

Chapter-3

History and growth of Tea Gardens

3.0 Introduction: Tea Industry is the oldest agro-based and well-organized industries take a significant role in the India economy (Kerketta, 2015). Where more than one million people get the opportunity to be employed directly and two million people employed in the tea industry indirectly where around 50 per cent employee are women. Where workers and their families live within Tea gardens, they are employed and get the benefit of food, health care and education (Selvakumar & Jeyaselvam, 2012; Datta, 2017; Kamath & Ramanathan, 2017). Due to employment opportunity, it has a plentiful potential in the domestic and international market. So the government should be given duly attention to flourish off the tea gardens peoples (Shah, 2013). Since India is the second-largest producer of tea. There are 16 tea producing states in India among them Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala occupying 96 per cent of the total tea production and 78 per cent area of tea plantation located in North East India. The tea of Darjeeling, Assam and Nilgiris possess their distinctive quality due to certain specific soil and climatic conditions (Arya, 2013). As per Tea Board of India, India produced tea 1233.14 million kilograms in 2015-16 where Assam and North Bengal contribute near about 52 per cent and 26 per cent of total tea production (Mitra, 2003). On the other hand, India contributes 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the total tea export and more than 10 per cent of India's earning exchange. So, in respect of exports, income and employment, the tea industry has a significant contribution to the Indian economy (Mishra et al., 2012). The history of tea plantation is long back in India. The first tea plantations were developed in Assam in 1821. Initially, Due to some severe climatic conditions, it was not ahead with success. Yet tea plantation in Assam went ahead by British colonial government at early nineteen century. So experimentally first tea plantation developed in 1835 by the colonial government at Lakhimpur of Assam state. Gradually plantation spread out in favourable climatic areas of North East India. In the beginning, slowly it was developed but found a rapid growth when tea plantations were governed by private enterprises in 1859 (Bhadra, 1997). In West Bengal (especially North Bengal) the tea plantation developed in Darjeeling hills, Terai, Dooars. In the hilly tract of Darjeeling, the first Alubari tea garden was opened in 1856 by Darjeeling Tea Company. In the Terai region of Darjeeling district, the first tea gardens named Chamta was developed in 1862 near Khaprail. Whereas the tea gardens developed in western Dooars at Gazoldoba in 1874. It also reported that within 1866, 39 tea plantations were developed shares about 10000 acres of land (Bhadra, 1992) .

The present chapter deals with the history and growth of tea plantation. Precisely this chapter focused to the origin and gradual development of tea plantation in India, the favourable condition for the tea plantation, the tea industry history in West Bengal and its gradual development in Darjeeling hill, Dooars and Terai, the process of recruitment of labours and immigration of labours in tea plantation. The causes behind labour migration and migrated labour compositions in tea plantation.

3.1 The Journey of Tea Plantation history in India: Tea Industry is an oldest organised industry in India which ensures the largest employment opportunity India is the largest producer of tea (approximately 790 million Kg per year) which contributes around 30 per cent of tea production in the world (Tea Board, 2004). India also the largest consumer of tea in the World, among the four largest tea producing country (i.e. India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Keniya) India exports the least amount of tea in the world. So, in this context, it is essential to know about the history of the tea industry in India. So, Assam is very important which shows the first potentiality of tea growing in 1824 by Robert Bruce and expanded rapidly in colonial periods. Among four tea producing states (Assam, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Kerala) Assam shares 52 per cent production of tea and 56 per cent employment (Mishra et al., 2012). It was reported that experimentally the tea plants were cultivated in Assam in 1834 under the supervision of Governor Lord William Bentinck and framed up a Tea Committee on 1st February 1834. Before the formation of tea committee, a report was prepared by Captain F. Jenkins, on economic potentialities of Assam in 1832 and sent some seeds and leaves of tea plants of Assam (*Camellia Assamica*) and also reported the possibilities of its commercial success. As a pioneer, latter F. Jenkins and Charlton were highly praised by Tea committee (Ghosh, 1987). In early of 1834, Lord William Bentick, the Governor-general of India expressed much doubt about indigenous tea plant in Assam which was discovered by Robert Bruce (1823) and Scot (1824). Tea Committee was formed to search for suitable land for growing tea brush. The secretary of tea culture committee (Mr Gordon) brought tea seeds and saplings and planted in some tea plantation (i.e. Jaipur and Chabuwa of Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh district of Assam). Latter C.A Bruce became superintendents of tea culture in Assam and tea was produced and delivered to England (1838) even sold in Calcutta (1841).

