

2025-2026

— Volume 2 Issue 1 —

RDTC Spotlight

Excellence in Food and Agribusiness



RDTC at a glance

Know about the institute

The Bhutan-Swiss collaboration at the Rural Development Training Centre was formally dedicated to the celebration of 100 years of the Glorious Monarchy of Bhutan on the 7 of May, 2008. The inaugural ceremony was graced by DASHO Sherub Gyaltshen, Honorable Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mrs. Ruth Dreifuss, former President of the Government of Switzerland. This event marked a significant milestone in an enduring partnership between Bhutan and Switzerland, symbolizing shared commitment to rural development and national progress. By 2022, the Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) was officially transitioned from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Education and Skills Development. This institutional shift marked a strategic move to align the center's training programs more closely with national priorities in education, youth engagement and skills development, thereby broadening its mandate to enhance capacity building across rural communities.

Hon'ble Lyonpo Visits RDTC, Zhemgang

On February 1, Hon'ble Lyonpo conducted her inaugural visit to Zhemgang, marking a significant milestone in the Ministry's ongoing efforts to assess educational and vocational landscapes firsthand.

During her visit, Lyonpo toured the Rural Development Training Center (RDTC), met with staff and trainees, and received a comprehensive briefing on the center's institutional profile and active programs.

While interacting with the trainees, Lyonpo emphasized the transformative potential of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), describing it as a gateway to lifelong, livelihood-oriented skills.

"TVET is not just an alternative pathway; it is a cornerstone for sustainable livelihoods and national development."
— Hon'ble Lyonpo



Reaffirming Educational Goals

The visit provided Lyonpo with critical, firsthand insights into the local academic environment and the distinct challenges faced by regional institutions. Concluding her tour, Lyonpo reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to raising overall education standards and urgently addressing priority needs to remain strictly aligned with Bhutan's national education goals.



RDTC Commemorates the Graduation of Barista and Bakery Trainees!

Innovation, passion, and incredible aromas filled the air at the Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) as we proudly celebrated a major double milestone: the successful conclusion of both our 11th Batch Barista Training and our intensive Bakery Training Program!

These concurrent programs brought together two distinct culinary arts, culminating in a joint celebration of hard work, skill acquisition, and future-ready talent. Our campus couldn't be prouder of the dedication displayed by both cohorts as they prepared to step into Bhutan's vibrant hospitality and entrepreneurship sectors.



To both our baristas and bakers: congratulations on successfully completing your respective milestones! You worked incredibly hard, supported one another, and brought immense creativity to the Centre.

May the specialized skills you have gained here at RDTC open doors to exciting new opportunities and financial independence. Keep shining, keep creating, and brew and bake your way to massive success!

The intersection of these two programs represents a massive opportunity for our graduates. Coffee and baked goods go hand-in-hand, and by unleashing a fresh wave of skilled baristas and bakers simultaneously, RDTC is directly fueling the growth of local businesses and self-employment opportunities.

"Whether they choose to collaborate as future business partners, join established hospitality brands, or launch their own unique cafes and bakeries, these graduates carry a valuable, highly marketable trade."

RDTC participates in TVET fair 2026



Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) actively advanced the landscape of technical education by participating in the high-profile TVET Fair 2026.

Organized under the inspiring nationwide theme, "Skills for Life, Skills for the Future," this multi-district event serves as a critical strategic platform to address youth unemployment, share evolving labor market trends, and encourage the younger generation to confidently pursue vocational pathways.

As one of the country's featured public training institutes, RDTC successfully engaged with hundreds of visiting students, passionate job seekers, and curious parents looking to secure bright futures for their children.

At the highly interactive RDTC exhibition booth, dedicated team representatives and instructors hosted live, hands-on demonstrations. These showcases highlighted the institute's specialized, market-driven courses in sustainable agriculture, commercial livestock management, and value-added food product development.

Visitors to the pavilion received direct career guidance counseling, explored modern agri-tech modules, and took immediate advantage of on-the-spot enrollment opportunities for upcoming cohorts.



