

ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF TRI 3000/4000 CULTIVARS IN DIFFERENT AGRO ECOLOGICAL REGIONS IN MID COUNTRY-SRI LANKA

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Tea, one of the major export crops in Sri Lanka, is widely cultivated in different agroecological regions in mid country. Tea Research Institute (TRI) has introduced new 3000 and 4000 cultivars series to increase the level of tea production qualitatively and quantitatively. According to TRI hand book, performance of these newly introduced cultivars varies from region to region and even within the same region. This study was carried out to assess the performance of TRI 3000 and 4000 cultivars in different agro ecological regions in Kandy and Matale districts. A sample of sixty farmers was selected by stratified random sampling method. Drought tolerance, resistance to pest and diseases, yield per acre, and level of fertilizer response were tested in different growth stages. Data were collected using a pre-tested questioners and analyzed using SPSS 17 version. Different cultivars of 4072, 4046, 4053, and 4014 performed well in nursery stage, new clearing and mature stage respectively and 4014 series responded to fertilizer than other cultivars. Different cultivars of 4053, 4006, 4071, 4046 and 4006 performed well in different agro ecological regions of IM3a, IM3c, IU1, WM2a, and WM2b respectively. The performance of 3000 cultivar series was comparatively lower than that of 4000 series cultivars. Overall performance of cultivar 3013 was very poor in all growth stages in all the agro ecological regions. According to the study it was found that cultivars of 4053, 4006 and 4046 can be cultivated successfully in every agro ecological region in mid country Sri Lanka.

Key words: Cultivars, Growth stage, Performance, Producti