

PRESS RELEASE

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Bilateral Discussion on Implementation of the Agreement signed for recognition of official control exercised by Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

On September 20, 2024, the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Royal Government of Bhutan, attended a bilateral meeting with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, on the sidelines of the Global Food Regulators Summit. The meeting, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, focused on implementation protocol of the “Agreement” signed between FSSAI and BFDA on 21 March 2024.

This Agreement marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties between Bhutan and India in food and agricultural products trade. The Agreement aims to recognize the Official control exercised by BFDA over food business operators (FBOs) by the FSSAI. The Agreement further seeks to enhance technical cooperation between FSSAI and BFDA, establishing a functional mechanism to facilitate and develop trade between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director and Director of the Imports, FSSAI, Ms. Gyem Bidha Director, Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), and senior officials from Food Quality and Safety Division, BFDA. Ms. Tashi Peldon, Dy. Chief of Mission, Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, and senior officials from Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India were also present for the Meeting.

The meeting focused on Implementation of the Agreement and steps taken by both FSSAI and BFDA in this regard. To further enhance this collaboration, various capacity building and technical collaboration for the BFDA Officials were discussed. The Director, BFDA highlighted the importance of the Agreement in facilitating Safe Food Trade between the two countries and also acknowledged the leadership in food safety by the FSSAI, GoI. This bilateral meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation challenges while exporting to India and on the areas of technical cooperation and capacity building to effectively implement the Agreement at the grassroot. The Director thanked the Food Safety and Standard Authority for the invitation extended to BFDA for the Global Food Regulators Summit.

Director

Bhutan Food and Drug Authority
Ministry of Health