

**STATUS OF SANITARY  
&  
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

**BHUTAN AGRICULTURE & FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
(BAFRA)**

**Ministry of Agriculture & Forests**

**HISTORY**

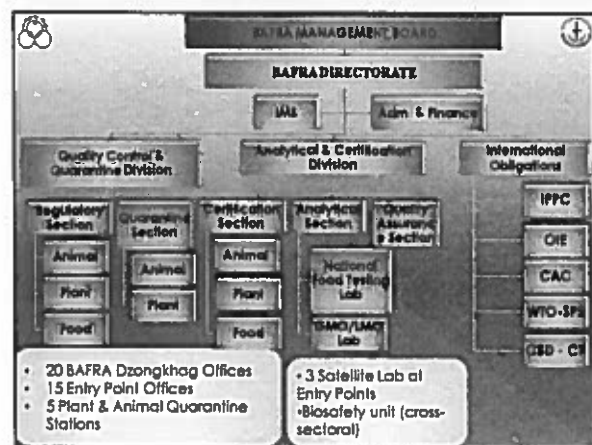
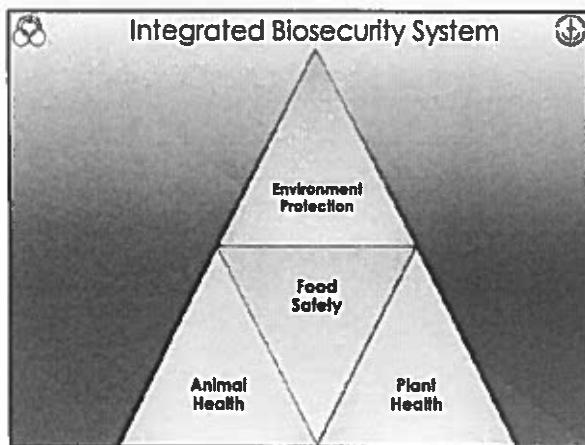
- **August 5, 2000**  
Founded as Quality Control & Regulatory Services (QCRS) to implement Integrated livestock and agriculture regulatory services.
- **Dec 15, 2003**  
Renamed as BAFRA with additional mandate to ensure food safety



**MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
FORESTS**

**BHUTAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

-  Farming system/  
environment – Exotic  
pests and diseases
-  Food safety and quality
-  Agro-based industries



## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **Biosecurity Policy 2010**
- **Food safety policy/strategy (draft)**

### Legal Framework

1. **The Plant Quarantine Act of Bhutan 1993 and its Rules and Regulations (2003)**
2. **The Seeds Act of Bhutan 2000 and its Rules and Regulations (2006)**
3. **The Pesticides Act of Bhutan 2000**
4. **The Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001 and its Rules and Regulations (2008)**
5. **The Food Act of Bhutan 2005 and its Rules and Regulations of Bhutan (2007)**
6. **Biosafety Act of Bhutan 2015**

*Partially implemented-import & export*

7. **The Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 1995 and its Rules and Regulations (2006)**
8. **The Biodiversity Act of Bhutan 2003**
9. **The National Environmental Protection Act 2007**

### COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1	National Food Quality & Safety Commission
2	National Biosecurity Commission
3	Management Board of BAFRA
4	National Pesticide Board
5	National Codex Committee
6	CFM Management Committee
7	National Biosafety Board

