



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



Monthly News letter | April 2026

MoAL Participates in Annual Jungwa Chidoe Kurim



10 April 2026 | Thimphu:

The Hon'ble Minister, Heads of Departments, and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock participated to offer prayers and Nyendar at the ongoing Annual Jungwa Chidoe Kurim being held at Pangrizampa Druk Phodrangdhing College of Astrology.

As part of the offerings, MoAL sponsored the day's lunch and Chagap for the lams and monks, supported through voluntary contributions from staff of the Ministry.

The sacred ritual, presided over by the former Tshogki Lopen of the Central Monastic Body and performed by more than 225 monks, is conducted annually for the promotion of peace, harmony, and prosperity of the nation, as well as the well-being of all sentient beings. The on-going Kurim commenced on 8 April and will conclude on 16 April 2026.



Launch of Lharichhu CCFMG Management Plan and Showcase of High-Value Fish Products



16 April 2026|Tsirang:

The Management Plan for the Lharichhu Community-based Capture Fishery Management Group (CCFMG), Sergithang, Tsirang, was formally launched today by the Chief of the Livestock Research and Extension Division (MoAL). The event was attended by the Gup, the Geog Administration of Sergithang, Divisional Forest Chief Forest Officer of Tsirang, the Program Director of NRDCRLF, Haa, the Chief Dzongkhag Livestock Officer of Tsirang, and officials from the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector (DLS), Tsirang. As part of the programme, two high-value fish product, smoked Snow trout fillet and smoked Snow trout were showcased, highlighting

the outcomes of the group's value addition initiatives under the management plan. These products demonstrate the group's efforts to enhance product quality, extend shelf life, and increase market value through improved processing and packaging techniques. The showcase also served as a platform to highlight the group's commitment to sustainable fisheries management while promoting alternative livelihood opportunities for the local community.

CPD Training on Yak Based Products: Yak Wool, Harvesting and Processing, and Yak Dairy Products Processing

16 April 2026 Haa:

A four-day training workshop on yak-based product development commenced on the 14 of April 2026, at the Dzongkhag Veterinary Hospital (DVH), Tselungkha, Haa Dzongkhag. Organized by the National Highland Development Centre (NHDC), Wangdue, in collaboration with the Department of Livestock, the workshop is being conducted under the Competency and Professional Development (CPD) Program supported by the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC). The training focuses on strengthening professional competencies in yak-based products processing such as cheese production, fibre and wool processing, and product development,

with a blend of technical presentations, group discussions, and hands-on practical sessions. Participants will gain exposure to topics such as yak wool development, wool collection and grading, wool processing, market standards, milk composition, cheese making, and standardization, followed by practical sessions at the National Yak Farm, Chonaphu and the Milk Processing Unit, Tselungkha. The workshop is expected to further enhance the capacity of livestock professionals to provide informed technical support to yak herders and contribute to the sustainable growth of yak-based livelihood opportunities in Bhutan's highland areas.



Regional Livestock Development Centre enhances diagnostic capacity with installation of real time PCR Machine and laboratory bio-risk assessment

17 April 2026 | Trashigang:

The Regional Livestock Development Center (RLDC), Kanglung, has taken a significant step towards strengthening laboratory diagnostic services with the installation of real time PCR machine at its laboratory. The installation process, carried out from 16–18 April 2026, includes comprehensive validation procedures and hands-on practical training for RLDC laboratory technicians. The training is being conducted by technical experts from the National Centre for Animal Health, Thimphu.

The introduction of PCR machine, represents a major advancement in diagnostic capability at the regional level. This will significantly enhance the laboratory's efficiency, reduce turnaround time for test results, and support timely implementation of disease control and prevention measures. For now, the machine will support

the diagnosis of priority transboundary and economically important diseases such as African Swine Fever and Avian Influenza which pose significant threats to animal and public health and farmer livelihoods. In parallel with the PCR installation, a comprehensive laboratory bio-risk assessment is being conducted. This assessment is funded by the Pandemic Fund through FAO support and aims to evaluate the laboratory's biosafety and biosecurity systems. The assessment will provide critical insights into infrastructure set up, operational practices, compliance with recommended standards, hazards and risk and risk mitigation strategies ensuring that the laboratory operates in a safe and secure manner while handling infectious agents.

The findings will aim to support improvement of the laboratory quality systems and strengthen biosafety and biosecurity capacity. The simultaneous implementation of advanced diagnostic technology and bio-risk assessment reflects RLDC's commitment to strengthening laboratory systems, enhancing disease preparedness, and safeguarding both animal and public health



13th Five-Year Plan Mid-Term Review For Central Agencies



17th April 2026 : Thimphu

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for ministries and agencies commenced today in the capital, bringing together key stakeholders to evaluate progress and set future priorities. The review began with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and will focus on assessing achievements to date, identifying key

challenges, and formulating strategies to enhance implementation in the remaining years. This exercise is expected to be instrumental in ensuring the effective delivery of planned targets while aligning priorities with emerging national needs. Meanwhile, the Mid-Term Review of the 13th FYP for all districts was completed last week.

