

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release: Visit of FSSAI team to Bhutan

1. India and Bhutan are working towards recognition of the equivalence of special food related measures, with the objective of facilitating Bhutanese export of food and agri/livestock products to India.
2. In this connection, a three-member delegation from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) visited Bhutan from 25-29 July 2022 in order to study and assess the official food control system of Bhutan.
3. The FSSAI team comprised Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Advisor (Quality Assurance); Dr. Sheetal Gupta, Assistant Director (Technical), FSSAI Regional Office, Mumbai; and Dr. Sujata Singh, Assistant Director (Technical), Trade and International Cooperation.
4. During the visit, the FSSAI delegation held technical discussions with officials from the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan. The delegation met Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Forests, and Dasho Thinley Namgyel, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and visited various licensed food processing units in the country.
5. This technical exchange is aimed at encouraging equivalence of standards and providing greater market access for Bhutanese food and agri/livestock products to the vast Indian market. This is an important step towards mutual recognition of testing, health, and other export certifications. This would also support sustainable livelihood for farmers of Bhutan through seamless export facilitation of their products to India.

Thimphu
29 July 2022