



LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD
TEA MARKET REPORT

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SALE NO.20 OF 24TH/25TH MAY, 2021

COMMENTS

This week's tea auction (Sale # 20) was conducted on May 24 & 25 (Mon/Tue) and, the offer quantity of 7.6 m/kgs was 0.2 m/kgs lower to the previous sale. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy & Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 3.4 m/kgs – up 0.1 m/kgs from the previous auction, whilst Main Sale High & Medium category amounted to 1 m/kgs. The Ex Estate catalogue had 1.2 m/kgs.

There was fair demand at Rs. 20/- to 30/- easier rates for most Ex Estate teas which fell in to the below-best category with the exception of some selected Westers that were firm to irregularly lower. The large availability of plainer liquoring teas with maintained leaf were marginally lower, but poor leaf teas were neglected. Nuwara Eliya's with maintained quality were firm to sometimes irregular with others tending lower. Uda Pussellawa BOP's and BOPF's again declined up to Rs. 20/-. CTC PF1's from the High and Medium elevational categories eased Rs. 10/- to 30/- with a continuing downtick in demand, while Low Grown neater teas were easier to a lesser extent. BP1's were neglected for the 6th successive week. There was selective interest from the UK, Japan and Germany for Westerns. Buyers for China and Hong Kong too were mostly selective. Russia was less active for "Tea Bag" types.

Low grows again received only fair demand resulting in a sideways market, with neither bulls nor bears controlling prices. Well-made OP1's were firm to dearer, but poorer types tended irregular and easier. Well-made OP/OPA's were maintained whilst poorer varieties were again easier. Stylish BOP1's were generally firm; below best and secondary teas ruled easier. A selection of Shotty Pekoes1's and Pekoes were maintained whilst the rest was lower. The better FBOP's and FBOPF1's were firm to at times dearer but, below-best and secondary teas were easier following quality. The Gulf buyers as well as those from the CIS were selective and preferred to support teas in the 'best' and 'below-best' categories. Turkey showed less interest. Iran was selective for well-made FBOP's and FBOPF1's which were firm to sometimes dearer. There was some interest for bottom level teas from Iraq and Libya.

This week's auction comprised of **12,595** lots with a total quantity of **7,649,626** kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	2,159	1,039,714
Low Grown Semi Leafy	2,077	1,104,817
Low Grown Tippy	2,162	1,194,451
High & Medium	1,971	1,089,155
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,320	1,365,944
Dust	548	595,503
Premium Flowery	545	66,930
Ex-Estate	<u>1,013</u>	<u>1,193,112</u>
Total	<u>12,595</u>	<u>7,649,626</u>

In Lighter Vein

Mom and Dad's New Wife

Jennifer's wedding day was fast approaching. Nothing could dampen her excitement - not even her parents' nasty divorce. Her mother had found the PERFECT dress to wear, and would be the best-dressed mother-of-the-bride ever! A week later, Jennifer was horrified to learn that her father's new, young wife had bought the exact same dress as her mother! Jennifer asked her father's new young wife to exchange it, but she refused. "Absolutely not! I look like a million bucks in this dress, and I'm wearing it," she replied. Jennifer told her mother who graciously said, "Never mind sweetheart. I'll get another dress. After all, it's your special day." A few days later, they went shopping, and did find another gorgeous dress for her mother. When they stopped for lunch, Jennifer asked her mother, "Aren't you going to return the other dress? You really don't have another occasion where you could wear it." Her mother just smiled and replied, "Of course I do, dear..I'm wearing it to the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding."

(Cont'd.....2)

LOW GROWNS - LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOP1 : Select best invoices maintained last week levels; balance declined by Rs.30/- . Teas at the lower end tended irregular.

OPI : Teas in the select best category tended irregular; balance declined by Rs.30/- . Stalky invoices were firm to easier.

OP : Select best teas were firm to irregularly lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg; balance too declined Rs.10-20/- per kg. Teas at the lower end were barely steady.

OPA : Select best invoices were firm to lower by Rs.20/- per kg; balance too declined Rs.20/- per kg. Poorer sorts however maintained.

PEK/PEK1: Well-made shotty PEK1's were generally lower; balance too were firm to lower. Best bold PEK's maintained; balance declined substantially and at times were difficult of sale.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)

	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOP1	800-1000	830-1050	550-600	560-600	460-520	460-520
OPI	750-900	770-930	530-600	550-610	330-400	330-400
OP	600-630	600-660	500-540	500-550	400-440	400-440
OPA	600-630	600-650	500-540	500-550	400-430	400-430
PEK/PEK1	760-820	780-830	570-600	580-620	420-460	420-500

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : Select best BOP's were irregular following quality. Best and cleaner below best held firm. Balance sold around last levels.