By bridging the gap between ecological action and vocational excellence, RDTC continues to fulfill its core mission: empowering Bhutan's youth with the practical skills needed to build a self-reliant, vibrant, and sustainable nation.

MoU Signed with Zimdra Food Pvt. Ltd.

In a significant step toward bridging the gap between classroom training and industrial application, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed with Zimdra Food Pvt. Ltd.

The agreement is designed to facilitate and elevate the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program specifically for the BQF2 (Bhutan Qualifications Framework Level 2) Food Processing Technician course.

The signing ceremony was conducted in the distinguished presence of the Director General, alongside senior officials from the Ministry and key executives from Zimdra Food Pvt. Ltd.

Strengthening Industry-Academia Integration

This partnership highlights the Ministry's ongoing commitment to forging strong public-private partnerships that directly benefit youth employment and skill development. By collaborating with an established market leader like Zimdra Food Pvt. Ltd., the Ministry aims to provide trainees with an immersive learning environment that mirrors current market standards.

During the event, the Director General emphasized that technical competency cannot be achieved through theoretical instruction alone. Access to modern industrial plants, large-scale production lines, and real-time quality control environments is essential to producing job-ready technicians.



Landscape Technician Batch II Program Officially Launched

Marking another major step forward in the expansion of specialized vocational skills, the Rural Development Training Center (RDTC) in Zhemgang successfully hosted the official Opening Ceremony for the second batch of the Landscape Technician training program.

The high-profile event commenced with a traditional and deeply symbolic ceremony. The Director of the center officially inaugurated the program by lighting a sacred butter lamp—a timeless tradition symbolizing the dispelling of darkness, the spread of wisdom and knowledge, and a prosperous, bright beginning for the newly enrolled trainees.



As the training officially gets underway, the Ministry and center faculty express their highest confidence in the new batch. The institution is fully prepared to support these young professionals as they embark on what promises to be a highly productive learning journey, ultimately fostering a successful, skilled workforce capable of driving Bhutan's sustainable development goals forward.



Important Event

What: Salang Tendrel Ceremony

When: 1st April, 2026

Where: RDTC, Zhemgang

Salang Tendrel Ceremony for Major Expansion Project

In a monumental move to upscale its training facilities and elevate institutional capacity, the Rural Development Training Center successfully conducted its auspicious Salang Tendrel (groundbreaking) ceremony on April 1.

The sacred ritual marks the official commencement of a comprehensive infrastructure development project designed to transform the institute into a premier hub for vocational learning.



Reaffirming Educational Goals

By systematically addressing long-term infrastructural needs, this expansion directly elevates the training ecosystem within the region. It ensures that students, youth, and farmers who walk through the doors of RDTC Zhemgang are met with international-standard environments conducive to lifelong learning.

This development marks a proud, significant step forward for the Ministry and the nation in continuously strengthening technical and vocational education to drive sustainable development across Bhutan.



This capital development project with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) introduces an expansive blueprint aimed at boosting both academic quality and campus life.

The construction phase will deliver a wide array of modern structures, thoughtfully categorized into learning, living, and recreation zones.



RDTC welcomes three new trainers



We are absolutely thrilled to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the newest member of the RDTC family, Mr. Karma Tamang!

Karma joins our team as the new Assistant Instructor for Food Product Development. He recently completed his graduation from TTI Rangjung, where he successfully earned his NC3 qualification in Electrical. While his foundational training is in the technical electrical field, his diverse skill set, problem-solving mindset, and vibrant energy will bring a fresh and uniquely valuable perspective to our food product development and training programs.

We are also thrilled to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to two new faculty members joining the RDTC family, Mr. Karma Rigyel (R) and Mr. Ugyen Rinzin (L).

Mr. Karma Rigyel joins us as an Assistant Lecturer in Ornamental Horticulture. Karma is a proud graduate of the College of Natural Resources (CNR), where he earned his BSc in Organic Agriculture. His deep understanding of sustainable farming practices and green management will be an incredible asset to our campus and trainees.