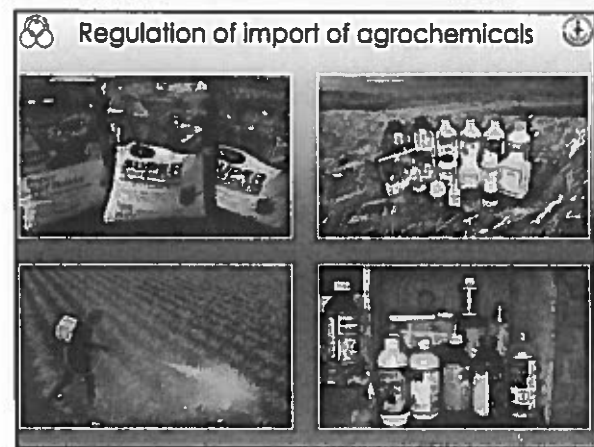
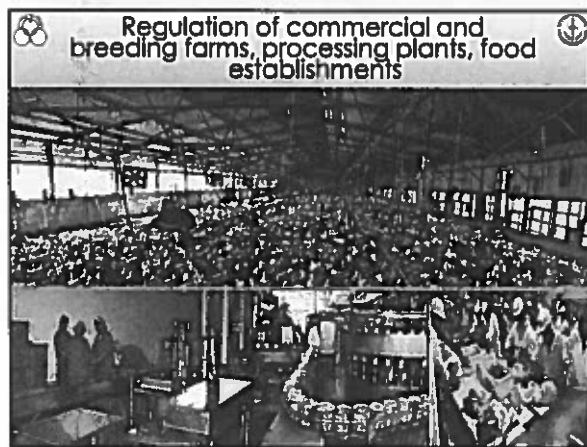
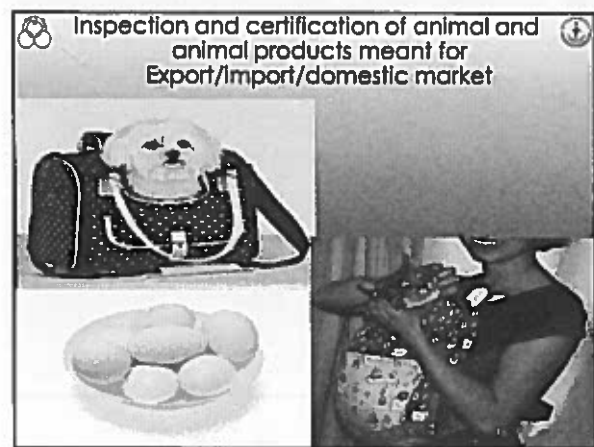
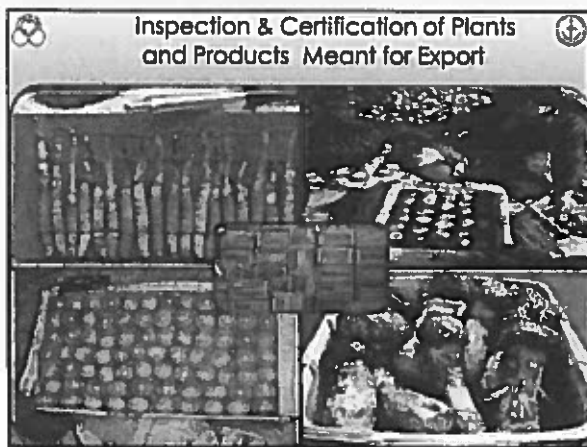
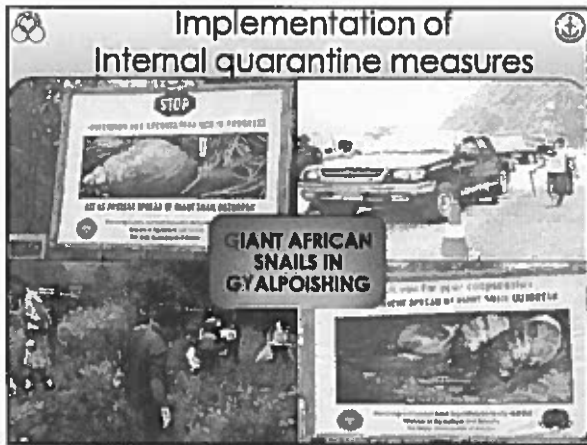
### SPS measures implemented by BAFRA offices : NFTL at Yusipang, 20 Dzongkhag Offices, 11 Drungkhag Offices and 5 major Quarantine Offices

### Entry Points Offices

1. Jomo Tsangkha	9. Phuentsholing
2. Samdrup Choeling	10. Gomtu
3. Samdrup Jongkhar	11. Pugli
4. Nganglam	12. Samtse
5. Panbang	13. Jiti


