

An Initiative of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration to Establish Coffee Plantation in Eastern Himalaya with a vision to make 'Kalimpong Coffee' a Brand like 'Darjeeling Tea'

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Introduction

- Darjeeling Himalayan region is an integral part of the Eastern Himalayas
- Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) took an initiative to establish Arabica coffee plantation in 2018
- Objectives of the project was (1) to make a brand 'Kalimpong Coffee' like 'Darjeeling Tea' that should also fetch global market
- (2) Other objective was to help hundreds of rural youths and to retain them in their villages & prevent migration
- All technical guidance has been provided by the Coffee Board of India
- 1193 farmers were selected covering an area of 141.30 ha, which was divided into four clusters viz Bhalukhop-Sangsey, Algarah, Giddablang and Loyal
- Each cluster had a 'Cluster Leader' and Deputy Cluster Leader
- 0.72 million seedlings of Chandragiri variety of Arabica coffee were procured from Chikmagalur, Karnataka
- This region is non-traditional area for coffee

Materials and Method

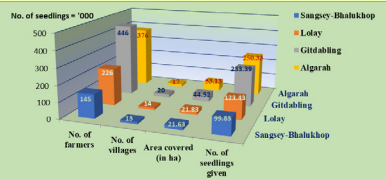
- ⇒ The tea industry is owned by corporate houses while the coffee industry would be developed and owned by the farmers themselves
- ⇒ An analysis of the initiative was carried out by the administration with the farmers and the project implementing group
- ⇒ The entire block and district officers from Agriculture and Horticulture directorates and the R&D Centre for Horticulture, GTA

were also mobilised by the Secretary GTA for project implementation

- ⇒ Farmers were briefed about the project and were trained at cluster level on planting and plantation management by Extension Scientists of the Coffee Board
- ⇒ Time to time field visits were conducted to see the extent of the project implementation in the villages within two years of the initiation
- ⇒ Seedling were procured in poly pots from Chikmagalur, Karnataka to Siliguri in WB covering of 2498 km by lorries and reloaded in smaller vehicles for hilly region
- ⇒ 50 Farmers' representatives and extension functionaries were taken to Coorg, Karnataka for exposure visit
- ⇒ Simple statistical analysis methods were used for data analysis wherever required

Results and Discussion

Cluster wise farmers were given 7,06,992 seedlings - Sangsey-Bhalukhop: 14.2%, Loyal: 17.4%, Giddablang: 33.1% & Algarah: 35.3%

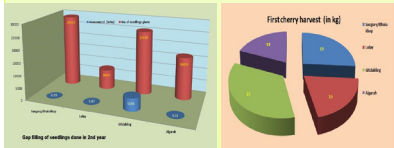


Cluster wise number of farmers, villages, area covered and seedlings given

Details of different items given to farmers under Kalimpong Coffee project:

Name of the Cluster	No. of Village	No of Farmer	Area covered (in ha)	No of Seedlings	No of water tank (1000 lit)	1" dia poly pipes (m)	No of Foot Sprayers	NP & (kg)	Micronutrient (kg)
Sangsey-Bhalukhop	13	145	21.63	99831	42	8400	12	31	21
Loyal	18	226	21.98	124438	52	10400	13	80	89
Algarah	40	475	58.56	232624	112	22400	18	154	154
Giddablang	37	446	53.13	233393	92	18400	16	148	148
Total	64	1193	141.30	706992	298	59600	59	413	403

- Irrigation inputs of 298 pieces of 1000 l capacity polythene tanks & 59,600 m 1" diameter polythene pipe were distributed
- After ten months of planting 403 kg of NPK, 403 kg of micronutrients & 59 number of sprayers were given
- Farmers are connected with WBADMIP funded by World Bank for development of proper irrigation facilities
- In 2nd year, gap filling was done by growing seedlings of the same variety locally and 79660 seedlings were planted covering 16.7 ha



- Encouraging result has been seen in 3rd year and plants started giving fruits in all clusters and 73 kg cherry has been harvested from 4 clusters
- Farmers' representatives were taken for exposure visit to Coorg to see well managed coffee plantations & processing
- Disseminated technologies horizontally to other farmers

CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

Considering the quality, with particular attention to the aroma, flavour and taste of the coffee produced here and even the demands from various places including Nepal, it appears that there is a huge potential for coffee to become a thriving industry. After 185 years of establishment of tea industry in Darjeeling by British, 'Kalimpong Coffee' could be yet another industry to delight people across the globe and we can help its aroma diffuse to every nook and corner of the world.



Farmers, Coffee Board officers and project personals



Distribution of coffee seedlings to farmers