BOPF/BOPFSP : BOPF in general firm.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Select best and best FBOP's were firm to selectively dearer. Cleaner below best were firm on last. FBOP1's in general were firm.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Tippy teas continue to attract good demand. Best and cleaner Below Best appreciated; balance were firm on last. Teas at the lower end were irregular following quality. Select best and best FF1's were firm to dearer. Few cleaner below best at the lower end were irregular following quality.

FBOPFSP/EXSP : Invoices in the top category and the below best met with good demand. Teas at the lower end held firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)

	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOP/BOPSP	900-1080	900-1160	700-780	700-800	500-520	500-550
BOPF /BOPFSP	700-830	750-820	700-720	700-750	480-520	500-550
FBOP/FBOP1	1000-1400	1000-1300	800-850	800-850	550-600	600-650
FBOPF/FBOPF1	900-1040	900-1200	800-850	800-900	550-600	600-650
FBOPFSP/EXSP	2000-3700	2000-3150	1000-1300	1000-1500	650-700	700-750

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : Select best types maintained last levels whilst the others were irregularly lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg.

FBOPF/FBOPF1: Best on offer maintained last levels whilst the others were irregularly lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg.

PEK/PEK1 : Best on offer declined Rs.20-30/- per kg whilst the others were Rs.30-40/- per kg lower.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
FBOP	900-1000	940-1080	700-900	760-940	600-700	650-760
FBOPF/FBOPF1	760-860	770-870	660-760	660-770	560-660	600-660
PEK/PEK1	760-860	830-920	600-760	700-830	500-600	550-700

HIGH GROWNS

BOP: Best Western's – Few select invoices were firm and Rs. 20 per kg dearer, whilst the majority were firm and lower by Rs. 20-30 per kg and more following quality. In the Below Best category, better sorts declined Rs. 20-40 per kg and more, whilst the others together with teas in the Plainer category were mostly firm. Nuwara Eliya's continued to sell well although at lower levels to last. Uda Pussellawa's were Rs. 10-20 per kg lower. Uva's – Better sorts were generally firm, whilst the others were irregular following quality.

BOPF: Best Western's – Select high priced teas were irregularly easier, whilst the others where quality was maintained were firm and Rs. 10-20 per kg lower. In the Below Best category, the brighter teas where quality was maintained were irregular, whilst the others declined Rs. 20-30 per kg. Plainer sorts declined by Rs. 10-20 per kg. Nuwara Eliya's continued to sell well although at irregularly easier rates. Uda Pussellawa's – Better sorts were Rs. 20 per kg lower, whilst the others were firm and up to Rs. 10 per kg lower. Uva's – Select invoices were Rs. 20 per kg dearer following special inquiry, whilst the others were firm and lower by a similar margin.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	580-680	610-680	630-690	660-730
Below Best Westerns	520-570	520-600	580-620	600-640
Plainer Westerns	480-500	480-500	560-570	570-600
Nuwara Eliyas	550-770	570-800	570-700	580-780
Brighter Uda Pussellawas	510-570	520-590	520-590	530-600
Other Uda Pussellawas	460-490	470-500	470-500	480-520
Best Uva's.	580-640	550-650	570-620	580-630
Other Uva's	480-530	500-540	550-560	550-570

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Neat well-made leafy types were Rs. 10-20 per kg dearer, whilst the others were irregular following quality.

BOPF : Better sorts declined Rs.20-30/- per kg whilst the others were firm.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	500-850	500-770	500-580	500-620

CTC

High Grown : **BP1s** – Rs.20-40/- per kg lower.

PF1s – Rs.10-20/- per kg lower.

Medium Grown : **BP1s** – Firm and Rs.20-30/- per kg lower following quality.

PF1s – Better sorts Rs.20-30/- per kg lower following quality, whilst the others were firm and lower to a lesser extent.

Low Grown : **BP1s** – Declined Rs.20-30/- per kg and more for select invoices.

PF1s – Better sorts were Rs. 10/- per kg lower, whilst the others were irregular.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	PF1		BP1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	Not quoted	400-490	470-610	450-590
Medium	400-480	430-470	430-530	420-540
Low	420-590	390-600	410-700	420-700

(Cont'd...4)

OFF GRADES

Best Liquoring FNGS declined Rs.20/- per kg; Lower end teas lost Rs.25-50/- per kg. Clean Low Grown FNGS/FNGS1s were barely steady. Best BP's tended irregular. Well made BMs were easier by Rs.10-20/- per kg. Lower end teas lost Rs.20-30/- per kg. Select best BOPIA's declined Rs.20/- per kg. Best types too were lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg. Lower end teas were easier by Rs.10/- per kg.

