

Embassy of India
Thimphu

**Press Release: Virtual meeting on mutual collaboration between
Bhutan and APEDA, India**

1. The Embassy organised a virtual meeting today between Bhutan and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority of India (APEDA) as a follow-up to previous interactions between the two sides. Speaking at the event, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said that, “Notwithstanding the scourge of the pandemic, India remains committed to extending full support to enhance and sustain its long-term partnership with Bhutan in the key sector of agriculture cooperation.”
2. APEDA has been mandated to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products including fresh fruits and vegetables, animal products, rice, and organic products. This meeting provided an opportunity for the two sides to discuss further avenues of collaboration through enhancing bilateral trade, organic sector development, and capacity building opportunities. In the context of the year 2023 being declared as the International Year of Millets at the United Nations General Assembly, the two sides also discussed ways to meet the demand in Bhutan for millets, which are cereal crops with high nutritive value produced in India, given that India is the world’s largest producer of millets with over one-third share of overall global production.
3. The event was attended by senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan including Mr. Yonten Gyamtsho, Director, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, National Organic Flagship Program, National Centre for Organic Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Marketing & Cooperatives, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Food Corporation of Bhutan Ltd., and Horticulture Association of Bhutan.
4. From the Indian side, the participants included representatives from the Indian Embassy led by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, and representatives

from APEDA including Chairman Dr. M. Angamuthu, Director Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Secretary Dr. Sudhanshu, General Manager Mr. U.K. Vats, and General Manager Mr. V.K. Vidyarthi.



Thimphu
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