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**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BHUTAN FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY**



BFDA/MoH/9/2026/1763

12 May 2026

Press Release

**International Day of Plant Health – 12 May 2026
Bhutan Food and Drug Authority, Ministry of Health**

On the occasion of International Day of Plant Health, 12 May 2026, the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority, Ministry of Health serving as the National Plant Protection Organization of Bhutan, joins the global community under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) community in reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding plant resources against pests, diseases and invasive alien species.

This year’s theme, “*Plant Biosecurity for Food Security*,” underscores the vital role of plant biosecurity in preventing the entry, establishment, and spread of harmful organisms that can threaten food availability and quality. As global trade and connectivity continues to grow, the risks associated with transboundary pests and plant diseases are growing, making strong regulatory systems and coordinated action more important than ever.

BFDA is driving plant health initiatives in Bhutan through science-based and risk-based approaches aligned with international standards. Innovative pest management strategies and digital initiatives are underway, including preparations to roll out the IPPC ePhyto Solution with support from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Project.

The recent successes include the containment of invasive alien species such as the Giant African Land Snail, supported by predictive prevention and risk mapping under the Adaptation Fund Project. A major milestone has been the designation of BFDA as Bhutan’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) National Enquiry Point, strengthening implementation of the SPS Agreement and facilitating safe trade in food and agricultural commodities.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners, stakeholders, and communities for their collective efforts in advancing plant biosecurity through mass collection campaigns and innovative traps management.

DIRECTOR

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