Tea plantation was abruptly developed after 1853 because British investors and entrepreneurs and personnel (retired governments' officials, army officials and bankers)

were inclined to establish tea plantation Although initially they faced financial constraints yet some tea industry gradually flourished and controlled by managing agencies and a general policy was laid down for flourishing the job opportunities (Phukan, 1984; Singh et al., 2006). The tea was produced with a satisfactory quality in Kumaons in 1841 and shows the first trial of tea in Darjeeling with quite a success in 1841 (Ghosh, 1987).

Table 3.1: Some important events in Tea history

Year	Events Characterisation
2737 B.C	Tea discovered by Chinese Emperor named Shen Nung
350 AD	The word 'Tea' first found in Chinese dictionary by Erha Ya
1657	Tea first sold as Health beverage in London at Garway's Coffee House
1669	East India Company monopolizes British tea import
1717	First Tea shop set up in London by Thomas Twining
1773	The Boston Tea Party introduced a protest against the British Tea Taxes
1776	England sent the first Opium shipment to China where the Opium addiction in China funded the escalating demand for tea in England
1833	The East India Company loses its monopoly in trade with China (Act of British Prime Minister Charles Grey)
1835	The East India Company established experimental tea Plantation in Assam, India
1838	A small amount of Indian tea sent to England was consumed due to its Novelty
1856	Tea was planted in many areas of Darjeeling
1857	Tea plantation were started in Ceylon
1869	A deadly fungus wiped out the coffee crop in Ceylon and shift the preferences from coffee to Tea
1870	Twining of England began to blend tea for consistency
1876	Glasgow grocer, Thomas Lipton opens his first tea shop
1853	World's first instant tea is introduced

Source: Manas Das Gupta, Labour in Tea Gardens, 1999

3.2 Development of Tea Industry in India: The tea industry in India includes small and big growers and government plantations (Arya, 2013). The tea industry was developed as an organised industry in the 1860s. The Assam Tea Company first started tea production as a commercial basis in 1840. As a result, the tea plantation was abruptly extended in rest parts of the country due to land-use change where a large area converted into a tea plantation. But statistics of development of tea plantation and Tea Industry not came in the light before 1911 because of the absence of industrial census.

In 1921 the first industrial census was conducted and the total number of tea industries was counted 2034. The states Assam and West Bengal took a leading role for tea industry which comprises 55 per cent (427000 acres) and 25 per cent (193000 acres) land to total coverage (773000 acres) of tea plantation in the sub-continent. Initially in 1853 tea plantation was developed in organised scale in Wynaad, Nilgiris and hilly tract of south India while the tea plantation of the hilly region of West Bengal was developed and successfully started in 1856. But in the hilly tract of Darjeeling foothills, tea plantation was developed in 1862 (Das & Banarjee, 1964). Regarding the development of tea industry in India, the state Assam was a pioneer because its favourable climatic condition and tireless effort of British officials were much important for the development of tea industry in Assam initially (Mitra, 2010; Roy, 2011). The contribution of Dr Wallich was very important for assessing the favourable regions for tea growing. The government selected some tracts for tea plantation and suggested three distinctive regions for tea growing i.e. Himalayan region, Eastern frontiers and Nilgiri and western part of South India. Although the initiative for plantation in south India became a failure. But the signature of success reported in Sub Himalayan region especially the Assam tea plantation. Normally state Assam tea hopefully captured a tea market in Europe entirely. Where January 10, 1839, eight tea boxes were first auctioned in London. There are two companies came into light i.e. Bengal Tea Company in Calcutta and Assam Tea Company in London later they became a single company and reported 5 companies who controlled 167 tea gardens (Appendix- II).

3.3 History of Tea Industry in West Bengal: The history of the tea industry in West Bengal is 200 years old. First tea industry was developed in Darjeeling by English tea planters in 1840. In 1835, Mr Gordon, a Botanist experimentally planted the tea bushes in the hilly tract of Darjeeling whose seeds and seedling brought from China. Later in 1841, Dr Campbell also planted Chinese tea seed at Alubari and Jalpahar but outcomes were not satisfied because of extreme climatic condition in higher altitude (7000 feet). Mr. Cronmelin reported the development of tea gardens in lower elevation also. In 1856, Alubari Tea Garden was opened as a commercial scale by Kerseong and Darjeeling Tea Company. At the end of 1874, 113 tea gardens were developed comprising areas of 18888 acres (Mitra, 2010; Datta, 2017). Due to climatic condition, the tea industry was developed in the Northern part of West Bengal i.e. Darjeeling hill, Terai and Dooars (Gurung & Roy Mukherjee, 2018). Tea industry of West Bengal

comprises 24.80 per cent of the total area and 26.70 per cent of total tea production of India (Tea Board 2015). The Darjeeling tea is top and best due to its unique flavour.

