

Mozambique's Minister seeks India's help to develop tea industry in Mozambique

A delegation of senior ministers from Mozambique held a meeting with key stakeholders of the Indian tea industry at the Tea Board headquarters in Kolkata on 3rd September, 2012, to gather more knowledge about tea cultivation and production in India and to gauge the interest of Indian tea entrepreneurs for investing in their country.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Jose Pachecho, apprised the members present at the meeting about the investment potential in Mozambique. "Tea is a key agricultural commodity in Mozambique. There was substantial demand for Mozambique tea in the international market at one time, but the country has lost its position as it has not been able to adapt itself to the requirements of the market. The key challenges facing the Mozambique tea industry are low productivity, quality upgradation and the need to increase demand. To this end, we are seeking help and cooperation from the Indian tea industry to share their expertise, so that Mozambique tea can realise its full potential," the Minister said.

Speaking on the position of Indian tea in the global market, Shri M.G.V.K. Bhanu, Chairman, Tea Board, informed the delegation that India produced 988 million kgs of tea in 2011, thus accounting for 28% of the global production. He further said that India is the undisputed global leader as far as production of black tea is concerned.

On a query by the Minister of Agriculture, Mozambique, on whether there were any plans by Indian investors to invest in their country, Shri M.G.V.K. Bhanu said a delegation from India will visit Mozambique soon to explore opportunities in that country.

“There is lot of scope for development of the tea industry in Mozambique as the climate is suitable and so far only 88% of Mozambique’s arable land has been cultivated. We can also have an exchange programme of scientists and there can be knowledge transfer,” Mr Bhanu said. He invited the Mozambique delegation to the International Tea Convention to be held in Goa from 7th-9th November, 2012.

Mr. Monojit Dasgupta, Secretary General, Indian Tea Association (ITA), displayed a presentation on Indian tea and gave the delegation a brief overview of the industry. He also apprised the members about the changing face of Indian tea, wherein particular emphasis is now being given to develop the small tea growers who contribute to about 28% of the total tea production in the country.

The delegation from Mozambique, led by the Minister of Agriculture, also included H.E. Mr. Jose Maria Morais, High Commissioner, and Dr. Inacio Maposse, Director, Institute of Agriculture Research. The Indian tea industry was represented by Mr. D.P. Maheshwari, from Jayshree Tea and Industries Ltd, Mr L.N. Gupta, Chairman, Calcutta Tea Traders Association, Mr. Hemant Bangur, President, Tea Association of India, Mr. Adarsh Kanoria, Vice-President, Tea Association of India, and Mr Joydeep Phukan, Secretary, Tea Research Association, among others.