

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	+13.93	+14.51	44	7	28	14
Panitola	+35.92	+37.60	47	7	26	14
Tingrai	-2.52	-0.58	47	7	26	14
Doomdooma	-12.22	-11.39	50	8	26	15
Mergherita	+1.50	+2.07	64	7	29	14
Naharkatia	-123.28	-116.04	64	9	28	16
Moran	-29.57	-49.33	50	8	29	16

Remarks:

Wide variation in respect to crop during the month was recorded among the various sub areas. The quantity of rainfall received in all sub areas was almost same. On an average the crop in Upper Assam was behind by almost 11 to 12% in todate crop. Average maximum temperature was higher by around 1.7°C than last year. There was not much variation in minimum temperature. Rainy days were almost half than the last year. Incidence of Red spider, Looper, Helopeltis, Scale insect and Red rust was reported from 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	- 42.52	-42.72	42.87	6	30	15
Golaghat	-74.85	-74.85	49.94	6	30	19
Sonari-Nazira	-47.21	-47.82	39.77	7	28	14

Remarks

At an average the estates of South Bank remained behind in crop production by about 47% during the month compared to the corresponding period of last year. Although some amount of rainfall was received during the month by the gardens but it was far below the normal. However, this rain has brought some amount of relief to the plantations which helped to initiate new growth. Incidence of Greenfly, Helopeltis, Red spider and Looper caterpillar was reported from all the sub areas of south bank.

Region: NORTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Nowgaon	-65.00	-65.00	56	7	28	19
Tezpur	-75.00	-75.00	68	9	28	17
Biswanath	-70.00	-70.00	70	9	28	19
N. Lakhimpur	-65.00	-65.00	110	12	26	16
Borsola	-70.00	-70.00	92	8	28	19
Mangaldoi	-50.00	-50.00	102	10	27	20
Nalbari	-65.00	-65.00	82	7	28	21

Remarks:

The crop during the month in all the sub areas remained behind in North Bank. The rainfall received during the month after a prolonged drought was not adequate to support good growth of tea. Incidence of Looper, Helopeltis, Red slug and red spider was reported from the different sub areas of North Bank.

Region: CACHAR

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Happy Valley	-32.50	-25.30	77	9	29	13
Chutlabheel	-44.60	-36.90	80	8	31	19
North Cachar	+39.00	+25.90	61	8	32	27
Hailakandi	-35.00	-21.90	129	7	34	16
Longai & Karimganj	-34.30	-28.40	69	6	36	16

Remarks:

During the period under review although the rainfall received was less than the corresponding period of last season it has brought lot of relief to the plantations after the prolonged dry spell. Flushing has picked up during the month with the improvement of weather condition. In the production front there has been a set back in the early crop and most of the estates have reported a lower production to the tune of 35-45% than the corresponding period of last season. In the pest front incidence of Red spider mite and Helopeltis was reported from many estates of the valley.

Region: TERAI

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
North Terai	-18.86	-15.13	24	2	30	20
South Terai	-38.88	-45.86	7	2	31	16
West Terai	-24.82	-8.96	15	1	32	17

Remarks:

In general, during the month all the sub areas was behind in comparison to last year. Quantum of rainfall received is so less which could not negate the impact of drought. The impact of drought is visible in growth and vigour of bush. As regards to insect pest, infestation of Looper caterpillar and Red spider mite was reported from large number of gardens. Infestation of Red slug caterpillar was found severe in quite a few gardens. Helopeltis in patches was also noticed in 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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Darjeeling East	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Teesta Valley	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RungBung Valley	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kurseong	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mirik Valley	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Remarks:

Weather during the period was less humid with clear weather most of the time. Rainfall received was highly localised to have much variation from place to place. Some areas received more rainfall compared to last year whereas some other areas received less than 50% of that received in the corresponding period last year. Average daily maximum and minimum temperature were almost comparable although mean sunshine hour was higher by over 75% this year. Both morning and afternoon relative humidities were considerably lower this year, of course to record comparable pan evaporation to that of last year. Pest infestation during the period geared up in some areas but differed much in population from place to place. Thrips and Greenfly population increased in some areas irrespective of elevation. Red spider geared up in some areas of low and mid elevations. High level infestation of Helopeltis was also reported from some areas of low and mid elevations. Crop harvested during the period was very less compared to last year because of suffering from the droughty spell extending over 5 months period from October last year to end March this year. Overall crop position of the district by the end of the referred period was behind by over 50% compared to last year.

Region: Dooars

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Damdin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chulsa	-41.91	-29.14	36	4	31	16
Nagrakata	-29.00	-23.61	16	4	30	17
Binnaguri	-21.05	-10.39	22	3	33	13
Dalgaon	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kalchini	+15.79	+28.39	31	NA	NA	NA
Jainti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Goalpara	-21.67	-16.31	123	NA	NA	NA

Remarks:

Due to adverse affect of drought in the Dooars region this year, the crop for the month had gone down in most of the sub districts to the range of 10-30%. Looper caterpillar infestation also began to increase in many estates. Red spider, Thrips and Greenfly attack were noticed in patches in mild to moderate level.

(Issued by Chief Advisory Officer, Tocklai)