

# Pruning Workshop at Thurbo Tea Estate held

**Mirik, 13 January, 2017:** A workshop on 'Pruning & Cold Weather Practices' was held at Thurbo Tea Garden. The workshop was organized by Capacity Building Centre of Quality Control Laboratory, Tea Park, Siliguri. Ms. Sanjukta Mondal, Field Expert (Capacity Building Centre) welcomed the participants and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Scientific Officer (DTR&DC, Tea Board) gave a presentation on Pruning and Cold Weather Practices to the planters. He described some post pruning operations and expressed his concerns on the role of light intensity in tea cultivation which has been found to increase upto 3°C over the years.

Dr. I. D. Singh, Tea Expert enriched the session with his vast experience on pruning. Mr. Suman Das and Mr. Suraj Rai, Assistant Managers, Thurbo T. E showed the different after pruning care in the field to the planters.

During field visit, recommendations such as corrective pruning, KCO (Knife cleaning operations) for removal of moss, collar depression and also for preventing loss of moisture etc. was given to improve productivity. It was also advised to keep pruning litters for mulching operations. Mr. Kumar showed how the root starch reserve varies with different elevations, planting materials etc. Starch Test was demonstrated by Mr. Rai where colour change in the cut section of the root, dipped in iodine solution indicated that adequate starch was present in the root sample. This test is an important and to be performed for pruning before pruning operations.

Around 15 participants from 5 Tea gardens in Mirik Valley participated in this workshop. The workshop concluded with vote of thanks on behalf of Tea Board India to all the participants.

