BHUTAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LIMITED

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63rd ISSUE

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3rd Quarter | July to September 2026

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 A NEW MILESTONE IN LEADERSHIP: CEO ELECTED AS THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF FIAB

2 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – RIGSS

3 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EXIM BANK OF THAILAND

4 DAPPA FOODS' JOURNEY FROM THIMPHU START-UP TO NATIONAL BRAND

5 MID-TERM REVIEW MEETING
ONE TEAM, ONE VISION: REVIEWING PROGRESS, ACCELERATING IMPACT

6 BDB STRENGTHENS FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THREE MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

7 BLOOD DONATION DRIVE & HEALTH SCREENING

8 A ROYAL INITIATIVE FOR COLLECTIVE MERIT, UNITY AND GLOBAL WELL-BEING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

9 TEAM BDB LAUNCHES OFFICIAL JERSEY FOR FI CUP 2026

10 BDB LAUNCHES AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN FINANCING IN SAMTSE

11 BUILDING A HIGH-VALUE CRAWFISH BUSINESS IN BHUTAN

12 LAUNCH OF WOMEN BANKING - AUMTSUE PELJOR THABRIG "WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT"

A NEW MILESTONE IN LEADERSHIP: CEO ELECTED AS THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF FIAB

In another significant milestone in her leadership journey, Ms. Tshering Om, Chief Executive Officer of Bhutan Development Bank, was elected as the 5th President of the Financial Institutions Association of Bhutan (FIAB) on 18 August 2026.

The appointment marks a recognition of her leadership and contribution to Bhutan's financial sector, while placing her in a broader role to represent and advance the collective interests of financial institutions in the country. As President of FIAB, she will lead efforts to strengthen collaboration among member institutions, facilitate dialogue on common sectoral issues, and promote a more resilient and forward-looking financial sector.



FIRST WOMAN CEO OF BHUTAN'S FINANCIAL SECTOR
FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF FIAB

Her election also reflects the evolving scope of her leadership journey. Since assuming the role of CEO in February 2023, she has focused on modernizing BDB through digital transformation, strengthening human resources and fostering a culture of innovation and continuous learning. These priorities have supported the Bank's efforts to improve accessibility, enhance customer service and build institutional capacity.

The FIAB presidency provides an opportunity to extend this experience beyond the Bank and contribute to the wider development of Bhutan's financial ecosystem. Through greater cooperation, knowledge sharing and collective action, FIAB can play an important role in addressing emerging challenges and supporting innovation, financial inclusion and sustainable growth across the sector.

For BDB, her election represents not only a personal leadership milestone but also a source of institutional pride. It reflects the Bank's growing contribution to the national financial sector and reinforces its commitment to playing a constructive role in shaping Bhutan's financial future.

From leading transformation within BDB to contributing to the collective advancement of Bhutan's financial institutions, this new chapter adds another significant milestone to the CEO's journey of leadership, service and impact.

Leadership Development Programme – RIGSS

Bhutan Development Bank continues to invest in strengthening its leadership capacity through the Leadership Development Programme, designed to equip current and emerging leaders with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives required to lead effectively in a changing organisational environment.

The six-day programme brought together a cohort of BDB leaders and focused on key areas of leadership, including communication, decision-making, people management, coaching, mentoring, collaboration, and creating an engaged workplace.





Beyond developing individual leadership capabilities, the programme aims to build a strong pipeline of capable leaders who can contribute to the Bank's long-term strategic priorities and organisational performance.

The programme concluded on 4 July 2026 with a session by Dasho Karma Tshiteem on "Creating an Engaged Workplace," which focused particularly on the importance of effective coaching and mentoring.

In his closing remarks, Dasho emphasised that the true value of learning lies in its application to everyday practice. He cautioned that knowledge gained through training, if not translated into action, risks becoming merely an intellectual exercise or entertainment—"a tragedy of wisdom that is left unused."