3.4 Growth of Tea industry in West Bengal: District Darjeeling of West Bengal is famous for 3 Ts i.e. Tea, Timber and Tourism and contributes to economic development. It is noteworthy that due to the favourable agro-ecological condition, the tea plantations are developed significantly in North Bengal. Where Dr Ali (2008) has pointed out the agro-ecological condition for tea plants.

Table 3.2: Essential conditions for the growth of Tea Plantation

Specific climatic condition	Requirements
Soil pH	4.5 to 5.5
Ambient Temperature	20-30 degree (Maximum 35 degree
Leaf Temperature	Minimum 21 degree (Maximum 39 degree)
Soil Temperature	Not less than 20 degrees for optimum 25 degree
Length of Day	Not less than 11 hours 15 minutes
Rainfall	1000-1400 mm annually
Relative Humidity	80-90%, below 50% generally shoot growth is inhibited below 40% growth is adversely affected.

Sources: Dr Ali, 2008

The history of the tea industry in West Bengal is long in 1835 when tea seed and seedling were imported to plant in Darjeeling. Commercially, Alubari tea garden was opened in 1856. At that time, the tea gardens named Makaibari, Pandam, Ging, Ambote, Takdawn and Phubsering also developed on the hilly tract of Darjeeling and the plantation also developed in foothill zones of Darjeeling hill named Chamta Tea Garden first developed in Terai near Khaprail by Mr James White in 1862 and gradually developed Tea Gardens in Terai region with great success (Mitra, 2010 & Datta, 2017). While Mr Richard Haughton opened first tea gardens at Gazoldoba of Jalpaiguri district in 1874 in Terai 1862. According to D.H.E. Sunder's Settlement Report, the tea industry introduced in Jalpaiguri district in 1874 were 22 tea gardens lease issued in 1877 and more than 150 tea gardens were developed in 1874-1930 covered an area of 1,39,751 acres because English planters were mostly keen to establish and a few Bangalies also shows their interest in tea plantation (Sarkar, 2013).

According to Tea Statistics 1990-1991, the tea gardens are gradually increased in West Bengal where 296 tea gardens reported in 1951 and it becomes 347 in 1990. Although a negative growth of tea gardens reported in the year 1961-1971 and 1985-1986. Specially in Darjeeling and Dooars the negative growth reported in 1961-1971 in that time the tea gardens in Terai were increased in 47-48 in number. But in the year 1984-1990, the tea not increased in Darjeeling. But in Terai and Dooars reported a gradual increases in tea gardens. Whereas in West Bengal, the areas under cultivation are gradually increased from 1951-1990. But negative growth reported in the year 1961-1971 in Darjeeling. The tea production rapidly increased in the year 1951-1985, where in 1951, the production was 78158 tonnes and it rises in 157371tonnes in 1985 because in all the geographical areas such as Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars, tea production was increased tremendously.

3.5 The history of the Tea Industry in Darjeeling: Darjeeling tea is famous due to its misty mountain climate and loamy soil (Besky, 2014). The tea plantation is started in 1841 but production was not satisfied than another region of India. It is reported that very view tea gardens were developed such as Aluabari tea garden, Pandam tea garden and Steintha tea garden (Hunter reports, 1876). In 1856, huge tea gardens were developed in Darjeeling along with new tea gardens and many were reopened (Which was earlier closed). So, within 4 years (1870-74) the tea gardens were flourished 56 to 113. Behind these, Dr Campbell was a pioneer for planting tea bushes at Darjeeling in 1841 and at upper Tukvar areas (about 2.50 km from Darjeeling). The Steinthal tea garden and Aloobari tea garden were developed by Mr Wernier and Mr Stolke and in 1855 the Makaibari tea garden was developed in Kurseong. Although tea plantation was developed as a commercial scale by 1856. During 1860-1864, tea gardens such as Ging, Ambutia, Takdah and Phuseing were developed commercially by Darjeeling Tea Company. While Tukvar and Badamtam tea gardens were established by Lebong Tea Company. Gradually tea gardens developed in the North-Western, Northern and South-Central part of the district. On another way, tea gardens developed in Terai of Darjeeling named New Chamta tea garden and Matigara tea garden in 1862. 148 tea gardens existed in 1910 whereas 71tea gardens covered an area of 25800 acres reported in Darjeeling Thana, (including Kalimpong hills to the east of Teesta) in 1900-1943, huge cultivate land transformed into plantation where area under tea was maximum in

1943; previously it was 63227 acres on that year total area of lease was 165680 acres (Dasgupta, 1999).

