



To minimize the thrust of tea planters in Chittagong valley, a sub-station of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute was established at Fatickchari; Chittagong in 1968. The sub-station was founded with a view to serve the tea estates of Chittagong zone with the following objectives-

- # Conducting regional trial of BTRI released innovation to improve the quality and quantity of tea.
- # Supplying improved planting materials i.e. fresh cuttings, rooted cuttings, biclonal tea seeds, bi/polyclonal seedlings/saplings etc. to different tea estates of Chittagong valley.
- # Organizing annual course, workshops on different aspects of tea culture (i.e. pruning, tipping, plucking, pest management) as well as tea tasting programme for tea personnels.
- # Providing technical and technological supports to the tea planters of Chittagong region.
- # Motivating planters to establish their own NCP (Nucleus Clone Plot).
- # Rendering advisory visits to different tea estates of Chittagong.

FUTURE THURST AREA:

1. Establishing a soil & fertilizer analytical laboratory in Fatickchari sub-station to fulfill the demand of entrepreneur of tea gardens and small holders in greater Chittagong and Chittagong Hill tracts.
2. Extending the new plantation and nursery area in Fatickchari sub-station.

PRESENT OFFICE STAFFS

1. Ashim Kumar Saha; Senior Scientific Officer (Soil Science) & Officer In-charge.
2. Raihan Mujib Himel, Scientific Officer (Plant Pathology)
3. Ajit Chandra Chowdhury; Senior Farm Assistant.

Total Labor Forces-23 (Male-8, Female-9; Permanent-17 & Temporary-6)

LAND USE INFORMATION

The sub-station stands on a total granted area of 40.48 ha (100 acre). About 20.0 ha area is under productive tea distributed to 11 sections and 3.23 ha belong to immature tea. The average yield of made tea in this sub-station is near about 1500 kg/ha. Every year a notable amount of biclonal tea seed is supplied to different tea estates of Chittagong from its seedbari. The seedbari has enriched the sub-station. There is a nursery of 1 ha area having capacity of producing 3 lakh tea seedlings. The nursery contains a remarkable number of improved planting materials. A germplasm plot (tea gene bank) that serves as genetic source for tea hybridization purpose also increases the importance of this sub-station. A medicinal hotspot, containing various rare and threatened plant species i.e. Neem, Horitoki, Bohera, Amloki, Nisinda, Sharpagandha is also present here. Several fruit and flower species like, Mango, Litchi, Sweet Tamarind, Guava, Custard apple, Wood apple, Royal Poinciana, Giant crape-myrtle, Cherry flower, Bur flower, Tail grape, Tejpata, Bastard teak, Golden shower etc. have increased the aesthetic beauty of office premises. The remaining area is occupied by office building, bungalow, roads, ponds, forest, fallow lands and others.

ON GOING EXPERIMENT

Trial of two new varieties of tea, which are being supposed to be tolerant to drought, is going on. Data collection and observation is going on regular basis.

Flora is a nitro-benzene based hormonal medicine which helps to enhance the plant growth and yield as well. An experiment is going on to determinate the effect of flora on the growth, development and yield of mature clonal tea. Interval spray and data collection is going on regular basis.

Vermicompost is a very rich organic fertilizer for proper growth of tea plant and development of soil health as well. A vermicompost production unit preparation is going on at BTRI sub-station, Fatickchari.

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS

Since 1968, the BTRI sub-station is operating for the welfare of tea lovers by supplying different planting materials like fresh cuttings, rooted cuttings, biclonal seeds, green leaves etc. to the tea estates in Chittagong circle those are currently engaged in producing a cup of tea. The sub-station has wider potentiality because of its geographic location. But labor shortage, inadequate irrigation facility and transport problem sometimes creates an obstacle and consequently prolongs drought results unexpected yield gap.



Fig: Plantation at road side of tea section



Fig: Development of new nursery is under processing



Fig: Tea Extension program at Fatickchari sub-station