

To build a greener economy, Bhutan wants to go organic by 2020

REUTERS, Satsam

Farmer Phub Zam, 55, is in a hurry. Monsoon rains have hit her farm in Bhutan's Paro valley and Zam is rushing to harvest her broccoli before crop is damaged.

"Of all my vegetables, broccoli is the most sought after," she said. "Each kilogram sells for 90 rupees (\$1.40)."

That's 15 to 30 cents more than broccoli imported from neighbouring India. Zam gets the higher price because her produce is grown without the use of chemicals, making it healthier, more flavourful and more in demand.

"I apply organic manure that I compost right at home," she said. "The imported vegetables do not taste so good."

After decades of subsistence farming, Zam went organic four years ago. Now she grows 21 crops on her 1.3-acre farm - including grains, fruits and vegetables - and sells them, as well as homemade compost, to hotels, local vendors and nursery owners.

She earns 40,000 rupees (\$600) per month, three times more than she made before, she said. Zam's success is part of Bhutan's plan to support sustainable farming as one key to build a thriving "green" economy.

In 2011, the government launched the National Organic Program, which aims to make the country's agriculture 100 percent organic by 2020.

By teaching farmers good organic farming practices and how to earn more money by growing organic produce, and by providing financial support, Bhutan hopes to reduce waste, decrease the country's dependence on imported food, and ensure it remains climate-neutral, producing no more climate-changing emissions each year than its forests absorb.

Already praised by environmentalists for its low carbon emissions and heavy use of hydropower, Bhutan hopes to become even greener by showing that environmentally friendly farming can also make money.

Zam's switchover came when a team of officials from the agriculture ministry told her they were offering women farmers in her village free training in organic farming, including composting and selling the compost for a profit.

After attending a three-day training course, Zam started her home compost heap. Today, she sells about 60 kilograms of compost - made of grass, leaves, cow dung and sawdust - every two months to tourist resorts and other buyers.

Zam also uses the compost at her farm, including in the two greenhouses she bought and installed with an 80 percent subsidy from the government.

Before learning how to compost, she would end every harvest season with two or three truckloads of dead leaves and other organic waste that she would either burn or pay someone to dispose of.

"Now, from leaves to cow dung to chicken poop, everything is used," she said. "I have no trash, only compost."

Nedup Tsering, executive director of the government-funded Clean Bhutan project, which aims to make Bhutan a zero-waste country by 2030, notes that the country generates over 100 tons of garbage daily but has no centralized waste management program.

"We want citizens to practice the 5 Rs: Rethink, reduce, recycle, reuse and re-create," Tsering said.

According to Kesang Tshomo, coordinator of the National Organic Program, Bhutan faces some hurdles on its path toward fully organic farming, however. "We have to be practical and consider the realities facing our farmers," she said.

One is that the country produces relatively little of its food. According to a 2014 study on food security by the Royal Bhutan College of Thimphu, less than 4 percent of Bhutan's total

land is under food cultivation, which is why almost 50 percent of the country's rice is imported from India and Thailand.

To persuade Bhutan's farmers to use organic methods, showing that the switch can lead to higher production is key, Tshomo said.

In June, officials announced that the government had so far provided 176 greenhouses to farmers and planned to install 650 more. It said its combined policies of pursuing organic farming and modernisation - such as building greenhouses and fencing - had helped increase agricultural production 3 percent since the start of the organic push.

The government is banking on the Clean Bhutan Project to also help Bhutan keep its pledge to remain carbon neutral. Currently, the country's carbon emissions rate is a negligible 0.8 metric tons per capita, according to the World Bank.

Promoting organic farming practices like composting is a "logical step towards the goal of remaining carbon neutral," said Peldon Tshering, chief strategist of Bhutan's environmental commission.

Zam, the Paro valley farmer, supports the government's plan to convert its farmers to organic agriculture. But for the project to succeed, she said, the government needs to help widen the market for organic produce.



A farmer works on his organic farm in Paro, Bhutan.



Rume Akhtar Hossain, vice chairman of Ranks Petroleum, and Imran Zaman Khan, managing director, pose at a competition for bike mechanics--Bike-er-Ostad: Ostadder Asor--organised by Ranks at a hotel in Dhaka on September 15.

China industrial profits suffer biggest drop since 2011

REUTERS, Beijing

Profits earned by Chinese industrial companies declined at the sharpest rate in four years in August as costs kept rising and product prices kept falling, according to official data that adds to signs of weakness in the world's second largest economy.

Also hurting firms was China's stock market slump, which cut investment returns while fluctuations of the yuan increased companies' financial expenditures, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Monday.

During August, profits of industrial companies dropped 8.8 percent from a year earlier, the biggest on-year fall since the NBS began monitoring such data in 2011.

For the first eight months of 2015, profits were down 1.9 percent from a year earlier, the bureau said.

The NBS said investment returns for industrial companies in August increased from a year earlier by 4.12 billion yuan (\$6477 million), compared with July's 11.04 billion yuan gain.

Financial expenditures of industrial firms' increased by 23.9 percent in August from a year earlier, compared to a 3 percent annual drop in July.

The NBS did not elaborate on such expenditures, though He Ping, an official

of its Industry Department, said in a statement accompanying the data "Affected by the fluctuation of renminbi exchange rates, some export-oriented firms saw obvious increase in exchange losses."

Among 41 industrial sectors, 31 had year-on-year profit growth in the first eight months of this year, while 10 suffered drops, the NBS data showed.

