

## **Tea Board to establish separate Development Directorate for small tea growers**

Tea Board organized a small tea growers' convention at Jalpaiguri on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. This was the third convention in the series of conventions being organized by the Board. The first two conventions were held in the month of May and June at Sonitpur and Golaghat districts of Assam.

The purpose of the conventions is to create awareness amongst the small tea growers about the importance of their collectivization for moving up in the value chain and also the various support measures available from Tea Board to the growers for improving productivity and quality of green leaf for better price realisation.

The convention at Jalpaiguri was well attended with the participation of more than 1200 growers. The convention was inaugurated Shri Mahendra Kr. Roy, Hon'ble MP, and graced by the following dignitaries:

Shri Debaprasad Roy Hon'ble MLA,  
Shri AK Singh, IAS Divisional Commissioner  
Smt. Roshni Sen, IAS Dy. Chairman,  
Smt. Smaraki Mahapatra, IAS DM Jalpaiguri  
Shri Samir Roy, President, National Federation of Small Tea Growers and Member Tea Board  
Ms. Barnali Dey Mohinta, Member of the Tea Board.  
Shri Bijoy Gopal Chakravarty, President, CISTA

Smt. Roshni Sen, Dy.Chairman, Tea Board, highlighted the importance being attached by Tea Board for the upliftment of the small tea sector. She mentioned that the Board was in the process of establishing a separate Development Directorate with adequate manpower for looking after the developmental needs of the small tea growers.

Shri G. Boriah, Director Tea Development, Tea Board, explained the developmental assistance being provided to the small tea growers and also proposed measures for the 12<sup>th</sup> plan period.

During the technical session two power point presentations were made on plant protection measures and upkeep and field maintenance by the scientists of TRA-Nagrakata and Terai Branch.

The representatives of M/s Cholamandalam Insurance Company explained the personal Accident insurance scheme applicable for small growers and their workers.