

A. SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR NORTH EAST FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS

The Non Traditional tea areas of North East have a high potential of growing and manufacturing teas that are eminently suited to the consumers tastes. Efforts made during the previous plan periods have resulted in creating awareness among the small farmers in the non-traditional NE states as to the advantages of growing tea which besides creating a perennial asset for generating regular income for the farmers, also plays a significant role in weaning away the farmers from shifting (Jhooming) cultivation and preserving the environment.

The package will be applicable for the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura (non traditional areas), Sikkim, N. C Hills District of Assam and Karbi Anglong District of Assam.

Activities eligible for financial assistance -

1. Raising of tea nursery by self help groups and farmers producer organizations for new planting

Only SHG and FPO will be eligible. The minimum number of members should be 10 without any area stipulation. The minimum numbers are for enabling formation of SHG where there are limitations in terms of contiguity of small growers' plantations. Formation of groups having numbers more than the minimum stipulation, is envisaged and to be encouraged for bringing about better synergy

The rate of financial assistance will be @ Rs. 7/- per plant.

25% of the sanctioned amount will be released upfront for enabling the SHG to commence the work. The release of the balance sanctioned amount will be done in phases based on the progress of work and on the recommendation of the concerned Tea Board Officer who would be ex officio member of the SHG. Normally, the subsidy is to be released in tranches of 25 % each for 4 tranches.

The sanctioned amount will be preferably disbursed directly to the vendors for supply of seeds / cuttings, framing material, shading material, PPFs, fertilizers etc. and to contractors for other works.

The work of raising the nursery will have to be completed by the SHG within 3 months from the date of issue of sanction order.

The plants raised in nursery will be utilized for the sole purpose of carrying out new planting by the beneficiary SHG and not sold to any person or entity.

2. Setting up of Mini Tea Processing factories

The guidelines to be followed are as per the guidelines given for this activity under the

Plantation Development component.

Preference will be given for orthodox, green tea and specialty teas over CTC tea

The rate of financial assistance will be 50% of cost with ceiling limit of Rs.33.00 lakhs /factory

3. Training and study tour for Self Help Groups

Workshops at a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per workshop to be conducted at field level by Sub Regional Offices of the Board. Need based Seminars can be conducted where expenditure will be incurred may be more due to participation of large number of growers. For both workshops and seminars expenditure is to be restricted to the basic requirements so that more number of workshops can be held to benefit more number of growers. The cost is indicative and all efforts are to be made for economy. Need based on campus training at TRA/other institutions will be conducted at actual.

Study tour will be conducted at a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per study tour.