

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

**New hostel facilities and a Food Science and Technology Laboratory
inaugurated at the College of Natural Resources, Punakha**

New hostel facilities and a Food Science and Technology Laboratory were inaugurated at College of Natural Resources, Punakha on 11 April, 2023. The facilities have been constructed as Bhutan-India Development Partnership projects under the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan. Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Shri Sudhakar Dalela and the President, College of Natural Resources, Dasho Sonam Wangchuk attended the inauguration ceremony.

In his remarks, Ambassador Dalela recalled the long association of the Government of India with the College of Natural Resources, Punakha. Highlighting Bhutan's leadership on environment conservation, climate policies and sustainable development, he congratulated the College of Natural Resources for imparting quality education and promoting research in areas such as climate studies, forestry, organic agriculture, wildlife and natural resources management.

Recalling long-standing cooperation between India and Bhutan in the education sphere, Ambassador Dalela reiterated Gol's commitment to further strengthening it, tailoring it to the future requirements. He extended full support in strengthening research linkages, faculty and student exchanges between the College of Natural Resources and Indian academic institutions.

The hostel and lab facilities have been constructed through Government of India's Project Tied Assistance of Nu. 94.5 million. The Gol had earlier provided support to the College of Natural Resources for the construction of a Digital Fab Lab through its Trade Support Facility.

The Government of India remains committed to working together with the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan in further strengthening close ties of friendship and cooperation.

11 April 2023