MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Monthly News letter | October 2026

New Chief Planning Officer joins the Ministry



2 October 2026, Thimphu:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock welcomed Mr. Tshering Dhendup, who joined the Policy and Planning Division as the Chief Planning Officer.

Mr. Tshering previously served as a Deputy Chief Planning Officer at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the erstwhile Ministry of Economic Affairs. He is a Fulbright scholar with Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA, and brings extensive experience in strategic planning, policy perspective and formulation, and economic development.

In his new role, he will lead the Division in strengthening the Ministry's planning and policy direction, enhancing monitoring and evaluation, and advancing key priorities in food security, rural livelihoods, and the development of a resilient agriculture sector.

The Ministry looks forward to his leadership and valuable contributions towards achieving its strategic priorities.



Regional IT-based Training on Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetables for SAARC Member States



7 September 2026|Bhutan

The Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan in collaboration with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh, hosted a three-day Regional IT-based Training on "Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetables for SAARC Member States" from 5–7 October 2026 at the National Centre for Organic Agriculture (NCOA), Yusipang, Bhutan, in hybrid mode.

The event commenced on 5th October 2026, with an inaugural session graced by H.E. Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal, as the Special Guest.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by distinguished diplomatic representatives, including H.E. Ms. Maleka Parveen, Ambassador of Bangladesh toy, Embassy of India in Bhutan; the Director General, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, along with officials from the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Agriculture Center, Department of Agriculture, resource persons, 30 researchers from Bhutan attending in-person and two each participants from other SAARC member states (Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) attending virtually.

In the inaugural address, the Chief Guest, H.E. Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, highlighted the vital role of plant breeding, hybrid vigour and quality seed systems in enhancing agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security, and resilience to climate variability, pests and diseases. He emphasized that investment in seed technology, research and human capacity must translate into tangible benefits for farmers through improved varieties, accessible technologies, and reliable seed systems. He stressed that the ultimate measure of success is improved yields, reduced risks, better market opportunities and increased farmer incomes and livelihoods.

The training is particularly relevant to the region given the importance of vegetables for food and nutrition security. Vegetables are important sources of vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre and other beneficial compounds, while increasing vegetable productivity is essential to meet the nutritional needs of a growing population.

However, access to quality hybrid seed remains a challenge in many parts of South Asia. Strengthening local capacity in hybrid seed

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Honorable Minister participated in the World Food Forum 2026





15 October 2026

A delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister attended the World Food Forum (WFF), organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, from 8 to 16 October 2026, under the theme "Innovate Today, Nourish Tomorrow." The delegation participated in the WFF Grand Opening, the Hand-in-Hand (HiH) Investment Forum and other key events. The Hon'ble Minister also joined a high-level panel, "Learning from Regional Experiences for Global Transformation," during the opening session of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi). In addition, Lyonpo delivered a keynote address at the Biocultural and Food Heritage Pavilion, showcasing Bhutan's initiatives and achievements in agriculture and food systems.

On the sidelines of the Forum, the Hon'ble Minister held bilateral meetings with the Director-Generals of FAO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to review ongoing project support, explore future cooperation and highlight Bhutan's progress in the agrifood sector.

Lyonpo expressed appreciation for their continued support and strong partnerships. He also met FAO Deputy Director-Generals Mr. Martina and Ms. Beth Bechdol, and Mr. Carlos Watson, Director of the Office of Sustainable Development Goals (OSG), to discuss related areas of cooperation.

Likewise, the Hon'ble Minister met Dr. Shoba Shetty, Head and Senior Adviser of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) at the World Bank Group and Dr. Peter Umuny, Thematic Lead for Food Systems and Land Use at the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to explore prospective support and strengthen collaboration in advancing Bhutan's agrifood transformation.

The Hon'ble Minister also met Her Excellency Ms Gita Chaudhary, the Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Environment of Nepal. Lyonpo conveyed condolences on the loss of lives and property caused by the two devastating floods that struck Nepal. The two ministers discussed opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation and partnership, recognizing the shared challenges and commonalities of Bhutan and Nepal in culture, traditions, mountainous terrain and environmental conditions.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Livestock joined the 9th Royal Highland Festival in Laya, Gasa



23-24 october 2026|Laya, Gasa

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Livestock joined the 9th Royal Highland Festival in Laya, Gasa, coinciding with the launch of the Himalayan Yak Herders' Network Secretariat by His Majesty The King.

The establishment of the Secretariat marked an important step towards strengthening regional cooperation among yak herders from Bhutan, India and Nepal, addressing shared challenges and safeguarding traditional yak-herding livelihoods. His Majesty The King also declared October 23 as National Yak Day, recognising the importance of yaks and the invaluable contributions of yak herders to Bhutan's highland communities, culture and livelihoods. The festivities included traditional songs and dances, games, animal shows, and horse racing.

The festival was initiated in 2016 upon Royal Command to promote highland culture and support the livelihoods of highland communities. Over the years the festival has grown in popularity among both Bhutanese and international visitors who stayed with local families in homestays, and experienced the unique and vibrant culture of the Highlands.



FAO Bhutan through the EU-TAAS project formally handed over DJI Mavic 3M drones to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock



24 october 2026|Laya, Gasa

At the Royal Highland Festival, FAO Bhutan through the EU-TAAS project formally handed over DJI Mavic 3M drones to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan to support rangeland assessment, monitoring and management.

The event also showcased a physical herbarium of native rangeland grasses, highlighting Bhutan's rich highland biodiversity, and recognised the traditional ecological knowledge of highland communities on native grasses, grazing practices and rangeland stewardship.

Regional IT-based Training on Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetables for SAARC Member States

production can therefore contribute not only to improved availability of of quality seed, but also to reducing dependence on imported hybrid seed and strengthening domestic seed systems.

The programme combined technical lectures, hands-on exercises, laboratory and field demonstrations, and group learning. The technical sessions focused particularly on hybrid seed production of tomato and chilli, including the principles and techniques involved in hybrid seed production, parent plant management, emasculation, pollination, genetic purity, seed handling, storage and quality control.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Facilitation of Egg Imports

26 October 2026

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock would like to inform the general public that, in view of the current shortage of eggs in the market, the Ministry is facilitating the import of eggs to ensure an adequate supply in the market.

Any interested business entity that meets the applicable import regulations and requirements is welcome to participate in the import of eggs.

Expression of Interest can be submitted to the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperative at namgangl@moal.gov.bt. For any clarifications, please call 02-322909/331638 during office hours.