Mr. Ugyen Rinzin also joins our team as an Assistant Lecturer in Food and Packaging Technology. Ugyen recently graduated from Anand Agricultural University, specializing in Food Technology. His specialized knowledge in modern processing and innovative packaging techniques will bring vital expertise to our developing programs.



At RDTC, we constantly strive to foster innovation and growth, and we are confident that their dedication, fresh academic insights, and vibrant energy will greatly inspire our student community.



Landscape 1st Batch completes OJT

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our very first batch of Landscape Technology trainees has successfully completed their On-the-Job Training (OJT) with Green Bhutan Corporation Limited (GBCL).

Following their return to the institute, the trainees took to the stage to present their experiences, core learning outcomes, and key insights gained during their industry attachment. Their presentations were a brilliant showcase of practical skills, deep industry exposure, and the immense professional growth achieved through this invaluable hands-on journey.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
-Teddy Roosevelt

A Note of Gratitude

The institute extends its heartfelt appreciation to Green Bhutan Corporation Limited for their continued support and unwavering commitment to developing skilled, industry-ready professionals. We are incredibly proud of our trainees for the hard work, dedication, and resilience they demonstrated throughout their training journey.



Honoring Our Guides: RDTC Celebrates Teachers' Day

A day of profound gratitude reverberated across Bhutan recently as we paused to honor the incredible educators who dedicate their lives to shaping the future. Teachers are the guiding lights who provide the motivation, knowledge, and support necessary to ensure that their students—whoever they may be and wherever they come from—learn, thrive, and succeed in life.

Often rightfully called our second parents, teachers embody a rare combination of true humility, deep empathy, adaptability, and masterclass communication skills. They don't just teach curriculum; they build character, instill resilience, and shape human potential.



A Heartfelt Celebration Led by Our Trainees

Here at the Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC), the day was made incredibly special thanks to a beautiful celebration entirely coordinated by our dear trainees.

From the meticulous planning to the heartfelt execution, our trainees took the lead to show their appreciation in the most moving way possible.

The entire RDTC staff and faculty extend a huge, special thank you to each and every one of them. We deeply appreciated and loved every bit of the effort, creativity, and love put into making this day unforgettable.

*Here's to every teacher in the world: Thank you for your
tireless dedication, your patience, and your unwavering belief
in your students. Happy Teachers' Day!*



Strengthening Industry Ties

In a major step forward for technical and vocational education, the Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) in Zhemgang successfully hosted its Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting. The prestigious event was graced by the Honourable Dasho Dzungpa of Zhemgang as the Chief Guest.

The high-level meeting served as a vital strategic platform, bringing together key industry leaders, institutional heads, and regional stakeholders. The core mission? To bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry demands, ensuring that vocational education in Bhutan evolves alongside the modern market.



A major highlight of the session was the formal appointment of the General Manager of Green Bhutan Corporation Limited (GBCL) as the new Chairperson of the Industry Advisory Committee. Under this new leadership, the committee is poised to drive deeper collaboration between trainees and employers.

RDTC Team Completes Landscape Diploma Training of Trainers

The Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) officially marked an important milestone with the successful completion of the Training of Trainers (ToT) program for the Landscape Diploma.

The intensive program proved to be an eye-opening and deeply enriching experience for everyone involved. It has significantly strengthened our team's understanding, refined our teaching methodologies, and sharpened our long-term vision for landscape education and training at the Centre.

This achievement would not have been possible without the invaluable guidance of Liane Cook from Humber Polytechnic. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Liane for her unwavering dedication, expertise, and inspiring mentorship throughout the program.



Looking Ahead

RDTC will always remember Liane's meaningful contributions towards the growth and development of our Landscape Diploma program. We sincerely hope to collaborate and work together again in the future.

The entire RDTC community wishes Liane continued success in all her future endeavors!

