

Evaluation Series : 7

# **Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation**

**Dr. Jayanta Choudhury**



**Tribal Research and Cultural Institute**  
Government of Tripura, Agartala

**Evaluation Series : 7**

# **Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation**

**Dr. Jayanta Choudhury**



---

**Tribal Research and Cultural Institute**  
Government of Tripura, Agartala

**TRIBAL RESEARCH & CULTURAL INSTITUTE,  
Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, 799001  
Ph. No. +91381-232 4389/7334,  
e-mail : dir.trci-tr@gov.in,  
website : www.tritripura.in**

**Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation**

**© Tribal Research & Cultural Institute,  
Govt. of Tripura  
First published : September, 2017  
ISBN : 978-93-86707-09-3**

**Computerised by: Arindam Sutradhar**

**Price : Rs. 40/-**

**Printed at : New Quick Print, 11 JB Road, Agartala.**

## **MESSAGE**

For the development of a society there is a need of equitable and balanced progress of all the sections of human communities and for this perspective, it is very important to bring the weaker, deprived and discriminated sections such as Scheduled Tribes to the front position of mainstream of socio-economic system and national development. To development tribal communities, improvement of livelihood need to be developed on priority basis. For the improvement of livelihood status among the tribals, **Tea Plantation scheme** play significant role.

The main objective of the plantation development scheme is to encourage the tea plantation in undertaking various field oriented developmental measures aimed at increasing field productivity and decreasing cost of production. In order to achieve this objective and to provide an impetus to the tea garden owners to take up various developmental activities in the right earnest, financial assistance by way of subsidy is being extended through this scheme to all segments of the industry regardless of their size and strength with the funds allocated to the scheme.

The present volume of evaluation series is based on the research conducted by Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, Asst. Professor, Department of Rural Management & Development & Coordinator, Centre for Rural Studies, Tripura University in two sub-divisions of Tripura. The study tried to find out overall status of the scheme and its impact on tribal livelihood.

I strongly believe that the findings and recommendation of the study will give immense knowledge about the livelihood status of tribal people though tea plantation in Tripura.

  
**Shri Sunil Debbarma**  
**Director**

**Place : Agartala**  
**Date : 05/10/2017**

**Tribal Research and Cultural Institute**  
**Government of Tripura**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

India is the second largest producer of tea in the World after China. It has been estimated that the tea industry employs more than a million workers directly. Many of these workers are women. Tripura Tea industry was historic in nature. In the regime of King Birendra Kishore Manikya, 183<sup>rd</sup> King of Tripura was the first man to introduce tea plantation in infertile and non-cultivable land in the state. Tea Plantation was considered as one of the scheme towards improvement of Tribal livelihood by the Government of Tripura.

Tribal Research and Cultural Institute has taken an initiative to review the scheme. The study tries to find out the impact of scheme on improvement of livelihood among the tribal people and also gives some suggestions and recommendations for possible consideration of the Government of Tripura.

My sincere thanks go to the Sri. S. Debbarma, Director, Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Government of Tripura for publishing the evaluation series. I am also thankful to Sri. Bidyut Kanti Dhar, Research Assistant of TR & CI for his sincere effort in various stages to bring the manuscript in series form.

I acknowledge the sincere help of students of Tripura University and IGNOU for involving during various stages of the evaluation study. We were enriched enormously by the discussions with various state Government officials, local level functionaries and beneficiaries during the study.

However, I am responsible for any fault that may remains.

**Date : 05/10/2017**

**Dr. Jayanta Choudhury**

**Place : Agartala, Tripura**

## **CONTENT**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Message</i>                           | <i>iii</i>     |
| <i>Acknowledgement</i>                   | <i>v</i>       |
| <i>List of Tables and Figures</i>        | <i>ix - x</i>  |
| <i>Research Highlight</i>                | <i>xi</i>      |
| <br>                                     |                |
| <b>1. Introduction</b>                   | <b>1 - 5</b>   |
| Tea plantation in India                  | 1 - 2          |
| Tea plantation in Tripura                | 2 - 3          |
| Activities eligible for subsidy          | 3              |
| Eligibility conditions – General         | 4              |
| Activity specific eligibility conditions | 4 - 5          |
| <br>                                     |                |
| <b>2. Research Methodology</b>           | <b>6 - 7</b>   |
| Objectives of the study                  | 6              |
| Study Area                               | 6              |
| Sampling technique                       | 6              |
| Data collection method                   | 6              |
| Data analysis method                     | 6 - 7          |
| Period of the study                      | 7              |
| <br>                                     |                |
| <b>3. Result and Discussion</b>          | <b>8 - 26</b>  |
| <br>                                     |                |
| <b>4. Problems &amp; Recommendation</b>  | <b>27 - 29</b> |
| <br>                                     |                |
| Reference                                | 29             |

## **LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES**

### **TABLES**

|          |  |    |
|----------|--|----|
| Table 1  | Age group of the beneficiary   | 8  |
| Table 2  | Educational status   | 8  |
| Table 3  | Primary Occupational Status  | 9  |
| Table 4  | Monthly Incomes (Family)   | 10 |
| Table 5  | Religious Status   | 10 |
| Table 6  | Economic category of the family  | 11 |
| Table 7  | Sources of income (Multiple options)                                     | 11 |
| Table 8  | Land Asset of the beneficiary (Multiple Options)                         | 12 |
| Table 9  | Number of Beneficiary have available the<br>Training                     | 13 |
| Table 10 | Tree available in the Tea garden   | 13 |
| Table 11 | Irrigation Facility available in the Tea Garden                          | 14 |
| Table 12 | Drainage Facility in the Tea garden                                      | 14 |
| Table 13 | Sources of Information getting regarding<br>the scheme of Tea plantation | 15 |
| Table 14 | Rubber plantation is more fruitful than Tea                              | 17 |
| Table 15 | Various option for utilization of land                                   | 18 |
| Table 16 | Other occupation of Beneficiaries along with<br>Tea Plantation           | 18 |
| Table 17 | Awareness regarding duration of fallow in tea<br>plantation              | 19 |
| Table 18 | Used Fertilizer in the Tea Garden  | 19 |

|          |   |    |
|----------|---|----|
| Table 19 | Statement related to Participation                          | 21 |
| Table 20 | Decision-making of men and women in<br>different activities | 22 |
| Table 21 | Financial Capital   | 23 |
| Table 22 | Physical Capital  | 24 |
| Table 23 | Entertainment material                                      | 25 |
| Table 25 | Social Status of the beneficiary                            | 25 |

