

## Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board

Dear Participants,  
Good Morning,  
As the Chairman of the Tea Research Board, I would like to welcome you all for the 238TH MEETING OF THE EXPERIMENTS & EXTENSION FORUM on the theme "Towards Tea Industry Sustainability through Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation".  
First let me apologies for not physically present for this important meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

## Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board

**As you know, Climate change has become one of the biggest environmental concerns at global, regional and local levels. Carbon dioxide concentration on earth has increased since industrial revolution by about 40 percent and the mean temperature rise since then has reached ~1 °C.**



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

## **Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board**

**Therefore, Recent placement of Sri Lanka at the 2nd place in the global climate risk index 2018 indicates the possibility of occurrence of frequent extreme weather events. Being a rain-fed plantation crop grown in different regions, vulnerability of tea plantations for impacts of climate change would be significant. Taking timely precautions on adaptation and mitigation measures for the reduction of impacts of climate change, is therefore important.**



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

## **Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board**

**Human activities since industrial revolution such as fossil fuel burning and land use changes including those for agriculture have led to increased levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. Climate change has affected the agriculture sector including the plantation industry mainly through changes in rainfall patterns, increased temperature, and higher frequency of extreme weather events which have significantly affected crop and the Tea plantations is no exception to this.**



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

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In addition to above I think the RPC and the State Plantations has a major challenge in replanting, up keep of plantations and use of weedicides and pesticides and adulterations in factories. I am happy to note our TRI Scientists are doing reasonable work regarding this. Recent establishment of MRL values for Sugars, development of Napier Hybrid Grass, Soil Quality Index to cut down the replanting period, development of slow releasing fertilizer and new cultivars are some of such activities.



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

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At this moment, we are also interested in a new direction for Tea Industry, that is Tea and Tourism or double T Program. We are interested in getting a UNESCO WORLD HERIRAGE LISTING for our Tea Landscape and Tea Plantations. With our beautiful tea landscapes, ancient bungalows and factories, railways, and James Taylor's activities and Tamil estate workers their dwellings and their culture will definitely give us the ability to submit strong nomination for UNESCO.

If we can get a World Heritage Listing, Tea Produced in this area could carry the World Heritage Emblem in addition to their own brand symbols. which will have a definite marketing advantage over our complete Kenyan and Indian Brands.



Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

## **Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board**

**I have no doubt that this meeting will not only provide a platform for upgrading the knowledge on climate change, but also be able to develop a closer cooperation between TRI and the stake holders such as executives of the RPC and State Plantations in working together in finding solutions. I also hope to discuss with the TRI staff to lunch formally an 8-hour help desk to mitigate the daily issues of the plantations,**



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## **Message from Chairman, Tea Research Board**

**Finally, I would like to thank our invited speakers for taking their precious time off their busy schedules to participate in this Meeting. Last but not least, to all participants, do have a fruitful meeting and take the opportunity to enjoy the short stay at the TRI.**

**With Best Wishes.**

**Dr. Mohan Abeyratne, Chairman TRB**



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