Highlighting the important roles and responsibilities entrusted to the participants, Dasho underscored that their future impact and contribution would depend largely on how effectively they apply the knowledge and skills gained through the programme. The message reinforced a central principle of leadership development: learning creates value only when it leads to meaningful change in behaviour, decisions, and results.

Through initiatives such as the LDP, BDB seeks to foster a culture of continuous learning, responsible leadership, and employee engagement. By developing leaders who can inspire teams, navigate change, make sound decisions, and translate learning into action, the Bank is strengthening its leadership pipeline and building a more resilient, collaborative, and performance-oriented organisation.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EXIM BANK OF THAILAND



Bhutan Development Bank Limited has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Thailand), marking an important step towards strengthening financial cooperation and expanding opportunities for cross-border trade and investment.

The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration between the two financial institutions, with a focus on knowledge exchange, trade finance, capacity building, and sharing of expertise. The partnership is expected to facilitate greater understanding of international trade practices and strengthen the capabilities of both institutions in supporting businesses engaged in cross-border economic activities.

For BDBL, the partnership with EXIM Thailand is particularly significant as it provides an opportunity to leverage the experience and expertise of a specialised export-import financial institution. Through knowledge sharing and institutional cooperation, BDB can further enhance its understanding of trade finance instruments, risk management practices, and financial solutions that support businesses involved in international trade.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP



The collaboration also has broader significance for Bhutanese businesses. Stronger institutional linkages between BDBL and EXIM Thailand can contribute to creating better avenues for trade-related financial services, particularly for Bhutanese enterprises seeking to participate in regional markets. Over time, such cooperation can help strengthen financial connectivity, support businesses in exploring new markets, and contribute to the development of Bhutan's trade ecosystem.

Beyond trade finance, the MoU provides a platform for capacity building and institutional learning, enabling the two organisations to exchange experiences, identify areas of mutual interest, and explore innovative approaches to banking and financial services.

While the signing represents the beginning of the partnership, it reflects BDB's commitment to building strategic regional relationships and continuously strengthening its capacity to serve its customers. The collaboration with EXIM Thailand is expected to open avenues for further cooperation and create lasting value for customers, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Through this partnership, BDB looks forward to deepening regional financial cooperation and contributing to a more connected and resilient trade and financial ecosystem between Bhutan and Thailand.

DAPPA Foods' Journey from Thimphu Start-up to National Brand

DAPPA Foods is a Bhutanese enterprise founded in 2021 by Mr. Duptho Kezang with the vision of adding value to local meat resources and reducing Bhutan's dependence on imported processed meat products. Established with a Nu. 1.1 million Loan from the CSI Bank under the National Credit Guarantee Scheme (NCGS), the enterprise began operations at the Start-up Centre in Thimphu, entering a sector that was largely underdeveloped and often considered sensitive at both market and policy levels.



With limited precedents to follow, the founder relied on independent research and experimentation. While the initial concept focused on sausage production, market realities led to a strategic shift towards meat jerky products, which rapidly gained acceptance among urban consumers. Despite early challenges such as limited working capital and basic infrastructure, DAPPA Foods earned a strong reputation for quality, authentic flavours, and the use of locally sourced inputs, gradually establishing itself as a recognizable local brand.

To scale operations sustainably, DAPPA Foods received financial support under the Government's Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), specifically issued for upscaling the enterprise. This support enabled the business to professionalize its operations, strengthen compliance with food safety and regulatory standards, and plan for the establishment of a modern meat processing facility in Chamgang, Thimphu. The upscaling initiative is driven not only by commercial objectives, but also by a broader mission to promote safe, hygienic, and responsible meat consumption practices in Bhutan.

Today, DAPPA Foods employs 17 Bhutanese youths, with plans to recruit nine additional employees as operations expand, while also creating stable market linkages for local farmers across multiple Dzongkhags. By supporting import substitution, youth employment, and rural income generation, DAPPA Foods stands as a strong example of how entrepreneurship combined with targeted government support can create sustainable economic and social impact in Bhutan.



