

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TEA SCIENCE (IJTS)
(Including Tea Science Abstracts)

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Editorial

The **FIRST ISSUE** of the International Journal of Tea Science is the long awaited culmination of a labour of love. It is the first step towards the effective transfer of information, to the tea-scientists and the industry, on tea science, technology and related matters.

A **SPECIAL FEATURE** of this publication is peer review of all the papers included, which is rather unusual for in-house tea publications. Another distinguishing characteristic is the dual service performed by this Journal. Apart from original research papers and topical reviews, scientific abstracts compiled from the Internet in a separate section, bring readers *au fait* with the latest developments in various fields.

The **GENESIS** of this Journal may be traced back to October 1996 when the International Conference on Global Advances in Tea Science, held in Delhi identified the gaping chasm in the generation and dissemination of tea information to concerned users. The delegates recommended a refereed research journal, exclusive to tea, published by a registered society. The International Society of Tea Science (ISTS) was launched with the help of National Institute of Science, Technology & Development Studies (NISTADS). It was proposed that in due course of time the ISTS may catalyze other activities *viz.* help catalogue tea germplasm and publish books, monographs and directories. In this context the Society (ISTS) approached the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) of the CSIR in October 1998 for collaboration. The INSDOC agreed to make available their expertise in transfer of information and utilization of electronic information systems, as well as make available their readership network, for this joint ISTS-INSDOC project. Determining agreed parameters and drawing up the outlines of the project was a time consuming process. Both ISTS and INSDOC agreed that the ultimate mandate would be to bring a modern system to this ancient agro-industry, even harnessing the Internet to stimulate question-answer sessions with the authors of the papers published in the Journal.

The **RATIONALE** of this project has been to bring information technology to the service of the tea community. It may be recalled that conceptualizing the tea plant of tomorrow has physical, physiological, chemical (quality), pharmacological (human health) and economic dimensions. Information Technology has an important role to play in the assessment and realisation of the potential of each of these facets. For optimal utilization of limited resources, a well-informed prioritization of research is essential. Validation of research results in one country would curtail the cost of re-inventing the wheel in another and will make for faster progress. It will also help determine universal facts and principles and identify the areas of darkness requiring focus of attention.

COMMUNICATING research results to the users would provide management alternatives to the tea industry which would help it in deciding new strategies to increase production, improve quality, reduce costs and bring about greater value addition. Continuous, organised deliberations on scientific progress by way of regular publication of monographs and a broad-based journal, which is the mandate of your Society, will go a long way in meeting this objective.

The **CONTENTS** of this issue comprise the following:

1. *Global reviews on Tea extract*, relationship of manuring and tea quality; and Sulphur nutrition.
2. *Tea Statistics*: decade-performance of production and export of four major grower-exporters, viz. China, India, Kenya and Srilanka. Also included is data of the last ten years of imports in Pakistan, a country fast emerging as the strongest destination for world exports.
3. *Tea science abstracts* numbering 150-200, downloaded from the Internet and classified into 20 broad subject categories. CD-ROM's distributed by CABI and subscribed by INSDOC have been an important source. However, publications in Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are prominent by their absence, which is a matter of deep concern. Bridging this information gap will be possible when our linkages with partner research institutes become functional and we can draw upon volunteer support.

FUTURE PLANS: It is proposed to include the following in subsequent issues:

1. Original research papers on all aspects of tea growing, processing, value addition, economic aspects, & C.
2. In-depth global/sectoral analysis of the state of the tea industry.
3. Notes and news about matters relevant to tea science or industry e.g. exploration of germ-plasm, history, culture, development plans, management & social aspects.
4. Forthcoming conferences, get-togethers, seminars and symposia.
5. Placement – the demand and availability of tea professionals.
6. Informative corporate advertisements, concerning tea science and the industry.

INSTITUTIONAL support has been a source of strength in establishing the ISTS and launching this first issue of the International Journal of Tea Science. An all-out effort was made in June 2000 by the new INSDOC Director Mr. O. N. Chaddha to bring the project to fruition. Ms. V. V. Lakshmi helped in downloading scientific abstracts from the inter-net. The new Project Coordinator appointed by INSDOC, Mrs. Aruna Karanjai, left no stone unturned to define the shape of the Journal, which has been printed by INSDOC Regional Centre at Bangalore. But for their personal involvement and their staff's commendable cooperation, this project would not have seen the light of day.

We are confident that the community of tea scientists, members of the tea industry and other readers will provide continuing support by way of a large membership of ISTS and contribution of quality scientific papers to this Journal.

Prof. N.K. Jain
Resident Editor

Contents

IJTS Volume 1 (1), 2001

Editorial

Global reviews

- Effects of Fertilizers on Tea Yields and Quality :
A Review with Special Reference to Africa and Sri Lanka
P. Okinda Owuor 1
- Industrial Utilization of Tea Extract
Dr. T Takeo 12
- Sulphur Nutrition of Tea – Global Review
T Nagendra Rao and Pritam K Sharma 20

Tea Statistics

- Performance of Major Tea Grower-Exporters
Area under Tea
Production
Export 28
- Imports in Pakistan

Tea Science Abstracts

- 01 : Agronomy (Including Nursery, Planting, Shade, Pruning, Plucking) 30
- 02 : Climate (Including Environment, Irrigation, Drainage, Mulch, Frost) 41
- 03 : Soils and Nutrients 45
- 04 : Mechanization of Field Operations 52
- 05 : Botany (Including Breeding, Germplasm, Genetics, Varieties) 54
- 06 : Biotechnology (Including Physiology, and Bio-regulators) 60
- 07 : Plant Protection (Including Chemicals & Pesticide residues:
Pests, Diseases and Weeds) 68