



ཀྲུལ་ཡིངས་མཐའ་འཁོར་གནས་སྤངས་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
National Environment Commission
Royal Government of Bhutan



NECS/EACD/2021/447

March 29, 2021

To
(Refer distribution list below)

Subject: Re-categorization of food processing including fruits and vegetables for Environmental Clearance

Dasho/Sir/Madam,

This is in continuation to the classification of projects/categorization of projects into color-coded categories issued vide letter no. NECS/PPS/2020/92 dated January 15, 2020. In the interest of enhancing public service delivery, the National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) carries out periodic review and update of the list as delegated during the 42nd NEC meeting issued vide letter no. NECS/ESD/Gen/2016/630 dated March 23, 2016.

Along the same line, the NECS has been receiving numerous applications for small and cottage scale food processing and preserving industries. Currently, food processing including fruits and vegetable processing, regardless of the scale of operation, is categorized into the blue list and hence, assessed at Initial Environmental Examination level of assessment. Upon review of these applications, the NECS noted that these activities are small-scale operation involving simple production steps and equipment with negligible to no adverse impacts on the environment. Therefore, the NECS would like to inform that aforementioned activity is re-categorized as follows:

1. **Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables (*cottage and small scale*) under green list.** This includes fruit or vegetable juices, jams, marmalades, table jellies, nut foods and pastes, production of concentrates, tofu (bean curd), sauces, soups, broths, condiments, spices, and preserving of fruits or vegetables such as freezing, drying/dehydration, and immersing in oil, vinegar or syrup.
2. **Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables (*medium and large scale*) under blue list.** This includes fruit or vegetable juices, jams, marmalades, table jellies, nut foods and pastes, production of concentrates, tofu (bean curd), sauces, soups, broths, condiments, spices, and preserving of fruits or vegetables such as freezing, drying/dehydration, and immersing in oil, vinegar or syrup.

For any clarification, kindly contact Environment Assessment and Compliance Division at 02-331160. This is issued as per the decision of 58th Environment Assessment Technical Committee meeting held on February 17, 2021.

Thanking you,

