the backbone of the diagnostic network.

Recent disease challenges such as Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and African Swine Fever (ASF) highlight the urgent need for strong coordination, modern diagnostic tools, and rapid communication channels among laboratories.

By working together, the national laboratory network aims to stay aligned with global best practices and ensure a timely, coordinated, and science-based response to emerging animal health threats, protecting both livestock and livelihoods.

Bhutan's NBSAP Secretariat participates in the side event titled "Mountains at the Heart of the Climate-Biodiversity Nexus: Strategic Ecosystems for Advancing Global Frameworks"



23 October 2025: Dr Sangay Dema, who represented NBSAP Secretariat of Bhutan, hosted at the National Biodiversity Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), participated as a panel member in a side event titled "Mountains at the Heart of the Climate-Biodiversity Nexus: Strategic Ecosystems for Advancing Global Frameworks." The event was jointly organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and other regional mountain bodies, on the sidelines of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD-SBSTTA 27), currently taking place in Panama.

She underscored Bhutan's recognition of mountain ecosystems as central to the climate-biodiversity nexus, highlighting their effective protection and management as instrumental in achieving multiple global environmental goals and commitments, including those under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She further added how this recognition is reflected in Bhutan's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP 2025), which places mountain biodiversity at the heart of its vision and mission, underscoring its strategic importance for ecological integrity, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

The session also provided a platform for participants to exchange perspectives on advancing the mountain agenda to strengthen implementation of both the UNFCCC and CBD commitments.

Thank you for reading!