QUOTATIONS (Rs/kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	440-510	470-560	400-460	420-490	400-460	410-490
Good Fannings (CTC)	360-440	380-500	380-440	400-480	380-430	400-470
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	400-440	400-460	400-440	400-460	400-440	400-460
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	400-440	420-460	400-450	420-480	420-460	440-500
Other BM's	360-400	390-430	360-400	390-460	360-400	390-420
Best BOPIAs	400-440	410-470	410-440	430-460	480-500	430-530
Other BOPIAs	390-410	410-430	380-410	410-430	380-410	410-430

DUST

Select best liquoring High Grown D1's declined by Rs.30-40/- per kg and at times more as the sale progressed. Poor varieties too lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg. Low Grown Clean Dust/Dust1's firm on last levels whilst poorer varieties too followed a similar trend. PD's from High & Medium elevations declined by Rs.30-40/- per kg whilst Low Grown PD's too followed a similar trend.

QUOTATIONS (Rs/kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Primary Dust 1(Orthodox)	660-840	660-860	530-590	550-590	500-700	500-610
Good Primary PD (CTC)	500-540	500-550	500-570	530-590	660-760	650-790
Secondary Dust	360-430	380-440	360-400	380-410	380-400	390-440

World Crop Statistics (MKGS)

Country	Month	2020	2021	Difference +/-	To-date 2020	To-date 2021	Difference +/-
<i>SRI LANKA</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>13.52</i>	<i>28.41</i>	<i>14.89</i>	<i>53.68</i>	<i>74.03</i>	<i>20.35</i>
<i>BANGLADESH</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	0.175	0.286	0.11	0.175	0.286	0.1
<i>KENYA</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	49.20	43.39	-5.81	102.83	92.29	-10.5
<i>SOUTH INDIA</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	13.30	15.30	2.0	29.32	31.35	2.03
<i>NORTH INDIA</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	1.24	2.2	0.94	1.28	2.18	0.90
<i>MALAWI</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	6.30	7.00	0.7	6.30	7.00	0.7

Country	Month	2019	2020	Difference +/-	To-date 2019	To-date 2020	Difference +/-
<i>UGANDA</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	6.11	5.90	-0.2	70.33	66.39	-3.94

