

## ECONOMICS OF TEA CULTIVATION IN THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper examines the economics of tea cultivation in the Nilgiris district. For this, the small, medium and large farmers are chosen for the study. The farm categories are small (less than 5 acres), medium farmers (5 to 10 acres) and large farmers (10 acres and above). From each category, 30 farmers are chosen and the total sample stood at 90. The cost of tea cultivation is high for harvest, manure and pesticide respectively. Among the farm groups, the cost is high for the large, medium and small farmers respectively while it is inverse in the case of yield of tea cultivation. This confirms the farm size efficiency in tea plantation, that is small farmers spend lesser amount and yield more as compared to medium and large farmers. Farmers report pest problems that affect the tea production and therefore the Agriculture University has to identify the pest and find pesticides to improve the tea production.

**KEYWORDS:** Input, cultivation, labour, cost, yield