

Department of Economics
DIBRU COLLEGE, DIBRUGARH
ICSSR-Sponsored National Seminar
“Two Hundred Years of Assam Tea: Innovations, Sustainability and Rural Transformation”
8–9 October 2026

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE – DAY 1 (8 OCTOBER 2026)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme</i>
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Registration of Participants & Breakfast
9:30 am – 9:50 am	Inauguration of Tea Exhibition and Book Fair
9:50 am – 10:00 am	Guests and participants proceed to the seminar venue / seating
Inaugural Session	
10:00 am	Dignitaries take their seats on the dais
10:05 am	Felicitation of the Dignitaries
10:10 am	College Anthem
10:15 am	Welcome Address – Dr. Ranjan Changmai, Principal, Dibru College
10:20 am	Objectives and Context of the Seminar – Dr. Jayanta Saud Seminar Convenor & Head, Department of Economics
10:25 am	Address by the Chief Guest – Prof. Jiten Hazarika Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University
10:35 am	Address by the President, Prof. Kalyan Bhuyan Governing Body, Dibru College
10:40 am	Address by the Vice Principal, Dr. Kamalendu Saikia, Dibru College
10:45 am	Release of DIBRUNOMICS, Departmental E-Journal
10:45 am – 11:25 am	Keynote Address – Prof. M. P. Bezbaruah, Retired Professor, Department of Economics, Gauhati University
11:25 am	Vote of Thanks
11:30 am – 11:45 am	High Tea

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE – DAY 1 (8 OCTOBER 2026)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme</i>
11.45 am – 1.30 pm	Panel Discussion - I
	Two Centuries of Assam Tea: Perspectives on Heritage, Economy, Indigenous Knowledge and the Future
	Moderator: Shri Sachin Gogoi, Editorial Lead, Asia Pacific, BBC News
	Panelists: 1) Prof. Mandira Sarma – Professor, Centre for the Study of the World Economy (CSWE), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 2) Prof. Deb Kumar Chakraborty – Professor, Department of Economics & Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dibrugarh University 3) Shri Prabhat K. Bezboruah – Veteran Tea Planter; Former Chairman, Tea Board India; Former Economic Adviser to the Chief Minister of Assam 4) Shri Manje La – Assam Gaurav Awardee; Proprietor, Singpho Heritage Tea; Custodian of Singpho Heritage and Traditional Phalap Tea Culture
1.30 pm - 2.45 pm	LUNCH
2.45 pm - 4.00 pm	Technical Session I (Parallel) – Chair: Dr. Mofidul Hassan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Gauhati University, Guwahati
2.45 pm - 4.00 pm	Technical Session II (Parallel) – Chair: Dr. Mandira Sarma, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Department of Economics, (Refer Annexure B)
2.45 pm - 4.00 pm	Technical Session III (Parallel) – Chair: Shri Pranab Paul, Department of Botany, Dibru College, Dibrugarh Dr. Manash Jyoti Konwar, Department of Chemistry, Dibru College, Dibrugarh

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE – DAY 2 (9 OCTOBER 2026)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme</i>
10.00 am - 11.00 am	Technical Session IV – Chair: Chair: Dr. Kaustubh Kumar Deka , Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam
10.00 am - 11.00 am	Technical Session V (Online) Chair: Dr. Anup Kr Das, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar
11.00 am – 1.30 pm	Panel Discussion II
	Labour in Assam’s Tea Sector: Livelihoods, Rights, Welfare and the Way Forward
	Moderator: Prof. Mandira Sarma - Professor, Centre for the Study of the World Economy (CSWE), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Panelists: 1) Dr. Alok Ranjan Dutta - Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam 2) Dr. Kaustubh Kumar Deka - Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam 3) Dr. Bipul Kr. Rabha - Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Hemo Prova Borbora Girls’ College, Golaghat, Assam
1.30 pm - 2.15 pm	LUNCH
2.15 pm - 3.30 pm	Technical Session VI (Parallel) – Chair: Dr. Bipul Kr. Rabha, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Hemo Prova Borbora Girls’ College, Golaghat
2.15 pm - 3.30 pm	Technical Session VII (Parallel) - <i>Chair: Dr. Alok Ranjan Dutta, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University</i>
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Valedictory
	Chief Guest: Prof. Mandira Sarma Professor, Centre for the Study of the World Economy (CSWE) School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi
4.00 pm - 4.15 pm	Refreshment
<i>Tea will be served after the Technical Session</i>	

