

DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY

PLANTATION MANAGERS WORKSHOP

STAKEHOLDER GROUP: Large tea plantations contribute about 70% of the total tea produced in Assam. Assam produces more than 50% of the total tea produced in India and the large plantations of Assam are the major contributors to the India's share of more than 12% of total tea exported from major tea growing countries of the world. Large plantation owners are therefore an important stakeholder in the tea landscape of Assam. The major players are *Amalgamated Plantations, Andrew Yule, Apeejay Group, Assam Company India Limited, Goodricke, Jayshree Tea and Industries, Mcleod Russel* and several other companies.

PARTICIPANTS: The workshop was held with large plantation managers, deputy managers and assistant managers of three primary tea growing regions of Assam. A total of 48 large plantation managers participated in the workshop. There was no participation from Cachar region due to logistical reasons.

Date	Tea Growing Region	Location	No. of participants
7 th Jan 2015	South Bank, North Bank & Upper Assam	Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	48

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: The workshop commenced with an introductory session by the project PIs from University of Southampton, UK and Tocklai Tea Research Institute followed by a written survey in a predesigned questionnaire. Questions were designed to gather information on practices of the large plantation, tea production and social programmes run by these companies. Subsequent to the initial survey, the Project PI, India presented an overview on *Climate-Smart Agriculture in Tea* while the Project PI, UK presented on *Tea as a Sustainable Landscape*. The presentations were followed by discussion regarding environmental issues faced by plantation managers, such as pest attacks, water requirements and climate change factors. One of the researchers of the project, Dr John Duncan presented an overview of the application of panel-based statistical models in analyzing productivity of wheat crop in India. A modified version of the same model is likely to be used in this project. The workshop concluded with a follow-up survey which asked participants to reflect upon the presentation content and the likely impact on the information on affecting their plantation management practices.

PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK: Participants appreciated the project objectives and commented that smart agriculture is valuable under changing environmental conditions. They inquired about the deliverables especially the decision support system (DSS) and how they are likely to benefit. The participants also inquired about the time frame of delivery of the DSS, training and awareness campaigns on sustainability and climate resilient livelihood we are likely to carry out for their work force.

Ethical approval was granted to conduct this research by the University of Southampton Ethics and Research Governance Office: Ethics ID 11950