

TOCKLAI EXPERIMENTAL STATION
TEA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
JORHAT 785 008, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MAY 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	- 13.3	+ 11.6	192	18	32	22
Panitola	+ 18.2	+ 12.8	136	10	32	22
Tingrai	+ 9.8	+ 11.7	155	15	32	21
Doomdooma	- 12.7	+ 8.1	137	15	31	21
Mergherita	- 1.3	- 13.5	187	18	32	21
Naharkatia	- 16.7	+ 1.9	289	17	32	22
Moran	- 26.1	+ 2.1	307	15	33	23

Remarks:

The crop during the month remained behind in all the sub districts except Tingrai and Panitola. The main reasons for crop loss were relatively higher quantity of rainfall received during the month with poor distribution, minimum temperature was down by around 1°C, average maximum temperature was also lower, poor sunshine hours with more cloudy days in most of the sub districts, except in Panitola and Tingrai sub areas where crop harvest was more. The degree of infestation of pest like Helopeltis was also a factor for variation of crop among the sub districts. On an average, the Upper Assam was ahead in todate crop by nearly 5% compared with the 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	- 42.0	- 15.8	207	19	31	23
Golaghat	- 42.9	- 23.7	224	16	33	22
Sonari-Nazira	- 41.1	+ 11.7	184	15	31	23

Remarks

In all the sub districts of South Bank region crop remained behind by about 40%. A longer period of inter-flush dormancy is the prime reason for crop deficit during the month. Rainfall during the month was about 16% less than long term average of corresponding period. Both maximum and minimum temperature were recorded lower by couple of degree Celsius, which might also be a reason for lesser crop during the month. Helopeltis infestation was particularly in Sonari Nazira sub area has emerged as a major cause of concern. For that a special bulletin has already been issued from Tocklai.

Region: NORTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Nowgaon	- 5.0	- 7.0	145	19	33	23
Tezpur	- 6.0	- 3.0	162	21	32	21
Biswanath	- 3.0	+ 2.0	168	20	34	22
N. Lakhimpur	+ 6.0	+ 3.0	176	21	33	22
Borsola	+ 4.0	- 3.0	170	18	34	23
Mangaldoi	+ 2.0	+ 2.0	162	17	34	23

Remarks:

The crop during the month in North Lakhimpur, Borsola and Mangaldoi sub areas marginally remained ahead while in other sub areas remained behind. In todate crop Nowgaon, Tezpur and Borsola remained behind. Number of days with overcast sky was found to be more in areas suffering crop loss. Pests, viz. Red spider, Helopeltis, Greenfly although found to be active in estates of all the sub areas but no severe pest problem has been reported.

Region: CACHAR

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Happy Valley	+ 30.0	+ 47.3	242	18	33	21
Chutlabheel	+ 0.2	+ 18.5	336	17	34	25
North Cachar	+ 17.1	+ 20.2	334	17	34	22
Hailakandi	+ 6.4	+ 15.3	282	19	37	24
Longai & Karimganj	- 2.5	+ 17.2	246	16	38	23

Remarks:

During the period under review the weather remained mostly favourable for good growth of shoots. Rainfall received during the period under review was comparatively lower than last season. Except for Karimganj sub area the production was reported to be higher in rest of the sub areas. Overall the todate production in Barak Valley remained higher by about 15% than last year. In the pest front incidence of Red spider mite was quite widespread, incidence of Thrips was also noticed in many 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	- 4.5	+ 5.1	210	15	34	22
South Terai	+ 0.5	+ 7.1	136	11	36	22
West Terai	- 14.8	+ 0.9	186	13	35	23

Remarks:

Crop during the month in West Terai and North Terai remained behind compared to crop of last year during the same period. Marginal increase in crop was recorded in South Terai. The decrease in crop can be attributed to inter flush dormancy between first and second flush growth. As regards to todate crop all sub areas recorded more crop during this season. As far as insect pest is concerned, infestation of Thrips and Greenfly, Red spider mite and Looper caterpillar was reported from all sub areas. Out of which infestation of Thrips and Greenfly was moderate to severe particularly during first half of May in all sub areas.

Region: Darjeeling

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Darjeeling West						
Darjeeling East						
Teesta Valley						
RungBung Valley						
Kurseong						
Mirik Valley						

Remarks:

Data not received.

Region: Dooars

Sub Area	Crop position (% + /-)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Damdim	- 5.2	NA	160	19	34	23
Chulsa	- 6.0	NA	307	22	33	22
Nagrakata	- 20.0	NA	592	17	31	22
Binnaguri	- 30.0	NA	178	17	34	18
Dalgaon	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kalchini	- 18.0	NA	129	10	32	20
Jainti	- 6.9	NA	332	16	35	23
Goalpara	- 5.0	NA	410	16	32	23

Remarks:

The highest rainfall was received at Nagrakata with 591mm. Damdim sub district had nearly half of that quantum received last year. Rest of the sub districts had 2/3rd rainfall as compared to last year. Highest temperature recorded at Jainti sub district with 35°C and lowest at Nagrakata with 31°C. Although in the first half of the month the crop loss in almost all the estates was recorded due to wet period, crop started coming during second half of the month. However, the crop in all the sub district remained behind in the range of 5-30%. On the pest front Helopeltis, Red spider, Greenfly and Thrips were found to be active.

(Issued by Chief Advisory Officer, Tocklai)