

Revival of a Burnt Tea Field

The first photograph (Fig. 1) reveals what a beautiful tea field it was before burning down, apparently, accidentally! The second one (Fig. 2) proves what a tough plant Tea is: even Fire God's wrath could not destroy the bush!! Behold the recovery of the bushes within a short period of just 4 months! From the picture, no casualty could be discerned.

The field appears to have been already tipped looks from the picture, at about 60 cm from the ground! If so tipped around that height from the ground, it would be benefited by another round of tipping two leaves above the current height, which would lead to filling in and compaction as also, facilitate a lighter form of cut-across at the time of next prune, *say*, around 70 cm.

I am not aware of the soil character of the area, but shall venture to suggest the application of N:K at 40:40 (in the form of urea + muriate of potash) followed by soil

application of magnesium sulphate at 45 kg ha⁻¹, approximately 21 days later. A total of 120 kg of N along with K, at the same ratio may be applied during the 12-month period from burning down. P may be placed by dibbling in around 5 to 8 cm deep in the form of Single Super Phosphate (at the rate of 70 kg ha⁻¹) or Rock phosphate (at the rate of 50 kg ha⁻¹) when the soil is workable.

Zinc sulphate (ZnSO₄) and magnesium sulphate (MgSO₄) at 2 kg each in 200 L water per hectare (1% each) may be given, four to five times during the growing periods of the year; addition of boric acid at 114 g to the 200 L spray fluid is likely to assist in recovery. Addition of urea at 2 kg to the spray fluid is reported to assist in absorption and translocation of the nutrients.

V.S. Sharma

*The B.B.T.C. Ltd, Mudis Post, 642117
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India*