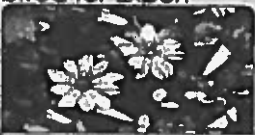


### Implementation of Internal quarantine measures

**DESTRUCTION OF CITRUS PLANTS DUE TO CITRUS GREENING DISEASE**



**Inspection and certification of organic and other agricultural products**

**Inspection of Plant and Plant products Restricted/Prohibited for Export**

 <i>Agallaria malaccensis</i> Common Name - Agar wood	 <i>Gentiana crassuloides</i> Common Name - Pang ge metog
 <i>Meconopsis grandis</i> Common Name - Blue Poppy	 <i>Taxus baccata</i> Common Name - Yew

**Inspection of Animal And Animal Products Prohibited For Export**

**SPS MEASURES: CURRENT STATUS [DOMESTIC]**

**Food/ Feed safety**

- Outbreak investigation with relevant stakeholders (Health, Livestock)
- Monitoring quality of animal feeds produced within the country
- Regulate quality of animal feeds imported
- Collaborate with food safety authorities of exporting countries - trading partners (IEC, CEIAP, Thailand)

**SPS MEASURES: CURRENT STATUS [IMPORT]**

**Pre-border Control**

- Monitoring pest & disease situation around the world, especially in the neighbouring countries, our trading partner countries
- Import risk assessment for import request - plant/animal/products
- Authorize import- issue import permit with prescribed conditions

**Prescribed conditions:**

- Plant/animal products to originate from pest/disease free area
- Food products to originate from farms with FSSAI in place
- Testing and inspection before export
- Fit for human consumption certificate
- Specific treatment or processing procedure

**Companies in India registered with BAFRA for supply of Animal Feeds**

1. M/s Samrat Feed Mill, Siliguri
2. Sanjukta Feed, Guwahati
3. M/s Himalayan Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited (HIMUL), Siliguri
4. M/s Anmol Feeds Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata
5. M/s Maharashtra Feeds Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
6. M/s Sona Vets Pvt. Ltd. (Shalimar Groups of Industries)
7. M/s Shanti Agrovet Industries Assam

### Companies in India registered with BAFRA for supply of poultry products

- 1) M/S Keggs Farm, Gurgaon, Haryana,
- 2) M/S J J Exports, Tamil Nadu,
- 3) M/S Alshwarya Feeds, Tamil Nadu,
- 4) M/S Pe Pe Farm, Paramathy Road, Tamil Nadu
- 5) M/S Venkatrama Poultries Ltd., Andhra Pradesh
- 6) M/S Venkateshwar Hatcheries, Pune
- 7) .....21

### SPS MEASURES: CURRENT STATUS [IMPORT]

Minimum of 15 days quarantine for live animals

Plants/germ plasms - if certification requirements are not met/pest is suspected, quarantine imposed

### SPS MEASURES: CURRENT STATUS [EXPORT]

#### Export Certification

- Study certification requirements of importing country
- Collect necessary samples
- Carry out analysis of the samples
- Reference of samples to referral lab outside the country when required
- Approve and issue SPS certificate (those that meets importing country's requirements)
- Agriculture system certification - require

### Food Safety Activities

- Training of food handlers & Issuing of Food handlers licence
- Registration & Licensing of Food Business operators
- Export & Import inspection & certification
- Regular inspection & monitoring programs
- Handling Food Safety & quality complaints
- Ensuring food safety during National /international events
- Secretariat to National Codex committee
- Secretariat to Bhutan Codex
- INFOFAN Emergency Contact Point

### Food Establishment Certification

1. HACCP certified - Feb. 2007
  1. M/s Hotel Druk, Thimphu
  2. M/s Bhutan Agro Industries Ltd,

#### ISO 22000: 2005 - June 2012

1. Gelephu Distillery, AWP, Gelephu
2. Bhutan Brewery Pvt. Ltd, Pasakha,
3. Hotel Zhiwaling, Paro
4. Hotel Taj Tashi, Thimphu

