

Tea Development Alliance E-news

Towards the Development of Nepalese Orthodox Tea



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- o A member from the alliance, Mr. Chandra Bhushan Subba went to Sri Lanka on June 9 to attend meetings on Technology Transfer Training to be imparted to Mr. Bijaya Gurung; Out Reach Officer of Himalayan Tea Technology Outreach and Extension Program (HIMTEX) of HOTPA, by National Institute of Plantation Management, Sri Lanka. During the visit Mr. Subba also discussed issues regarding Training need for HOTPA as well as Nepal CoC program. Tea Board of Sri Lanka and Industry partners have welcomed the idea of Nepal CoC and have shown their interest to learn about Nepal CoC. A regional CoC meeting has been proposed by Sri Lanka wherein Nepal should take the lead with Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh as supportive partners for Regional CoC "Challenges and Prospects"

Mr. Bijaya Gurung will undergo 2 months Training on Technology Transfer Training to Small Growers and will return by mid august to Nepal.

- o USAID/Nepal team including Mr. Don Clark, Mission Director; Mr. Naren Chanmugam, GDO Team Leader; Mr. Sankar Khagi, Aid Development Program Specialist and Mr. Gautam Bajracharya, Aid Development Program Assistant along with Mr. Hans Van Kamper, Team Leader of INFRIN visited Ilam and Phidim tea areas from June 12.

This team was accompanied by team of Winrock Agricultural Program including Dr. Luke Colavito, from June 15. The purpose of the mission was to get first hand information on USAID supported field programs. The mission also met with several alliance partners including Diana Brandes, Portfolio Strengthening Advisor, SNV and Khagendra Jabegu, Portfolio Coordinator-East, SNV and discussed on ongoing Tea programs

- o On June 25, JICA Mission visited Tea Estates of Ilam and Panchthar. JICA has been supporting HOTPA since 2003 through Himalayan Tea Technology Outreach and Extension Project (HIMTEX). The purpose of the visit was to monitor the ongoing programs in the field.

- o Mr. Tony Barendsz, Consultant, PUM Netherlands as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Expert visited Nepal on June 27 to analyze hazards related to pesticides use in tea plants.

Meeting was held with Mr. Barendsz at Alliance meeting hall on July 7. In the meeting, mandatory HACCP certification requirement (since 1996) for Europe tea exports was discussed. He returned to Netherlands on July 11. Mr. Barendsz was invited by HIMCOOP and HIMCOOP is presently awaiting his expert findings on HACCP implementation in Nepal orthodox Tea Factories.

- o NTCDB and Export Promotion Center (EPC) jointly organized a seminar on "Opportunity and Challenge in Nepalese Tea and Coffee" on the occasion of Tea/Coffee Event, which was inaugurated by Mr. Mahanta Thakur, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperative at New Baneshwor on July 12. During the Event 3 papers on Tea was presented by Chairman of Nepal Tea Association, Chairman: HIMCOOP and HOTPA member as Vice Chairman of Nepal Tea Planters Association. Tea Board has indicated their commitment towards Nepal CoC and will lobby with the Government on CoC incentives for CoC certified Teas of Nepal.

- o On June 30, Meeting was held with members of IUCN to discuss on building cooperation with IUCN through involving them in tea alliance. IUCN is presently an invitee of Tea Alliance.

- o Tea Development Alliance meeting was held on July 3 at Alliance meeting hall. The major agenda of the meeting was codes of conduct implementation (major pesticides issue), partners activities to date, inclusion of new members, revisiting alliance Memorandum of Understanding and Statutes, tea tourism, external communication (to newspapers, magazines) about tea alliance related activities and profile of different stakeholders/partner organizations and M & E of GTZ.

Tea Alliance Activities



Follow up alliance meeting was held on July 19 at Alliance Secretariat meeting hall to discuss exclusively on tea codes of conduct. Issues of codes of conduct such as logo ownership: registration at national and international level, manual simplification and official endorsement, farmers manual development and endorsement, compliance committee; bylaws and official endorsement, identification and selection of independent auditors by the Compliance Committee and official endorsement,

application for CoC and CoC Secretariat, and CoC implementation – intervention needed by partners in the alliance were discussed. (Details below)

- o On July 16, code of conduct and proposed regional alliance meeting was held in Ilam to strengthen regional coordination and linkages for the development of Nepalese orthodox tea. The meeting was attended by Tea Board, JICA, HOTPA, DOA and DDC.

