

Bangladesh Tea Research Institute

Fatickchari Substation, Chittagong



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.

LAND USE INFORMATION

The sub-station stands on a total granted area of 40.48 ha (100 acre). About 13.93 ha area is under productive tea distributed to 8 sections and 7.25 ha belong to immature tea. The average yield of this sub-station is near about 3000kg/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 0.5ha. 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 is also present here. The remaining area is occupied by office building, bungalow, roads, ponds, forest, fallow lands and others.

ON GOING EXPERIMENT

Tea planters of different estates often query about seed size. They want to avoid the small seeds as believe these produce weak seedlings. So, they have a unique faith that only the weighty and comparatively large sized seeds can produce vigor seedlings ultimately have high survivability in the field. Considering this fact, an investigation was designed to find out this reality with entitled "Effect of seed size and weight on growth pattern of tea seedlings." Seeds of different size are classified into three groups namely- large (>2" diameter and 20.3g average weight), medium (>1.5" diameter and 12.5g average weight) and small (<1.5" diameter and 5.8g average weight). After germination in sand bed, these (20 seeds from each) are sown in nursery tea soil using 5" X 7" polybag (0.04mm). Each of the categories is replicated three times. Data are being noted. The observation is going on.

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 and polyclonal 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 hydrological performance sometimes creates an obstacle and consequently prolongs drought results unexpected yield gap.

PRESENT OFFICE STAFFS

1. Md. Abul Kashem; Scientific Officer (Botany) & Officer In-charge
2. Ajit Chandra Chowdhury; Senior Farm Assistant

Total Labor Forces-22 (Male-9, Female-13; Permanent-21 & Temporary-1)