

**Message from His Excellency the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests on
the occasion of Social Forestry Day, 2nd June 2022**

Theme: "Planting Trees for Our Future Generation"

Since 1985, every year, 2nd June is celebrated as the **Social Forestry Day** throughout Bhutan coinciding with the Coronation Day of our Fourth Druk Gyalpo. It was initially started as a tree-planting program in schools and institutions in the country to enhance peoples' participation in sharing the responsibilities to safeguard our natural resources for both present and future generation.

The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck's farsighted vision for welfare of both the Bhutanese people and environment was not only recognized globally but was also enshrined in our Constitution. As a tribute to our Fourth Druk Gyalpo and His Majesty the King, we rededicate ourselves in serving the Tsa-Wa-Sum by planting and nurturing a tree for both present and future generations. Million Fruit Tree Plantation under the Royal Command in 2022 is an exemplary blessing for all of us to value the benefits of plantation.

As we all know the importance of trees and the single tree's benefits to social, economic and in this recent phenomenon, its contribution to combating Climate Change, I urge every single citizen of the country to join hands in planting at least one tree and **taking care of it until it is fully grown**. By planting at least one tree today, we are not just paying tribute to our Beloved Kings, but also to secure our future generations with greener Bhutan.

Today, I take this opportunity to remind all the Bhutanese people to take pride in the accomplishment of the conservation efforts and to remind ourselves of the roles we play in protecting and conserving our forests. Forests and natural resources pose multi-dimensional threats from increasing population and rapid urbanization which is inevitable. Hence, we need to sustainably manage and utilize the available natural resources judiciously for our future generations.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and on my own behalf, I would like to extend our gratitude to all the people of Bhutan for untiring efforts and continued support to our Ministry in fulfilling our shared responsibilities of sustainable management of our forests and natural resources. I am confident that every year when we celebrate the Social Forestry Day on 2nd June, we could pay our tribute to our Beloved Monarch and rededicate ourselves for sustainable management of forest resources for our future generations.


(Yeshey Penjor)
MINISTER