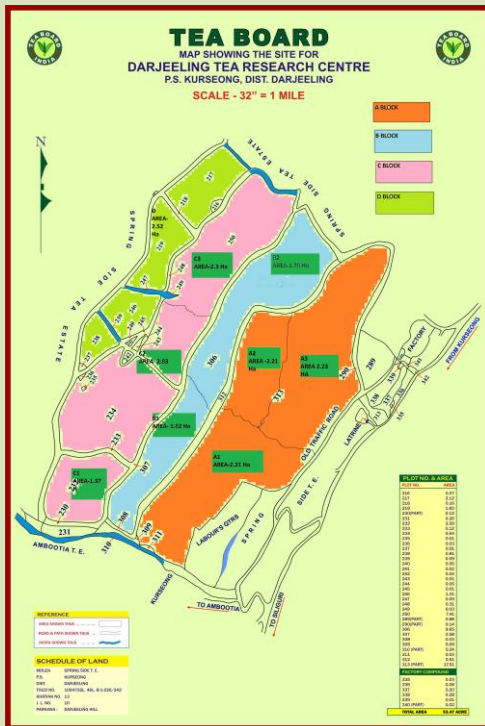


Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTRDC), Kurseong

Overlooking the mighty Kanchenjunga mountain, and at around 4500 ft high in the Himalayas, Tea Board's own Experimental farm at Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTRDC) (26.8702°N 88.2627°E) offers some breath taking views of snow capped mountains and tea gardens. It is located in mid elevation of Darjeeling Hills and a 45 minutes drive from the Bagdogra international airport in Siliguri.



Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre, Tea Board, at Kurseong was set up under Tea Board India in the year 1977 to cater the Research and Development needs of the Darjeeling tea industry under the aegis of Tea Board India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India. The centre has an 18 hectare experimental tea farm in Kurseong sub-division of Darjeeling district, with some of the finest quality tea cultivars like AV2, P312, and B157 apart from the chinari hybrids which were planted during the Britishers' time.

The farm is located on the western slopes of the hills and surrounded by Spring Side (Castleton tea factory) and Ambootia Tea gardens and is considered to be in the quality tea zone of Darjeeling Hills. The centre is recognized by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), under Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. A multi-crore rupees plan was sanctioned during XI Five Year Plan by the Govt. of India for upgrading the infrastructure of this

Centre into a unique '*Centre of Excellence*' - first of its kind for Tea Research in the Country. The centre had also been engaged in many collaborative projects with institutes of national and international repute.

Presently, the centre is having 3 divisions viz. Agro-botany, Plant protection, Tea Quality & Manufacturing carrying out the research on quality cultivar development, bio-pesticides and various manufacturing process standardization for Darjeeling tea. Besides, the Farm division is looking after the various farm (tea) related operations as well as working and welfare of the plantation workers of the centre. The centre is having around 20 plantation workers engaged for various activities in the farm all year round.

Some of the important contribution of this centre in recent past towards Darjeeling tea industry are development of technology for composting and nutrient enriched vermi-compost, development of vegetative as well as mechanical measures to minimize erosion of Darjeeling tea soils, extraction, isolation and characterization of Volatile Flavoury Compounds in Darjeeling tea, preparation of biochemical data base of clones available in germplasm bank of DTRDC tea garden, conservation of plant genetic resources for retention of Darjeeling tea flavour, evaluation of the Therapeutic efficacy of Darjeeling tea and its bio-active compound etc.