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Objectives & Scope of study

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The objectives of the research study include:

a) Screening of four lepidopteran species of tea pests for bacterial pathogens.

The pest species will include:

(i) loopers (*Buzura suppressaria* and *Hyposidra talaca*),

(ii) red slug caterpillars (*Eterusia magnifica*) and

(iii) leaf rollers (*Caloptilia theivora*)

occurring in the plantations of Darjeeling foothills and its adjoining plains (Terai and the Dooars).

b) Isolation and preliminary characterization of the bacterial entomopathogens.

c) Bioassay of the bacterial pathogens to find their value as biocontrol agents against target tea pests.

d) Determining the cross-infectivity of the bacterial isolates to other lepidopteran pests and to the beneficial insect, silk worm.