Annual Excursion, 22 August 2019
Swiss Alpine Herbs Därstetten and its collaboration with Bhutan

Meeting Point: 09.35am, Bus Station Bahnhof Spiez

Wangchuk Dema (Drachukha Flower Group) and Thinley Namgay (Druk Metho) arrived on June 29, 2019 for a two-month study and training trip to Switzerland. The study tour is financed and organized by Mountain Grassroots Association and Swiss Alpine Herbs (SAH). We will have the opportunity to meet them and to get an insight into flower farming in Switzerland and the production of food items with edible flowers at Swiss Alpine Herbs (SAH) in Därstetten.

The Drachukha Flower Group is a group of four young and entrepreneurial women from a rural farming community between Punakha and Gasa. They are growing and drying flowers such as Marigold, Sunflower and Cornflowers.

Druk Metho was founded by Thinley Namgay. The aim is to process, store and transport the dried petals to the international market. Druk Metho is as well targeting the local tourism sector and regional markets like India, Thailand and Singapore. Partner in Switzerland is Swiss Alpine Herbs (SAH), providing technical and agricultural assistance.

With the generous donation in memoriam of late Elisabeth Jaag, the mother of our member Lisette Müller-Jaag the Society Switzerland-Bhutan can co-finance the new drying unit of the Drachukha Flower Group.

Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji (Honorary Council of Switzerland to Bhutan and President of the Bhutan-Switzerland Society) will join us during his stay at the regular meeting of the Swiss honorary consuls in Bern.
Programme

9.35 Latest arrival and meeting in Spiez at Bus Station (in front of Spiez Railway Station)

9.45 Departure by bus "Oberland Reisen" to Aeschi

10.15 - 11.15 Visit to the flower farm in Aeschi
   Guided tour by the Wäfler family (picture) with Martin Lüdi (Swiss Alpine Herbs - SAH),
   Thinley Namgay (Druk Metho) and Wangchuk Dema (Drachukha Flower Group)

11.30 - 13.30 Lunch at Chemihütte and short introduction to Druk Metho by Thinley Namgay

13.30 Departure by bus to Därstetten

14.00 - 16.00 Visit of Swiss Alpine Herbs production facilities in Därstetten

16.00 - 16.45 Shopping possibility in the factory shop

16.45 Departure to Därstetten railway station (850 m / approx. 15 minutes).
   (If necessary there will be a transfer by car)

17.23 Departure train to Spiez

17.47 Arrival Spiez

Connecting trains

17.54 Bern, Basel, Zürich, Genf

18:05 Brig

Lunch

Menu 1: Cream of herbs soup, green salad, roast pork with vegetables and mashed potatoes

Menu 2 (veg): Cream of herbs soup, green salad, fried vegetable-schnitzel with tartar sauce and vegetable

Price (CHF 35.-) includes lunch, mineral water, coffee. To be paid on the bus to Aeschi.

Bus transfer from Spiez to Aeschi and Därstetten is offered by SSB

Registration

Please till Thursday August 8, 2019 online on www.bhutan-switzerland.org

Or by mail to Rosmarie Frey: rosmarie.frey@bhutan-switzerland.org