

## **PRESS NOTE**

### **PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY) Launching for Small Tea Growers**

**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** (Hindi: प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना) is a national mission to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country. A budget of ₹500 billion (US\$7.8 billion) in a time span of five years has been allocated to this scheme. The decision was taken on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

The major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal waste water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in precision irrigation system.

The PMKSY covered only major field crops. On the intervention of the Commerce Ministry and Tea Board, tea plantation below 5 Ha was included in the Scheme for the benefit of the large number of Small Tea Growers.

The PMKSY for tea has been implemented in the state of West Bengal, with the West Bengal State Watershed Development Agency (WBSWDA), as the Nodal Agency. The WBSWDA in collaboration with Tea Board India has prepared the list of beneficiary Small Tea Growers for the scheme and PMKSY for tea has been launched in Jalpaiguri, WB for the benefit of Small Tea Growers. This is the first time that the scheme under PMKSY for tea is launched.

The distribution of irrigation equipments under the PMKSY was launched at the Jalpaiguri Tea Auction Centre, Jalpaiguri on 08.02.2018 in the presence of Smt. Rachna Bhagat, IAS, District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri and Shri S. Soundararajan, Director of Tea Development, Tea Board India, among other dignitaries.

