



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



January 2026



**15 January 2026-Phuntsholing:** The Department of Livestock successfully conducted its Annual Livestock Coordination Meeting, bringing together Dzongkhag Livestock Sectors, technical centres, and farms at a critical point in the implementation of the 13th Five Year Plan. Held in Phuentsholing from 14-15 January, and graced by the presence of Hon'ble Secretary (MoAL) and Director General (DoL), the workshop served as an important national platform to collectively review progress, reflect on emerging challenges, and realign strategies to ensure that livestock sector investments translate into sustainable and inclusive outcomes on the ground.

Over two intensive days, participants engaged in structured presentations, open discussions, and interactive question and answer sessions that went beyond routine reporting. The meeting enabled focused deliberations on practical issues faced at field level, including the implementation challenges of Cost Sharing Mechanisms, data discrepancies between sector records and national statistics, persistent market saturation for key commodities such as pork, escalating prices of egg prices, human resource shortages, vaccination financing constraints, and the need for greater transparency in livestock product pricing. These discussions recognized that while production gains and system strengthening efforts are underway, effective coordination, clarity in policies, and operational flexibility remain critical to sustaining sector transformation.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of evidence based decision making and collective problem solving. Participants emphasized the need for stronger coordination with national agencies such as the National Statistical Bureau and the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, better alignment of production planning with market realities, improved utilization of existing infrastructure like blast freezers and cold chains, and systematic documentation of field realities to inform policy review at higher levels. Equally important were discussions on strengthening human capacity through structured training, motivation, mobility support, and institutionalizing the Annual Livestock Workshop as a regular forum for learning, cross sharing, and adaptive planning. Overall, the workshop reinforced a shared commitment among central agencies and Dzongkhags to work collaboratively, address bottlenecks proactively, and ensure that livestock sector interventions under the 13th Five Year Plan deliver tangible benefits to farmers, consumers, and the national economy.



## Hon'ble Lyonpo Meets Newly Recruited GEF-8 PMU Staff

**15 January 2026\_Thimphu:** The newly recruited staff of the Global Environment Facility–8 (GEF-8) Project Management Unit (PMU) made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Lyonpo, during which the Hon'ble Lyonpo met with the staff in a simple yet meaningful ceremony and conveyed congratulations on their appointment.

Earlier in the morning, the Policy and Planning Division (PPD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and focal persons from relevant line technical agencies conducted an induction programme for the newly recruited PMU staff. During the session, the recruits were familiarized with the overall project framework, key objectives, work plan for the remaining fiscal year, implementation modalities, and reporting structure.

The newly appointed PMU staff bring with them extensive professional experience and diverse technical expertise in project management, sustainable agriculture, and development cooperation, which are expected to strengthen the effective implementation of the project.

The GEF-8 project, titled “Productive and Sustainable Food Systems in Bhutan for Environmental Benefits and Gross National Happiness,” is the first of its kind in the region to adopt a holistic and integrated food systems approach. The project aims to address interconnected challenges by restoring ecosystems, strengthening climate resilience, enhancing livelihoods, promoting inclusive value chains, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of agrifood systems.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the project is aligned with Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan and national development priorities. The project will be implemented across six eastern Dzongkhags, contributing to environmental benefits while supporting socio-economic development in line with the principles of Gross National Happiness.

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**13 January 2026, Thimphu:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) is pleased to welcome Mrs. Tashi Yangzom as an Assistant Engineer to the Ministry. Prior to joining MoAL, Mrs. Tashi served in the Engineering Sector under the Dzongkhag Administration, Lhuentse, where she gained valuable field and administrative experience. With her professional background and technical expertise, she is expected to contribute meaningfully to the Ministry's efforts in strengthening infrastructure development and improving service delivery.

The Ministry looks forward to her active involvement and positive contributions in advancing its mandate. Upon her joining, Mrs. Tashi Yangzom paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Minister (Mijay Lyonpo) and the Dasho Secretary at the Ministry office, where they warmly welcomed her and wished her success in her new role.