MID-TERM REVIEW MEETING

One Team, One Vision: Reviewing Progress, Accelerating Impact





Bhutan Development Bank Limited successfully conducted its Mid-Term Review 2026 from 27–30 July 2026 at Heritage Hotel, Haa, bringing together Executive Management, Division Heads and Branch Managers from across the Bank.

Held under the theme "One Team, One Vision: Reviewing Progress, Accelerating Impact," the four-day programme provided a platform to reflect on the Bank's progress against planned targets, review key achievements and challenges, and identify strategic priorities for the remainder of the year.

The programme featured a series of strategic presentations, interactive discussions, group exercises and branch-level knowledge-sharing sessions covering key areas of banking operations. Discussions focused on strategic and financial performance, legal and regulatory compliance, internal controls, risk management, digital transformation, customer service, value chain financing, green finance and women's banking.

A key highlight was the emphasis on active participation and practical solutions. Branch Managers shared successful experiences from their respective branches, while group exercises enabled participants to identify local value chains, explore green finance opportunities and develop practical action plans for women's banking and customer service.

The Bank was also honoured to welcome the Dasho Dzongdag of Haa as the Guest Speaker, whose insightful address provided valuable perspectives on collaboration and future partnership opportunities. Participants were further privileged to attend the 25th Moenlam Chenmo, adding a meaningful spiritual dimension to the programme.

The final day featured an open forum where Branch Managers and the Office of the CEO discussed operational challenges, concerns, suggestions and opportunities for improvement. The session encouraged open dialogue and strengthened the connection between branch-level experiences and institutional priorities.

The programme concluded on 31 July 2026 with a Panorama Hiking Trail and trail clean-up campaign, combining team engagement with environmental stewardship and employee well-being.

The Mid-Term Review reinforced BDB's commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, customer-centric service and sustainable growth. More importantly, it strengthened a shared sense of purpose among employees—working together as One Team, with One Vision, to accelerate the Bank's impact and deliver better services to communities across Bhutan.

BDB STRENGTHENS FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THREE MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

Bhutan Development Bank Limited (BDBL) has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with three microfinance institutions — Bhutan Care Credit Limited (BCCL), Microfinance Bhutan Private Limited (MBPL), and Farmers Development Microfinance Private Limited (FDMPL) — on 17 August 2026.

The partnerships mark an important step towards strengthening collaboration between the formal banking sector and microfinance institutions (MFIs) to expand access to affordable and responsible financial services, particularly for rural, low-income and underserved communities.



Microfinance institutions play an important complementary role in Bhutan's financial system. Their business models are designed to reach segments of the population that may face challenges accessing conventional banking services because of factors such as small financing requirements, limited collateral, geographical distance, or limited formal financial history. The Royal Monetary Authority has recognised MFIs as important channels for improving financial inclusion by reaching underserved and unserved segments, particularly in rural and remote areas.

For BDBL, which has a strong mandate and presence in supporting agriculture, rural enterprises and communities, working with MFIs provides an opportunity to extend the reach and effectiveness of financial services without relying solely on the traditional branch-based banking model.

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP

Under the MoUs, the parties will explore collaboration in four key areas: co-lending and wholesale financing, capacity building, digital financial services, and community outreach.

Co-lending and wholesale financing will enable BDBL and the partner MFIs to explore mechanisms for jointly supporting eligible borrowers and economic activities.



BDB can potentially provide financing to MFIs through wholesale arrangements, while MFIs can use their last-mile networks and borrower relationships to channel appropriate financing to micro and small businesses, farmers and other underserved clients. Depending on the product and regulatory framework, co-lending arrangements can also allow the institutions to share financing responsibilities and risks while avoiding duplication of efforts.

This model can be particularly relevant for borrowers whose financing requirements may be too small or whose circumstances may not fit conventional lending models. Rather than competing for the same customers, BDBL and MFIs can work as complementary financial service providers.