Public Notification on Price of Imported Eggs

Announcement

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Imported Eggs Available

Wholesale Price Per Tray:
Nu. 300 including GST.

Maximum Retail Price (MRP) Per Tray:
Nu. 330 including GST.

 FCBL Outlets
Across 20 Dzongkhags




! No one is allowed to sell above the set MRP!




20 April 2026

The Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) would like to inform the public that White Imported Eggs supplied by the Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL) will be available across seven Dzongkhags (Chhukha, Haa, Paro, Punakha, Samtse, Thimphu, and Wangdue Phodrang) **from 21st April 2026 and the remaining Dzongkhags from 23rd April onwards.**

The **Wholesale Price of the Eggs**, inclusive of GST, is fixed at Nu. 300 per tray. The **Maximum Retail Price (MRP)** is set at Nu. 330 per tray (including GST). No Individual or Retailer is allowed to sell above the MRP.

The Regional Offices of DAMC along with the Dzongkhag and Gewog Administrations will monitor and ensure compliance with the prescribed price. The location of the eggs available for wholesale across FCBL outlets is shared here for your kind information.

Asia-Pacific Food Forum 22 April 2026 – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam:

Preceding the 38th Session of the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC), the first Asia-Pacific Food Forum opened in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, bringing together Ministers, development partners, financial institutions, private sector leaders, scientists, innovators, women farmers, and youth to accelerate agrifood systems transformation.

A delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan, led by Hon'ble Younten Phuntsho, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, attended the opening ceremony on 22 April 2026. Minister Younten Phuntsho delivered the Keynote Address at the Forum, highlighting Bhutan's successful implementation of the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative through quinoa (Ashi Heychum). In his address, the Minister shared Bhutan's experience in integrating science into policy-making to drive the implementation of the OCOP initiative, showcasing the country's commitment to evidence-based agricultural development and agrifood systems transformation. The Minister also participated in a panel session alongside Ministers from Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga, where he further underscored Bhutan's commitment to and efforts towards sustainable agrifood systems transformation.



Closure of the 38th Session of the FAO APCR

24 April 2026 – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam



25 March | 2026

On the last day of the 38th FAO APCR, Hon'ble Minister participated in the Ministerial Roundtable on "Accelerating Agrifood Investment Pathways through the Hand-in-Hand initiative" alongside Ministers from Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Tonga.

Countries came together at the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative Roundtable to share how they are turning agricultural priorities into concrete, bankable investment pipelines. From Bangladesh's structured financing approach to Bhutan's sustainability-led model, the Philippines' upcoming national investment forum, and Tonga's push for climate-resilient and innovative financing,

the discussion highlighted a shared shift from fragmented projects to coordinated, investment-driven agrifood transformation, alongside the need for enhanced monitoring and tracking of investments to ensure impact.

As the Rapporteur, the Minister presented the Summary of Proceedings of the Ministerial Meeting to the 38th APCR. The 38th FAO APCR concluded with a shared commitment to accelerate agri-food systems transformation, backed by strong regional solidarity and a clear focus on resilience, innovation, and food security for all.

The Conference also endorsed the Lao People's Democratic Republic as the host country for the 39th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC39).



Hybrid Solar Lift Irrigation System Inaugurated in Punakha



23 March | 2026 | Thimphu:

A hybrid solar lift irrigation system was inaugurated on 26 April 2026 at Dzomlingthang in Guma Gewog, Punakha, by the Hon'ble Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) and the Letshog Lopen of the Zhung Dratshang. It was also attended by the Dasho Dzongdag and the district officials.

The project was implemented by the Department of Agriculture and technical assistance by the Department of Infrastructure Development with funding support from the Government of India (GoI-PTA) at a cost of about Nu. 30 million. The irrigation system is expected to bring lasting relief to farmers of two chiwogs, Dochukha-Dzomlingthang-Ritsa and Changyul-Lungsilgang-

Tashijong, who have faced chronic irrigation water shortages for decades.

The two chiwogs together have around 500 acres of wetland suitable for rice cultivation, of which nearly 75 acres are left fallow annually due to insufficient water supply. Farmers have depended on the declining Nyakulum water source, which has affected paddy production over the years.

The newly completed system will pump water from the Mochhu River approximately three kilometres uphill, from where it will flow through the newly constructed distribution channels to the fields. The system operates on solar

energy and can also run on electricity when solar power is unavailable. Net metering has also been integrated into the system, allowing excess solar power generated during the irrigation season to be fed into the national grid and drawn back for use during the lean season.

The project is expected to improve agricultural productivity, and encourage farmers to undertake winter cropping and large-scale vegetable cultivation. With reliable irrigation now in place, farmers can look forward to higher yields, increased cultivation, and improved livelihoods.

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TASHI DELEK