Technical Session Programme

National Seminar on Two Hundred Years of Assam Tea

Innovations, Sustainability and Rural Transformation

8–9 October 2026 | Department of Economics, Dibru College, Dibrugarh

Technical Session I

Tea Economy and Indigenous Knowledge

Date: 8/10/2026 Time: 2.45 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: Academic Block C (3rd Floor)

Chairperson: **Dr. Mofidul Hassan**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,

Gauhati University, Guwahati

Rapporteur 1: Dr. Moumita Paul Rapporteur 2: Dr. Debika K Banik

Technical Assistance: Shri Bicky Hazarika

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
I-01	Contribution of Tea to Assam's Economy and Employment with Special Reference to the Singpho Community	Dr Ashwini Machey and Dr Anita Sharma Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dibrugarh
I-02	Phalap: The Traditional Singpho Smoke Tea	Rakhi Moni Dutta, Dr Barnali Das and Chimpay Baruah UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University
I-03	Tea Production in Assam (2015–2025): Growth, Instability and Decomposition Analysis	Ananya Sonowal Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
I-04	Seasonality and Recent Production Dynamics of the Tea Industry in Assam: An Empirical Analysis	Anwesha Saikia Department of Economics, Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dibrugarh
I-05	The Production–Price Paradox in Assam Tea: Is Lower Output Associated with Better Price Realisation? Evidence from the Guwahati Tea Auction, 2010–2024	Nomami Dutta and Dr Mridusmita Das Gargaon College (Autonomous); Sibsagar University
I-06	Climate Change, Soil Regeneration and Climate-Resilient Tea Cultivation: Evidence from a Large-Scale Regenerative Agriculture Program in India	Antara Bera and Rajesh Bhuyan Trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation, Kolkata

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Technical Session II

Student Research on Assam Tea

Date: 8/10/2026 Time: 2.45 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: Principal's Conference Room

Chairperson: **Prof. Mandira Sarma**

Professor, Centre for the Study of the World Economy (CSWE), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Rapporteur 1: Ms. Jitashree Saikia Rapporteur 2: Ms. Raktima Phukan

Technical Assistance: Shri Ashim Barman

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
II-01	From Indigenous Discovery to Institutional Transformation: A Historical Study of the Evolution of the Assam Tea Industry since 1823	Kirti Kristi Borah Gauhati University
II-02	India's Tea Export Performance and Structural Transformation in Assam: Evidence from 2014–2024	Nikita Dutta Department of Economics, Assam Women's University, Jorhat
II-03	Green Tea Leaf Pricing in Dibrugarh District, Assam: Trends, Challenges and Policy Measures	Khadyut Gogoi Dibru College, Dibrugarh
II-04	Small Tea Growers and Rural Transformation in Assam: Opportunities, Challenges and Sustainable Development	Biplab Baroi Department of English, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
II-05	Tea and Literature: Subalternity, Representation, and Empowerment	Chiranjib Handique and Biraj Ballav Gogoi Dibrugarh University; Dibrugarh H.S. Kanoi College (Autonomous)
II-06	Women Victims of Witch Hunting among the Tea Tribes of Assam	Dr Juri Baruah and Ankita Borgohain Department of Geography, D.H.S.K. College (Autonomous), Dibrugarh

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Technical Session III

Student Research on Assam Tea

Date: 8/10/2026 Time: 2.45 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: Digital Conference Room

Chairperson: **Shri Pranab Paul**, Department of Botany, Dibru College, Dibrugarh

