

TOCKLAI EXPERIMENTAL STATION
TEA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
JORHAT 785 008, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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The following is the summary of Crop, weather, Pest and disease in different regions of N.E. India during the month under review.

Region: UPPER ASSAM

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Dibrugarh	- 17.13	- 05.75	230	17	30	19
Panitola	- 22.06	- 02.64	147	17	28	19
Tingrai	- 26.85	- 18.60	173	18	28	19
Doomdooma	- 02.66	- 05.65	180	16	28	19
Mergherita	- 15.50	- 09.48	166	14	30	19
Naharkatia	+ 21.91	- 02.74	180	14	30	21
Moran	- 26.46	- 26.48	174	15	30	20

Remarks:

Monthly crop in all the sub areas remained behind except Naharkatia. Similarly in todate crop all the sub areas were behind at varying magnitude. The crop loss was highest in Moran followed by Tingrai sub areas. There was no marked variation in weather parameters among the sub areas. A prolonged droughty spell had affected the normal flush. Besides heavy attack of Red spider mite, this year Red slug, Looper caterpillar, Thrips, Helopeltis, Greenfly, Scale insect and Red rust was recorded in different estates.

Region: SOUTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Jorhat	- 27.84	- 28.97	111	12	31	20
Golaghat	- 49.34	- 46.75	105	11	29	20
Sonari-Nazira	- 31.44	- 32.73	158	12	29	19

Remarks

Crop during the month was behind in all the sub areas of the region. Among the sub areas Golaghat recorded 49% crop loss during the month. In todate crop the deficit was higher in Golaghat sub area. Rainfall in all the sub areas was recorded less than the normal (192mm). This deficit of rainfall adversely affected the crop production. Both average maximum and minimum temperature was at par of last year. Moderate to severe incidence of Looper, Greenfly, Thrips and Helopeltis was reported from different estates. Red rust (both *Cephaleuros parasiticus* and *C. mycoidea*) appeared to be a major disease in many estates.

Region: NORTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Nowgaon	- 50.00	- 45.00	98	12	34	21
Tezpur	- 50.00	- 40.00	101	14	34	21
Biswanath	- 45.00	- 35.00	95	13	34	22
N. Lakhimpur	- 35.00	+ 30.00	112	15	34	20
Borsola	- 55.00	+ 45.00	96	11	35	23
Mangaldoi	- 25.00	+ 20.00	105	14	34	21
Nalbari			97	12	35	22

Remarks:

Crop during the month remained behind in the sub areas. However, in todate crop N. Lakhimpur, Borsola and Mangaldoi remained ahead. The rainfall received by the estates of all the sub areas was ahead of corresponding period of last year. Accordingly number of rainy days was also higher while the maximum temperature remained almost same, the minimum temperature remained a couple of degree Celsius lower. A higher difference from maximum to minimum can be considered unfavourable for shoot growth. Red spider, Looper and Red slug caterpillar, Helopeltis were the major pest of concern in all the sub areas during the month.

Region: CACHAR

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Happy Valley	- 33.90	- 31.10	256	20	30	18
Chutlabheel	- 07.50	- 18.20	233	14	33	21
North Cachar	- 06.00	+ 03.60	214	14	38	29
Hailakandi	- 12.90	- 19.60	272	15	36	21
Longai & Karimganj	- 01.70	- 12.30	354	12	39	16

Remarks:

After the prolonged droughty spell there was an improvement in the weather during April which has brought about a lot of relief to the plantation. Most of the estates have been able to increase its production and have been making up the crop loss of the beginning of the season. However, in the production front most of the estates have reported a lower production as compared to last season. In the pest front Red spider mite, Thrips, Greenfly etc. has been reported to be active in most of the sub areas.

Region: TERAI

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
North Terai	- 61.13	- 41.57	181	4	33	23
South Terai	- 63.10	- 53.93	31	4	33	22
West Terai	- 61.40	- 45.14	67	4	34	21

Remarks:

The impact of winter drought is visible in growth and vigour of bush. In general, during the month all the sub areas produced less crop in comparison to last year. Quantum of rainfall received after a long spell of drought was negligible which could not, however, negate the impact of drought. As regards to pest, infestation of Looper caterpillar, Red spider mite and Thrips were reported from large number of gardens. Infestation of Red slug caterpillar was also found severe in quite a few gardens.

Region: Darjeeling

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Darjeeling West	- 35.00	NA	68	5	29	16
Darjeeling East	- 34.00	NA	81	10	25	14
Teesta Valley	- 28.00	NA	85	6	29	18
RungBung Valley	- 28.00	NA	61	7	24	11
Kurseong	- 28.00	NA	68	6	28	14
Mirik Valley	- 32.00	NA	92	6	26	14

Remarks:

Crop during the month remained behind in all the sub areas of the region. Rainfall received by the estates of all the sub areas although was similar to corresponding period of last year but maximum temperature was lower. This could adversely affected the growth of shoots due to higher difference in maximum to minimum temperature. Pests viz. Thrips, Greenfly, Red spider were found in estates of all the sub areas.

Region: Dooars

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Damdin	- 60.10	+ 46.20	335	9	36	22
Chulsa	- 53.35	- 46.55	229	12	32	21
Nagrakata	- 52.17	- 44.25	273	13	31	21
Binnaguri	- 51.33	- 37.38	250	10	34	17
Dalgaon	- 31.19	- 28.51	188	10	NA	NA
Kalchini	- 42.27	- 12.29	152	8	34	22
Jainti	- 57.93	- 39.82	172	NA	NA	NA
Goalpara	- 53.42	- 37.75	224	NA	NA	NA

Remarks:

Crop in all the sub areas was heavily behind ranging from 12.29 to 46.55% than that of corresponding period of previous season. This was mainly due to severe drought faced by the tea estates of Dooars from November 2008 to end March 2009. As the drought effect was more in Western Dooars than the Eastern Dooars crop loss was also more in Western Dooars. Though rainfall was received during April 2009 (mostly mid to end April), but bushes were on recovery stage and could hardly contribute to make up loss incurred during early part. However, overall weather conditions started improving from early April.

(Issued by Chief Advisory Officer, Tocklai)