

IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN TEA PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT : The study carried out on north bank of Bramhaputra during 2001-2010 revealed that tea was found a major commercial crop and export commodity of India. This beverage has been produced in specific areas of country utilising experience and rich traditional knowledge of local people. The experts from many countries visited tea growing areas of India from time to time to acquire traditional knowledge being utilized in tea production in country. However, they could not produce tea having flavour identical to Darjeeling tea or liquor similar to tea of Assam. India has protected Darjeeling tea and allowed only 87 gardens of that region enlisted by Tea Board, to market their produce as Darjeeling tea. It was found during study that when 9 to 10 million kg of tea was produced by Darjeeling, 40 million kg of tea was sold as Darjeeling tea. Nilgiri, Kangra and Assam have demanded for granting Geographical Indication status to their tea growing areas. The study revealed that tea growing region of Ooty, Coonoor and Kotagiri could be easily demarcated. Many tea growing countries, including Kenya and Japan, have highly mechanized leaf plucking and other field practices and operations. While India have been still utilizing traditional knowledge of local women for manufacturing tea. The women were found performing field practices, nursery raising, weeding, leaf plucking, etc. precisely that too at low wages. They have combined many practices. Due to all these reasons, sustainability to tea production could be provided. However, their traditional knowledge needed recognition and protection under appropriate law.

Key Words:Hidden property, labour intensive, precision, sustainable development, unique tradition.