Dr. Manash Jyoti Konwar, Department of Chemistry, Dibru College, Dibrugarh

Rapporteur 1: Dr. Jonali Das Rapporteur 2: Ms. Sudarshana Rajguru

Technical Assistance: Shri Ujjal Rabha

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
III-01	Socio-Economic Hurdles and Health Challenges among Tea Garden Workers of Assam: A Case Study of South Jalan Nagar Tea Garden	Pranjal Krishna Mazumdar, Preyonka Sonowal, Abinash Singh and Dr Meetali Chaliha Department of Geography, Dibrugarh H.S. Kanoi College (Autonomous)
III-02	Building Drought-Resilient Tea in Assam: Evidence, Technologies and Research Gaps	Geetimallika Gogoi and Subrata Chandan Nath Department of Botany, D.H.S.K. College (Autonomous), Dibrugarh
III-03	Climate Change and Its Impact on Tea Productivity	Lakhimee Neog Department of Botany, D.H.S.K. College, Dibrugarh
III-04	Unlocking Carbon Credit Potential through Legume-Mediated Phytoremediation in Climate-Smart Tea Estates: A Focus on Assam	Bastav Baghri and Priyanuj Dihingia Department of Botany, D.H.S.K. College (Autonomous), Dibrugarh
III-05	Characterization of Soil Properties and Nutrient Status in Assam Tea Cultivation	Ludipta Borgohain and Mrinmoy Gogoi Department of Chemistry, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
III-06	Assessment of Soil Nutrient Status and Adaptation of Sustainable Livelihoods of Tea in Assam	Ashapriya Baruah and Chandraprava Sonowal Department of Chemistry, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
III-07	Securing the Future of Assam Tea: Modernizing Cultivation to Attract and Sustain the Next Generation	Barun Vaishnava and Gyandhar Pait Dibru College; Tea Research Association, Dikom

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Technical Session IV

Sustainability, Innovation and Market Development

Date: 9/10/2026 Time: 10.00 am - 11.00 am

Venue: JNB Conference Room

Chairperson: **Dr. Kaustubh Kumar Deka**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University,
Dibrugarh, Assam

Rapporteur 1: Ms. Dipika Das Rapporteur 2: Dr. Rashmi Das

Technical Assistance: Shri Bicky Hazarika

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
IV-01	Distribution over Totals: Temperature Thresholds and Rainfall Variability in the Climate Vulnerability of Assam's Tea Sector	Gunjan Malakar CCSA, Dibrugarh University
IV-02	Impact of Climate Change on Tea Cultivation: A Study of Small Tea Growers in Chabua, Assam	Karuna Phukan Department of Economics, Digboi College (Autonomous)
IV-04	Sustainable Tea Cultivation in Assam: Prospects of Organic, Regenerative and Smart Practices for Rural Transformation	Saujanya Baruah and Uzma Anam Rahman Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dibrugarh
IV-05	Digital Transformation and Market Efficiency in the Tea Sector: E-Auctions, Information Asymmetry and Price Discovery	Rohan Dey Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University
IV-06	From E-Auction to E-Marketplace: Can Digitalisation Make Assam's Tea Market More Inclusive?	Rimjhim Hazarika Department of Economics, Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dibrugarh
IV-07	Lookgeetie Asamer Cha-Baganer Sromjibi Narir Jibonghatha (Bengali)	Dr. Moumita Paul, Department of Bengali, Dibru College, Dibrugarh

Technical Session Programme

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Technical Session V (Online) (To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/srh-jxdd-ipp>)