## FIGURES

|          |  |    |
|----------|--|----|
| Figure 1 | Various facilities available in the Tea Garden                       | 15 |
| Figure 2 | Extent of Fruitful on Rubber Plantation<br>instead of Tea Plantation | 17 |
| Figure 3 | Condition of Tea Garden  | 20 |

## **RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

- Only 6.45 percent beneficiaries were strongly agreed that tea plantation was playing vital role in improvement of their livelihood situation.
- Change of average monthly income among the beneficiaries was Rs. 899 and Rs. 1618 respectively in Kamalpur and Kailasahar sub-division.
- In Kamalpur and Kailasahar sub-division average number of agricultural equipment was increased very less and in case of non-agricultural equipment there was no change.
- About 46.67 percent beneficiaries received training but 40 percent beneficiaries agreed that they utilized their knowledge as medium extent.
- Participation of women in tea plantation were less.
- Only 19.35 percent beneficiaries said that they had irrigation facility and it was more in Kamalpur sub-division (33.33%) compared to Kailasahar sub-division (6.25%).
- Only 22.58 percent beneficiaries had proper drainage facility in both the sub-division.
- 66.13 percent came to know about the tea plantation from the panchayat village committee office and through elected members.
- If the government doesn't provide loan then majority of the beneficiaries wanted to do either Jhum cultivation (54.83%) or Rubber (19.35%).
- Maximum (90.33%) beneficiaries look for other occupation along with tea plantation for their livelihood as product cycle for tea plantation was more than 5 years.
- Nobody used high yielding variety in their tea garden in both the sub-division and also nobody kept the land fallow after Tea plantation.
- 74.19 percent population of both the sub-divisions used fertilizer in tea plantation.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. TEA PLANTATION IN INDIA

Tea is one of the most popular and lowest cost beverages in the world and consumed by a large number of people. Owing to its increasing demand, tea is considered to be one of the major components of world beverage market.

India is the second largest producer of tea in the world after China and the fourth largest exporter in the world after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka. Tea exports contribute to foreign exchange earnings. In addition, tea cultivation is also a source of revenue to the governments of the tea growing states and also to central government through VAT and various taxes. Total exports during 2011-12 amounted to some 214 million kg and the total foreign exchange earned during 2011-12 is estimated at Rs. 3305 crores despite the importance of tea export earnings to the Indian economy; most of the tea produced is consumed within India. Of the total of 1.2 million tons produced in 2013, nearly 80 percent of production was consumed domestically. These figures were broadly confirmed by other sources of market information. *(Green Peace India, 2014)*

It has been estimated that the tea industry employs more than a million workers directly. Many of these workers are women. Over six million more people are estimated to derive their livelihood indirectly from the industry through ancillary activities. This includes a buoyant tourism element.

India is the largest producer of black tea as well as the largest consumer of tea in the world. Currently, India produces 23 percent of total world production and consumes about 21 percent of total world consumption of tea – nearly 80 percent of the tea produced is consumed within India. *(Basu Majumdera et.al)*



Despite the importance of tea cultivation to the Indian economy, the sector has recently been facing a range of problems, which include the stagnation of tea production, climate change, habitat destruction, water pollution and soil erosion. These issues pose serious questions as to the long-term sustainability of the tea sector in India. Currently, the industry now appears to be finally recovering from an economic recession, which has affected the whole industry. (*Green peace India, 2014*)

## **1.2. TEA PLANTATION IN TRIPURA**

Tripura Tea industry was historic in nature. In the regime of King Birendra Kishore Manikya, 183<sup>rd</sup> King of Tripura was the first man to introduce tea plantation in infertile and non-cultivable land in the state. The dream of Birendra Kishore Manikya makes reality by young researcher Apurba Chandra Bhattacharjee, who researched on Agricultural science in Germany. At the time of his research P.K.Dasgupta, the *dewan* of Birendra Kishore Manikya helped him to collect various kinds of soil for testing. After that tea industry in Tripura made popularity gradually. In the period of 1919 to 1923 total 8 (eight) tea estates were established and 3 (three) more tea-estates were formed in the tenure of Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya in different parts of Tripura namely Kailasahar, Dharmanagar, Kamalpur, Khowai etc.

Tripura is categorized as a traditional tea-growing State - with about 55 tea estates and 4,350 small tea growers, producing about 8.9 million kg. of tea every year. These make Tripura the 5th largest, among the 14 tea-producing states, after Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The objective of the scheme is to improve the economic condition of the tribals by bringing them under Tea plantation. Implementation is done over the period of 5 years. Total unit cost is Rs. 96,354/- for one acre. The Tea Board Sub-subsidy is Rs. 20,200/-, T.W. Department grant is Rs. 76,154/-.

### *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

The beneficiaries are selected by the “Sub Divisional level Jhumia Rehabilitation Committee” from the fully/ partly ST Jhumia families.

The main objective of the plantation development scheme is to encourage the tea plantation in undertaking various field oriented developmental measures aimed at increasing field productivity and decreasing cost of production.