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Similarly, the follow up meeting was held on July 19 at Alliance Secretariat meeting hall to discuss exclusively on tea codes of conduct. Issues of codes of conduct such as logo ownership: registration at national and international level, manual simplification and official endorsement, farmers manual development and endorsement, compliance committee; bylaws and official endorsement, identification and selection of independent auditors by the Compliance Committee and official endorsement, application for CoC and CoC Secretariat, and CoC implementation – intervention needed by partners in the alliance were discussed.



Tea Development Alliance Meeting held on July 19, 2006 at Alliance Secretariat - TCGDA-SMIG/WI

During the meeting, Mr. Deepak Baskota, Chairman HOTPA and Coordinator of Compliance Committee of CoC briefed about the status of CoC. Dr. Dev Bhakta Shakya informed about the progress of technical parts of CoC, wherein he mentioned that lawyers have been appointed to prepare Compliance Committee bylaws. The draft document has been submitted to HOTPA. HOTPA, HIMCOOP, Tea Board and AEC are working jointly to finalize components of Bylaws and Standards whereupon Bylaws and Standards will be discussed with stakeholders to get to the consensus.

Mr. Baskota informed that Nepal Tea Logo - Quality from Himalaya is in the final process of registration at National level. HOTPA needs to submit CoC and Bylaws documents to get the final registration completed. Announcement of Nepal Tea CoC Logo, its ownership and registration finalization will be made in the upcoming CoC Workshop, which will be held on August 2, 2006. He also informed that Mr. Maheshwor Ghimire and the team will be finalizing the CoC Manual before the upcoming workshop. The official endorsement of the CoC Manual will be done in the same workshop.

The farmers manual would be prepared based on official CoC standard after the workshop. The official endorsement of bylaws set by the Compliance Committee would be made in the upcoming workshop. Official endorsement of independent auditors would be done in the same



Porcelain tea tasting cups with the inscription of Nepal Tea

workshop by the Compliance Committee. Also, CoC Application Form and CoC secretariat roles would be further discussed in the workshop.

During the meeting, Mr. Hofmann presented porcelain tea tasting cups with the inscription of **Nepal Tea Logo** for promoting Nepal Tea in the international market.

It was discussed that SNV has already started providing trainings and orientations to small farmers regarding CoC in Ilam and that the time has come to officiate CoC Logo certification procedure so that the factory under CoC implementation could acquire CoC logo for their forthcoming seasonal teas. In the case of delays, both factory and farmers will lose out on prices thereby losing the momentum of CoC implementation. It was accepted that CoC implementation needs to speed up at field level as soon as possible, with clarification on roles and responsibilities of alliance partners while implementing CoC.

Trial Implementation of Tea Codes of Conduct

Ilam Reporter

Ilam, July 21. In order to promote Nepali orthodox tea in the international market, Codes of Conduct has been implemented in two factories of Ilam district.

Tea Codes of Conduct has been prepared by the alliance of tea related government bodies and INGOs, which has been implemented on trial basis in Small Tea Producers Pvt. Ltd., Fikkal and Himalayan Shangrila Tea Producers Pvt. Ltd., Shokhejung of East Ilam with the initiation of this fiscal year.

SNV Nepal-Ilam informed that Codes of Conduct has been implemented with the orientation of procedures of Codes of Conduct and binding tea factories to it. Member of the alliance, SNV Nepal-Ilam informed that initiation on Codes of Conduct has been done through its orientation to factory managers and chief and informing about initial technical responsibilities.

Mr. Khagendra Jabegu, Chief of SNV Nepal-Ilam informed that about 200 small farmers selling green leaves to these factories were oriented and informed all about procedures of initial phase of Codes of Conduct.



In the Codes of Conduct, developed by tea alliance, four elements such as respect for nature, respect for people, transparency and commitment to quality will be the major guideline to further allocate standards, informed Mr. Maheshwor Ghimire, Consultant.

Mr. Ghimire informed that there is a good market for organic tea in the international market, and to promote organic tea among tea farmers, tea Codes of Conduct has been implemented. He said that only certified tea through the certification process of Codes of Conduct will be able to compete in the international market.

The European nations are the major market for selling orthodox tea produced from Ilam. In those nations Nepal Tea has to compete with Indian and Sri Lankan Teas.

It was informed that after certification, there would be no difficulty in selling green leaves by small farmers and selling processed leaves by factories. Sole right or monopoly of tea factories is also believed to be terminated forever by this implementation.

Tea alliance also informed that there would be increase in per kg of green leaves collected by farmers through the process of Codes of Conduct. In Ilam, there are altogether nine private factories under operation.

Source: Gorkhapatra, July 22, 2006.
(Translated from Nepali to English)

Tea Development Alliance Secretariat hereby through this E-news requests all the partners in the alliance to provide their valuable suggestion and input with respect to improving the quality of the E-news to the extent best possible.

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