



IMPACT OF TEA PRODUCTION ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF KUMAON REGION (UTTARAKHAND)

Arti Parihar
Research Scholar,
Department of Economics,
D S.B. Campus,
Kumaon University Nainital,
Uttarakhand,
India

ABSTRACT

Tea is a natural beverage brewed from the leaves of evergreen plant called Camellia Sinesis of the family theacea. The credit for creating vast tea empire goes the Britishers who discovered and cultivated tea in India. The extension of tea industry in modern form started between 1818 and 1834. Tea Industry played a vital role in national economy and sustainable development. Tea culture business roughly 80% of the labour force are women. This has special reference or significance of Kumaon region where women are already well versed in agriculture and plantation operations because most of the males have migrated to cities and the women were forced to carryout agriculture activities for their livelihood. With the passage of the time the agriculture land size has decreased at every stage of family fragmentation. Migration from rural areas to urban areas inside the country is visible. Population in Pauri Garhwal and Almora districts has declined due to migration. Unemployment, inadequate education and lack of alternatives of farming incur rage the migration. The challenge is to change this structure and create employment through agriculture. The Prersent study will be an effort to understand Impact of Tea Production on the Socio-Economic Development of Kumaon region.

KEYWORDS: *Employment, Tea industry, Plantation, programs*

INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand is situated in the Central Himalaya region. It also referred as “Devbhoomi” since times immemorial got the status of 27th state of India on 9th November 2000. Uttarakhand consists two main regions, they are Garhwal and Kumaon having a total of 13 districts . Both the regions are culture wise similar. It is believed that the word “Kumaon” is derived from “Kurmanchal”, which means the land of Kurmavata (the tortoise incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Preserver of Hindu Trinity). Within Uttarakhand there is marked inequality between the hills and the plains. Therefore a well thought development strategy is needed to reduce this gap between two regions. A development

vision for the state should include both human and economic aspects along with environment conservation. All the hilly districts have subsistence farming as their main economy activity. Due to subsistence livelihood , migration and a remittance economy operate in the hill districts. Migration from rural areas to urban areas inside the country is visible. Population in Pauri Garhwal and Almora districts has declined due to migration. Unemployment, inadequate education and lack of alternatives of farming incur rage the migration.

At the same time it has been bestowed with bountiful natural resources rich biodiversity leading to preserve the unique climate quite suitable for the product of finest quality of Tea in terms of both

flavour and productivity. Tea production is a better option for the problem of employment and diversion.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand the current status of Tea Industry in Kumaon region.
- To discuss the Socio-economic impact of Tea industry in Kumaon

METHODOLOGY

The study has included both Primary and secondary data collection. Detailed information has been collected through different sources Uttarakhand Tea development Board (Almora), Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Research Papers, Newspaper etc.

STUDY AREA

The area selected for Present study is Kumaon region. Kumaon region lies between 28°51'N to

30°49'N latitude and 77°43'E to 81°31'E longitude. Area of entire Kumaon division is about 21035sq. Tea is one of the most famous and lowest value crops inside the world and consumed via a large variety of people. Tea Industry plays a important role in Kumaon region. Tea vegetation requires as a maximum 127 cm of rainfall. Many excessive-pleasant tea plants are cultivated at elevations of up to at least 1,500 m above sea level. Kumaon Mandal is a very favourable region for the production of tea. There are immense possibilities of tea production in many areas like Nainital, Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat and Pithoragarh districts. The capacity of production in different areas of Kumaon through Uttarakhand Tea Development Board, out of which there is a possibility of more production in other areas.

Table No- 1
Green leaves Production under Uttarakhand Tea Development Board(In kg):

S.No	Year	Ghorakhal	Dholadevi	Kausani	Champawat	Total
1	2008&09	8]546-000	8]446-000	246]650-000	16]562-500	280204-5
2	2009&10	7]401-000	4]893-000	186]616-000	19]518-900	31999-516
3	2010&11	8]179-000	5]002-000	202]791-000	28]830-200	244802-2
4	2011&12	9]058-000	6]622-000	274]807-000	6]235-800	296722-8
5	2012&13	6]850-000	4]842-000	213]428-000	&	225120
6	2013&14	9]726-000	6]059-000	252]868-000	22]701-700	291354-7
7	2014&15	9]802-000	1]701-000	80]745-000	32]818-000	125066
8	2015&16	11]533-000	5]196-000	199]181-000	38]516-000	254426
9	2016&17	11]056-000	2]763-000	201]065-000	36]605-000	251489
10	2017&18	12]655-000	2]730-000	190]768-000	45]783-000	251938
	Dqy	94]806-000	48]254-000	2]048]919-000	247]571-100	2024142-716

Source: Uttarakhand Tea Development Board Almora

Table number 1 shows that green leaves is being produced in different areas of Kumaon through Uttarakhand Tea Development Board out of which there is a possibility of more green leaves production in Dholadevi and Ghorakhal. It can be

seen in the table that the green leaves production increases every year. It is clear that Dholadevi and Ghorakhal produces less green leaves production due to less area.

