

Ambootia Tea Garden, India

"Our experience at Ambootia leaves no doubt in our minds about the close association of organic and biodynamic farming, Fair Trade, and social welfare. It has developed a well-integrated, self-sustaining, ecologically balanced and economically viable community."

--- Ambootia Tea Garden

At Ambootia, "tea is a way of nature." This Darjeeling garden, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, enjoys a unique combination of climate and elevation that give its teas a distinct character. Ambootia was among the first tea gardens established by the British in the mid-nineteenth century and became Fair Trade certified by Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) in 1994.

With a strong resolve to work with and not against nature, Ambootia transitioned to 100% organic and biodynamic production in 1992. Organic cultivation not only contributes to environmental sustainability and the growth of hearty tea bushes, but also creates a healthier environment for workers. An increased number of cows, used to create natural fertilizer, allows workers to receive a regular supply of milk. In addition, biodynamic farming methods have led to the discontinuation of the use of agro-chemicals and pesticides, ensuring cleaner drinking water and fresher air for Ambootia workers.

The Fair Trade price has enabled workers at Ambootia Tea Garden to establish various social and productive programs

Education.

Ambootia has hired additional teachers for the garden's school, repaired school buildings, and provided scholarships for higher education.

Environment.

In 1968, Ambootia suffered a major landslide that destroyed 300 homes. Now, Ambootia workers have initiated a reforestation program that includes planting 50,000 shade trees per year to reduce soil erosion and keep their villages on solid ground.

Health.

The creation of a garbage collection system has kept the workers' housing clean and healthy.



ABOUT THE ESTATE

FLO Id: 1568

Year Established: 1861

Number of Members: 911

Estimated Annual Production: 220,000 Kilograms

ABOUT THE TEA

Varieties: Black, Green, Oolong, White

Elevation: 1,200 Meters

Harvest Season: Jan - Jan

Export Season: Jan - Jan

Percent Organic: 100%

Organic Certification Agency: IMO, Naturland, JONA

Fair Trade Certified™ Producer Profile

