

TOCKLAI EXPERIMENTAL STATION
TEA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
JORHAT 785 008, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JULY 2008

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	- 0.3	- 1.2	491	24	32	24
Panitola	+ 3.2	+ 6.4	495	23	32	23
Tingrai	- 1.1	At par	512	24	32	24
Doomdooma	- 2.0	+ 0.5	460	24	32	24
Mergherita	- 7.7	- 5.8	547	24	33	24
Naharkatia	- 17.4	- 13.6	467	23	33	23
Moran	- 1.0	- 2.8	409	21	33	21

Remarks:

After a long cloudy spell in June with inadequate sunshine hours for shoot growth weather started improving from early July with increase in sunshine hours which continued up to the end of the month. While the average maximum temperature during July this year was up by 0.67°C, rainfall was down by 78.64mm. The average weather parameters almost remained same to those of July last year. This was reflected in the better crop during second half of July. Though all the sub areas of Upper Assam remained behind in crop during the month than that of corresponding period of last year, but this difference is very nominal except in case of Naharkatia sub area, where Helopeltis infestation was quite severe in some gardens. The crop of entire Upper Assam during the month was behind by around 3.25% and in todate crop was behind by 1.66% than that of the corresponding period of last year.

Region: SOUTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Jorhat	- 3.8	- 9.3	323	18	35	25
Golaghat	- 14.4	- 8.8	265	20	33	26
Sonari-Nazira	- 10.4	- 13.0	323	19	34	26

Remarks

The crop during the month under review remained behind in comparison to the corresponding month of the last year in all the sub areas of the region. The drop was found to be primarily due to Helopeltis attack. The highest crop loss to the tune of 15% was recorded in Golaghat sub area whereas lowest was in Jorhat. Sufficient rainfall was received by both Jorhat and Sonari Nazira sub areas, however, in Golaghat it was lower by 57mm compared to other two sub areas. As per Tocklai record during the month 387.5mm rainfall was received which was almost at par

with the normal. Range of monthly average maximum temperature was between 33-35°C and minimum 25-26°C which was near to the normal.

Region: NORTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Nowgaon	- 7.0	- 5.0	512	19	33	24
Tezpur	- 6.0	- 3.0	586	17	32	23
Biswanath	- 7.0	At par	498	20	34	21
N. Lakhimpur	- 6.0	- 3.0	512	21	32	23
Borsola	- 8.0	- 4.0	532	22	34	23
Mangaldoi	- 4.0	- 3.0	542	20	34	23

Remarks:

The crop during the month suffered a deficit by about 4-8% in different sub areas of the region. In todate crop all the sub areas except Biswanath remained behind in the range of 3-5%. Number of rainy days although was much less during the month high intensity rainfall was received as indicated by higher quantity of rainfall in all the sub areas for which some of the plantations suffered from flush flood. Maximum temperature recorded appeared to be higher by about 2°C but the maximum temperature remained lower which could make the temperature difference wider. This might have a negative effect on shoot growth. On the pest front among all the sub areas Nowgaon estates suffered maximum from Helopeltis attack while Greenfly, Looper caterpillar and Red spider were recorded sporadic.

Region: CACHAR

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Happy Valley	+ 12.5	+ 27.3	483	25	33	22
Chutlabheel	+ 9.4	+ 23.0	394	24	33	27
North Cachar	+ 13.0	+ 20.1	446	26	36	29
Hailakandi	- 1.5	+ 9.2	314	25	36	24
Longai & Karimganj	+ 0.8	+ 10.6	395	25	35	25

Remarks:

During the period under review the weather remained mostly favourable to support good growth of shoots. Rainfall received during the period was comparatively higher than the corresponding period of last year. Todate production of all the sub areas is higher by 9.2 to 27.3%. In the pest front incidence of Red spider mite, Helopeltis was reported from estates of some 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	+ 0.1	+ 1.7	643	16	35	26
South Terai	+ 5.4	+ 2.6	1056	18	32	25
West Terai	+ 9.1	+ 6.6	847	21	36	27

Remarks:

On an average, all the sub areas in Terai harvested more crop during the month in comparison to the corresponding period of last year. Regarding todate crop all the sub areas of the region remained ahead compared to last year. A marked variation existed in quantum of rainfall received and number of rainy days as reported by the estates from different sub areas. Except North Terai where rainfall was short by about 33% the other two sub areas received rainfall near to normal during the month. As regards to insect pest, infestation of Looper caterpillar was reported from gardens of all sub areas. Infestation of Red spider mite during the month was recorded to be more in comparison to previous season. Helopeltis in some pockets was found to be active in North Terai.

Region: Darjeeling

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Darjeeling West	+ 2.0	NA	735	21	32	19
Darjeeling East	+ 4.0	NA	667	19	28	18
Teesta Valley	+ 30.0	NA	766	29	29	21
RungBung Valley	+ 8.0	NA	634	28	28	18
Kurseong	+ 6.0	NA	684	25	29	20
Mirik Valley	+ 11.0	NA	657	25	30	20

Remarks:

The crop during the month was ahead in all the sub areas. Among the sub areas Teesta Valley was much ahead of others. Rainfall received by all the sub areas was much higher than normal but number of rainy days was lower, which indicate higher intensity of rainfall. Although maximum temperature was higher than normal in all the sub areas the difference to minimum temperature was more which however, is not supportive to vigour of shoot growth. Among the tea pests, Helopeltis was recorded in all the sub area estates while Blister blight was recorded in some pockets irrespective of location of sub area.

Region: Dooars

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Damdim	+ 4.0	NA	827	25	33	25
Chulsa	+ 20.0	NA	2085	29	32	25
Nagrakata	+ 8.0	NA	753	28	31	25
Binnaguri	- 10.0	NA	740	23	34	23
Dalgaon	+ 14.0	NA	958	20	36	25
Kalchini	- 20.0	NA	908	24	31	24
Jainti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Goalpara	- 24.0	NA	737	16	33	26

Remarks:

During the month the crop position varies with the sub areas of the region. The crop gain in Chulsa was highest followed by Dalgaon. Binnaguri, Kalchini and Goalpara remained behind due to pest problem. Rainfall received by almost all the sub areas was close to the normal except Chulsa where it was more than double the normal rainfall. But the impact of high rainfall can not be related to crop. Both maximum and minimum temperature remained higher than normal during the month in all the sub areas. In the pest front Helopeltis and Looper caterpillar was active irrespective of sub area during the month.

(Issued by Chief Advisory Officer, Tocklai)