Capacity building will focus on sharing knowledge, expertise and good practices. Areas may include credit appraisal, financial literacy, responsible lending, risk management, customer protection, digital finance and institutional capacity development. Such collaboration can help strengthen the overall quality and sustainability of microfinance services.





Community outreach and financial literacy will allow the institutions to jointly reach communities that may have limited awareness of available financial products and responsible borrowing practices. Outreach can focus on farmers, micro and small entrepreneurs, women, youth and other underserved groups, with emphasis not only on access to credit but also on savings, financial planning, digital financial services and responsible financial behaviour.

Importantly, the partnership should not be viewed simply as a mechanism for increasing lending. Its broader objective is to improve responsible access to finance, ensuring that financing is appropriate to customers' needs and repayment capacity.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE & HEALTH SCREENING

In observance of World Humanitarian Day, Bhutan Development Bank organised a Voluntary Blood Donation Drive and Health Screening Programme on 19 August 2026 at the BDB Head Office. The programme was organised by the Office of CEO in collaboration with the Human Resource & Logistics Division and was held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM under the theme **"Donate Blood, Save Lives – Together for Humanity."**





The initiative aimed to encourage voluntary blood donation while promoting greater awareness of health and community well-being. It provided employees with an opportunity to contribute to a meaningful humanitarian cause and reflected BDB's continued commitment to social responsibility and community engagement.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Service, whose medical team carried out the necessary medical assessments and provided professional support throughout the blood donation process. A total of 69 individuals participated in the blood donation screening, of whom 54 successfully donated blood, while 15 participants were deferred based on the medical assessment and eligibility criteria.

As part of the programme, blood sugar testing and blood pressure checks were made available to participants and staff attending the health screening. A weighing facility was also provided for all employees and participants as an opportunity to monitor their general health. In addition, haemoglobin testing was specifically conducted for individuals participating in the blood donation, as part of the required pre-donation assessment to determine their eligibility and fitness to donate blood.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE & HEALTH SCREENING



The programme also witnessed participation from individuals from outside the Bank, who joined the initiative to donate blood and avail themselves of the health screening services. Their participation further strengthened the community spirit of the programme and demonstrated that the act of voluntary blood donation extends beyond organisational boundaries.

To recognise and appreciate the contribution of donors and participation of staff, refreshments were provided to employees and donors, while goody bags were distributed to blood donors as a gesture of appreciation. These arrangements helped create a warm and supportive environment for everyone who took part in the programme.

The strong participation demonstrated the spirit of compassion, solidarity and social responsibility among BDB employees and members of the wider community. Each successful blood donation represents a valuable contribution towards supporting patients who may require blood during medical emergencies, surgeries, childbirth and other critical medical situations.

The Blood Donation Drive was therefore not only a humanitarian initiative but also an opportunity to promote a culture of care and collective responsibility. By bringing together employees, external participants and healthcare professionals, the programme demonstrated how individual contributions can collectively make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

BDB extends its sincere appreciation to all blood donors, employees, external participants, volunteers and the medical team from the National Blood Transfusion Service for their valuable contribution and support. The initiative reaffirmed BDB's commitment to fostering responsible citizenship, community service and employee well-being, while upholding the spirit of World Humanitarian Day.

"Donate Blood, Save Lives – Together for Humanity."

A ROYAL INITIATIVE FOR COLLECTIVE MERIT, UNITY AND GLOBAL WELL-BEING



Project 108 is a historic spiritual undertaking to construct and raise 108 Jangchub Chortens (Stupas of Enlightenment) at the Gelephu Mindfulness City. The initiative represents a collective act of merit and reflects His Majesty's vision of unity, spiritual well-being and service to humanity.

The defining feature of this extraordinary initiative is its scale and the coordinated effort required to accomplish it. On 1 November 2026, all 108 Jangchub Chortens, each standing 15 metres tall, are planned to be constructed and raised simultaneously within a single day. The project is expected to bring together approximately 40,000 volunteers, working across the 108 sites in a coordinated collective effort.

