

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

Ref: TC/TRSS/2024

10th February 2024

Chief Executive Officers of
 Regional Plantation Companies
 Owners of Estates more than 10 Acres

Sirs,

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DIRECT PLANTING AND INFILLING SCHEME FOR THE CORPORATE SECTOR &
 PRIVATE SECTOR ESTATES MORE THAN 10 ACRES - 2024**

Introduction :

A budgetary provision out of the levy collections 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 direct planting for this year.

Please note that all private & corporate estates should be registered under Tea Land Registration of the section No.02 of Tea Control Act No 51 of 1957, prior to apply for this subsidy.

1.0 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/DIRECT/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 28TH February 2024. As the funds are limited, the applications will be entertained on a "First Come-First Serve" basis.
- (ii) A Separate Registration number and approval letter should be obtained from Tea Commissioner prior to commencement of direct planting activities. Application should be submitted according to the stages stipulated in paragraph 3 II and the Tea Commissioner's prior approval should be obtained for any deviations. Recommendation will be given by Regional Assistant Tea Commissioner for such application after having a separate field inspection.
- (iii) 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

2.0 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.
- (ii) The subsidy scheme is as follows.

Financial Assistance:	Per Plant- Rs.55.00
	Per hole - <u>Rs.20.00</u>
	Total - Rs.75.00

The maximum 12,500 numbers of plants are given per hectare .Therefore Rs.937, 500/- is granted per Hec. There is no upper sealing in planting extent.

All the steps should be carried out according to the TRI guide lines prepare in this regard.02Kgs of compost should be added to a hole before planting. The funds will be released according to the schedule given below.

Direct Planting Payment schedule.

Stage	Point of release of subsidy	Approved subsidy amounts in Rs. per Hectare
1.Uprooting,soil Conservation & planting	On completion of operation	750,000.00
2. Maintenance.	At the completion of one year after planting	187,500.00
Total		937,500.00

Infilling payment schedule

Stage	Point of release of subsidy	Approved subsidy amounts in Rs. Per plant
Infilling	On completion of operation	75.00

(iii) 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, 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.)

3.0 The applicants are required to adhere the guide lines imposed by Tea Research Institute on Direct Planting activities.

4.0 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.

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 furnished under the aforesaid act, providing false information will immediately disqualify the company from current and any future subsidy schemes and will be liable to refund any subsidies already paid. Such 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 and their areas of authority are as follows.

Regional Assistant Tea Commissioners	Areas of authority
1. Assistant Tea Commissioner Visaka Mawatha, New Badulla Road, Bandarawela.Tel/Fax 057-2222812	Badulla /Monaragala Districts
2. Assistant Tea Commissioner Walahanduawatta, Walahanduwa, Galle. Tel/Fax 091-2232052	Galle District (Except Elpitiya Divisional Secretariat area)
3. Assistant Tea Commissioner No 140, Ambagamuwa Road, Gampola. Tel/Fax 081-2352279	Kandy/Matale Districts

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| 4. Assistant Tea Commissioner
N0 23, New Lane, Uyanwatta,
Matara. Tel/Fax 041-2222636 | Matara District
Hambanthota District |
| 5. Assistant Tea Commissioner
61/1, New Town,
Rathnapura. Tel/Fax 045-2222136 | Ratnapura District
Kegalle District |
| 6. Assistant Tea Commissioner
Wathurana Road,
Baduraliya. Tel/Fax: 034-2247444 | Kalutara
Galle Districts (Elpitiya Divisional Secretariat area) |
| 7. 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


K.A.M.K. Jayawardene
Actg. Tea Commissioner

- Copies:
- (1) Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries
 - (2) Chairman/ Director General, Sri Lanka Tea Board.
 - (3) Chairman, SLPTFOA
 - (4) Chairman, Planter's Association of Ceylon
 - (5) Chairman, JEDB
 - (6) Chairman, SLSPC
 - (7) Chairman, TSHDA. (Pl. copy this to your Regional Managers)
 - (8) Chairman, Tea Shakthi Fund
 - (9) Chairman, Tea Research Institute
 - (10) Director, Tea Research Institute (Pl. copy this to your Regional Extension Centres)
 - (11) Chief Internal Auditor, SLTB
 - (12) Superintendent - Government Audit Unit
 - (13) All Assistant Tea Commissioners/ - Please issue copies to Tea Instructor/Inspectors