

TOCKLAI EXPERIMENTAL STATION
TEA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
JORHAT 785 008, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MAY 2009

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	+ 4.62	- 1.62	171	20	32	21
Panitola	- 3.89	- 1.02	148	18	31	22
Tingrai	- 3.07	- 11.85	140	16	32	21
Doomdooma	- 8.88	- 7.16	178	16	31	21
Mergherita	+ 14.32	+ 1.74	171	16	32	23
Naharkatia	+ 0.50	- 2.20	183	10	32	23
Moran	+ 14.31	- 6.49	201	21	32	24

Remarks:

Crop harvest was good in the month of May for many estates of Upper Assam. Deficit was made up to a fair extent though there are large scale variations among the sub areas. Within the same sub areas, wide variation in terms of crop harvest exists among the estates. In todate crop except Margherita all sub areas remained marginally behind compared to corresponding period of last year. Rainfall received during the period was almost at the same level as was recorded during the month of last year. Not much variation on temperature recorded was also observed. Incidence of Red spider, 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	32.17	- 3.70	156.63	14	35	22
Golaghat	3.00	-23.86	111.88	12	32	24
Sonari-Nazira	18.93	- 1.65	190.99	15	34	24

Remarks

Crop for the month in all the sub areas was ahead, maximum being in Jorhat sub area. However, in todate crop all the sub areas remained behind. Rainfall during the month was less as compared to last year. Among the sub areas Golaghat was worst affected by drought as upto the current month less than 50% rainfall of last year's was received. Not much variation was observed in the average maximum and minimum temperature among the sub areas. However, the difference between maximum and minimum temperature was more than 10⁰C in all the sub areas, which can be considered unfavourable for shoot growth. Incidence of Looper, Helopeltis,

Green fly, Thrips and Red spider mite was observed at varying intensities. Red rust infection was reported from many tea estates.

Region: NORTH BANK

Sub Area	Crop position (% + / -)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Nowgaon	- 32.00	- 25.00	267	12	29	21
Tezpur	- 25.00	- 26.00	275	13	31	23
Biswanath	- 23.00	- 21.00	287	13	32	23
N. Lakhimpur	+ 5.00	+ 6.00	286	15	29	19
Borsola	+ 34.00	- 35.00	283	12	30	20
Mangaldoi	- 30.00	- 28.00	276	13	31	21
Nalbari	- 17.00	- 15.00	198	11	31	22

Remarks:

Crop during the month remained behind in the sub areas except North Lakhimpur and Borsola. However, todate crop remained behind in all sub areas maximum being in Borsola sub area. Rainfall during the month was substantially higher compared to the corresponding period of last year. Both maximum and minimum temperature recorded in all the sub areas was lower. The difference from maximum to minimum temperature also remained high which can be considered as unfavourable for shoot growth. Looper and Red spider infestation was recorded in most of the estates.

Region: CACHAR

Sub Area	Crop position (% + / -)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Happy Valley	- 4.80	- 20.00	212	22	34	23
Chutlabheel	- 1.10	- 10.10	183	20	37	25
North Cachar	- 29.20	- 12.20	289	22	38	27
Hailakandi	+ 6.80	- 8.10	245	18	36	24
Longai & Karimganj	+ 0.60	- 6.60	40	17	39	16

Remarks:

During the period under review the rainfall received was comparatively less and the temperature was higher than the corresponding period of last season which have affected the flushing to some extent. Crop production for the month was marginally higher in some of the sub areas like Hailakandi and Longai & Karimganj, rest of sub areas recorded lower crop production. In the pest front Red spider mite, Thrips, Helopeltis, Greenfly etc. has been reported 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	+ 31.02	- 18.47	301	14	33	24
South Terai	- 41.28	- 17.50	212	11	34	21
West Terai	- 21.91	- 34.04	269	5	34	22

Remarks:

The impact of drought was visible in growth and vigour of bush. In general, during the month of May, 2009 all the sub areas produced less crop in comparison to last year. Quantum of rainfall as received after a long period gave some respite to drought affected bushes. As regards to insect pest, infestation of Thrips, Looper Caterpillar, Red spider mite and Helopeltis was reported from large number of gardens.

Region: Darjeeling

Sub Area	Crop position (% + / -)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Darjeeling West	+ 54.45	NA	475	13	27	15
Darjeeling East	+ 60.23	NA	497	13	24	14
Teesta Valley	+ 11.65	NA	427	11	26	20
RungBung Valley	+ 93.93	NA	337	16	23	16
Kurseong	+ 56.74	NA	256	15	26	17
Mirik Valley	+ 111.51	NA	275	14	26	18

Remarks:

Crop during the month was ahead compared to corresponding period of last year in all the sub areas. Mirik valley and Rung bung valley recorded higher crop compared to other sub areas. Substantially higher rainfall was recorded during the month which could favourably influence productivity. Both maximum and minimum temperature recorded during the month was lower than the corresponding period of last year. However, temperature did not affect crop. Thrips, Greenfly and Red spider infestation was recorded in all the estates of all the sub areas at varying intensity while Helopeltis was recorded in the estates of Mirik Valley, Kurseong, Teesta Valley and Darjeeling West sub areas.

Region: Dooars

Sub Area	Crop position (% + / -)		Rainfall (mm)	No. of rainy days	Temperature (°C)	
	During the month	To-date			Max.	Min.
Damdin	+ 29.03	- 16.91	265	15	35	15
Chulsa	+ 26.40	- 17.74	258	19	NA	NA
Nagrakata	+ 48.44	- 15.12	166	16	31	22
Binnaguri	+ 12.36	- 22.92	352	15	33	21
Dalgaon	+ 27.00	- 28.00	294	12	31	20
Kalchini	+ 9.46	- 2.75	285	15	31	21
Jainti	- 2.60	- 29.74	397	14	33	24
Goalpara	- 23.92	- 22.94	353	12	NA	NA

Remarks:

Weather during the month of May was largely favourable for crop with sufficient rainfall and sunshine hours. However, some areas recorded high temperature during the month. The favourable weather condition resulted higher crop during the month. However, there was large variation in crop increase, which ranged from 9.46 to 48.44% in different sub areas of Dooars in comparison to May 2008. The sub areas behind in crop are Jainti and Goalpara by 2.6% and 23.92% respectively. Loss in total crop of the season till May 2009 narrowed down to 2.75 to 29.74% sub area wise or an overall average of 20.78% in entire Dooars in comparison to the crop of corresponding period of previous season. Out of the common pests Red spider, Helopeltis and Looper caterpillar were remained active. Intensity of Looper caterpillar was lower than the corresponding period of previous season. Thrips and Greenfly were active in sporadic areas at low level only.

(Issued by Chief Advisory Officer, Tocklai)