



BATIF Early Program

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| Day I | |
| 930 h Registration Ends | |
| 0930 - 1100 h (1.5 hours) | |
| Opening Ceremony | <p>Traditional Inaugural Ceremonies</p> <p>Welcome Note: Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Keynote Addresses (3 keynote speeches): TBC TBC TBC</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Director General, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock</p> |
| Day 1 Theme: Mobilizing Investments for the AgriTrade sector for a resilient, equitable and prosperous Bhutan | |
| Plenary Presentation The Policy Context for Bhutan's Agri-Food System (15 minutes) | <p>Description: This keynote presentation will delve into the macro-policy framework shaping Bhutan's agri-food systems. This session will explore the strategic initiatives and policies driving sustainable agriculture, food security, and economic prosperity in Bhutan, especially in the context of Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan outlook. From harnessing traditional wisdom to embracing innovative technologies, this discussion will highlight the holistic approach Bhutan is taking to ensure the resilience and sustainability of its agri-food systems.</p> |
| Plenary Presentation Invest Bhutan: Economic Transformation (15 minutes) | <p>Description: Major transformations have abounded within the Bhutanese government to accelerate Bhutan's economic aspirations as a developed nation by 2040. This session will, for the first time on a public platform, present the reforms within Bhutan's FDI policy, as mandated by the Prime Minister's directives to the Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Employment. The presentation will be</p> |



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| | <p>tailored to agri-trade expansion designed to attract and nurture foreign investment in Bhutan's agri-food sector. From exploring the regulatory environment to understanding incentives and opportunities for investors, we will dissect the mechanisms driving sustainable growth and prosperity. Gain insights into Bhutan's strategic vision for agri-trade development, and uncover the untapped potential awaiting entrepreneurs and investors alike.</p> |
| <p>1100 - 1130 High tea</p> | |
| <p>1135 - 1220 h (30 minutes)</p> | |
| <p>Food Systems Transformation: A Global, Regional and National Perspective</p> | <p>Description: This session aims to delve into the intricate interplay between global, regional, and national dynamics shaping the future of our food systems. It will explore the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities driving this transformation on a global scale, as we examine the critical role of sustainable practices, technological innovation, and policy frameworks in ensuring food security and resilience. At the regional perspective, the session will uncover the unique factors influencing food systems across different geographical contexts. From economic landscapes to cultural nuances, discover how regional dynamics shape agricultural production, trade, and consumption patterns. Lastly, the session will zoom in on the national context with a spotlight on Bhutan's journey towards sustainable food systems. Learn about innovative initiatives, local best practices, and policy interventions driving positive change.</p> |
| <p>1220- 1250 h (30 minutes)</p> | |
| <p>Leveraging Opportunities for investment in Bhutan</p> | <p>Description: Bhutan continues to offer untapped potential in its agrifood industry with unique advantages and promising prospects awaiting investors. From organic farming to niche product development, discover how strategic investments can drive innovation, create jobs, and foster economic development while promoting environmental stewardship. This session will present the diverse array of investment opportunities spanning agricultural production, processing, distribution,</p> |



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| | and export for participants to gain firsthand knowledge into Bhutan's agrifood landscape, highlighting key sectors primed for investment and growth. |
| 1300 - 1600 h | |
| <p>[At Centenary Park]</p> <p>Inauguration of Exhibition by Chief Guest</p> <p>Networking Lunch</p> | |
| 1600 h - 1700 | |
| Product launch by private sector | |
| 1700 - 1900 h | |
| Dinner and Reception | |
| <p>Launches</p> <p>Cultural Program</p> | |
| Day II | |
| <i>Day 2 Theme: Strategic Networking to Foster Bhutan's Agrifood Trade and Investments</i> | |
| <i>At Pemako</i> | |
| 0930 - 1000 | |
| Global Trade and investment in the Agrifood Trade Sector | Description: This session is an exploration of the dynamic landscape of international trade and investment opportunities within the agrifood industry |



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| | <p>focusing on the latest trends, challenges, and emerging opportunities shaping global agrifood trade and investment. From market dynamics to policy frameworks, delve into the intricacies of navigating international markets and capitalizing on investment prospects. This session is a primer for innovative strategies for market access, supply chain optimization, and value chain integration, essential for maximizing returns on agrifood investments.</p> |
| <p>1000 - 1030 h</p> | |
| <p>Transforming Bhutan's Trade in the 21st Century</p> | <p>Description: How is Bhutan reshaping its trade landscape and how will global forces, in turn, shape Bhutan's trade opportunities? With a particular focus on the agrifood sector, this session will delve into how Bhutan is poised to harness the opportunities of the 21st-century global economy-- from tapping into digital technologies to enhancing infrastructure and streamlining regulatory frameworks to enhancing market access, promoting value addition, and strengthen trade linkages both regionally and internationally in the agrifood trade sector.</p> |
| <p>1030 - 1130 h</p> | |
| <p>Panel Discussion Market Linkages and Bhutanese AgriTrade Sector: Needs and Opportunities</p> | <p>Description: Various things need to be in place to ensure the efficiency and value of agri-trade products. This involves standards and certifications to enhance the quality and competitiveness of Bhutan's agricultural products streamlining agricultural logistics, climate-smart production systems, establishing agri-food-based industries and strategically located logistics centers and storage infrastructures are imperative for success in the agri-trade sector. The panel will bring together speakers who will speak to these aspects and discuss the unique challenges and solutions tailored to Bhutan's context.</p> |
| <p>1130 - 1230 h</p> | |
| <p>Panel Discussion</p> | <p>Keynote presentation: Royal Monetary Authority</p> |
| <p>Innovative and Climate Finance for the Agri-Trade Sector</p> | <p>Description: Financial instruments can ensure social safety for farmers as well as enable players to economically benefit from the AgriTrade sector. In the face of</p> |



