More than just Swiss chocolates

**By Sonam Dema**

The trip to Switzerland is one of the most memorable journeys of my life. I will miss all the Swiss families and friends who called me Sammy because they couldn't pronounce my name, "said Rangshlma Tsejai.

Since 2003, the Swiss-Bhutanese farmers have been fostering a friendly relationship with their foreign counterparts to work together and stay with Swiss farming families. The objective is to encourage the farmers to pick up new skills and knowledge of crop cultivation and processing. The farmers are selected based on their performance to speak English and their ability to disseminate the knowledge they gained during their stay. The farmer's basic objective is to facilitate the farmers to pick up new skills and knowledge and to share their experiences.

Nangyal Wangmo from Durham, England, and Rangshlma Tsejai from Pembalshwa were the three farmers selected for the Switzerland trip. Nangyal has six Brown Swiss cows, and he hopes to do better poultry and dairy farming with the knowledge she acquired from the trip. "The Swiss people are very hardworking, and their farms are beautiful. We were inspired by their way of farming. Our Bhutanese farmers should learn from them," she said.

The farmers say that while the methods used are similar, the big difference lies in the mechanization and skill. The Swiss farmers also do not use machines for most of the work. We are very grateful to Mr. Erich Riederal for providing the farm machinery," one of the farmers said.

Auntie Shering, the owner of the farm, said, "They explained how to maintain and use the forest ecologically and sustainably." He now dreams of creating a Swiss farm for the children.

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