

Upcoming Training on Investigation of Foodborne Disease Outbreak

The Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), under the Ministry of Health, will be organizing an in-depth training program on the investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks, with generous support from the World Health Organization (WHO). Expert resource persons from the BFDA and the Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC) will lead the training, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in Paro from October 7 to 13, 2024.

Participants for the training will primarily include officials from BFDA's field offices, with a few representatives from the head office. Additionally, due to budget constraints, invitations have been selectively extended to Health Officers from Paro, Samdrup Jongkhar, Sarpang, Thimphu and Phuentsholing Thromdes. While it would be ideal to include all Health and BFDA officials, financial limitations have necessitated a focused approach in selecting participants. Their inclusion is vital, as collaborative efforts between these offices are essential for conducting joint investigations whenever there is a foodborne disease outbreak. This training aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of these officials, enabling them to effectively carry out outbreak investigations and take necessary measures to safeguard public health.

The need for this training was recognized after recent foodborne disease outbreaks in Bumthang, Paro, and Thimphu revealed certain gaps in the expertise of officials involved in outbreak investigations. By addressing these inadequacies, the training is expected to strengthen the country's preparedness and response capacity in managing foodborne diseases, ultimately contributing to a safer food environment for the population.

FQSD, BFDA