

FOREWORD

The journal of the National institute of Plantation Management attempts to conceptualize and discuss the issues relating to the plantation sector which would greatly assist the plantation personnel in improving their knowledge and thus contribute remarkably towards development of the plantation industry.

This issue of the publication incorporates eleven articles of interest to the plantation industry viz, Strategic cost management for profitability of tea plantations, Land degradation and control measures with special reference to plantation crops, Valuation of a tea bush, Experiences on agricultural research, linkages, Management commitment to technology adoption : a successes story on innovative tea harvesting system, Global debate on use of biofuels continues, Beware of invisible additives and contaminants in your daily intake of food and water, Efficacy of four insecticides as seed cane treatment for controlling of sugarcane termites, Intelligent investor : Circumstances count more than attributes in investing, Lessons that can be learnt from the debacle of the south African tea industry, and Entrepreneurs in the Plantation Sector: How to market your goals & vision and the critical need of a "Marketing Plan" in your toolkit. The contributors are leading scientists and technocrats in plantation industry.

It should be noted that although the articles submitted to this Journal are subjected to editorial corrections, the authors remain responsible for views expressed (which are not necessarily NIPM policies) and also for any errors and omissions.

We trust that readers will find this issue of direct interest and relevant to their professional needs.

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