



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



Monthly News letter | June 2026

5th Made in Bhutan Exhibition, 3rd Watermelon Festival, and 1st Bhutan Tea Festival 2026 Open at Clock Tower Square

Thimphu | 5 June 2026:

The 5th Made in Bhutan Exhibition, 3rd Watermelon Festival, and 1st Bhutan Tea Festival 2026 were officially launched today at Clock Tower Square in Thimphu.

It was organized by the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) with support from the Project Tied Assistance (PTA); the three-day event is being held under the theme "Connecting Bhutanese Products to Market: Empowering Farmers, Inspiring Agri-entrepreneurs, and Enabling Trade."

The event was officially inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, underscoring the importance of strengthening market linkages, promoting local products, and supporting Bhutanese farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and businesses. Bringing together producers, entrepreneurs, traders, and consumers from across the country, the exhibition and festivals provide a platform to showcase Bhutanese

products, create business opportunities, and enhance market access for locally produced goods.

The festival honored the achievements of Khenrig Namsum Cooperatives (KNC) of Zhemgang Dzongkhag and neighboring farming communities, providing them with a platform to sell directly to consumers and establish connections with wholesalers and retailers. Approximately

40 Bhutanese entrepreneurs, including cooperatives and farmer groups, participated in the 5th Made in Bhutan Exhibition (MBE), 3rd Watermelon Festival (WMF), and 1st Bhutan Tea Festival (BTF) 2026.

The event will continue until 7 June 2026, offering visitors the opportunity to explore local products, engage with entrepreneurs, and support Bhutanese businesses.



FMCL and JDWNRH Sign MoU to Sustain Quinoa Integration in Patient Diets



9 June 2026|Thimphu:

Following the successful implementation of the pilot quinoa integration project at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH), MoU was signed today between the Farm Machinery Corporation Limited (FMCL) and JDWNRH to ensure the continued supply of quinoa through an independent procurement arrangement. The pilot project was initially implemented with funding support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP)

initiative in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DoA), FMCL and the Department of Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (DAMC). During the implementation of the pilot project, JDWNRH reported positive feedback on the integration of quinoa into patient meals, whereby 10% of rice was replaced with quinoa for general patients and up to 80% of rice was replaced with quinoa for diabetic patients. The collaboration not only promotes the consumption of nutritious, locally

produced food but also creates a reliable market for Bhutanese quinoa farmers, thereby supporting rural livelihoods and strengthening local food systems. During the ceremony, discussions were also held on further diversifying patient diets at JDWNRH through the inclusion of other locally

produced cereals and nutritious food commodities in the future. This partnership marks an important step towards improving nutrition, supporting local agriculture, and enhancing food system resilience in Bhutan.



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) Conducts 4th Quarterly Review Meeting for FY 2025–26

9 June 2026 | Thimphu:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) successfully conducted its 4th Quarterly Review Meeting for FY 2025–26 on 9 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of MoAL and attended by Directors General, Directors, Programme Directors, Chiefs, officials from various departments and divisions, as well as virtual participants including Dzongkhag Agriculture and Livestock Officers, farm managers, and field officials. The meeting reviewed the overall physical and financial progress of programmes and activities implemented during the fiscal year. Discussions focused on strengthening the planning and conduct of future quarterly review meetings,

financial performance and budget utilization, agricultural production targets, climate-smart irrigation schemes, chain-link fencing initiatives, livestock development, market interventions, and priority actions under the Ministry's strategic programmes.