The 108 chortens will be positioned along the Mao River, with each structure planned to stand 15 metres apart, creating a distinctive spiritual landscape within the Gelephu Mindfulness City.
Beyond its architectural scale, the project carries deep spiritual significance. A Jangchub Chorten represents the Buddha's enlightenment, while the number 108 holds profound significance in Buddhist tradition. The stupas will contain sacred zung, including religious texts, mantras and other sacred objects prepared by the Central Monastic Body.

The initiative also embodies the Bhutanese tradition of zhabto, bringing people together through voluntary communal service. It is envisioned not merely as a construction undertaking, but as a collective offering dedicated to peace, harmony, enlightenment and the well-being of all sentient beings.

Bhutan Development Bank is honoured to be part of this historic national initiative through its participation in the 108 Stupas offering. The Bank's contribution reflects its commitment to supporting meaningful national initiatives and contributing to the collective fulfilment of His Majesty The King's noble vision.
For BDB, participation in Project 108 represents more than a contribution. It is an opportunity to join thousands of Bhutanese and friends of Bhutan in an act of collective merit, unity and service.

TEAM BDB LAUNCHES OFFICIAL JERSEY FOR FI CUP 2026

Team BDB has officially launched its jersey for the upcoming FI Cup 2026, marking an important milestone as the team prepares to represent Bhutan Development Bank Limited in the tournament. More than a team uniform, the jersey symbolises the spirit, unity and pride of BDB. It reflects the team's commitment to coming together with a shared purpose and competing with discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship.



The FI Cup 2026 is scheduled to commence on 6 September 2026, with T-Bank and National Pension and Provident Fund (NPPF) serving as the organisers of the tournament. The competition will bring together teams from financial institutions, providing an opportunity for employees to foster camaraderie, strengthen professional networks and demonstrate teamwork beyond the workplace.

Team BDB extends its sincere appreciation to the Management for its continued support and encouragement towards the team's participation in the FI Cup 2026. Such support provides motivation for employees to actively engage in sports and reinforces the values of collaboration, discipline and team spirit.

As Team BDB prepares to take the field, the Bank wishes all players the very best for the tournament and looks forward to supporting and cheering them throughout the FI Cup 2026.
Proudly wearing BDB. Proudly playing for BDB.

BDB LAUNCHES AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN FINANCING IN SAMTSE

Bhutan Development Bank successfully launched its Agriculture Value Chain Financing (AVCF) initiative in Samtse Dzongkhag on 7 September 2026, marking an important step towards strengthening access to finance across Bhutan's agricultural value chains.



The event was graced by Her Excellency Lyonpo Yezang Thapa, the Minister for Education and Skills Development, along with representatives from relevant agencies, farmers, producers, processors, traders, value-chain actors and other stakeholders. The presence of Her Excellency added significance to the occasion and reflected the importance of strengthening initiatives that support rural livelihoods, agricultural development and economic opportunities.

The launch provided a platform for BDB to introduce its AVCF approach and highlight the importance of providing financing not only to individual producers but also to the wider network of actors involved in the agricultural value chain.



Moving Beyond Traditional Agricultural Financing

Agriculture is not limited to production at the farm level. A product must move through several stages—from production and aggregation to processing, storage, marketing and distribution—before reaching the consumer. Financing constraints at any one of these stages can affect the entire value chain.

Recognising this, BDB has introduced AVCF with the objective of moving beyond financing individual producers and supporting the broader ecosystem in which agricultural businesses operate. Through AVCF, financing can be directed towards different activities and participants within a value chain, enabling farmers and businesses to access the financial resources required at the appropriate stage of their operations.