Table No- 2
Made Tea Production under Uttarakhand Tea Development Board(In kg):

S.No	Year	Ghorakhal	Dholadevi	Kausani	Champawat	Total
1	2008&09	1]854-000	&	2]857-000	&	4711-00
2	2009&10	1]773-740	&	2]586-000	&	4359-74
3	2010&11	1]821-413	&	2]941-000	&	4762-413
4	2011&12	1]975-390	&	3]482-000	&	5457-39
5	2012&13	1]583-365	&	3]392-000	&	4975-365
6	2013&14	2]197-084	&	3]394-000	5]436-000	11027-084
7	2014&15	2]266-550	&	5]337-000	7]779-000	15382-95
8	2015&16	2]772-200	1]134-000	43]501-000	8]727-000	55000-2
9	2016&17	2]645-850	653-000	47]458-000	8]577-000	58680-85
10	2017&18	2]986-000	597-000	41]727-000	10]559-000	55272-1
	Dqy	21]875]592	2]384-000	156]675-000	41]078-500	219629-092

Source: Uttarakhand Tea Development Board Almora

The Table number 2 shows that Tea is being produced in different areas of Kumaon through Uttarakhand Tea Development Board out of which there is a possibility of more production in

Dholadevi and Ghorakhal. It can be seen in the table that the tea production increases every year.

CURRENT STATUS OF TEA INDUSTRY

Tea is a Labour Intensive Industry. Especially women who pluck tea and pack. Tea Industry provide employment to many people especially poor weaker sections of the village. Organic tea gardens are being developed in Ghorakhal and Champawat. At present various Tea Development Programs and

employment programs are going like MNREGA, Special Component Program and various Sub-Projects are still working. Board has done various plantations in 600 Hectare in various Vikaskhand till 2016. 149 Hectare plantatiomn have done in Dholadevi, Takula, Didihat, Pokhri Tharali, Betalghat and Kapkot.



Kausani Tea Garden

- Kausani Tea Industry:** Kausani is the world famous tourist place not only its natural beauty also in tea production. The present day it become speared to 211 hectare. Kausani tea estate produces world level tea with many varities anf qualities. Main species are SEAT-37,449,520, CLONE-AB2,T78,PP312,RR144,UPASI9 AND

UPASI3. Kausani tea Estate produce 245000 kg green leaves in a year. 5 kg green leaves makes one kg tea in winter season and 4kg green leaves makes 1kg tea in summer season so that's mean in summer season tea production is more than winter. 1000 workers are involve in tea production in Kausani.



Ghorakhal Tea Garden

- Ghorakhal Tea Industry:** Ghorakhal is famous for “Golu Devta Temple” located 4km away from Bhowali. Ghorakhal Tea Garden’s are spread over 112 hectare. Ghorakhal produces 11,000 kg tea annually. It provides employment to villages namely Bhowali, Ghorakhal,

Bhumiyadhar and Shyamkhet. Different types of tea are produced in Ghorakhal like Green tea, black tea, STGFOPP, BOP, TGFOP etc.



Dholadevi Tea Garden

- **Dholadevi Tea Industry:** Dholadevi tea Industry is located 29 km away from Almora District. Uttarakhand Tea Development Board has taken land from Mr. Nagesh Chandra Pant for 30 years. Dholadevi Tea Garden's are spread

over 56 hectare and produces 6,000 kg green leaves annually. Due to absence of Tea Factory green leaves are send to Harinagri Garur (Bageshwar) for manufacturing process.



Champawat Tea Garden

- **Champawat Tea Industry:** Champawat tea Industry is located in Silangtak, 3km far from Champawat. Champawat Tea Garden's are spread over 203 hectare and produces 32,000 kg green leaves and 6,000kg made tea annually. In Champawat Tea Garden's 300 people get employment annually.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TEA INDUSTRY

Tea Industry plays a vital role in socio-economic development. At present 2,548 labourers are deployed in tea gardens of which women have the representation of 70%. Per day they got 230 Rs and 12% EPF. The wages are directly transferd to their bank account. Ghorakhal and Champawat are Organic Tea Garden where Kausani and Dholadevi are Inorganic Tea Garden. Keeping in view, the present day consumer taste and interest among health conscious people towards Organic products. Therefore Uttarakhand Tea Development Board

should encourage Organic Tea Cultivation in the state.

CONCLUSION

Tea plantation is very useful to environment and it can help to reduce wasteland with the proper plan and government policies. We can see many problems are rapidly increasing like environment degradation, soil erosion, deforestation they are the cause of increasing wasteland in Uttarakhand. Tea production is the ideal plan for soil and moisture conservation. Tea plantation can reduce the environmental issues with the help of reforestation. Tea plantatiom can appreciate the echo tourism. It provides employment in remote areas.

SUGGESTIONS

- Provide schemes that allow for management of tea industry.
- Improve Manufacturing technology and machines to produce high quality and high flavour is made tea at lower.

- The interaction between factory labours should be maintained through regular meeting.
- Labours wages should be increased so that they can do their work properly.
- Online marketing process should be adopted.

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