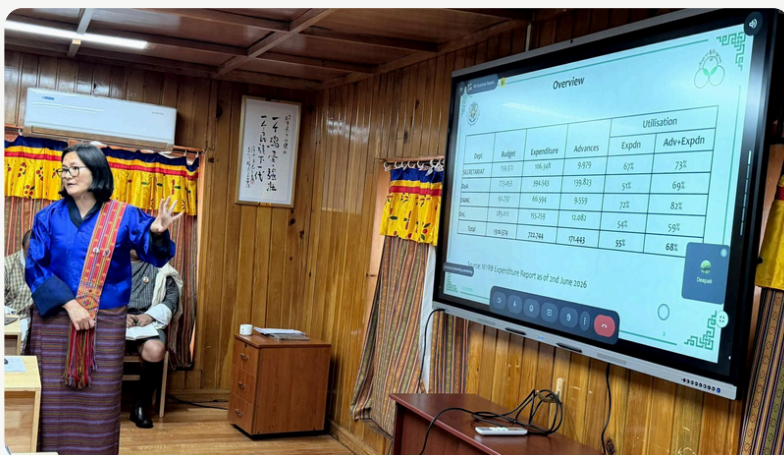
The review concluded with a series of directives and follow-up actions aimed at improving programme implementation, accelerating priority initiatives, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring the timely achievement of the Ministry's targets and key performance indicators.

MoAL Launches Biodiversity-Based Products Developed under Bhutan's Access and Benefit Sharing Framework



Thimphu, 15 June 2026: The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), through the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), today launched ten biodiversity-based products developed under Bhutan's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Framework at the CSI Market Event Centre in Thimphu.

The launch event was graced by Hon'ble Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, and attended by senior government officials, development partners, entrepreneurs, private sector representatives, and community stakeholders.



Dept	Budget	Expenditure	Advances	Utilisation	
				Expend	Adv+Expend
MOAL	100,000	95,000	5,000	62%	73%
DAK	10,000	9,500	500	55%	69%
DC	10,000	9,500	500	20%	81%
Total	120,000	114,000	6,000	54%	79%

MoAL Launches Biodiversity-Based Products Developed under Bhutan's Access and Benefit Sharing Framework



The products were developed under the project "Scaling Bioprospecting as a Nature-based Solution (Nbs) for Green Mountain Livelihoods," implemented by NBC in collaboration with ICIMOD under the Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP), funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom. The launch showcased ten innovative ABS-compliant products developed by Bhutanese entrepreneurs, including Red Rice Vinegar, Amla Syrup, Cordyceps Health Supplements, Cordyceps and Herb-Infused Chocolate Bars, Matsutake Soup, Moringa Health Supplement, Rhododendron Mindfulness Tea, Moxa Sticks, Immunity Booster Honey, and Matsutake Harmony Tea.

In addition, NBC launched a Finger Millet Flour product prototype developed for the Boomdeling Farmers' Group as part of its livelihood enhancement and product diversification initiative.

In his keynote address, Lyonpo highlighted the importance of bioprospecting as a nature-based solution that promotes biodiversity conservation while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic value for rural communities. He also emphasized the significance of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms that recognize local communities as key partners in biodiversity-based enterprises.

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Farewell courtesy call by Mr. Roshan Cooke, IFAD Country Director for Bhutan and Nepal.



25 June 2026|Thimphu

The Hon'ble Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, extended a warm welcome to Mr. Roshan Cooke, IFAD Country Director for Bhutan and Nepal. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock also conveyed its heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing Country Director for his dedicated service and valuable contributions to Bhutan's agricultural and rural development efforts. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock extends its heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing IFAD Country Director for Bhutan and Nepal for his dedicated service and valuable contributions to Bhutan's agricultural and rural development efforts. As one of Bhutan's longstanding development partners, IFAD has consistently supported national priorities and contributed significantly to strengthening rural livelihoods, enhancing

agricultural resilience, and advancing sustainable development. During the farewell meeting, both the Ministry and IFAD reaffirmed the importance of partnerships founded on mutual trust, strong leadership, and a shared commitment to achieving meaningful and lasting development outcomes. The Ministry expressed its sincere gratitude to the Country Director for his steadfast support, friendship, and dedication to Bhutan, and conveyed its best wishes for his continued success in his future endeavors.

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TASHI DELEK