Commemorating World Environment Day 2026

On June 4th, the Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) in close collaboration with the Dzongkhag proudly celebrated World Environment Day. In Bhutan, this significant day uniquely coincides with the auspicious Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty The Gyalsuen, Ashi Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the Royal Patron for the Environment.

The joint celebration stood as a deeply meaningful tribute to Her Majesty's unwavering commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable community development.



Aligned with the global campaign theme, the collaborative initiative brought together RDTC faculty, trainees, sector heads, and local community members in a unified show of environmental stewardship. The day commenced with a series of coordinated climate literacy and waste management awareness sessions. These discussions emphasized the critical role that local institutions and agricultural communities play in driving effective climate action.

Participants took to the field for an extensive tree plantation drive across the campus and town areas. Dozens of native saplings, including cherry blossoms and maples, were planted to enrich the local ecosystem, combat soil degradation, and enhance biodiversity.



RDTC participates in the Civil Service Innovation Day 2026

Rural Development Training Center (RDTC), Zhemgang, had the immense privilege of representing the institute and our farming communities at this prestigious national exhibition.

Our dedicated team showcased a diverse range of innovative food and agricultural products, each reflecting our core commitment to driving public service innovation, fostering sustainable rural development, and creating better, more resilient outcomes for Bhutan's farmers.



The event beautifully highlighted the vision emphasized by Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) Chairperson Tashi Pem and Finance Secretary Leki Wangmo—that public sector innovation is about creating genuine impact, adapting to changing times, and transforming to deliver greater public value.

For RDTC, this mission is at the heart of everything we do as we strive to equip rural communities with the skills and sustainable practices they need to thrive.



It was an incredible opportunity to share our work alongside more than 50 inspiring innovation projects from across the country, proving that collective transformation is well underway in Bhutan's public sector. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who visited our booth, engaged with our team, and supported our mission of empowering rural communities. Together, we are cultivating a brighter, more sustainable future for Bhutanese agriculture!





Empowering the Future: RDTC Hosts Final Leg of TVET Career Bootcamp 2026

The Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) proudly hosted the final leg of the highly anticipated TVET Career Bootcamp 2026. Anchored under the inspiring and forward-looking theme, 'Skills up: from Skills to Success', the event marked a crucial step forward in preparing our trainees for the modern workforce.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Department of Employment and Entrepreneurship (DoEE), the Labour Market Information and Career Guidance Division (LMICGD), and the BEST Project for bringing this invaluable initiative directly to our campus. Thanks to their collaborative efforts, the bootcamp successfully reached trainees across all five TVET institutes, culminating in today's finale at RDTC.

Equipping Trainees for the Modern Job Market

The intensive bootcamp was designed to bridge the gap between technical training and real-world employment. Our students spent the day engaged in hands-on sessions, gaining critical workforce tools and strategic knowledge to navigate their future careers:

- **Market Insights:** Trainees received a comprehensive breakdown of Bhutan's current labor market trends, helping them identify where their skills are most in demand.
- **Job Strategy:** Masterclasses in professional CV writing, cover letter formulation, and modern job application skills gave students the confidence to market themselves effectively.
- **Digital Tools:** Practical, guided sessions walked trainees through navigating the Bhutan Labour Market Information System (BLMIS), ensuring they can seamlessly access digital job portals.
- **DoEE Support:** Presenters highlighted official employment programs, entrepreneurship funds, and support services available to TVET graduates.



Graduation Day for Landscape Technicians 1st Batch

We are proud to announce the successful graduation of 15 dedicated trainees from the Landscape Technician (BQFC Level 3) program at RDTC, Zhemgang. This milestone marks a significant step forward in building technical capacity for sustainable urban planning, eco-tourism development, and environmental conservation in the region.

We were deeply honored by the presence of DASHO DZONGRAB, who graced the graduation ceremony as the Chief Guest. His encouraging address reminded our graduates of their vital role in shaping a greener, climate-resilient future for our nation. Congratulations to the first batch! We look forward to seeing your expertise transform Bhutan's landscapes.



*Go confidently in the
direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have
imagined.*

-Henry D. Thoreau

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