Tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world. India occupies a very prominent position in the production of tea in the world. Assam produces more than 50% of the top-quality Indian tea. The major chunk of Indian tea is produced by joint stock companies in their large tea estates. But cultivation of tea on a small scale by individual small tea growers also plays an important role in the economy of the country considering the employment opportunities generated by it. Though the tea industry of Assam is more than 170 years old by now, cultivation of tea on a small scale is comparatively a recent development in Assam. Small tea plantation was initiated here in the 1970s. During the last three decades it has gained much popularity in the tea growing districts of Assam. Gradually, it has been expanding to other districts of Assam as well as neighbouring states. Now, small tea growers of Assam produce around 18-20 per cent of the total production of tea in Assam.

In spite of the economic importance of the small tea cultivation in Assam, the number of research studies on various aspects of this component of the tea industry is very limited. In view of the above, the present study is taken up to highlight a few points like problems, prospects and commercial viabilities etc as explained in the objectives of the study. On the basis of the study, a few suggestions have been put forward to draw the attention of the Governments and the concerned authorities.

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