



Six-year-old charms India with her VaccineMaitri video

Sonam Penjor

A six-year-old, Khenrab Syelden's video message on a VaccineMaitri, that has her speaking in Hindi as well, has captivated the hearts of millions across the nation and the Indian sub-continent.

The video has drawn adulation and affection through regional language tweets and Facebook posts in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and other states across India and in metropolitan cities.

The press release from the Indian Embassy states that she is cuteness personified, a sweet little girl from Bhutan, she is Khenrab Yeedzin Syelden.

Although she is just six years old, studying in the first grade, Khenrab has charmed India with an incredibly sweet message on VaccineMaitri in which she conveys thanks for the gift of 550,000 doses of 'Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines from India to Bhutan.



Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj presented Khenrab Syelden a certificate of appreciation, a smartphone and a gift hamper in acknowledgement of her unique contribution that has helped further strengthen India-Bhutan friendship at a people-to-people level

Her video message has been shared multiple times in social media circles, amongst eminent personalities and also extensively covered by the Indian media including the Hindustan Times, Times of

India, India.com, Republic World and News18 among others.

In her adorable voice, Khenrab's two words "Shukriya Bharat", the press release states, have touched thousands of hearts in India and

Bhutan. Khenrab is, no doubt, an icon of India Bhutan Friendship and showcases the strong people-to-people links between our countries.

She had earlier presented the National Anthem of India as a tribute to

the special relations between our countries on the occasion of Independence Day 2020. The 'India'- connect in Khenrab is strong as both her parents have pursued college education in Indian institutions.

Khenrab Yeedzin Syelden said that she learnt Hindi languages through watching television.

Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said, "You spoke excellent Hindi, you spoke just like what I do. Everyone loves your word 'Shukriya Bharat.'"

Meanwhile, in a special function organized at the Embassy of India, Thimphu on 31 March, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj presented Khenrab Syelden with a certificate of appreciation, a smartphone and a gift hamper in acknowledgement of her unique contribution that has helped further strengthen India-Bhutan friendship at a people-to-people level.

Ensuring access to food and natural resources by 2040

Sonam Penjor

Ensuring sustainable social and economic well-being of the Bhutanese people through adequate access to food and natural resources by 2040, is the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sector's new mantra.

Although the sector has adequate human and financial resources, it is constrained by strategic issues of frequent organizational review, policy conflict, ad-hoc derailment of plans, lack of cascading plans, exclusion of stakeholders, and absence of objective monitoring and evaluation, according to the RNR strategy, 2040, published by Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

Additionally, the lack of accounting ecosystem services provided by the sector reflects it as

non-performing sector. The take-up of commercialization drive has been very slow without any snowballing effect, as it encountered the challenge of informal value chains often shielded by deceptive practices.

In general, excessive focus on small-holder farmers and exclusion of private sector has restrained innovation, mechanization, promotion of smart technologies and expeditious expansion of scale of production.

To actualize transformational change in the sector, RNR strategy 2040 proposes eleven strategies comprising of enhance production and quality of RNR commodities, enhance contribution of RNR sector to national economy, accelerate agri-business development and expansion, develop enabling policies for RNR sector, strengthen

research, innovation and dissemination, and institute efficient RNR service delivery.

This also include to enhance production efficiency of RNR commodities, promote research and innovation, diversify sustainable financing for RNR sector development, mainstream sustainable management through conservation and utilization of natural resources and enhance and promote resilience to climate change impacts to achieve the vision of "Sustainable natural resources and self-reliant food systems contributing to inclusive socio-economic well-being of Bhutanese".

There are 114 initiatives congruent to the 11 strategies identified by different sub-sectors spread over short term that's for five years, medium term for 10 years and long

term for 20 years.

Based on the prioritization, the strategy states that 75 percent of the initiatives were identified for the short-term intervention, followed by 13 percent and 11 percent intervention slotted for medium-term and long-term respectively based on the ease of implementation and stakeholder benefit. The total financing requirement to implement the initiatives is projected at Nu 21,641-million.

The budget is also rationally distributed over short term with 35 percent, medium term with 36 percent and long term with 29 percent to maintain continuum of the initiatives.

Following the past financing of RNR programs, the RNR strategy 2040 can feasibly be financed through multiple approaches like

public investment, grant assistance, soft loan from domestic or international financial institutions, private sector investment, and foreign direct investment.

Meanwhile, the strategic framework and map evidently present the logical flow and cause-effect relationship of the strategic objectives leading to achievement of three strategic results of safe and healthy environment, self-reliant food system, and inclusive socio-economic well-being thereby accomplishing the RNR sector vision by 2040.

It also states that the past trends of support by the state and the development partners, is a convincing demonstration of assured support for the future initiatives embodied in the 114 initiatives of RNR strategy 2040.