

## Report on Training Programme on Farmer Producer Organization – A way of Development

Date: 22.09.2017

Venue: Press Club, Agartala, Tripura

With the problems of tea growers like non-availability of finance, uncertainty in continuing of land contracts, sustaining production, processing and marketing of tea leaves, tea cultivation etc. CCS NIAM organized a Training Programme in the state of Tripura on 22.09.2017 for formulating tea growers into group i.e. farmer producer organization. The objectives of the training are:

1. To sensitize the participants on the need for promoting a Farmer Producer Organisation,
2. To create awareness among the participants about aggregation & marketing through Farmer Producer Organisation,
3. To help the participants to know about the benefits of Farmer Producer Organisation

The reading material for the training programme was translated into regional language i.e. Bengali which has been given to the participants.

54 participants nominated by the Tea Board India, Agartala Office from the different districts of Tripura i.e. North Tripura district, South Tripura district & West Tripura district attended the programme.

Sr. No.	Caste	No. of participants
1.	General	34
2.	OBC	2
3.	SC	11
4.	ST	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>
5.	Women	1
6.	Men	53

The Technical Sessions delivered in the program are as under:

Time	Topic	Faculty
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	Introduction to Farmer	Dr. Shuchi Mathur, Assistant

	Producer Organisation	Director, CCSNIAM
11.45 AM – 12.45 PM	Nutrient management of tea crop	Dr. Niladri Paul, Asst. Professor, College of Agriculture, Tripura
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	Benefits of Farmer Producer Organisation- through case study	Dr. Shuchi Mathur, Assistant Director, CCSNIAM
3.00 PM – 4.00 PM	Production technology of Tea	Mr. K. C. Baishya, Deputy Director, Tea Board
4.15 PM–5.15 PM	Marketing Strategy of Tea	Abhinab Kant, Head BCDI

### Issues emerged while discussion with the participants:

1. The state of Tripura at present holds the fifth position in tea production after Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
2. Tea production in the state is supplemented by small growers, who mostly grow tea in small holdings measuring one hectare or more and add to the production.
3. The tea gardens are located at Indo-Bangladesh border which always suffers from communal rites which adversely affect the production of tea.
4. There are other multiple problems such as finance crisis, power problems, labour problems, poor labour schemes, inadequate communication system, increased revenue tax for tea gardens, increased pollution fee, less transport subsidy etc. All these have altogether put the tea industry in a hopeless situation, resulting in low production of tea leaves and tea.
5. A considerable number of tea gardens have gone sick due to lack of infrastructure, modernization and efficient management.
6. The problem of storing premium quality tea has always been there. Due to delay in transportation and lack of storage facilities, the processed tea gains moisture from the atmosphere and deteriorates in quality.
7. Tea labourers are paid the lowest wages in comparison to any other labourers. During the peak season, tea gardens employ temporary workers at wages much lower than the actual minimum wage. Most of them act as daily waged manual workers.



