

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

Ref: TC/TRSS/MEC/2023

08th December 2022

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

Sirs,

TEA REPLANTING AND NEW PLANTING SUBSIDY SCHEME WITH MECHANIZATION FOR THE CORPORATE SECTOR & PRIVATE SECTOR ESTATES MORE THAN 10 ACRES - 2023

1.0 Introduction :

A budgetary provision out of the Sri Lanka 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 replanting/new planting for this year. This subsidy scheme covers only the tea fields which use machineries for land preparation, composting, setting up suitable irrigation system (Drip or Sprinkler) planting of tea with double hedge row system to match with the requirements of mortared/electrically/battery operated harvesters. **Approved subsidy amount is Rs.495, 000.00 per acre.** All the 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/MEC/2023). It is compulsory to provide all the information as required by the application form. Failure to furnish the required information will lead to 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 (SLTB) tea land registry
- (iii) A Separate Registration number and approval letter should be obtained from Tea Commissioner prior to commencement of replanting activities. Application should be submitted prior to start planting 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 planting activities should be indicated in a manner where could be identified by the inspecting officer. Applicants should agree to utilize such planting fields as demonstration plots/knowledge disseminating sites as this is a new development of Sri Lankan tea industry.

- 4.0 (i) The subsidies will be released as per the following schemes based on the completion of each stages:

(a) **Scheme - Replanting/new planting of tea with composting, irrigation with use of machineries.**

Stage	Point of release of subsidy	Approved subsidy amounts is (Rs. per acre)
1. land preparation and soil conservation	On completion of operation	105,000.00
2. Installation of irrigation system	Prior to Planting	120000.00
3. Planting after composting	On completion of operation	150000.00
4. Maintenance after completion of first year	One year after date of planting	60000.00
5. Purchasing of harvesting machine (One machine per applicant)	Prior to harvesting	60000.00
	Total	495,000.00

- (ii) Once the application is 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/Deputy Tea Commissioner (Development), 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).
- (iii) Subsidy for purchasing of harvesting machine - Applicants are eligible to receive subsidies for one harvesting machine per 10 acre and subsidy will be paid after producing of bills and proof documents to the SLTB. 2nd machine will be subsidized after planting more than 20 acre of land by a single owner under this subsidy scheme.

- 5.0 Those lands intend to undertake direct planting activities should obtain a prior approval from SLTB (a committee will be appoint for this purpose) and composting should be done prior to planting.

6.0

- (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.

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

8.0 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
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

9.0 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, SLTFOA
 - (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 Instructors/Inspectors