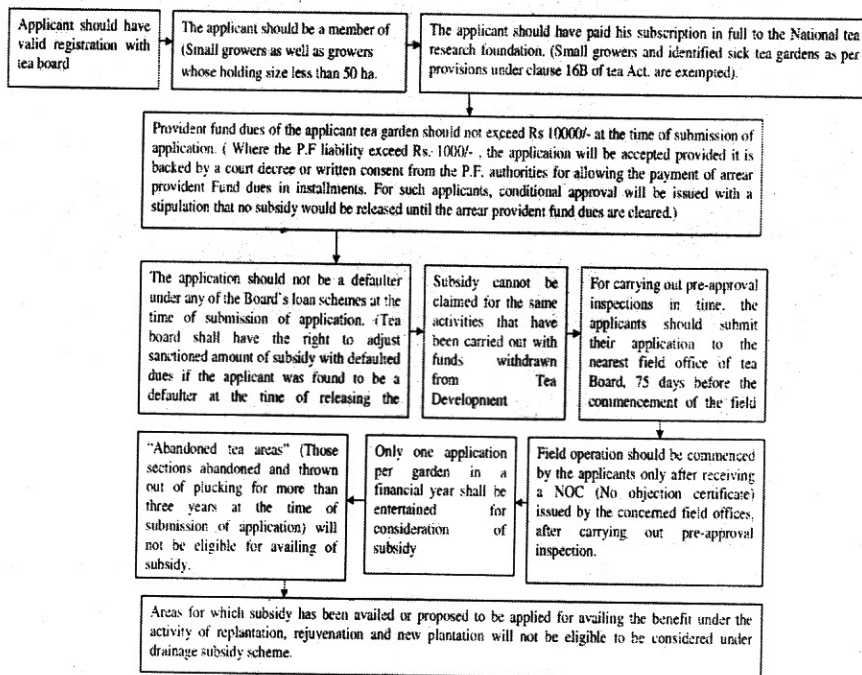
In order to achieve these objectives and to provide an impetus to the tea garden owners to take up various developmental activities in the right earnest, financial assistance by way of subsidy is being extended through this scheme to all segments of the industry regardless of their size and strength with the funds allocated to the scheme by the central government for XI plan period from 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2012.

#### **1.3. Activities eligible for subsidy:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| i. For all the growers regardless of the size of their holdings :  |   |
| Replantation / Replacement planting and Rejuvenation of old tea areas  | For these activities financial assistance by way of loan and subsidy is provided. Applicants are required to submit a separate application under the special purpose Tea Fund-SPTF-scheme |
| Creation of Irrigation facilities  | The subsidy for these three activities will be provided @25% of the actual cost subject to a combined ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000 per ha for the XI plan period of five years.            |
| Creation of Drainage facilities  |   |
| Creation of Transportation facilities  |   |
| ii. For individual small growers holding up to 4.00 ha under tea: 1. New planting in the North East region and in hilly areas other regions above 2500 feet above MSL. |   |
| iii. For small grower self help groups   |   |
| 1. Setting up leaf collection centers /Input storage godowns   |   |
| 2. Purchase of weighing scales/leaf carry bags/plastic crates.   |   |
| 3. Purchase of transport vehicles  |   |
| 4. Purchase of field inputs –fertilizers and plant protection chemicals and implements – pruning machines, sprayers etc.   |   |

## *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

### **1.4. Eligibility conditions – General:**



### **1.5. Activity specific eligibility conditions :**

#### **1.5.1. Creation of Irrigation facilities :**

##### **a. New planting in N.E region and hilly areas by small growers**

1. Subsidy for new planting will be allowed only for small growers holding upto 4 ha in the North East region and in hilly areas of other region with an altitude of above 2500 feet above MSL

2. Applicant small growers should have documents to establish the ownership of the land where they propose to take up new planting. Where the title deeds are not available, land revenue receipt or possession certificate issued by the land revenue department of the concerned state government will be accepted for the purpose of the scheme.

*Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

3. The soil suitability certificate should be obtained from any of the soil testing laboratories empanelled with Tea board.
  4. Only approved planting materials to be used for planting.
  5. The bush population in the planted area shall not be less than 10,000 per ha
  6. All cultural operations and soil conservation measures should be undertaken in the manner as recommended by Tea Board.
  7. Financial assistance in the form of subsidy would be provided at 25 percent of the unit cost to be notified from time to time.
-

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Objectives of the Study**

1. To study the socio-economic background of the beneficiaries.
2. To know the information regarding land, garden and applying procedure
3. To assess the impact of tea plantation on Tribal livelihood in terms of their change in personal income, family income, savings, agricultural & Non-agricultural equipment and social status.

### **2.2. Study Area**

In Tripura, 2 (two) sub-divisions namely Kamalpur and Kailasahar were selected and identified by Tribal Welfare Department for data collection. These 2 (two) sub-divisions were predefined and selected by the Tribal Welfare Department.

### **2.3. Sampling technique**

Total 62 numbers of samples were randomly collected from 2 sub-divisions under Dhalai and Unokoti district. From Kamalpur 30 beneficiaries and from Kailasahar 32 beneficiaries were selected for present survey.

### **2.4. Data Collection Method**

The interview schedule was prepared using both open and close-ended questions.

### **2.5. Data Analysis Method**

Collected data were coded, tabulated and interpreted for analysis in the study. The obtained data had been analysed by using the tabular method.

Simple calculations like percentage and mean had been made for relevant data through MS-Excel for analysis. In addition to this, “Before and after methods” were taken for analyzing the data in a prescribed way based on primary data.

**2.6. Period of the study:** The study was conducted during 2013-14

---



## RESULT DISCUSSION

### PART I - SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY

**Table 1: Age group**

| Subdivision<br>Age | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    | Total         |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Less than 25       | 0             | 0             | 0             |
| 25-35              | 8<br>(26.67)  | 14<br>(43.75) | 22<br>(35.48) |
| 35-45              | 10<br>(33.33) | 10<br>(31.25) | 20<br>(32.26) |
| Above 45           | 12<br>(40)    | 8<br>(25)     | 20<br>(32.26) |
| Total              | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)   | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 1 depicts about the age group of beneficiaries in different sub-division. In Kamalpur 33.33 percent belonged to the group of 35-45 years whereas 40 percent were above 45 age group. Fewer people belonged to 25-35 years age group category. Whereas in Kailasahar maximum beneficiaries belonged to the category of 35-45 years.

**Table 2: Educational status**

| Subdivision<br>Education | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    | Total         |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Illiterate               | 8<br>(26.66)  | 6<br>(18.75)  | 14<br>(22.59) |
| Literate                 | 10<br>(33.33) | 10<br>(31.25) | 20<br>(32.26) |
| Primary                  | 2<br>(6.66)   | 4<br>(12.5)   | 6<br>(9.67)   |
| Upper primary            | 8<br>(26.66)  | 12<br>(37.5)  | 20<br>(32.26) |
| Secondary                | 2<br>(6.66)   | 0             | 2<br>(3.22)   |
| Total                    | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)   | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

*Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

Educational qualification of beneficiaries shows that 22.59 percent beneficiaries could only sign their name whereas only 3.22 percent beneficiaries was studied upto secondary education. Rest of the beneficiaries were from literate, primary and upper primary categories.

