

## **Abstract**

**Topic:** Study of Small Tea Growers: A Case of Sonitpur District of Assam

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Tea is the most widely consumed drink in the world. It is an agro – based labour intensive industry. India occupies a very prominent place in the national economy well indicated by providing second largest employment after Indian railway in the world. Assam is the world’s largest tea growing state. Moreover, Assam alone produces more than 50% of the total tea production of the country. Though tea industry of Assam is more than 180 years old by now but cultivation of tea on a small scale is a recent development in Assam. It started here in the year 1978. Presently, small tea cultivation has become an important segment of tea industry of Assam. Cultivation of tea on a small scale by small tea growers also plays an important role in the economy of the country providing the employment opportunities generated by it.

During the last four decades it has gained much popularity in the tea growing districts of Assam. Gradually, it has been expanding to other districts of Assam as well as neighbouring states. Now small tea growers of Assam have produce about 17% of the total production of Indian tea and about 29% of total production of Assam tea. The small tea growers of Asam plays an important role in providing employment to a large number of unemployed youth of the state as well as contributing in the state’s economy. Many research studies have been carried out on Tea Industry taking different disciplines around the world into consideration but very little contributions were being made on small tea cultivation in Assam. In view of the above, the present study is taken up to highlight real cause and consequences of taking up tea cultivation as an

alternative to agriculture and reason for transition. On the basis of the study, a few suggestions have been put forward to draw the attention of the Government and the concerned authorities.

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Dr. Safiqul Haque