The tea gardens were developed rapidly in Darjeeling district because of no regulation in land and land laws were not applicable, only a wasteland rule, 1859 was enforced in the Darjeeling. Two tenure systems of land existed in the tea gardens: (i) Grant under Old Rules and (ii) Fee simple under New Rules. Previously land tenure rules, there was a provision of 'discretion' in land use was changed and the lands of Nepali farmers was purchased by the Europeans and under a new rule, the grant of wasteland was enforced on 7th May 1859 and auctioned an 'upset prices' of Rs. 10 per acres.

3.6 Migration and Labour forces in Darjeeling Hills: Since West Bengal is the second largest tea producing state in India so tea industries mostly developed in the northern part of West Bengal especially in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. In Darjeeling, tea growing areas developed in hilly tracts and foothills of Darjeeling. The China brushes are planted in a hilly region and Assam tea bushes are planted in the foothills region. Due to agro-based and labour intensive industry, tea industries required huge workforce in factory and plantation fields such as carrying tea leaves in factory, packaging, labelling and in fields- clearances of the thin and sparse jungle, ploughing, levelling and drainage cutting, planting of tea seed and siblings, pruning, weeding, irrigation and herbicides and insecticides sprayings. After the maturity of plants, tea leaves plucked along with two leaves and one bud. For these works, the huge workforce also required in the peak season (Singh et al., 2006). Being the largest organised sector, generally, tea plantation had some essential features like Indentured labour, low wages and isolation (Sharma, 2003). In the tea industry, the requirement of large area and large labour force are important. Although workers who work in tea plantation, they are mostly indentured, low wage earners and isolated (Bhowmik, 2013) because local people were not willing to work in tea plantation because of meagre wages (Bhadra, 1992). Where they earned satisfactory for living and did not willing to leave their independents landholding. As a result, there was an acute labour crisis due to the tremendous growth of tea plantation. Labourers were bought from Bihar (Chotonagpur region), Madhya Pradesh (Raigarh) and Orissa. Although, most of them were tribal communities (Bradra, 1992). But in the hilly tracts, the majority of immigrants were Nepali communities and belong to diverse ethnic group and exotic Nepali-speaking labourers

recruited by British planters in the 1850s across India and Tibet (Besky, 2014). But tea plantation workers of the hilly region of Darjeeling belong to Nepalese origin of Mongoloid known as ‘Gorkhas’ and majority belongs to “Rai” and “Thapa” ethnic groups while a small portion belongs to ‘Chettris’ upper caste (Datta, 2017). It was also reported a havoc change in demography in Darjeeling hilly tracts with the rapid growth of tea gardens. So, a tremendous change in social, economic and political among tea gardens workers also reported. The entire hilly tracts of Darjeeling were covered in the forest and British occupied Darjeeling hills in 1835. Where Mr L.S.S.O Mailley reported that the whole tract comprises 138 square miles with 100 souls’. Latter in 1869, a ‘rough census’ was conducted in Darjeeling hill areas counted a population of 22000 persons that indicated a huge jump of the population in 1835 to 1869. Where 1869 to 1901, the Nepali population increased by eight times and during the 1951 census, Sri A. K. Mitra reported the population growth in Darjeeling was not only ‘endogenous’ rather it was more or less ‘exogenous’ in nature” (Dasgupta, 1999). While, in Terai region, the blended of Nepali and Adivasi people were mostly reported and local people (Mech, Ranbanshi) were rarely worked in the tea industry with low wages and hazardous conditions (Bhadra, 1997).

