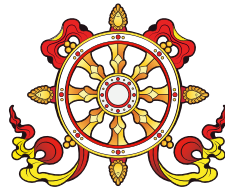


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**German-Bhutan
Himalaya Society**

BHUTAN DAY

Saturday, 17 May 2025
Dharma Mati Centre Berlin
(General Assembly for Members on 16 May)



Photo: Dharma Mati

**Topic: “Agriculture in Bhutan –
Towards a sustainable future”**



**Participation in
Bhutan Day is
possible both
on-site & online.**



Photo: Meno S. W. Spögel

Programme Bhutan Day, 17 May 2025

The Annual General Assembly for Members of the German Bhutan Himalaya Society will take place on the evening before, Friday, May 16, 2025 from 6 p.m. Non-members are very welcome.

Presentations and speeches will be translated from English to German and vice versa.

*Time is Central European Summer Time;
[Bhutan Standard time is 4 hours ahead]*

10.30 Welcome

[14:30] Reinhard Wolf, DBHG

10:45 Opening Address

[14:45] Ambassador Tshoki Choden, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bhutan/ Brussels

11:15 Keynote address

[15:15] Younten Phuntsho, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock*

12:00 Agriculture and Industrial

[16:00] Linkages and the possible contribution to a sustainable future

Dr. Sonam Tashi, Dean, Research and Industrial Linkages; Department of Agriculture, College of Natural Resources (CNR), Royal University of Bhutan*

Foreign Direct Investment and food security

Dr Tshering Samdrup, University of Western Australia*

12.45 Lunch break

[16:45]

14:00 The challenges of large-scale conversion to organic farming in Bhutan

[18:00]

Prof. Dr. Christian Lippert; University of Hohenheim & Dr Tsho Tsho, CNR*

14:45 Analysis of Large-Scale

[18:45] Mitigation Policies of Human-wildlife-conflicts in Bhutan

Prof. Dr. Arndt Feuerbacher; University of Hohenheim

15.30 Coffee break

[19:30]

16.00 Further short presentations on the topic

[20:00]

16.45 Final discussion

[20:45]

17.00 End of Bhutan Day

[21:00]

**online from Bhutan*



Speakers



Tshoki Choden

*Ambassador of the Royal
Bhutanese Embassy in Brussels*

Tshoki Choden has been ambassador for the EU and several other countries since 2022. Prior to that, she headed the bilateral affairs department at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worked in various roles for the ministry, as well as for the Royal Bhutanese Embassy and the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York. She holds a master's degree in international relations from SIPA at Columbia University.



Younten Phuntsho

Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Younten Phuntsho holds a Master's in Environmental Management from Yale University in the United States and a master's degree in Forestry from the Indira Gandhi National

Forest Academy in Dehra Dun, India. He specialises in natural resource management, climate change, the environment and forestry. Before being appointed Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, he worked in the forestry and park services department of the World Wildlife Fund.



Prof. Dr. Christian Lippert

Prof Lippert is an agricultural economist at the University of Hohenheim. He conducts research into business and environmental economics in agriculture - from agri-environmental

measures and food safety to the enforcement of standards in organic farming and the economic evaluation of ecosystem services such as pollination by insects. Other focal points are the spatial analysis of land use and the effects of climate change on agriculture.



Prof. Dr Arndt Feuerbacher

Prof. Feuerbacher heads the research group on ecological-economic policy modelling at the University of Hohenheim's Institute for Agricultural Policy and Agricultural Markets. Topic: Evaluation of agricultural and

nutrition policy measures that lead to transformation paths towards a biodiversity-friendly land use and nutrition system. Prior to that, he worked at the World Bank, South Asia Environment Unit, where he was responsible for various analytical works, including an analysis of green growth in Bhutan and the organisation of a workshop on green growth policy in Thimphu, Bhutan.



Dr Sonam Tashi

Associate Professor Sonam Tashi is the Dean for Research and Industrial Linkages at the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. He was previously Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr Tashi is the

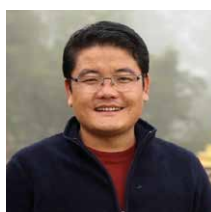
Editor-in-Chief of the Bhutan Journal of Natural Resource Development and an editor for the International Journal of Environment. He was also previously an associate editor of the Journal of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research. An expert in organic and sustainable agricultural practices, Dr Tashi has written numerous peer-reviewed articles and is a regular reviewer for national and international journals.



Dr Tsho Tsho

Dr Tshotsho is a lecturer at the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. He is currently teaching courses in agriculture and economics. He completed his doctorate in agricultural sciences at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart in 2024. His main areas of interest are organic farming, development studies and applications of social networks. He has many friends in Germany and considers Germany to be his second home.

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Dr Tshering Samdrup

Dr Samdrup is an internationally trained agricultural economist and currently works for the Western Australian Department of Agriculture. He completed his PhD in 2024 on the role of direct investment, contract

farming and diversification in food security and is committed to sustainable development, technology transfer and employment in the agricultural sector.

About our event

Topic: “Agriculture in Bhutan – Towards a sustainable future”



Photo: bhutan.travel

The agricultural sector employs almost half of Bhutan’s labour force, but contributes only about 15 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP). Agriculture faces challenges such as rural-urban migration, low productivity, limited economic efficiency and low self-sufficiency. It is worth noting that about 75 per cent of the staple food rice has to be imported.



Photo: Unsplash

But Bhutan is looking for solutions. The focus is on innovative approaches to strengthen agriculture and improve food security. What are the country’s strategies and how can Bhutan overcome these challenges? These are the questions we want to discuss with our fascinating guests.



Photo: Unsplash

Registration

We kindly ask you to register for Bhutan Day latest by May 31, 2024.

Just send an email to info@bhutan-gesellschaft.de.



Photo: Dharma Mati

Venue: Dharma Mati Centre Berlin

As a place of tranquillity in the city, Dharma Mati is much appreciated by many visitors. It is located in the Berlin district of Charlottenburg, Soorstr. 85, 14050 Berlin.



Photo: Dharma Mati



**Deutsche
Bhutan Himalaya
Gesellschaft e. V.**

Reinhard Wolf (President), Dr. Irmela Harz (Vice-President), Brigitte Eisenack (Treasurer), Dr. Uwe Dräger, Sven Kaun-Feederle, Deki Wangmo, Sangay Zangmo; Honoray President: Prof. Manfred Gerner
Sparkasse KölnBonn, IBAN: DE89 3705 0198 0016 4122 80, BIC: COLSDE33XXX