

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203
ANSWERED ON 06.08. 2026

Establishing Tea Genome Research Centre in Assam

2203. SHRI TERASH GOWALLA:

Will the **Minister of Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish India's first Tea Genome Research Centre in Assam to undertake genomic research on indigenous tea varieties;
- (b) whether any proposal has been received from research institutions;
- (c) the estimated financial outlay; and
- (d) the expected contribution towards improving tea productivity, climate resilience and exports?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

(a), (b), & (c) The Government of India will actively consider any proposal to support the establishment of Tea Genome Research Centre in Assam. However, no proposal for establishing the Tea Genome Research Centre has been submitted for financial support to the Government of India.

(d) The Government of India has supported research projects using genomic tools to Tocklai Tea Research Institute and other institutes in the state of Assam to improve tea cultivars for agronomic, quality and climate resilience traits. These projects will lead to the development of tea cultivars and will improve export competitiveness. Details of the research projects supported in the last five years are at Annexure I. Two (2) proposals have been submitted to the Department of Biotechnology in the FY 2026-27 and are currently under review.

Annexure I

a. List of supported projects

S.No.	Financial Year	Project Title	Name of Institute	Status
1	2021-22	Development of sustainable agriculture practices for biotic and abiotic stress management in conventional and organic tea plantations	Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat	Completed
			Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	
			Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	
2		Establishing efficient platform for genetic engineering in indian tea	Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat	Completed
			Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	
			Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	
3		Germplasm characterization, genomics analysis and gene discovery for yield, metabolite and stress tolerance in Tea	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Ongoing
			Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat	
4		Sustainable management of tea waste to transform the tea industry into carbon neutral and zero waste industry	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Ongoing
5		Value addition and product diversification in tea value addition and product diversification in tea	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Ongoing
			Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	

b. List of submitted proposals

S.No.	Financial Year	Project Title	Name of Institute	Status
1	2026-27	Micro biome-Guided enhancement of Tea quality and stress resilience for sustainable production in Northeast India	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Under review
2		Developing climate-resilient Tea (<i>Camellia assamica</i>) cultivar through integrated molecular validation, multi-location trials and Participatory breeding in Assam and West Bengal	Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	Under review

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