**Table 3: Primary Occupational Status**

| <b>Subdivision<br/>Occupation</b> | <b>Kamalpur</b> | <b>Kailasahar</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Farmer</b>                     | 16<br>(53.34)   | 20<br>(62.5)      | 36<br>(58.06) |
| <b>Business</b>                   | 8<br>(26.67)    | 0                 | 8<br>(12.90)  |
| <b>Employee</b>                   | 0               | 0                 | 0             |
| <b>Tea Garden</b>                 | 2<br>(6.66)     | 10<br>(31.25)     | 12<br>(19.36) |
| <b>Labour</b>                     | 4<br>(13.33)    | 2<br>(6.25)       | 6<br>(9.68)   |
| <b>Others</b>                     | 0               | 0                 | 0             |
| <b>Total</b>                      | 30<br>(100)     | 32<br>(100)       | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

In both the sub-division most of the beneficiaries were farmers or labors or some of them were having a small business, etc. No one had been found as government employee. In Kamalpur and Kailasahar 53.33 percent and 62.5 percent beneficiaries were engaged in Agriculture respectively. Only 19.35 percent beneficiaries considered tea plantation as their primary occupation.

**Table 4 : Monthly Incomes (Family)**

| Monthly Income<br>(in Rs.) | Kamalpur                           | Kailasahar                         | Total                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                            | Number of Respondents & Percentage | Number of Respondents & Percentage | Number of Respondents & Percentage |
| Below 2000                 | 16<br>(53.34)                      | 0                                  | 16<br>(25.81)                      |
| 2001-4000                  | 13<br>(43.33)                      | 20<br>(62.5)                       | 33<br>(53.23)                      |
| 4001-6000                  | 0                                  | 12<br>(37.5)                       | 12<br>(19.35)                      |
| 6001-8000                  | 0                                  | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| Above 8000                 | 1<br>(3.33)                        | 0                                  | 1<br>(1.61)                        |
| Average                    | 2746.66                            | 4000                               |                                    |
| Total                      | 30<br>(100)                        | 32<br>(100)                        | 62<br>(100)                        |

Source: Field survey, 2014

In Kamalpur the average income of respondents were low as compared to Kailasahar subdivision. The highest income of the respondents in Kamalpur was Rs.8000 and maximum respondent's income was below Rs.2000. In Kailasahar the highest income among the villagers was Rs.6000 but most of them earned below Rs.4000.

**Table 5: Religious Status**

| Sub-division<br>Religions | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar  | Total         |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Hindu                     | 26<br>(86.67) | 16<br>(50)  | 42<br>(67.75) |
| Christian                 | 4<br>(13.33)  | 16<br>(50)  | 20<br>(32.25) |
| Total                     | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100) | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

In both the sub-division maximum respondents (67.75%) were Hindu and rests of the beneficiaries were the followers of Christianity.

**Table 6: Economic category of the family**

| Sub-division<br>Category | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    | Total         |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| BPL                      | 8<br>(26.66)  | 6<br>(18.75)  | 14<br>(22.58) |
| APL                      | 22<br>(73.33) | 26<br>(81.25) | 48<br>(77.41) |
| Total                    | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)   | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

The above survey reveals that only 22.58 percent beneficiaries were from BPL category.

**Table 7: Sources of income (Multiple options)**

| Subdivision<br>Sources          | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Agriculture Cereal crops        | 17<br>(56.66) | 6<br>(18.75)  |
| Agriculture (Vegetables)        | 11<br>(36.66) | 14<br>(43.75) |
| Trees and fruits /agro forestry | 2<br>(6.66)   | 2<br>(6.25)   |
| Livestock and poultry           | 14<br>(46.66) | 2<br>(6.25)   |
| Fisheries resources             | 6<br>(20)     | 2<br>(6.25)   |
| Business                        | 2<br>(6.66)   | 0             |
| Tea Plantation                  | 7<br>(23.33)  | 20<br>(62.5)  |
| NREGA                           | 28<br>(93.33) | 32<br>(100)   |
| SHG                             | 14<br>(46.66) | 4<br>(12.5)   |
| Others sources (if any)         | 0             | 10<br>(31.25) |
| Total                           | 101           | 92            |

Source: Field survey, 2014

Only 6.66 percent beneficiaries were engaged in small business in Kamalpur sub-division but in Kailasahar subdivision all the beneficiary were engaged with NREGA.

**Table 8: Land Asset of the beneficiary (Multiple Options)**

| Subdivision                             | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar   |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Name of the farm                        |               |              |
| Homestead                               | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)  |
| Cultivated land owned by the respondent | 24<br>(80)    | 32<br>(100)  |
| Cultivated land shared out              | 4<br>(13.33)  | 0            |
| Cultivated land shared in               | 8<br>(26.66)  | 0            |
| Pond                                    | 10<br>(33.33) | 0            |
| Patta land                              | 28<br>(93.33) | 6<br>(18.75) |
| Total                                   | 30            | 32           |

Source: Field survey, 2014

The beneficiaries had different types of firms and it shows that all beneficiaries had homestead land. In Kailasahar sub-division the beneficiary had less property in compared to Kamalpur.

In the sub-division, more or less, all the beneficiaries had their own land though amount varying. From primary data from the field it is clear that beneficiaries of Kailasahar had more land compare to Kamalpur. In Kamalpur all the respondents informed that the entire land was registered but according to the non-beneficiaries, the entire land was not registered and average 6 or 7 kani lands was registered.

**Table 9 : Number of Beneficiaries have availed the Training**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar  | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Yes                         | 14<br>(46.67) | 0           | 14<br>(22.58) |
| No                          | 16<br>(53.33) | 32<br>(100) | 48<br>(77.42) |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100) | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

In Kailasahar sub-division none had been found who availed training while in Kamalpur subdivision about 46.67 percent beneficiaries availed training on tea plantation. Among them, 40 percent beneficiaries agreed that they utilized their knowledge as medium extent and 6.67 percent utilized as a poor extent. The duration of the training was one week and respondent told that, training programme were organized by SDM officials.