Table 3.3: Immigration to Darjeeling, 1891-1951

Year	Actual Population	Immigrants	% of Immigrants population to Actual Population
1891	223314	119670	53.59
1901	249117	113588	45.60
1911	249550	111269	41.90
1921	282748	101807	36.00
1931	319635	100700	31.50
1941	376361	95750	25.44
1951	445260	100311	22.53

Source: Manas Das Gupta, 1999

Table 3.4: Composition of Different Ethnic Groups in Darjeeling Hill Areas in Percentage

Ethnic group	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941
Kiratis (Rais, Subbas, Limbus)	32.50	34.70	32.41	33.87	32.47
Tamangs	18.68	17.07	17.80	20.34	21.61
Gurungs and Majars	5.84	6.05	5.67	5.85	6.67
Newars	3.86	4.34	5.11	5.40	5.28
Kamis, Damis, Sarkis	10.96	10.90	11.46	10.13	11.15
Upper Caste Brahmins	4.33	3.88	4.78	4.61	3.88
Other Nepali Groups(Sunwar, Thapas, Yakshas, Giris)	10.93	10.23	10.89	10.67	9.58
Lepchas	6.67	6.08	5.65	6.34	5.38
Bhutias	6.23	6.75	6.23	2.79	3.28

Source: Manas Das Gupta, 1999

Although, 240000 permanent workers were working in the tea gardens of West Bengal and half of them comprises women and the total population in the tea gardens was five-time of the total permanents workers. Where they were mostly immigrants and migrated before a few generations even the majority of them had not to link with their native places.

3.7 Tea Industry in Dooars: The Dooars also famous for tea plantation located in the Himalayan foothills with full of natural beauty. Dooars comprises the district Jalpaiguri with tea growing areas of Koch Bihar and divided into two-part- Western Dooars (formed in 1869) comprises Jalpaiguri district after the annexation of Bhutan Dooars while Eastern Dooars comprises the portion of Assam. Mr R. Haughton was a pioneer for the development of tea gardens in Dooars. The first tea gardens of Jalpaiguri district was opened at Gazoldoba in 1876 by Dr J.P Brougham (Mitra, 2010). Previously, there were many constraints to develop tea gardens. The lack of communication in entire Dooars was a significant problem because, in earlier, the land was covered by thin Jungles (known as ‘wasteland’ locally called ‘Khus land’) only ‘Jote land’ was suitable for crops cultivation. (Notified Culcutta Gazette on 4.2.1874). After enforcement Wasteland rules, the first tea garden was opened at Gazoldoba of Jalpaiguri. Even many wastelands were converted into a tea plantation. So, 13 tea gardens were developed within the year of 1874-1878.

Table 3.5: Tea Gardens Establishment in 1874-1878

Year	Tea Estate establishment
1874	Gazoldoba TG
1875	Phulbari TG
1876	Dalimkota TG, Bagrakota TG
1877	Kumlai TG, Damdim TG, Washerbari TG, Baintbari TG, Ellenbari TG, Manabari TG
1878	Money Hope TG, Patabari TG, Ranicherra TG

Source: Manas Das Gupta, 1999

The tea plantation in Dooars developed from east to westwards took about 35 years to develop from the western police station of Mal to eastern police of Kumargram. The Indian planter was permitted to govern the tea plantation in 1914 and after 1919; for expansion of tea plantation. As per district Gazetteer, the first tea garden was developed at Gazoldoba of West Dooars in 1876 governed by an Indian company named Friend Tea Company limited. The Jalpaiguri Tea Company Limited was first Indian Tea Company established in 1879 which shared a small plot of forest coverage land

(Mogulkata in Banarhat) from the Government and land was developed for tea estate (Dasgupta, 1999).

