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Other useful information etc.

(Other important information,s)

Uttarakhand Tea Development Board,

District Panchayat Complex, Dharanaula, Almora

Uttarakhand Tea Development Board

Other useful information etc.

(Other important information,s)

Considering the immense potential for tea development in the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand, the Uttar Pradesh government initiated a tea development project in the Kumaon and Garhwal divisions in 1993–94 through divisional development corporations. Following the formation of the separate state of Uttarakhand, the state government established the Uttarakhand Tea Development Board on February 11, 2004, to accelerate the tea development program. The Uttarakhand Tea Development Board currently operates tea development programs in various districts of Uttarakhand (Almora, Nainital, Bageshwar, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pauri, and Tehri). In the financial year 2025–26 (as of March 2026), the Board has developed tea plantations covering a total area of 1591.91 hectares. Of these, tea , plantations covering an area of 751.01 hectares (under the Board, 234.43 hectares under SCP, and 394.27 hectares under the MNREGA scheme) are being maintained. The remaining 212.20 hectares of developed tea plantations have been transferred to the landowners for self-management upon completion of the lease period and as per the landowners' demand. The Board currently maintains a total of 30.00 lakh cuttings and seed nurseries, from which new plantations are proposed to be carried out in the coming years. The Board has employed 32 regular employees and 43 contract employees to carry out tea development programs. In addition, 3,834 farmers and 2,950 daily wage laborers are employed in various plantations, of which 60-70 percent are women. Under various schemes, the Board is implementing tea development programs in approximately 295 Gram Panchayats in the form of clusters in the development blocks of various districts. The Board is generating an estimated 900,000 man-days of employment annually.

Organic Tea Cultivation: Keeping in view the demand for organic tea in the country and abroad, the Uttarakhand government has decided to encourage organic tea cultivation as much as possible. In this sequence, organic tea is being cultivated in a total area of 560 hectares in Tea Garden Nauti (Chamoli), Tea Garden Ghorakhal (Nainital) and Tea Garden Champawat (Champawat). Currently, the above tea

Organic tea green leaves are being produced from the gardens, from which organic tea is being prepared.

Establishment of Tea Factories:- (1) Tea factories for processing organic tea leaves by the Board As an alternative arrangement, small tea factories have been established in the plantation areas of Ghorakhal (Nainital), Champawat (Champawat) and Nauti (Chamoli), in which production work has already started.

(2) The Board has established its own processing factory in Hari Nagari, Development Block, Garud (Bageshwar) under the SCP Scheme for processing green leaves obtained from non-organic tea gardens, which has the capacity to produce 75,000 kg of tea per year. Apart from this, the Board is also operating a private sector tea factory in Pingalkot under Tea Garden Kausani, where finished tea is being produced. The Board is setting up a new tea factory in Garudabauj area of Almora district, the construction work of which is in the final stage.

In the financial year 2025-26, by the month of March-2026, a total of 6,47,243.00 kg of green tea leaves have been produced and a total of 1,43,976.30 kg of tea has been prepared in all the above mentioned tea factories of the Board and is being sold through local market and Kolkata Auction House.

Establishment of Soil Testing Laboratory:- The Board has at present established a state-of-the-art soil testing laboratory. It has been established in Bhawali (Nainital). So far, 2500 hectares of land has been selected by testing the soil of 9000 hectares of land through this laboratory. 60 percent of this land belongs to private farmers and the rest belongs to forest panchayats/gram sabhas and departments. Apart from testing the land selected by the board, the laboratory also tests the soil provided for soil testing by other departments and institutions and local farmers. The soil testing laboratory of the board has been registered with the Indian Tea Board, Kolkata.

Tea Tourism: To promote tourism in the state, under the guidance and support of the Nainital District Administration, the Tea Garden Tourism Development Autonomous Cooperative Society was formed in the Ghorakhal Tea Garden. Tourists visiting the tea garden are charged ₹40 per tourist, and are provided with tours of the garden and tea factory, as well as information on tea production. Additionally, through this organization, a tea café has been established on the plantation premises and operated by a private individual at a fixed annual rent. Tourists visiting the plantation are enjoying refreshments and tasting tea produced by the Board. Additionally, tea tourism has been initiated in the Bageshwar district. Under the Kausani Tea Garden, with the support of the Bageshwar District Administration and the Tourism Department, a tea café is being established for tourists to visit the plantation.

Work has already begun on trekking routes, street lighting, restrooms, refreshment rooms, accessible toilets, and parking. Tourists visiting tea gardens are provided with a tour of the gardens and appropriate facilities, including a tour of the gardens and factories, by collecting a fee of ₹25.00 per tourist. The Board, in collaboration with the District Administration and the Tourism Department, has constructed tea huts, tea cafes, viewpoints, selfie points, footpaths, and other facilities in the tea gardens established in Champawat district to promote tea tourism in other districts. Tourists visiting tea gardens are also provided with a tour of the gardens and factories, by collecting a fee of ₹25.00 per tourist. Similarly, the Board proposes to promote tea tourism in tea gardens established in other districts with the cooperation of the District Administration and the Tourism Department.

Employment Generation: The Board is generating approximately 6.40 lakh man-days of employment annually in various regions of Uttarakhand under its previously operated sub-projects, Special Component Plan and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), in which participation of more than 70-80 percent women has been ensured. This is giving a boost to women empowerment. On the one hand, the Tea Development Scheme has transformed the economic condition/living conditions of farmers by making good use of their unused land, while on the other hand, it has also stopped the migration of youth.

- Apart from the above, any information related to the Board can be obtained on any working day during office hours from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm except holidays.
- The questions asked in the Legislative Assembly and their answers can be obtained by viewing the files on any office day and the details of the nodal officer, appellate officer and public information officers nominated for self-disclosure of records, such as name, designation, mobile number etc. are available in Manual-16.
- The Nodal Officer, Appellate Officer and Public Information Officers of the Board participate in the RTI training programmes organised from time to time by the Honourable Uttarakhand Information Commission.
- A grievance redressal mechanism has been constituted under the Uttarakhand Tea Development Board, the office memorandum/details of which are available in Manual No. 5.

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