**Table 10: Tree available in the Tea garden**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar   | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Yes                         | 16<br>(53.33) | 28<br>(87.5) | 44<br>(70.97) |
| No                          | 14<br>(46.67) | 4<br>(12.5)  | 18<br>(29.03) |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)  | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

Maximum 70.97 percent beneficiaries had knowledge about importance of extra trees in tea garden. The trees available in the garden were *Neem*, *Teak*, *Karoi*, *Gamai*, *Chamal*, and *Jam*.



**Table 11: Irrigation Facility available in the Tea Garden**

| <b>Sub-division<br/>Particulars</b> | <b>Kamalpur</b> | <b>Kailasahar</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Yes</b>                          | 10<br>(33.33)   | 2<br>(6.25)       | 12<br>(19.35) |
| <b>No</b>                           | 20<br>(66.67)   | 30<br>(93.75)     | 50<br>(80.65) |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 30<br>(100)     | 32<br>(100)       | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

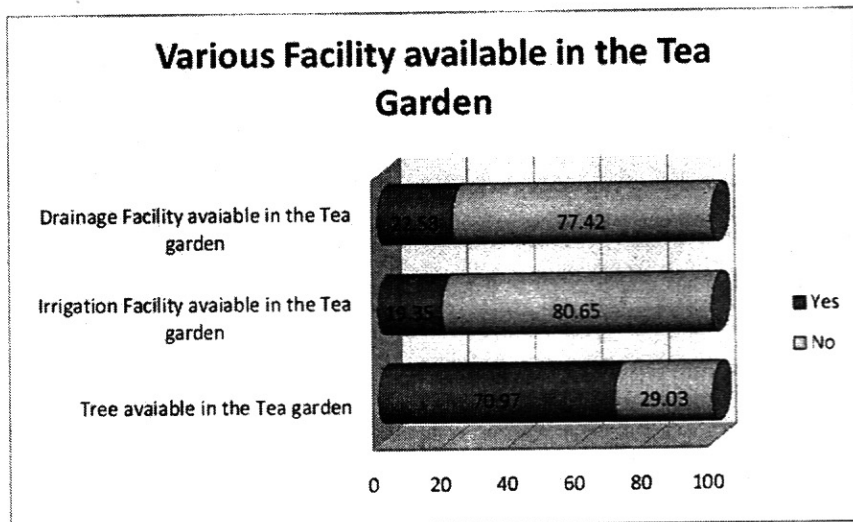
Irrigation facility in the tea garden was not good. Only 19.35 percent beneficiaries said that they had irrigation facility and it was more in Kamalpur sub-division (33.33%) compared to Kailasahar sub-division (6.25%).

**Table 12: Drainage Facility available in the Tea garden**

| <b>Sub-division<br/>Particulars</b> | <b>Kamalpur</b> | <b>Kailasahar</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Yes</b>                          | 4<br>(13.33)    | 10<br>(31.25)     | 14<br>(22.58) |
| <b>No</b>                           | 26<br>(86.67)   | 22<br>(68.75)     | 48<br>(77.42) |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 30<br>(100)     | 32<br>(100)       | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

**Figure : 1**



Proper drainage facility was available in few gardens (22.58%). Rest of the beneficiaries did not have drainage facility because of lack of money.

**Table 13 : Sources of Information getting regarding the scheme of Tea Plantation**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tea board                   | 0<br>(0)      | 4<br>(12.5)   | 4<br>(6.45)   |
| Jhumia committee            | 0<br>(0)      | 1<br>(3.13)   | 1<br>(1.61)   |
| Panchayat                   | 28<br>(93.33) | 13<br>(40.62) | 41<br>(66.13) |
| Other                       | 2<br>(6.67)   | 14<br>(43.75) | 16<br>(25.81) |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)   | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

### *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

In Kamalpur sub-division maximum respondents (93.33%) came to know about the tea plantation scheme either from the panchayat or through panchayat members. In Kailasahar sub-division only half of the respondents (43.75%) came to know about the tea plantation from different sources like the fellow villagers, relatives, different government officials and Tehsils office etc.

After that all the beneficiaries of Kailasahar sub-division used to contact the panchayat office but it was little bit different in case of Kamalpur sub-division where some of the beneficiaries also contacted village committee apart from panchayat office and submitted the necessary documents. In response of the question asked to the respondent that how they were selected, the respondent of Kailasahar sub-division replied that they were selected on the basis of BPL list.

In Kailasahar sub-division, the procedure of implementation took more time in compared to Kamalpur sub-division and in both the place local leaders and panchayat helped beneficiaries for getting the benefit. More or less all the respondents had to spent additional money for tea plantation as the loan amount was not sufficient. Yearly sometimes Jhumia committee visit the garden for monitoring purpose.

Only respondents of Kailasahar sub-division informed that on an average of 22 kg green leaf was harvested in last year and two factories were there for getting the final product in Kailasahar sub-division (Manuvelly factories, Laxmi Co-Ltd Golakpur factory). For purchasing the necessary materials they had to visit the city market or local market. Dependent on work situation they used to engage extra labour at Rs. 250/- or less per day.