Why Agriculture Value Chain Financing Matters

Agricultural value chains often face financing gaps due to seasonal production cycles, delayed cash flows, limited collateral, market uncertainties and the fragmented nature of agricultural businesses. Smallholder farmers, in particular, may have limited access to formal finance even when they are part of a viable production or marketing chain.

AVCF provides an opportunity to address some of these challenges by considering the relationships and cash flows across the value chain, rather than assessing agricultural activities in isolation.

Creating Value Beyond the Farm

One of the key strengths of AVCF is its focus on value creation across the entire agricultural chain. For example, financing a farmer alone may increase production, but without adequate aggregation, processing, storage, transportation and market access, increased production may not necessarily translate into higher and more sustainable income. Similarly, processors may have the capacity to expand but remain constrained if they cannot reliably source sufficient raw materials from producers.

AVCF seeks to address these interdependencies by looking at the broader value chain and identifying where financing can unlock activity at different stages.

This approach can contribute to stronger linkages between farmers, aggregators, processors, traders and markets, creating opportunities for greater value addition and improved income generation.









Supporting Inclusive Agricultural Development

As a development-oriented financial institution, BDB has an important role in ensuring that financial services reach rural communities and productive sectors of the economy. Agriculture remains closely linked with rural livelihoods, food security, employment and local economic development.

The introduction of AVCF strengthens BDB's commitment to providing financing solutions that respond to the realities of agricultural businesses, while also encouraging stronger collaboration among value-chain participants.

The Samtse launch represents the beginning of continued engagement with farmers, agribusinesses and relevant stakeholders to identify viable value chains and understand their financing requirements.

Looking Ahead

The successful launch of AVCF in Samtse provides a foundation for BDB to deepen its engagement with agricultural value-chain actors and explore financing opportunities across different agricultural subsectors.

Going forward, continued stakeholder engagement, identification of viable value chains, appropriate credit assessment and effective monitoring will be critical to ensuring that AVCF delivers sustainable outcomes.

By financing not only the farmer but also the activities that connect production to the market, BDB aims to contribute towards stronger agricultural value chains, increased value addition, improved market access and more resilient rural livelihoods.

Agriculture Value Chain Financing is more than financing a loan—it is about financing the connections that create value from farm to market.



BUILDING A HIGH-VALUE CRAWFISH BUSINESS IN BHUTAN

Crawfish Himalayan Ltd. (CHL) was established as a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) venture through a collaboration between Druk Holding & Investments and Singapore Crawfish, driven by a shared vision to enhance farmer livelihoods and strengthen food security in Bhutan through sustainable aquaculture development. Conceived in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, the initiative led to the establishment of an agri-tech enterprise focused on developing Bhutan's first crawfish hatchery with a projected annual production capacity of 200–300 metric tonnes.



Crawfish farming was identified as a promising venture due to its strong nutritional, agricultural, and economic potential. Crawfish is a high-protein, low-fat food source rich in essential nutrients such as Vitamin B12, selenium, zinc, and omega-3 fatty acids, contributing to both cardiovascular and cognitive health. Agriculturally, the species offers a relatively short maturity cycle of approximately four months, enabling quicker returns for farmers.

In addition, its compatibility with integrated paddy-crawfish farming provides opportunities for more productive land utilization with a comparatively low environmental footprint. Rising international demand for crawfish, coupled with supply shortages in global markets, further positioned the venture as a commercially viable and high-potential investment.

The establishment of the hatchery required a substantial capital investment exceeding Nu. 420 million. While part of the funding was secured through shareholder equity contributions, external financing was essential to support the remaining capital and operational requirements. Bhutan Development Bank Limited played a pivotal role in financing the project, providing critical support for both infrastructure development and working capital needs. The financing enabled the company to meet major capital expenditure obligations and sustain operational growth, including the expansion of its workforce from three employees in 2023 to more than 34 local employees by 2026.

The loan financing was primarily utilized for the procurement and installation of the Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS), the core technology underpinning the hatchery operations. Additional funding supported the construction of the hatchery facility, the development of outdoor grow-out ponds, and general working capital requirements necessary for scaling operations.

