

## ***From the Editorial Office ...***

The first Editor-in-Chief of the revived *IJTS*, Dr. L.M.S. Palni, took up the onerous task, despite his busy official schedule, and breathed new life into it. He streamlined the editorial office and successfully brought out four issues of the Volume 8. Regretfully, he relinquished the editorial office for personal reasons. Undoubtedly, his expertise will continue to be available to the Journal. The editorial board extends good wishes to him and his family for an active, long, healthy and peaceful life.

The mantle of the editorial responsibility has, now, fallen on the undersigned; it is hoped that with the assistance of the Associate Editor-in-Chief, Dr. B. Chandra Mouli, a safe sailing of the Journal would be ensured under the guidance of Dr. N.K. Jain and learned supervision of the Editorial Board.

A lot of churning occurred in the Executive Committee of the International Society of Tea Science with regard to the affairs of the Society and the Journal. Reduction of the membership fee is one important outcome with an aim to reach out to a wider section of scientists and tea planters, world over.

Another important aspect that is gaining active consideration of the Executive Committee of the ISTS and the Editorial Board of the *IJTS* is the frequency of the issues of the Journal: by the very perennial nature of the crop, with a small band of scientists engaged in Tea research in about eight research institutes in the world and each institute having its own journal, it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain meaningful research articles of substance, good standard and consequence either to science or the industry. Suggestions and comments in this regard are welcome from the members and readers.

Six papers are included in this issue: the one on biochemical indicators of quality of teas in north Bengal, points to a distinct possibility of enhancing quality by upgrading the techniques used in miniature manufacture to the level of commercial manufacture. One of the two papers on antagonism of the species of *Trichoderma* to *Phomopsis theae* in lab studies has gone so far as to evolve a talcum-based formulation for application in the field. One paper advocated integration of organic and conventional farming in optimizing synthetic inputs towards sustainability.

A battery powered, motorized shear-harvester to enhance productivity of the workers has been developed by the scientists at I.I.T., Kharagpur, fulfilling the crying need of such a device for harvesting Tea; it is expected to mitigate the shortage of pluckers and the rising wage-bill.

Under "COUNTRY REPORTS" section, B.C. Barbora takes the readers on a long journey, focussing on the agrotechniques evolved over decades of tea cultivation in Assam, such as plant improvement, replanting, rehabilitation of uprooted tea, bringing young tea into bearing, control of an array of pests such as Red Spider Mite, Looper caterpillar and of late Tea Mosquito, chemical weed control, need of shade trees, artificial manuring, drainage, irrigation, harvesting technology, pruning and other aspects of production agronomy, as also manufacturing in his treatise on "Agro-techniques used in cultivation of Tea in Assam".

As has been notified to the members, only classified titles of Tea Abstracts are listed in the journal, beginning this issue; full abstracts will be available in CABI website, on-line, to the members of ISTS. They will be given the pass-word to open the website, specially created by CABI from their collection of database from 65 countries over the last 40 years and updated weekly. Paying members of ISTS should ask for the user ID and password to access this vast treasure-house of knowledge.

**V.S. Sharma**  
**EDITOR-IN CHIEF**