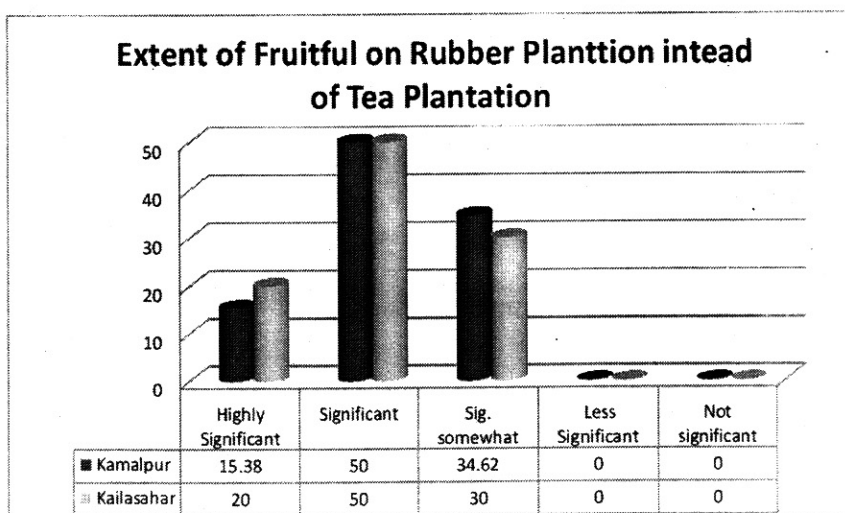
**Table 14: Rubber plantation is more fruitful than Tea**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar    | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Yes                         | 26<br>(86.67) | 30<br>(93.75) | 56<br>(90.32) |
| No                          | 4<br>(13.33)  | 2<br>(6.25)   | 6<br>(9.68)   |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)   | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

About 90.32 percent respondents considered rubber plantation was more fruitful than tea plantation while the percentage more or less same in both sub-divisions.

**Figure : 2**



**Table 15: Various option for utilization of land**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar   | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rubber                      | 10<br>(33.33) | 2<br>(6.25)  | 12<br>(19.35) |
| Jhum                        | 6<br>(20)     | 28<br>(87.5) | 34<br>(54.84) |
| Tea                         | 2<br>(6.67)   | 2<br>(6.25)  | 4<br>(6.45)   |
| Nothing                     | 12<br>(40)    | 0            | 12<br>(19.35) |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)  | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

If the government could not provide the loan then majority of the beneficiaries wanted to do either Jhum cultivation (54.83%) or Rubber (19.35%) as 61.29 percent beneficiaries replied that Jhum was more suitable for that land while only 9.68 percent thought that Tea was suitable for that land.

**Table 16: Other occupation of Beneficiaries along with Tea Plantation**

| Sub-division<br>Particulars | Kamalpur      | Kailasahar   | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Yes                         | 28<br>(93.33) | 28<br>(87.5) | 56<br>(90.33) |
| No                          | 2<br>(6.67)   | 4<br>(12.5)  | 6<br>(9.67)   |
| Total                       | 30<br>(100)   | 32<br>(100)  | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

The survey clears that maximum (90.33 %) beneficiaries look for other occupation along tea plantation for their livelihood as product cycle for tea plantation was more than 5 years.

### **PART III: TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE REGARDING TEA PLANTATION**

Nobody used high yielding variety in their tea garden in both the sub-division and also nobody kept the land fallow after Tea plantation.

**Table 17 : Awareness regarding duration of fallow in tea plantation**

| <b>Sub-division<br/>Particulars</b> | <b>Kamalpur</b> | <b>Kailasahar</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Yes</b>                          | 4<br>(13.33)    | 30<br>(93.75)     | 34<br>(54.84) |
| <b>No</b>                           | 26<br>(86.67)   | 2<br>(6.25)       | 28<br>(45.16) |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 30<br>(100)     | 32<br>(100)       | 62<br>(100)   |

Source: Field survey, 2014

Only 54.84 percent respondent agreed that they knew the minimum duration of land fallow in tea plantation.

**Table 18 : Used Fertilizer in the Tea Garden**

| <b>Sub-division<br/>Particulars</b> | <b>Kamalpur</b> | <b>Kailasahar</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Yes</b>                          | 16<br>(53.33)   | 30<br>(93.75)     | 46<br>(74.19) |
| <b>No</b>                           | 14<br>(46.67)   | 2<br>(6.25)       | 16<br>(25.81) |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 30<br>(100)     | 32<br>(100)       | 62<br>(100)   |

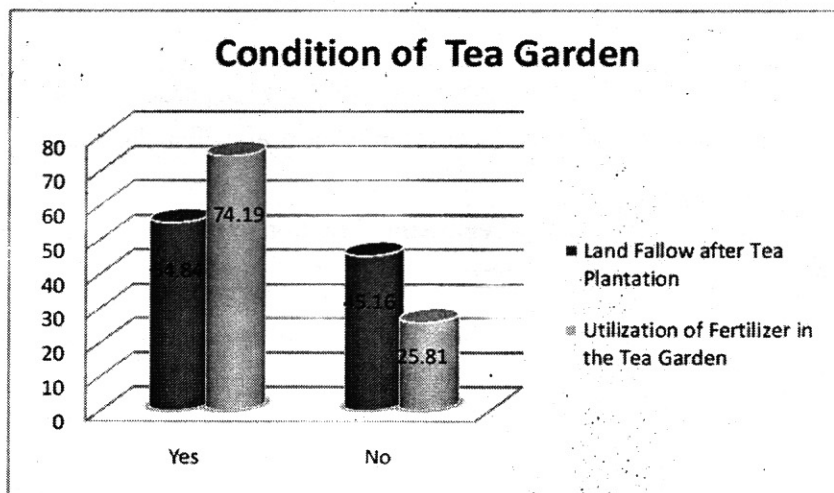
Source: Field survey, 2014



### *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

74.19 percent population of both the sub-divisions used fertilizer in tea plantation while the percentage was more in Kailasahar sub-division.

**Figure : 3**



**Table 19 : Statement related to Participation**

| Statement   | Level of agreement |               |               |               | Total       |
|---|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|   | SA                 | A             | DA            | SD            |             |
| Belong to Tea plantation family                               | 2<br>(3.23)        | 2<br>(3.23)   | 4<br>(6.45)   | 54<br>(87.09) | 62<br>(100) |
| Previous knowledge regarding Tea plantation                   | 6<br>(9.68)        | 22<br>(35.48) | 4<br>(6.45)   | 30<br>(48.39) | 62<br>(100) |
| Cultivation through machine                                   | 0                  | 0             | 8<br>(12.90)  | 54<br>(87.10) | 62<br>(100) |
| Tea plantation play a vital role in socio economic supplement | 4<br>(6.45)        | 58<br>(93.55) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Topography plays a vital role in tea plantation               | 12<br>(19.35)      | 50<br>(80.65) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Hill terrain should have some different plantation technique  | 28<br>(45.16)      | 34<br>(54.84) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| It's difficult to plantation in hill                          | 26<br>(41.94)      | 18<br>(29.03) | 18<br>(29.03) | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Knowledge in hill plantation                                  | 12<br>(19.35)      | 48<br>(77.42) | 2<br>(3.23)   | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Tea plantation can add value to socio economic life           | 4<br>(6.45)        | 58<br>(93.55) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Tea has a good future prospect                                | 2<br>(3.23)        | 60<br>(96.77) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Women should participate more                                 | 12<br>(19.36)      | 42<br>(67.74) | 8<br>(12.90)  | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Alternative livelihood is better than tea plantation          | 26<br>(41.94)      | 36<br>(58.06) | 0             | 0             | 62<br>(100) |
| Skill Training is necessary                                   | 6<br>(9.68)        | 54<br>(87.09) | 2<br>(3.23)   | 0             | 62<br>(100) |