# Launch of Dairy-Led Job Transformation Project in Bhutan



In an auspicious beginning, the Department of Livestock successfully launched the Inception Workshop for the implementation of the World Bank-supported project (World Bank South Asia), **"Accelerate Job Transformation through Renewable Natural Resource (RNR) Value Chains in Bhutan"** in Phuentsholing from 16-17 January, 2026. The project marks a major step toward transforming the rural economy through job creation, value addition, and climate-resilient livelihoods, in line with the aspirations of the 13th Five Year Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Among the selected high-potential value chains, dairy has been identified as one of the most strategic and high-impact sectors for inclusive economic transformation. **The National Dairy Development Centre** will serve as the implementing agency for the dairy value chain, providing technical leadership and coordination. The inception workshop was attended by representatives from 14 beneficiary Dzongkhags, central agencies, and technical centres, and was also joined by the Project Manager from the Project Management Unit of the project.

During the workshop, the National Dairy Development Centre briefed the participating Dzongkhags on the major dairy interventions under the project, including implementation modalities, targeting criteria, institutional roles, and expected outcomes. The sessions facilitated detailed discussions on the sequencing of activities, coordination mechanisms between central agencies and Dzongkhags, and alignment with ongoing dairy development programmes. Overall, the workshop provided a common platform to build a shared understanding of project objectives, implementation arrangements, and performance expectations, laying a strong foundation for the effective and coordinated rollout of the interventions.



## Courtesy Call by Mr. Gaurav Ray, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

**22 January 2026:** The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, warmly welcomed Mr. Gaurav Ray, the newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator, to Bhutan. During the courtesy call, both sides reaffirmed the long-standing and fruitful partnership between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the UN system, particularly in advancing sustainable development and strengthening the agrifood sector.

The Hon'ble Minister expressed gratitude for the continued support of UN agencies, noting that their technical and financial assistance has been instrumental in Bhutan's agrifood and rural development progress. Mr. Ray, in turn, expressed his commitment to serving Bhutan and deepening collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to further enhance sustainable development outcomes across the sector.



## Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Welcomes New Recruits

**8 January 2026, Thimphu:** The Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo graced the opening of a two-day orientation programme for January 2026 appointees. The Ministry has a total of 35 appointees—20 under the Professional and Management Category and 15 under the Support and Supervisory Category—who will be joining centres and Dzongkhag RNR sectors.

The programme is designed to equip the new appointees with a clear understanding of the relevant civil service rules and regulations, the mandate and strategic priorities of the Ministry, their service delivery roles, the code of conduct, and essential administrative procedures. This will enable them to transition smoothly and confidently into their respective assignments. The Ministry warmly welcomes the new appointees to the RNR family and extends its best wishes as they embark on their new roles.



## MoAL Specialists Convene to Revamp Specialist Roles for the Agriculture Sector



**6 January 2026-Thimphu:** As directed by the HR committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) during the 21st HRC meeting held on 2nd December 2025, specialists from the MoAL met for a second round of consultation on 5th Jan 2026 to review and strengthen the role of specialists in supporting Bhutan's agricultural transformation.

The meeting discussed critical challenges, including staff attrition, limited career progression, and the need for well-defined professional pathways for specialists within the ministry. Participants also noted the growing need for specialised expertise to address emerging challenges in the agriculture sector, including climate change impacts, biosecurity threats, and the degradation of natural resources. The discussions further highlighted the need to leverage modern technologies to address challenges and meet the Ministry's national targets, which require the deployment, development, and retention of skilled professionals across its various agencies.

The meeting resolved to develop a white paper that identifies priority areas of specialisation in the agriculture sector and redefines the specialist roles to foster a professional environment that enables effective contribution to research and innovation, productivity, resilience, and sustainability.



# NADPM and RCP2.0 Programme Sterilisation and Vaccination Campaign for Dogs and Cats in Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Dagana



As part of efforts to make GMC free of unowned free-roaming dogs and rabies, the NADPM & RCP 2.0 programme was implemented from 6-25 January 2026 in Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag, Dagana. The programme commenced with a stakeholder consultation meeting on 6 January and training of Livestock Officials and Desuups on 7 January, followed by a deployment meeting on 22 January and a three-day sterilisation and vaccination campaign from 23-25 January targeting pet and unowned free-roaming dogs and cats.

A total of 95 personnel were engaged. The programme achieved sterilisation of 376 dogs and 120 cats, and vaccination of 174 dogs and 328 cats. Dog sterilisation exceeded targets, while cat sterilisation and vaccination achievements stood at 73% and 76%, respectively.

The programme concluded successfully on 25 January 2026 with a closing event graced by the Secretary of MoAL, who commended the Livestock Officials and Desuups for their dedication.