The mining industry was the laggard with profits falling 57.3 percent in the first eight months of the year from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, state-owned firms were the worst performers among all companies. Their profits dived 24.7 percent in the first eight months, compared to a rise of 7.3 percent for private firms.

The inventory of industrial firms increased by 5.7 percent in August from a year ago, easing from 6.8 percent growth in July and marking the second consecutive month of slower gains, the NBS said. He of NBS suggested that an ongoing destocking process would help struggling firms.

"The easing growth in inventory would relieve companies' inventory pressure and ease their operation difficulties," he said.

Growth in Chinese manufacturing has been stagnating. A preliminary private survey showed flagging demand dragged China's factory sector into its sharpest contraction in 6-1/2 years in September.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Buffalo Development Project (Component-A)
Department of Livestock Services (2nd Floor)
Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

No: BDP/Procurement AI Lab/GD-8/2015/431

Date: 22/09/2015

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry	Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock.
2	Agency	Department of Livestock Services.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Lab Equipment & AI Instruments.
6	Invitation Ref No. & date	No: BDP/Procurement AI Lab/GD-8/2015/431 Date: 22/09/2015

KEY INFORMATION
7 Procurement method Open Tendering Method (OTM-NCT).

FUNDING INFORMATION
8 Budget and source of funds Government of Bangladesh (GOB DEV).
9 Development partner N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Project code (if applicable)	7053		
11	Project name	Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
12	Tender package No.	GD-8		
13	Tender package name	Procurement of Lab Equipment & AI Instruments.		
14	Tender last selling date	20.10.2015 up to 5.00pm.		
15	Tender submission date & time	Primary place: 21.10.2015 up to 12.00 noon Secondary place: 21.10.2015 up to 12.00 noon.		
16	Tender opening date & time	21.10.2015 at 03:00pm.		
17	Name and address of the office(s)	Address		
	Selling tender document (principal)	1) Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
	Selling tender document (others)	2) Office of the Deputy Director (Central Store), Livestock Department, 48, Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.		
	Receiving tender document	Primary place: 1) Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215. Secondary place: 2) Office of the Deputy Director (Central Store), Livestock Department, 48, Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Primary place: Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
18	Pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A		

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
19	Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in tender document.		
20	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Lab Equipment & AI Instruments.		
21	Brief description of related services	N/A		
22	Price of tender document (Tk)	Taka 1, 500 (one hundred five hundred only) for each package.		
23	Package No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Taka)
24	GD-8	Procurement of Lab Equipment & AI Instruments	Savar, Dhaka	Tk 10,00,000/-
				Completion time in days
				6 months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
25	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Md. Takabbar Hossain.		
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
27	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone No. 02-9103316, Fax No. 02-9103316, Email: thossain1958@gmail.com		
29	Special instruction:	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. b) Due to unavoidable circumstances, if tender can't be received & opened in due time, the same will be shifted on the next working day.		

Dr. Md. Takabbar Hossain
Project Director
Buffalo Development Project
Department of Livestock Services (2nd Floor)
Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

GD-3116

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Buffalo Development Project (Component-A)
Department of Livestock Services (2nd Floor)
Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

No. BDP/Construction of Boundary wall/WD-1/2015/430

Date: 22/09/2015

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
2	Agency	Department of Livestock Services.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Buffalo Development Project, (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Construction of Boundary Wall.
6	Invitation Ref. No. & date	No. BDP/Construction of Boundary wall/WD-1/2015/430 Date: 22/09/2015

KEY INFORMATION
7 Procurement method Open Tender Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION
8 Budget and source of fund Government of Bangladesh (GOB).
9 Development partner (if applicable) N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Project/programme code	7053.		
11	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Project Director, Buffalo Development Project, (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
12	Tender package number	WD-1, Lot 9.1. WD-1, Lot-9.2 WD-1, Lot-9.3 WD-1, Lot-9.4 WD-1, Lot-9.5 WD-1, Lot-9.6		
13	Tender last selling date	14/10/2015 up to 5.00pm.		
14	Tender submission date and time	Primary place: 15/10/2015 up to 12.00 noon. Secondary place: 15/10/2015 up to 12.00 noon.		
15	Tender opening date and time	15/10/2015 at 03:00pm.		
16	Name and address of the office(s)	Address.		
17	Selling tender documents (principal)	1) Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
18	Selling tender documents (others)	2) Office of the Deputy Director (Central Store), Livestock Department, 48, Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.		
19	Receiving tender documents	Primary Place 1) Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215. Secondary Place 2) Office of the Deputy Director (Central Store), Livestock Department, 48, Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.		
20	Opening tender documents	Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A.		

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in TDS, ITT and GCC clauses of the tender document.		
23	Brief description of works	Construction of Boundary Wall.		
24	Brief description of physical services	N/A.		
25	Price of tender documents (Tk)	Taka 500 (five hundred) for each.		
26	Pkg No.	Lot No.	Supply location	Tender security amount in Taka
27	WD-1	Lot 9.1-9.6	Fakirhat, Bagerhat	Per Lot-96,000/-
				Completion time in months
				6 months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
28	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Md. Takabbar Hossain.		
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
30	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, Buffalo Development Project (Component-A), Department of Livestock Services (2 nd Floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone No. 02-9103316, Fax No. 02-9103316, Email: thossain1958@gmail.com		
32	Special Instruction:	a) Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender cannot be received and opened on the schedule date and time, the same will be shifted to the next working day. b) All other instructions are described in the tender documents. c) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject whole or part of any tender/offer.		

Dr. Md. Takabbar Hossain
Project Director
Buffalo Development Project
Department of Livestock Services (2nd Floor)
Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

GD-3115