*Source: Field survey, 2014*

SA- Strongly Agreed; A- Agreed; DA-Disagreed and SD-Strongly Agreed

- Overall level of extent in various factors of participation was average.

### *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

In case of belonging to tea plantation family and previous knowledge of tea plantation, maximum beneficiary was agreed with average level of agreement.

- Most of the beneficiaries did not have any cultivated machine.
- Only 6.45 percent beneficiary strongly agreed that tea plantation was playing a vital role in socio-economic supplement.
- Almost 45.16 percent beneficiary strongly agreed that hill terrain should have some different plantation technique and it was difficult to plantation in hill.
- 67.14 percent beneficiary think that women should participate more
- Almost all the beneficiary wanted that awareness program as they found it as useful.

**Table 20 : Decision-making of men and women in different activities**

| <b>Subdivision<br/>Particulars</b>                     | <b>Kamalpur</b> |               | <b>Kailasahar</b> |               |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|  | <b>Male</b>     | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>       | <b>Female</b> |
| Applying for allotment of land                         | 22<br>(73.33)   | 8<br>(26.67)  | 20<br>(62.5)      | 12<br>(37.5)  |
| Submit the documentation                               | 24<br>(80)      | 6<br>(20)     | 10<br>(31.25)     | 22<br>(68.75) |
| Receiving loans from govt. departments, banks and NGOs | 28<br>(93.33)   | 2<br>(6.67)   | 22<br>(68.75)     | 10<br>(31.25) |
| Receiving training from different organization         | 0               | 0             | 16<br>(50)        | 16<br>(50)    |
| Participating in group meeting/training                | 18<br>(60)      | 12<br>(40)    | 12<br>(37.5)      | 20<br>(62.5)  |

Source: Field survey, 2014

- The table describes about various kind of decision making capabilities among men and women in different activities related to tea plantation which reveals that 73.33 percent of male beneficiaries in Kamalpur sub-division

applied for allotment of land while only 26.67 percent women were part of this but in Kailasahar sub-division the percentage of female was more in comparison to Kamalpur sub-division.

- In case of submission of documents percentage of female was more in Kailasahar compared to Kamalpur sub-division
- Only beneficiary of Kailasahar sub-division had the training facilities and the percentage of male female was merely same
- Male members mostly participated (93.33% in Kamalpur and 68.75 % in Kailasahar) in loan and bank related issues.
- In group meeting the female participation was more in both the sub-division in comparison to male members.

### **PART III : IMPACT OF TEA PLANTATION ON LIVELIHOOD**

**Table 21 : Financial Capital**

| Sl. No. | Financial Capital                     | Kamalpur    |          | Kailasahar   |        |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------|
|         |                                       | Before      | After    | Before       | After  |
| 1       | Avg. Monthly Personal Income (in Rs.) | 3066.667    | 3966.367 | 1631.25      | 3250   |
|         | Change (in Rs.)                       | Rs. 899.7   |          | Rs. 1618.75  |        |
| 2       | Avg Monthly Family Income (in Rs.)    | 5466.667    | 6500     | 2055.625     | 4992.5 |
|         | Change (in Rs.)                       | Rs. 1033.33 |          | Rs. 2936.875 |        |
| 3       | Avg Saving in banks                   | 146.667     | 200      | 0            | 0      |
|         | Change (in Rs.)                       | 53.33       |          | 0            |        |

Source : Field Survey Data 2014

### *Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

The above table 20 represents the change of financial capital of the beneficiary. The change represented here through comparison of the status of the beneficiary before and after Tea plantation.

In Kamalpur the change of average monthly income was around Rs. 900/- which increased to some extent while in Kailasahar change of average monthly income was Rs. 1618.75. In case of average monthly family income, change was more in Kailasahar as compare to Kamalpur sub-division. No change was found for average savings in Kailasahar. In Kamalpur average monthly family income increased about Rs.1033 and bank savings had also increased by Rs.53.

**Table 22 : Physical Capital**

| Physical Capital           | Kamalpur |       | Kailasahar |       |
|----------------------------|----------|-------|------------|-------|
|                            | Before   | After | Before     | After |
| Agri. Equipment            | 0        | 1     | 0          | 6     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 100%     |       | 600%       |       |
| Non-Agricultural Equipment | 0        | 0     | 0          | 0     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 0        |       | 0          |       |
| Any other                  |          |       |            |       |
| Cows (Number)              | 0        | 3     | 4          | 6     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 300%     |       | 150%       |       |
| Goats (Number)             | 0        | 8     | 4          | 6     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 800%     |       | 50%        |       |
| Poultry(Number)            | 0        | 8     | 8          | 10    |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 800%     |       | 25%        |       |
| Fishery(Number)            | 0        | 0     | 0          | 0     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 0        |       | 0          |       |
| Duckery (Number)           | 0        | 10    | 0          | 0     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 10       |       | 0          |       |
| Piggery(Number)            | 0        | 4     | 1          | 4     |
| <b>Change (%)</b>          | 400%     |       | 300%       |       |

Source : Field Survey Data 2014

In Kamalpur and Kailasahar sub-division average number of agricultural equipment was increased very less but in case of non-agricultural equipment there was no change. In Kamalpur number of cows, goats, poultry, pigs and ducks seemed to be increased as compared to Kailasahar.

