

3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF STUDY

(i) To develop stage-specific identification keys for the geometrid species of tea and their developmental stages with description of looper and other stages

(ii) To find out the major hydrolases and defense enzymes present in the digestive system of loopers

(iii) To design and develop artificial/ synthetic diet for rearing the looper stages of common geometrid species

(iv) To evaluate the food utilization efficiencies and developmental traits on natural and synthetic diets

(v) To standardize laboratory culture technique for the geometrid species on synthetic diets.