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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Forests
 Tashichhodzong, Thimphu : Bhutan



སྨན་པོ།

MINISTER

Message from Hon'ble Sanam Lyonpo on the International Day of Cooperatives



The International Day of Co-operatives (IDC) is observed worldwide on the first Saturday of July each year with the intention to create awareness on Co-operatives, its success and ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality and world peace.

This year, the international community of cooperatives will be celebrating the 98th IDC, and the day falls on 4th July 2020 with the theme “CLIMATE ACTION” to reinforce the 7th Cooperatives Principle (concern for the community, mobilize members to commit climate actions and achieve a fair, green and just transition for all communities, leaving no one behind). The

Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC), as an associate member of the International Cooperative Alliance, and Farmer Groups and Cooperatives in Bhutan has been observing the day since 2013.

At present, we have 86 primary co-operatives and 605 Farmer Groups that are registered with the DAMC. The activities are mainly centered on agriculture and livestock production, food-processing, savings and credit, and retail services.

Due to our difficult mountainous terrain, scattered settlements, distance from the market, expensive transportation and intensive labour, we are unable to attain high economies of scale. Working as Co-operatives are a solution to the above challenges wherein members can engage in collective marketing, sourcing of input, sharing ideas, capacity building and improved livelihoods. The future of rural enterprises and employment sees potential in Co-operatives through value addition initiatives, innovation, use of labour saving equipment, product diversification, improved access to information and community vitality.

Therefore on this important day, I would like to wish all Cooperatives and Farmer Groups in Bhutan and worldwide a Happy International Day of Cooperatives and a successful journey.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Forests would like to assure continued support to the development and growth of all Farmers groups and Co-operatives in Bhutan.

Warmest Co-operative Greetings.

Tashi Delek

Yeshey Penjor