

Plantation Division

Plantation Division in the Department of Commerce deals with all matters related to international trade in tea, coffee, rubber and 52 notified spices. The Division also lays down and implements the statutory and policy framework for production, development, and marketing of the related commodities.

India is a major player in global production and trade of tea, coffee, rubber and spices. With 25% of share in world production, India is the 2nd largest tea producer. 20 % of India's tea production is exported which makes it the 4th largest tea exporter with 12 % share of world exports. Kenya, China and Sri Lanka are other major global players in tea. 4% of world's coffee production and 5 % world trade in coffee originates from India. Both Arabica and Robusta varieties of coffee are produced, of which 75% is exported, making India the fifth largest exporter of coffee after Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Columbia and Ethiopia. India is the single largest producer and consumer of spices in the world. With 10 % of India's spice production exported to 145 countries, India controls 47% of world trade in spices. India is also the 5th largest producer and the 2nd largest consumer of rubber in the world. 8% of total world production is in India, other major producers being Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Four Commodity Boards, one each for Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Spices, function under the administrative supervision of the Department. The Boards are responsible for the growth and management of the respective sectors within the framework of the relevant Acts & Rules framed by the Department for the sectors. The Boards work to expand and sustain the production and exports of quality products, while preserving the cultural and ecological uniqueness of the products and the producing regions.

The Coffee Board, located in Begaluru, is a statutory body constituted under the Coffee Act, 1942. It regulates and promotes the production, , quality upgradation, research & extension, economic & market intelligence, consumption and trade of coffee. The Board has a Central Coffee Research Institute at Balehonnur (Karnataka), 5 (five) regional Coffee Research Stations at Chettalli (Karnataka), Chundale (Kerala), Thandigudi (Tamil Nadu), R.V.Nagar (Andhra Pradesh) and Diphu (Assam, besides a bio-technology centre at Mysore. It has extension offices in coffee growing regions of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and North Eastern Region.

The Rubber Board, a statutory organization set up under the Rubber Act, 1947 and headquartered at Kottayam in Kerala, helps the growth of rubber farming and industry through activities aimed at development, research, extension & training, marketing and welfare of labour. The Board has five Zonal Offices, 43 Regional Offices, a Central Rubber Research Institute in Kottayam, and 10 regional research stations located in various rubber growing states of the country. It also runs a Rubber Training Institute at Kottayam.

Tea Board, a statutory body set up under the Tea Act, 1953 is the apex body of the tea industry with the responsibility of overseeing the production & productivity of tea, quality, R&D, market promotion, and welfare of tea plantation workers. Besides promoting tea development and production, it regulates the producers, manufacturers, exporters, brokers, auction organisers and warehouse keepers of tea. Headquartered in Kolkata, it has two Zonal offices, one each in the two major producing regions- Jorhat in Assam and Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, and fifteen regional offices spread over in major tea growing states.

The [Spices Board](#), a statutory body under the Spices Board Act, 1986 is headquartered at Kochi. Besides regulating exports of 52 spices listed in the Schedule of the Spices Board Act, it has the specific responsibility of supporting production, development and marketing of cardamom. It also promotes research, infrastructure development for exports, and standardization and upgradation of quality of spices through Indian Cardamom Research Institute and a network of regional quality evaluation labs & training centres.

The Department of Commerce operates a [Price Stabilisation Fund \(PSF\)](#) Scheme to provide relief to primary growers of specified crops e.g. tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco when international and domestic prices fall below a specified level. Under the Scheme, launched in 2003, compensation is given at a predetermined scale in distress years. It also includes a Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for growers. Steps to make it more attractive and accessible to the growers are under consideration.

The Indian Institute of Plantations Management, Bengaluru is an academic institution set up under the administrative control of the Ministry to provide scientific, professional and technical support to the plantations industry. The IIPM runs professional courses, scientific and technical research and training programmes for the plantations industry.