Tea Economy, Labour and Sustainable Transformation

Date: 9/10/2026 Time: 10.00 - 11.00 am

Venue: Principal's Conference Room

Chairperson: **Dr. Anup Kr Das**

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar

Technical Supervisor: *Dr. Lachit Saikia*

Rapporteur 1: Ms. Ankita Jain Rapporteur 2: Dr. Bristi Borgohain

Technical Assistance: Shri Ashim Barman

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
V-01	The Export Competitiveness of India's Tea and Implications for Assam	Rupon Bhowmick Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong
V-02	Small Tea Growers in Assam: Emergence, Growth and Value Chain Linkages	Nidarshana Garg Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University
V-03	Self-Help Groups and Women's Entrepreneurship among Tea-Tribe Women in Assam: Socio-Economic Conditions and Constraints	Dr Mintu Gogoi and Nazreen Parbin Department of Commerce, Gargaon College (Autonomous)
V-04	Financing the Sustainable Transformation of Assam's Tea Industry: Issues, Challenges and Policy Perspectives	Dr Meghali Bora Department of Commerce, Gargaon College (Autonomous)
V-05	Climate Change and Its Impact on Tea Productivity in Upper Assam: A Review	Ms Bonika Buragohain and Dr Chirantan Bhagawati Department of Geology, Gargaon College

Technical Session Programme

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Technical Session VI

Labour, Gender and Livelihoods

Date: 9/10/2026 Time: 2.15 - 3.30 pm

Venue: Digital Conference Room

Chairperson: **Dr. Bipul Kr. Rabha**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College, Golaghat

Rapporteur 1: Ms. Ranjumoni Ronghangpi Rapporteur 2: Dr. Raujline S F Akhtar

Technical Assistance: Shri Ujjal Rabha

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
VI-01	Changing Employment Aspirations and Migratory Behaviour among Tea Workers in Assam: A Qualitative Analysis	Aastha Kaushik Agomacharyya Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
VI-02	Role of Tea Tribe Women in Assam Assembly Elections	Dr Jonali Das Department of Political Science, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
VI-03	Gender Roles and Wage Disparities in the Tea Industry: A Study of Women Workers in Jorhat	Dr Krishnakhi Saikia D.H.S.K. College, Dibrugarh
VI-04	An Institutional Political Economy Perspective on the Regional Wage Differences and Gendered Labour Outcomes in Tea Plantations of Assam	Dr Rubab Fatema Nomani Department of Economics, D.H.S.K. College (Autonomous), Dibrugarh
VI-05	Wage Disparities and Women's Empowerment among Tea Planters	Parishmita Sarmah and Poritporna Bora Department of English, Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dibrugarh
VI-06	Negotiating Labour, Migration and Gender: A Study of Select Poems of Sameer Tanti	Dr Shyamolima Saikia Department of English, Gargaon College (Autonomous)

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Technical Session VII

Tea Garden Communities and Social Change

Date: 9/10/2026 Time: 2.15 pm - 3.30 pm

Venue: JNB Conference Room

Chairperson: **Dr. Alok Ranjan Dutta**

Associate Professor & Head

Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University

Rapporteur 1: Ms. Sudarshana Rajguru Rapporteur 2: Ms. Deepa Bhagawati

Technical Assistance: Shri Bicky Hazarika

No.	Paper title	Authors and institution
VII-01	Voicing the Subaltern Women: A Reading of Arupa Patangia Kalita's Josnar Jhitas	Dr Raujline Siraj Farjina Akhtar Department of English, Dibru College, Dibrugarh
VII-02	Social Life of Tea Garden Communities: A Sociological Analysis (Assamese abstract)	Dr Mausumi Dutta and Deepa Bhagawati Dibru College, Dibrugarh Dibrugarh University
VII-03	Lifestyle Determinants and Health Outcomes among the Tea Garden Community of Jokai Tea Estate, Dibrugarh District	Maha Dev Gauri and Dr Anup Jyoti Bharali Dibrugarh University; M.D.K.G. College, Dibrugarh
VII-04	Women in Tea Plantations: A Scoping Review of Occupational Health Gaps in Environmental Literacy and Chemical Awareness	Shaju Kalapurakal and Dr Chow Nakunand Singkai Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai
VII-05	Empowering Tea Garden Communities through Financial Literacy: Role of RBI MoneyWise CFL Interventions in Dibrugarh District	Tapas Kumar Borah CRISIL Foundation
VII-06	A Study on the Growth of Small Tea Growers in Assam	Dipshikha Chamuah Department of Economics, Dhemaji College