The financial support from BDB was instrumental in advancing the project from concept to implementation. It facilitated the development of the 24-acre farm located in Phuentsholing near the Workforce Management Service Centre (formerly the quarantine facility). With the hatchery infrastructure now operational, CHL has commenced active fry production and is preparing for commercial market entry towards the end of 2026.

A key milestone achieved under the project is the successful operationalization of Bhutan's first RAS-based crawfish hatchery. Equipped with a fully functional RAS system, the hatchery is capable of producing up to 50,000 crawfish fry per day at full capacity. The company targets the production of over one million crawfish fry by the end of 2026, marking a significant advancement in Bhutan's aquaculture sector.



Beyond commercial achievements, the project is expected to generate meaningful socio-economic benefits. CHL is actively engaging local communities and farmers in crawfish cultivation, creating opportunities for additional household income and rural livelihood enhancement. The company also plans to promote integrated paddy-crawfish farming systems, which have the potential to further improve earnings for paddy farmers across Bhutan.

Looking ahead, CHL envisions contributing to Bhutan's long-term food security by introducing a nutritious, high-protein food source into the national diet while supporting diversification into high-value aquaculture products. The company also aims to generate foreign exchange earnings through the export of crawfish, positioning Bhutan as a competitive participant in regional and global aquaculture markets.

Reflecting on its partnership with BDBL, CHL acknowledged the Bank's smooth and professional corporate banking support throughout the project implementation phase. The company further suggested that periodic updates on drawdown amounts and accrued interest would enhance transparency and support improved financial planning for businesses undertaking large-scale investments.

Launch of Women banking – Aumtsue Peljor Thabrig

"Women Economic Empowerment"

Bhutan Development Bank Limited (BDBL) has launched **Women Banking– "Aumtsue Peljor Thabrig",** a women-focused financial initiative aimed at strengthening women's access to finance, business knowledge, skills, and support services.



The initiative was launched in Nganglam, Pemagatshel, on September 14, 2026, in collaboration with Pemagatshel Dzongkhag, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), and the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC). The initiative seeks to create a more inclusive financial environment and strengthen women's participation in productive economic activities.

Aumtsue Peljor Thabrig goes beyond providing access to credit by combining financing with financial literacy, business capacity building, technical assistance, and market support. Women seeking financing will receive financial literacy training, while additional support will be tailored to the nature of their business, background, and project requirements. Applicants will also present their business ideas in person, allowing the Bank to assess the proposed business and its financing needs.

The initiative focuses on women who have a meaningful role in the ownership, strategic decision-making, and operational management of a business. It is not restricted to women-owned enterprises; businesses with both male and female partners may also qualify where women have a substantive role in ownership, decision-making, and operations. The same principle applies to groups, cooperatives, and private limited companies.

The scheme also provides flexibility in repayment based on the nature and income-generating capacity of the business. Repayment may be structured monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, annually, or through a bullet repayment arrangement. A suitable gestation period may also be facilitated for businesses that require time to generate income.

Loan processing fees will be waived, with borrowers having the option of a floating interest rate of 7% or a fixed interest rate of 8%.

Recognizing that finance alone may not be sufficient to build a sustainable business, the initiative places emphasis on strengthening women's capacity in areas such as financial management, cash-flow management, pricing, technical skills, and market access. By combining finance with practical support, Aumtsue Peljor Thabrig aims to help women make informed business decisions and effectively utilise financial resources.

Following its launch in Nganglam, BDB plans to roll out Aumtsue Peljor Thabrig nationwide through its branch network, with designated Women Banking Champions serving as focal points for the initiative.

Through the programme, BDB aims to support women in moving from informal or small-scale economic activities towards more sustainable and productive ventures, while contributing to women's economic empowerment and inclusive economic development in Bhutan.











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(Across all 20 Dzongkhag)

13 Gewog Field Office
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