**Table 23 : Entertainment material**

| Number         | Kamalpur    |               | Kailasahar   |               |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                | Before      | After         | Before       | After         |
| DTH (Dish T.V) | 2<br>(6.67) | 9<br>(30)     | 0            | 8<br>(25)     |
| Change (%)     | 350 %       |               | 800 %        |               |
| TV             | 3<br>(10)   | 11<br>(36.67) | 7<br>(21.87) | 11<br>(34.37) |
| Change (%)     | 266 %       |               | 57 %         |               |

Source: Field Survey Data 2014

The above table represents the entertainment material of the beneficiary before and after tea plantation. In both the sub-division average number of dish and TV were increased after availing loan facility as compared to previous situation.

**Table 24 : Social Status of the beneficiary**

| Subdivision   | Kamalpur<br>Number of<br>Respondents &<br>Percentage |               | Kailasahar<br>Number of<br>Respondents &<br>Percentage |               |
|---------------|--|---------------|--|---------------|
|               | Before   | After         | Before   | After         |
| Outside home  | 7<br>(23.33)   | 12<br>(40)    | 9<br>(28.13)   | 17<br>(53.13) |
| Change (in %) | 16.67 %  |               | 25 %   |               |
| At home       | 8<br>(26.67)   | 15<br>(50)    | 12<br>(37.5)   | 23<br>(71.88) |
| Change (in %) | 23.33 %  |               | 34.38  |               |
| In peer group | 12<br>(40)   | 19<br>(63.33) | 11<br>(34.38)  | 15<br>(46.88) |
| Change (in %) | 23.33 %  |               | 12.5 %   |               |

Source: Field Survey Data 2014

*Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

Social status of the beneficiaries had also increased more compare to before in both the sub-divisions.

---

## PROBLEMS & RECOMMENDATION

**Issue 1 : Lack of knowledge regarding tea plantation:** Beneficiaries had less knowledge regarding tea plantation and beneficiaries of Kamalpur sub-division did not availed any kind of training program.

**Recommendation :** Providing more training programs regarding tea plantation for reducing the problem and increasing the knowledge of beneficiary is required.

**Issue 2 : Registration of Land:** The land area for tea plantation was not fully registered in some sub-division.

**Recommendation :** If possible initiative should be taken for registering the whole land of each beneficiary. Proper land record will help during allocation of new beneficiaries.

**Issue 3 : Improper Irrigation and drainage facility in tea garden:** In tea garden they did not maintain proper irrigation and drainage facility as per the guideline. Without this proper care of garden is not possible.

**Recommendation :** Agriculture department should come forward to solve this problem. SDMs need to discuss the same with Agriculture department and monitor the progress.

**Issue 4 : Improper and insufficient facility :** The amount of loan is not sufficient.



*Tribal Livelihood through Tea Plantation*

**Recommendation :** Loan has to be sanctioned to all the beneficiaries under Tea plantation scheme and not only for BPL households. Further loan amount need to be increased.

**Issue 5 : Lack of awareness :** People were not aware about the tea plantation and its procedures and as a consequence other non-beneficiaries don't even think for new plantation and replantation.

**Recommendation:** Arranging extension programme for villagers is necessary.

**Issue 6 : Insufficient use of fertilizers in the tea garden :** As few farmers were not using any kind of fertilizer in their land for that proper growth also not possible.

**Recommendation :** Agriculture department should provide fertilizers to the beneficiaries to overcome this situation.

**Issue 7 : Time consuming Process:** The whole procedure takes time and also the time differs from process to process. Various processes are there for tea plantation. For collecting the final product or matured green leaf, the beneficiaries have to wait for minimum five years.

**Recommendation :** If possible replantation of high yielding variety is necessary. Alternative household based livelihood sources need to be created. In this regard, proper plan should be made in collaboration with Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission implemented by Rural Development Department.

**Reference:**

1. Greenpeace India (2014), Available at url: <http://www.greenpeace.org/india/Global/india/image/2014/cocktail/download/TroubleBrewing.pdf> . Accessed on 10.08.2014.
  2. Tea Board of India. Available at url: [http://www.teaboard.gov.in/pdf/PPF\\_press\\_note.pdf](http://www.teaboard.gov.in/pdf/PPF_press_note.pdf). Accessed on 12.09.2014.
  3. Majumder.A, Bera.B and Rajan. A (2015), Tea Statistics: Global Scenario. Available at url: [http://www.teaboard.gov.in/pdf/Tea %20Statistics % 20Global % 20Scenario.pdf](http://www.teaboard.gov.in/pdf/Tea%20Statistics%20Global%20Scenario.pdf). Accessed on 13.09.2014.
  4. Datta, N. (2009), Women Labourer in Tripura Tea Estate : A Survey on "Arthasamajik Abasthan". Tripura Mahila Commission, Agartala.
-

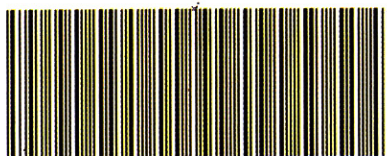
### About the Tribal Research and Cultural Institute

Tribal Research and Cultural Institute was established under Tribal Welfare Department in the year 1970 as per decision of Government of Tripura for launching studies on the socio-economic aspect of the Different Tribes of Tripura besides evaluation of all development schemes taken up for the benefits of the tribes. This institute deals in fundamental and applied research works on the socio-economic field, evaluation, documentation of Tribal Art and Culture, preservation of tribal heritage, publication of research studies. Tribal Research and Cultural Institute collects manuscripts on tribal history and tradition, development of languages of different tribes etc. In addition, this Institute is also engaged for organizing seminar, workshop on different aspects of tribal development of issues along with training programme for the field level officers

### About the Authors

Dr. Jayanta Choudhury working as Assistant Professor (Rural Management & Development) and Coordinator, Center for Rural Studies, Tripura University. He obtained his Master and Ph.D. in Rural Development from Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal. His area of interests includes Project/Programme management, Self-Help Group/Micro Finance, Local Self-Government and Inclusive Rural Development.

ISBN: 978-93-86707-09-3  
Price: Rs.40/-



978-93-86707-09-3