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| | <p>dwindling public sector commitments and funds, innovative and market-based mechanisms can be leveraged to mobilize funds to benefit players in the Agri-Trade sector. Such instruments include carbon financing, strengthening existing agri-food-related financial institutions, and developing mechanisms and modalities for the establishment of insurance funds.</p> |
| <p>1400 h onwards [At Centenary Park]</p> | |
| <p>[Closed Bilateral Meetings] [Food Fairs] [B2B] [Recipe Contest]</p> | |
| <p>Day III</p> | |
| <p><i>Theme: Igniting Policy Dialogue and Cultivating Culture</i></p> | |
| <p>0900 - 1000 h</p> | |
| <p>Plenary Panel Climate Resilience and Agri-food systems: What can Bhutan offer?</p> | <p>Description: Bhutan confronts a multifaceted array of challenges in its agricultural sector, compounded by the looming threat of climate change. The intersection of these challenges forms a complex web, necessitating innovative solutions to ensure the resilience and sustainability of the country's agrarian landscape. In addressing these challenges, Bhutan has developed a suite of climate policies, including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). These policies represent Bhutan's commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing adaptive capacity, and building resilience to climate impacts within its agricultural sector.</p> <p>This Panel delve into Bhutan's resilience strategies embedded within these climate policies. It will examine how Bhutan integrates climate-smart agricultural practices, such as sustainable land management, crop diversification, and water conservation, into its policy framework to enhance agricultural resilience. Furthermore, we will explore the role of innovative technologies and traditional knowledge systems in bolstering Bhutan's agricultural resilience in the face of climate variability and change. Moreover, the panel will spotlight the potential of agro-food-eco tourism as a transformative opportunity for Bhutan's agricultural sector. By leveraging its</p> |



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| | <p>pristine natural environment, rich cultural heritage, and commitment to environmental stewardship, Bhutan can develop sustainable tourism initiatives that not only promote economic growth but also foster environmental conservation and community development. Through agro-food-eco tourism, Bhutan can showcase its unique agrarian traditions, organic farming practices, and biodiversity-rich landscapes to conscientious travelers seeking authentic and sustainable experiences.</p> |
| <p>1030 - 1130 h</p> | |
| <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Technology/Evidence-Based Policymaking in the AgriTech sector, upscaling digital solutions</p> | <p>Presentation: GovTech (precision agriculture/transforming agriculture)</p> <p>Description: This Panel discusses the intersection of technology, policymaking, and agricultural innovation, offering valuable insights into how digital solutions can drive transformative change in Bhutan's agrifood sector. From precision farming and remote sensing to blockchain and data analytics, how can cutting-edge technologies are revolutionizing agricultural practices, enhancing productivity, and promoting resilience in the face of climate change? Gain insights from the Panelists into the policy frameworks and regulatory mechanisms necessary to foster innovation, promote digital literacy, and ensure equitable access to technology across the agrifood value chain.</p> |
| <p>1200 - 1300 h</p> | |
| <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Fostering Constructive Dialogue: Examining the role of stakeholder engagement and collaboration for agrifood trade and investments in Bhutan</p> | <p>Description: How can effective dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders—from government agencies and private enterprises to farmers' cooperatives and civil society organizations—unlock opportunities, address challenges, and catalyze positive change in the agrifood sector? This panel will discuss how inclusive decision-making processes and participatory approaches can lead to more resilient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable food systems. This panel, comprising representatives from diverse sectors and backgrounds, will share insights, experiences, and success stories of stakeholder engagement and collaboration in Bhutan's agrifood trade and investment landscape, bringing focus on innovative</p> |



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| | partnerships, multi-stakeholder platforms, and community-led initiatives that are driving tangible impacts and fostering greater social and economic inclusion. |
| 1400 - 1600 h | |
| Strategic Networking Session | Description: Welcome to a structured networking session to facilitate participants at the BATIF 2024. Participants can join tables with focused discussion topics around their business interest and connect with players from government, the investment and business community. |
| 1900 h onwards | |
| Closing Reception | |
| Day 4 | Industry and Farm Visits |
| Day 5 | Industry and Farm Visits |