3.8 Labour Migration and Recruitments to Dooars and Terai: The recruitment pattern of labourers in Dooars and Terai were quite different from labours of Darjeeling hill. The tea garden labourers of Darjeeling hills belong to Nepalese origin while the labourers of Dooars and Terai tea gardens belong to Adivasi recruited from states Bihar, Orissa, Madhyapradesh and labourers also migrated from plateau region of Chotanagpur and mostly belong to tribes (Oraon, Mundas, Kharia and Santhals) and in tribes also (Mahali, Chik Baraik, Ghasi, and Turi). Yet, they possess a common identity but distinguished from other people i.e. Bengalis and Nepalese (Bhowmik, 2011). On the other hand, most of the tea garden workers are Adivasi (Oraon and Mundas) but a small portion shares Nepali workers in the Terai tea gardens (Gurung & Roy Mukherjee, 2018). The tea gardens workers of Assam, Dooars of Jalpaiguri and Terai of Darjeelings are mostly tribes and recruited from the tribal people of eastern Nepal and Central India-Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, and Orissa (Chhettri, 2013; Sarkar, 2013). After the establishment of tea gardens in Terai and Dooars in the 19th century. Labourers were brought not only from Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas of Bihar but also from the western district of West Bengal (Medinipur, Purulia and Bankura) living within tea gardens and preserved their traditional cultures and distinguished them from others (Ghosh & Das, 2004). Although the tea garden people living with poor social strata generation after generation because of their illiteracy and ignorance (Borah, 2013). Where most of the labourers in tea plantation of Darjeeling hills areas belong to Nepalese origin while in Dooars and Terai, the labourers were ‘Adivasis’ requited from state Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and labourers (British called Coolies) also came from the plateau region of Chotanagpur includes Oraons, Mundas, Santhals, Malpaharias, Nagesias, Asurs, Kharias and other tribal groups (Bhowmik, 2011), The workers in Darjeeling hills tea gardens comprise different ethnic groups such as Kiratis (Rais, Subbas, Limbus), Tamang, Gurung, Mangar, Newar, Kamis, Damais, Sarkis, Brahmins but in Terai and Dooars, tea gardens workers are mostly Adivasis such as Oraons, Mundas and a few Nepali workers in the Terai tea gardens (Gurung & Roy Mukherjee, 2018).

The planters recruited the labourers as the family basis where the Royal Commission reported ‘Factory asks for individuals, Plantations want families’. Professor Sarit

Bhowmik pointed out causes behind the migration of labourers in tea gardens of Terai and Dooars.

1. Many aboriginal tribes lost their agricultural land due to powerlessness of their Supremo so tribal people become landless, ignored, neglected and deprived because of their illiteracy and backwardness. They were provoked for migration for work in tea gardens of Terai and Dooars.

2. The natural calamities (famines and floods plagued) also played a vital role in labour migration in tea gardens. It was reported that there were five famines, three devastating flood and seven scarcities in 100 years. Where the first famine reported in 1869 and followed by in 1873, 1879, 1892, 1894 and 1918. The famine in the year 1879 was pathetic and increased the death rate of 40.00 per thousand. So, the labourers were migrated to tea gardens for working.

3. The Church plays a crucial role in migrating Christian tribes in the tea gardens of Terai and Dooars. Even priests of Church organised a Catholic Labour Bureau at Ranchi for sending the labourers in tea gardens.

There are two recruiting systems i.e. Gardens *Sardar* and *Arkat* in the tea gardens. Although the second one was not so favourable for recruiting tribals in the tea gardens of Terai and Dooars. The garden *Sardar* took a significant for recruiting the labourers in tea gardens of Terai and Dooars. The *Sardar* (Labour head) were sent to target places for searching the willing peoples to work in tea gardens with proposed opportunities and advantages. They were given a commission of Rs. 2-5 per workers and workers are also given advanced of Rs.10 as incentives (Dasgupta, 1999; Bhowmik, 2011). Another method was *Arkatis* for recruiting the labours in tea gardens especially in Assam and Bhutan where agents were sent in drought-stricken prone areas for recruiting labours because of their hard-working and cheapest labourers. These agents were known as *arkatis*. Although they were much aggressive and earned a bad reputation from tribal people. They were familiar as “scum of the earth” and “heartless scoundrels,” and “man-eating tiger” for their notorious and evil behaviours. (Bhowmik, 2011).

3.9 Conclusion: Initially tea plantation developed in Assam specially Brahmaputra valley because of the availability of large land with favourable climatic conditions. The British government also flourished the plantation in Northeast India and also found some difficulties such as severe climatic condition (high temperature, extreme humid climate), lack of safe drinking water, lack of communication, the spread of diseases such as Malaria, Cholera, Kalazar, Smallpox, Dysentery and Typhoid. The tea plantation developed and flourish a lot in the 19th century in India and shares one of the largest tea producer as well as consumer country of the world. But presently the prices, qualities are a matter of concern and play a vital role in exporting tea. Although tea plantation faced a crisis or difficulties regarding cost of production, aged tea brushes, lack of infrastructure, high price, labour problem, high labour cost, low productivity, low profit and low export etc. Even India deviated from its position in international markets because of high cost and poor quality. Although tremendous growth of tea plantation reported but livelihood condition of tea gardens workers did not improve from long to present day. So, many households suffering from the victim of poverty and food insecurity and found report starvation and malnutrition in tea gardens people of the study areas.

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