

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Commissioner Food & Drug Administration
Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: **Use of the term “Tea” for products not derived from *Camellia Sinensis*.**

It has come to the notice of the Food and Drugs Administration, Jammu & Kashmir, that certain Food Business Operators (FBOs) are marketing products not obtained from the plant *Camellia Sinensis* under the name “Tea,” such as “Rooibos Tea,” “Herbal Tea,” “Flower Tea,” etc.

In this regard, attention is invited to the provisions of Regulation 2.10.1 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, which specify that **Tea (including Kangra Tea, Green Tea and Instant Tea in solid form) shall be exclusively derived from the plant *Camellia Sinensis*.**

Further, as per sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, every package shall carry the name of the food indicating the true nature of the food contained therein, prominently displayed on the Front of Pack.

Accordingly, the use of **the term “Tea,” directly or indirectly, for plant-based or herbal infusions, blends, or products not derived from *Camellia Sinensis* is misleading and amounts to misbranding under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the rules and regulations made thereunder. Such plant-based or herbal infusions or blends not derived from *Camellia Sinensis* do not qualify to be named as “Tea.**

Depending upon the ingredient(s) used, these products may fall under the category of proprietary foods or under the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017, as applicable.

Therefore, all Food Business Operators (FBOs), including those engaged in e-commerce, involved in the manufacture, packing, marketing, import, distribution, or sale of such products are hereby directed to ensure strict compliance with the above-mentioned provisions and refrain from using the term "Tea" for any product not derived from *Camellia Sinensis*, with accurate labeling that reflects the true nature and category of the food item.

Non-compliance with the above directions shall attract appropriate action under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Sd/-
(Smita Sethi) JKAS
Commissioner,
Food and Drugs Administration, J&K.

No.: FADA-Adm/37/2021-05

Dated: 17.02.2026

Copy to the:-

- 1) Director, Parsar Bharti, J&K for information with the request that the content of the above said public Notice may be broadcast/telecast during New item for generating awareness among all consumers.
- 2) Joint Director, Information & Public Relations, Jammu/Kashmir for information with the request to have the Food Alert Notice published in all leading dailies of J&K, in the larger public interest.
- 3) Deputy Commissioner (Food Safety) IcLC, Jammu/Kashmir, for information.
- 4) All Designated Officers for information and to enforce the compliance of the stated regulations in their respective jurisdictions.
- 5) Record File.


(Firdous A. Ahmad)
Food Safety Officer Hqrs/State Nodal Officer,
Food & Drugs Administration, J&K.