

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
Tea Commissioner's Division
No 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03

Ref: TC/TRSS/NUR/2023

08th December, 2022

Chief Executive Officers of
Regional Plantation Companies
Chairman of JEDB, SLSPC & TRI
Owners of Estates more than 10 Acres

Sirs,

SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR STANDARD TEA NURSERIES WITH SPRINKLER IRRIGATION FOR THE CORPORATE SECTOR & PRIVATE SECTOR ESTATES MORE THAN 10 ACRES PILOT PROJECT - 2023

1.0 introduction :

A budgetary provision out of the Tea Board Funds for the year 2023 is being made available to be utilized as subsidy payments for the corporate sector and the owners of the estates who are having more than 10 acres of tea for setting up standard tea nurseries for this year. **This subsidy scheme covers only the nurseries intended to setting up with minimum 100,000 tea plants at a time with a permanent structure including high shade and sprinkler irrigation system. Subsidy amount is Rs. 1,500,000.00 for minimum 100,000 tea plants size nursery.** Approved nurseries should continue minimum 3 years and nursery holder, owner of the estate or CEO of the regional Plantation Company should sign an agreement with Sri Lanka Tea Board prior to release the subsidy. All the nursery activities should be according to the Sri Lanka Tea Research Institute guidelines.

2.0 Method of application :

- (i) Regional Plantation Companies that are in valid legal possession of the estates are eligible to apply for subsidy assistance using the application in annexure I (Form No. TC/TRSS/NUR/2023). It is compulsory to provide all the information as required by the application form. Failure to furnish the required information will lead to the rejection of the application. Duly completed applications should be submitted to the relevant Assistant Tea Commissioner of the area where the estates are located **on or before 31st January, 2023**. As the funds are limited, the applications will be entertained on a "**First Come-First Serve**" basis.
- (ii) Land should be registered with Sri Lanka Tea Board tea land registry.
- (iii) A Separate Registration number and approval letter should be obtained from Tea Commissioner prior to commencement of nursery activities. Application should be submitted prior start nursery and Tea Commissioner's prior approval should be obtained. Recommendation will be given by Regional Assistant Tea Commissioner for such application after having a separate field inspection.
- (iv) Only the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Regional Plantation Companies & the Owners of the estates are eligible to sign the application. If CEO of the company or Owner of the estate not signing the application, he should forward the application with a letter indicating the name, position and the signature of the person who has been authorized to sign the application and subsequent documents on his behalf.

3.0 Method of payment of subsidies:

- (i) Application should be annexed with certified copy of the registered deed or lease agreement of the estate and the relevant survey plan prepared by a licensed surveyor. Relevant location where you intend to commence tea nursery activities should be indicated in a manner where could be identified by the inspecting officer. You may have to attach a construction plan of the and estimate for setting up of the nursery with unit cost.
- (ii) The subsidies will be released as per the following schemes based on the completion of each stage in first year and nursery should continue minimum 3 years after that :

(a) Scheme - Standard tea nurseries with sprinkler irrigation system - permanent structure

Stage	Point of release of subsidy	Approved subsidy amounts in Rs. per acre
1. Land preparation and setting up the nursery	On completion of construction	750,000.00
2. Planting of cuttings	After completion the planting of cuttings with sprinkler irrigation	500,000.00
3. After selection of 100,000 plants	7 to 8 months after planting of cuttings	250,000.00
	Total	1,500,000.00

- (iii) Once the applications are received by the relevant Assistant Tea Commissioner, arrangements will be made to conduct the necessary inspections to verify the information in the application. After ratification by the Assistant Tea Commissioner, the application will be forwarded to the Tea Commissioner, who is the approving authority. Once the application is approved, relevant amounts of subsidies will be released to the applicant (CEO of the relevant plantation company or the owners of the estates more than 10 Acres of tea.)

4.0

- (i) Applicants are required to furnish true and accurate information and need to assist to the inspectors at the time of field inspection and whenever they are required additional information regarding the applications.
- (ii) Providing false or information known to be false is a punishable offence under section 41 of the Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957 as amended. Apart from been liable to punished under the aforesaid act, providing false information will immediately disqualify the land owner or company from current and any future subsidy schemes and will be liable to refund any subsidies already paid. Such land owners or companies may also become liable to be punished under the penal code for the embezzlement of state funds.

5.0 If the applicant is unable to complete planting or maintenance of the field is liable to refund any subsidies already paid.

6.0 The Regional Assistant Tea Commissioners of SLTB Regional Offices and their areas of authority are as follows.

Regional Assistant Tea Commissioners

Areas of authority

- i. Assistant Tea Commissioner
Visaka Mawatha, New Badulla Road,
Bandarawela.Tel/Fax 057-2222812
- Badulla /Monaragala Districts

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| ii. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
No 34, Gangarama cross road,
Magalle, Galle. Tel/Fax 091-2232052 | Galle District
(Except Elpitiya Divisional Secretariat area) |
| iii. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
No 140, Ambagamuwa Road,
Gampola. Tel/Fax 081-2352279 | Kandy/Matale Districts |
| iv. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
N0 23, New Lane, Uyanwatta,
Matara. Tel/Fax 041-2222636 | Matara District
Hambanthota District |
| v. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
61/1, New Town,
Rathnapura. Tel/Fax 045-2222136 | Ratnapura District
Kegalle District |
| vi. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
Wathurana Road,
Baduraliya. Tel/Fax: 034-2247444 | Kalutara
Galle Districts (Elpitiya Divisional Secretariat
area) |
| vii. | Assistant Tea Commissioner
No 10, Nanuoya Road,
Kelegala, Nuwara Eliya.
Tel : 0522234695/Fax: 0522234686 | Nuwara Eliya District |

7.0 Information regarding this subsidy scheme could be obtained from the Deputy Tea Commissioner - (Development) at the SLTB head office.

- i. Deputy Tea Commissioner (Development)
Sri Lanka Tea Board
No 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03
Tel : 0112580152/ 0112587814 Fax: 0112580161
E Mail: development@pureceylontea.com

Jayantha Edirisinghe
Tea Commissioner

- Copies:
- (1) Secretary, Ministry of Plantation
 - (2) Chairman/ Director General, Sri Lanka Tea Board.
 - (3) Chairman, SLPTFOA
 - (4) Chairman, Planter's Association of Ceylon
 - (5) Chairman, Colombo Tea Traders' Association
 - (6) Chairman, Colombo Brokers Association
 - (7) Chairman, TSHDA. (Pl. copy this to your Regional Managers)
 - (8) Chairman, JEDB
 - (9) Chairman, SLSPC
 - (10) Chairman, Tea Research Institute
 - (11) Director, Tea Research Institute
 - (12) CEO's of all the Plantation Management Companies
 - (13) Chief Internal Auditor, SLTB
 - (14) Superintendent - Government Audit Division
 - (15) All Assistant Tea Commissioners/- Please issue copies to Tea Instructor/Inspectors