



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



Monthly News letter | July 2026

His Excellency the Agriculture and Livestock Minister Graces the Opening Ceremony of the First-Ever Samdrup Jongkhar Summer Festival 2026



2 July 2026

His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock graced the opening ceremony of the inaugural **Summer Festival 2026** on 2 July 2026 in Samdrup Jongkhar. Celebrated under the national ethos of "Bhutan Believe," the three-day festival (2–4 July 2026) aims to celebrate Bhutan's rich cultural heritage, promote agricultural innovation and local products, strengthen community unity, and stimulate regional tourism and economic development.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Chief Engineer of Project DANTAK, delegates and officials from neighbouring India, Dasho Dzongdag, the Dzongkhag Economic Development and Marketing Officers (EDMOs) from the six eastern dzongkhags, the Director and officials from the Department of Tourism, Gups from all the gewogs under Samdrup Jongkhar, representatives from various agencies, officials from the

Dzongkhag Administration and members of the public. During the ceremony, His Excellency officially launched the **SAMJONG 16** regional products and the **Samdrup Jongkhar Travel Diary**, highlighting the importance of promoting locally produced agricultural products, entrepreneurship, and sustainable tourism.

CON. TO PG 2 

H.E. Lyonpo Inaugurates Golanthi Bailey Bridge at Jomotshangkha, Samdrupjongkhar



Today, His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock inaugurated the Golanthi Bailey Bridge at Jomotshangkha Drungkhag, Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag, marking a significant milestone in strengthening rural connectivity and improving access for local communities. The 190-foot (58-metre) Bailey Bridge, with a width of 3.76 metres and a maximum load capacity of 40 metric tonnes, was constructed by Project DANTAK. Construction commenced on 15 March 2025 and was successfully completed on 20 June 2026. The bridge will serve as a vital transport link connecting Jomotshangkha with other gewogs and parts of Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag, directly benefiting the people of the three gewogs under Jomotshangkha Drungkhag.

The improved connectivity will facilitate the movement of people, agricultural produce, livestock, goods, and essential services, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the region. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock extends its sincere appreciation to Project DANTAK, the Jomotshangkha Drungkhag Administration, and all stakeholders involved in the successful completion of this important infrastructure project. The Golanthi Bailey Bridge represents a significant investment in rural development and will greatly improve the livelihoods and well-being of the people of Jomotshangkha Drungkhag.

His Excellency the Agriculture and Livestock Minister Graces the Opening Ceremony of the First-Ever Samdrup Jongkhar Summer Festival 20

The festival also featured the inauguration of exhibition stalls showcasing local agricultural produce, regional products, food and beverages, traditional crafts, and other community enterprises, providing farmers and entrepreneurs with a vibrant platform to promote and market their products.

The opening day came alive with colourful cultural performances by local artists and communities, including traditional mask dances (Cham), Yongba Cham, Ache Lhamo Cham,

traditional folk songs and dances, and the indigenous **Kologpa game**, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of eastern Bhutan. The evening concluded with the "Voice of Samdrup Jongkhar" competition and a symbolic lighting ceremony, bringing together communities in celebration of culture, innovation, and unity.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock congratulates the Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Administration and all partners for successfully organizing this historic first-ever Summer Festival and wishes the event continued success in promoting agriculture, tourism, culture, and community development in the eastern region.

CON. OF PG 1 

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



3RD JULY, 2026.

His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock inaugurated the Waterfall Bailey Bridge, located approximately 9 kilometres from Jomotshangkha Drungkhag towards Serthi Gewog in Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag on 3rd July, 2026.

The Bailey Bridge was constructed by Druk Hydro Energy Limited (DHyE) under the Jomori Hydropower Project. Construction commenced on 8 June 2026 and was successfully completed on 20 June 2026, demonstrating the project's commitment to restoring connectivity within a short

period. Prior to the construction of the bridge, this section of the road at the waterfall was frequently blocked during the monsoon season due to heavy rainfall, disrupting the movement of people, agricultural produce, goods, and essential services. The newly constructed Bailey Bridge will ensure safe and reliable year-round connectivity and directly benefit the residents of Serthi and Lauri Gewogs under Jomotshangkha Drungkhag. The bridge will improve access to markets, healthcare, education, government services, and other

essential facilities while enhancing the resilience of the road network during adverse weather conditions.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock extends its sincere appreciation to Druk Hydro Energy Limited (DHyE), the Jomori Hydropower Project, the Jomotshangkha Drungkhag Administration, and all stakeholders for their dedicated efforts in successfully completing this important infrastructure project.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Welcomes New Recruits



6 | July | 2026

The Hon'ble Minister today warmly welcomed the Ministry's newly recruited officials by presenting them with Tashi Khadhar, a traditional gesture symbolizing goodwill, blessings, and best wishes as they begin their careers in public service. Following the welcome ceremony, the Human Resource Division conducted an orientation programme to familiarize

the new recruits with the Ministry's organizational structure, policies, workplace values, and administrative procedures. The programme is intended to support their smooth integration into the Ministry and equip them with the knowledge and understanding needed to effectively carry out their responsibilities. The Ministry extends its heartfelt

congratulations to the new recruits and wishes them every success in their journey as public servants.

Farewell Courtesy Call by FAO Representative Mr Ken Shimizu



strengthen the longstanding partnership between FAO and Bhutan and to promote Bhutan's leadership in agrifood systems transformation across the region.

Mr. Shimizu expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry and the Royal Government of Bhutan for their friendship, trust, and support throughout his tenure. He noted that the achievements made during his time in Bhutan were the result of collective efforts and reaffirmed his commitment to continuing to support Bhutan in advancing its agriculture and food systems agenda in his new regional role.

31 July 2026

FAO Representative for Bhutan and Nepal, Mr. Ken Shimizu, paid a farewell courtesy call on the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as he concluded his five-year tenure in Bhutan and prepared to assume a new role at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. During the meeting,

the Ministry congratulated Mr. Shimizu on his promotion and commended him as a valued development partner and a true friend of Bhutan. While acknowledging that his departure would be deeply felt, the Ministry expressed confidence that his new regional role would create greater opportunities to further

བཀྲ་ཤིས་བདེ་ལེགས།

TASHI DELEK