### Food Establishment Certification

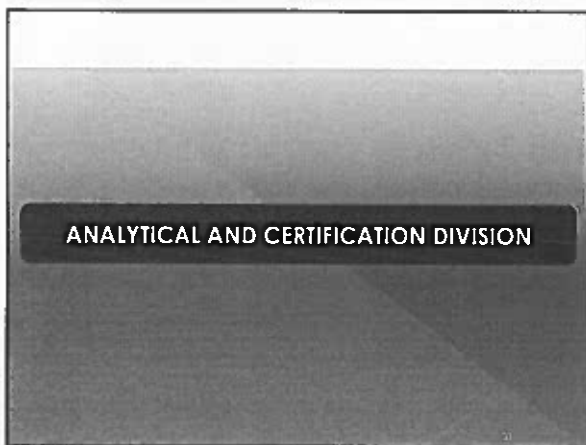
#### 3. ISO 22000 Certified - June 2015

1. Drukair Inflight Catering unit, Paro
2. Bhutan Agro Industries Limited, Thimphu
3. TermaJinca Resort and Spa, Thimphu
4. Zindra Foods Private Limited, Phuentsholing
5. Bhutan Milk and Agro Private Limited, Phuentsholing

#### 4. Ongoing under GoI Project

1. Chenary dairy processing unit, Trashigang
2. Kurjee Drupchu, Bumthang
3. Veon Water, Bester, Santlee
4. Metta Resort and Spa, Pajo
5. Karma Feed, Phuentsholing





**NATIONAL FOOD TESTING LABORATORY**

- Established in December, 2005
  - Food Microbiology.
  - GMD laboratory and
  - Food Chemistry (Contaminants, Residue and Nutrition labs)

**ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation**

- 2008 - Initiation
- 26 June 2012 - Pre-assessment
- 18-19 August, 2012 - Final Assessment
- November 2012 - Accreditation granted

By National Accreditation Board for testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), India

**Scope of Accreditation**

- Accredited for 5 major category of foods:
  - Cereal & Bakery Products
  - Beverages
  - Fruits and Fruit/Vegetable Products
  - Tea
  - Water

**Accredited parameters including both biological and chemical discipline**

- Chemical:**
  - pH
  - Acidity
  - Total Dissolved solids
  - Total Hardness
  - Moisture
  - Total Ash
  - Water Soluble Ash
  - Acid Insoluble Ash
  - Alkalinity
  - Dry Matter Content
  - Total Soluble Solids (TSS)/Brix
- Microbiology:**
  - Total Plate Count
  - Coliforms
  - Yeast and Moulds Count
  - E.coli (fecal)

**Recently accredited parameters**

- Oils and fats**
  - Refractive index of oil
  - Peroxide value
  - free fatty acid
- Milk and dairy products**
  - Acidity of milk (as lactic acid)
  - Ash of milk powder

**New scopes continued**

- Honey
  - ◆ Acidity
  - ◆ Moisture content
- Cereals and cereal products
  - ◆ Fat content
  - ◆ Acidity of extracted fat
  - ◆ Protein
- Water
  - ◆ Heavy metal as Pb, Cd and Zn

### Issues at hand...

- Identification of products and standards
- Mandarin, apples, matsutake, cordyceps – review of standards

### Apple and mandarin

#### Export to Bangladesh

- NRAC (Bangladesh)
- Formalin test (Bangladesh)

#### Export to India

- No certification

### Asparagus Export to India

#### PQ Order 2003 of India

1. June 2, 2014: Technical details to NPPO, India
2. 24 March, 2016: PRA (technical) completed, submitted to Ministry for notification and legal documentation.
3. Followed up in May 24, 2016

### Food issues

1. Pesticide Residues in Imported fruits & Vegetable
  - > Temporary ban on Cauliflower, Beans & Chilli

2. Food import control system

- Labelling implementation issues
- Lack of food safety criteria in the import permit issued by DoT

3. Local food product standards

- Food (domain of all responsibility of none)
- Standard setting body needs independence from regulators and binding on the producers
- Labelling (Shelf life- expiry date, ingredients/ additives)

TASHI DELEK

