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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Ministry of Agriculture & Forests

Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



MINISTER

MoAF/DoFPS/2021-2022/525

April 27, 2022

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Wooden packing boxes for export of apples and oranges

In pursuant to the economic recovery plan of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests would like to notify that starting this year, the wood-based industries in the country will be scaling up the domestic production of wooden packing boxes for apples and oranges to not only provide employment and generate revenue, but also utilize the unsold timber stock lying in various timber depots in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the economy and it is the priority of the Royal Government to take initiatives that will contribute to the economy with the engagement of the private sector in the rebuilding process as key partners.

Also, in view of the recent developments to comply with the ISPM-15 from this year by India to “implement ISPM-15 to meet the requirements of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packing material (including dunnage) made of coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood, in use in international trade.”, the Ministry will be strictly implementing the compliance of ISPM-15 for both import and export of wooden packing boxes for apples and oranges.

Therefore, in order to meet the dual objectives of contributing to the economic recovery process of the country through the in-country production of wooden packing boxes to substitute import while also complying to the requirements of ISPM 15, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests would like to request and urge the wood based industries to produce and the exporters to buy the wooden packing boxes produced in Bhutan only for export of apples and oranges in this coming season since a lot of timber is available in the country with limited market due to pandemic.

Let us collaboratively take this initiative as an important activity by the private sector in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests to contribute to the post pandemic economic recovery in our small possible ways.

Minister