

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION



Phone: 2210-2474/75
Fax: 91(033) 2243-4301
Email: ita@indiatea.org
Website: www.indiatea.org

ROYAL EXCHANGE
6 NETAJI SUBHAS ROAD
KOLKATA 700 001

PRESS RELEASE

Adverse Weather Conditions affect Tea Production

The Tea production for the second year in succession is under severe stress due to adverse weather conditions resulting in droughty and dry spells prevailing across most tea areas of Assam and West Bengal. This phenomenon was visible in early 2014 resulting in Indian Tea production closing at a shortfall of 15 mkg lower in 2014 as compared to the previous year. The production in Assam Valley had been severely affected with Assam production in 2014 declining by 35 million kgs below the previous year i.e. 2013.

The rainfall records available for the period from January mid March 2015 reflect significant shortfall compared to 2014, which was a rainfall deficient year, as would be evident from the data reproduced below :

Districts		Rainfall Status 2014 compared to 2013 (% +/-) (Jan – March)	Rainfall Status 2015 compared to 2014 (% +/-) (Jan – Mid March)
LOWER ASSAM	(Sonari, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nazira, Nagaon, North Lakhimpur, Borsola, Mangaldai, Tezpur)	(-) 39%	(-) 50%
CACHAR		(+) 54%	(-) 59%
TERAI	(Siliguri Sub Division of Darjeeling District)	(-) 40%	(-) 60%
DOOARS	(Nagrakata, Binnaguri, Kalchini, Jainti, Dam Dim, Chalsa)	(-) 35%	(-) 19%
UPPER ASSAM	(Margherita, Doom Dooma, Naharkatia, Tingri, Panitola, Dibrugarh, Moran)	(-) 49%	(+) 30% i.e. (-) 19% below 2013

The situation in lower Assam covering the districts of Jorhat, Golaghat, Sonari, Sonitpur are reported to be grave as per the Tea Research Association meteorological data available till date. The rainfall deficit in Cachar region is estimated at 59% below last year.

As per estimates production for the period January to mid March 2015 would decline by approximately **5.85 mkg** as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The region-wise shortfall is estimated as follows :

Regions	Production (+/-) Mkgs	Production (+/- %)
Assam Valley	(-) 1.62	(-) 10%
Cachar	(-) 0.59	(-) 45%
Dooars	(-) 0.49	(-) 4%
Terai	(-) 3.15	(-) 26%
Total	(-) 5.85	

The present growing conditions characterized by deficient / inadequately distributed rainfall, high mean temperature and severe pest infestation would lead to significant decline in output and increase in cost of production adversely impacting turnover and operating margins.

KOLKATA

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