PREFACE

Tea is a non alcoholic popular second largest drink after water consume by people of most of the countries. Due to chemical composition of tea, it is also consider as health drink which can reduce stress and boost energy. Due to favourable weather and soil condition, tea grows in the different states of India including Assam. Commercial tea production in India was started by British in the state of Assam in 1837 and then tea cultivation started in other states. At present, India is the second largest tea producing countries in the world and Assam produce more than half of the annual tea production of India. Tea plantation and production have significant contribution towards the economy of the state of Assam. A large section of people of the state is directly or indirectly associated with this business. The industry also minimise unemployment problem of the state where more than ten lakhs workers are engaged. Unemployed youth of the state are also engaged in tea production as small tea growers which contribute more the twenty seven percent of total tea production of the state. Growth of tea production of the state became stagnant since last two decades. Most of the big tea companies have been withdrawing their plantation operation in the state which is an alarming factor.

The study is an attempt in this direction and has coached in six chapters. The chapter-1, *"Introduction",* being introductory drawn the entire skeleton of the study highlighted objectives, methodology and hypothesis of the study. Chapter -2, *"Review of Literature"*, an overview of different research studies in this area. Global tea production, global tea export, Indian tea production and export, state wise tea production, tea production in Assam, tea auction in Guwahati Tea Auction centre were examined in the chapter-3 *" present scenario of tea production in Assam"*. *"Implication of small tea growers on tea production in Assam"* titled chapter – 4 has been briefed the contribution of small tea growers on the total tea production of the state. The chapter-5, *"Analysis of Data",* is the detail analysis of primary data collected from the sample tea estates. The chapter divided in to three sections namely *section-I,* detail analysis of the policies of tea board of India implemented by

the tea estates of Assam. Chi-square test carried out by using statistical software SPSS to find the implementation status. *Section – II* comprises the factors affecting tea production in Assam. Factor analysis was performed to reduce the number of variables. The productivity model for tea production in Assam has been developed in *Section -III*. The relationship between total productivity and partial productivity established by using the statistical software MINITAB -18. Chapter – 6, *"Findings and recommendations"* tinted with summery of all chapters, major findings, hypothesis verification and recommendations. The thesis ended with the relevant Bibliography, appendix, published papers and photo gallery.

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