<u>WESTERN MEDIUM</u>			<u>UVA MEDIUM</u>			<u>LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES</u>		
Nayapane	BOP	850/-	Pettiagalla	BOP	700/-	Ceciliyan	BOP1	1500/-
Craighead	BOPSP	800/-	Dickwella	BOPSP	750/-	New Vithanakande	BOP1	1500/-
Riverstone	BOPF	610/-	Sarnia Plaiderie	BOPSP	710/-	Lumbini	OP1	1950/-
Dartry Valley	BOP1	870/-	*Halpewatte Uva	BOPSP	700/-	Nilrich	OP	870/-
*Harangalla	FBOP/FBOP1	1000/-	Aruna Passara	BOPF/BOPFSP	640/-	Liyonta	OPA	1020/-
*Harangalla	FBOPF/FBOPF1	840/-	*Halpewatte Uva	BOPF/BOPSP	620/-	Liyonta	PEKOE	1400/-
Doombagastalawa	FBOPF/FBOPF1	840/-	Ury	BOPI	810/-	Lumbini	PEKOE1	1250/-
Craighead	OP/OPA	630/-	Dickwella	FBOP /FBOP1	850/-	*Hidellana	PEKOE1	1180/-
Harangalla	OP/OPA	630/-	Dickwella	FBOPF/FBOPF1	760/-	<u>LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES.</u>		
Mossville	OP/OPA	630/-	Shawlands	OP/OPA	750/-	*Hidellana	BOP	1080/-
*Dartry Valley	OP1	860/-	Wewesse	OP1	720/-	Uruwala	BOP	1060/-
Uplands	PEK/PEK	1020/-	Dickwella	PEK /PEK1	890/-	*Kanneliya	BOP	900/-
<u>WESTERN HIGH</u>			<u>UVA HIGH</u>			*Geekiyanaahena	BOPSP	1080/-
Weddemulla	BOP	750/-	Aislaby	BOP	720/-	Karagoda	BOPSP	1080/-
Queensberry	BOPSP	690/-	Spring Valleuy	BOPSP	730/-	*Peak Paradise	BOPSP	1000 /-
Glentill	BOPF/BOPFSP	690/-	Bandara Eliya	BOPF/BOPFSP	620/-	*Hidellana	BOPF	790/-
Queensberry	BOP1	710/-	Glenanore	BOP1	790/-	*Ihalapanapitiya	BOPFSP	830/-
Torrington	FBOP/ FBOP1	800/-	Aislaby	FBOP/ FBOP1	900/-	Sithaka	FBOP	1400/-
Inverness	FBOPF/FBOPF1	730/-	Aislaby	FBOPF/FBOPF1	780/-	*Sithaka	FBOP	1350/-
Inverness	OP/OPA	700/-	Glenanore	OP/OPA	630/-	*Hidellana	FBOP	1350/-
Venture	OP1	690/-	Glenanore	OP1	720/-	*Sithaka	FBOP	1200/-
Weddemulla	PEK/PEK1	810/-	Glenanore	PEK /PEK1	840/-	*Hidellana	FBOP1	1080/-
<u>NUWARA ELIYA</u>			<u>UDA PUSSELLAWA</u>			Sihara	FBOPF	1040/-
Mahagastotte	BOP	770/-	Kirkeels	BOP	550/-	Himara	FBOPF	1040/-
Mahagastotte	BOPF /BOPF SP	700/-	Luckyland	BOP	550/-	Yalta	FBOPF1	980/-
Mahagastotte	FBOP/FBOP1	1100/-	Kirkeels	BOPF/BOPFSP	590/-	<u>PREMIUM FLOWERY.</u>		
Mahagastotte	OP/OPA	640/-	Gampaha	FBOP/FBOP1	750/-	*New Galagawa	FBOPFSP	3500/-
Mahagastotte	OP1	720/-	Gordon	FBOPF/FBOPF1	700/-	New Deniyaya	FBOPFEXSP	2950/-
Mahagastotte	PEK/PEK1	960/-	Gonapitiya	OP/OPA	640/-	Muswenna	FBOPFEXSP1	3700/-
<u>CTC TEAS</u>			<u>OFF GRADES</u>			<u>DUST</u>		
<u>HIGH GROWN</u>			Kotiyagala	FNGS/FNGS1	590/-	Mattakelle	Dust1	840/-
Ulugedara CTC	PF1	610/-	Hauteville	FNGS/FNGS1	590/-	Ceciliyan	PD	760/-
Dunsinane CTC	BP1	410/-	Glentilt	FNGS/FNGS1	590/-			
<u>MEDIUM GROWN</u>			Hingalgoda	PFGS	510/-			
*Donside CTC	PF1	530/-	Gunawardana	BM	640/-			
*Donside CTC	BP1	480/-	Brombil	BP	680/-			
*New Peacock CTC	BP1	480/-	Adams View	BP	650/-			
<u>LOW GROWN</u>			*Halpewatte Uva	BP	640/-			
Hingalgoda CTC	PF1	700/-	*Goorookoya Sup	BOPIA	660/-			
Ceciliyan CTC	BP1	590/-	*Gardenleaf	BOPIA	630/-			

* Sold by Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd / +++All Time Record Price / ++ Equal All Time Record Price

COLOMBO AUCTION - GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.19 OF 19TH MAY, 2021

	2021			2020	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	549.75	563.42	578.87	616.84	556.97
Western High Grown	582.92	603.72	626.23	697.58	608.42
High Grown	572.11	590.35	613.24	663.52	593.22
Uva Medium	563.33	570.44	591.67	641.82	600.44
Western Medium	541.38	547.20	572.87	582.10	533.77
Medium Grown	548.40	555.18	578.31	608.74	554.47
Low Grown (Orthodox)	651.71	652.60	676.94	757.86	689.89
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	645.73	643.94	667.27	744.33	670.40
Total	612.49	615.41	641.27	709.33	634.58

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALES

	<u>Sale of 01st/02nd June, 2021</u>		<u>Sale of 08th/09th June, 2021</u>	
	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,991	914,161	2,287	1,111,906
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,615	825,404	1,742	917,396
Low Grown Tippy	1,642	882,220	2,253	1,260,788
High & Medium	1,626	847,249	1,965	1,103,264
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,087	1,177,361	2,404	1,407,429
Dust	424	450,502	617	661,090
Premium Flowery	235	43,227	348	64,126
Ex-Estate	784	900,725	1,015	1,193,499
Total	<u>10,404</u>	<u>6,040,849</u>	<u>12,631</u>	<u>7,719,498</u>

Private Sale Figures (17.05.2021 – 22.05.2021) - 178,372.00 Kgs
 Cumulative - 2,366,422.59 Kgs

Crop & Weather**For the period 17th to 23rd May, 2021**

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions - The Western Region reported dull mornings and evening showers, whilst the Nuwara Eliya Region reported clear mornings at the beginning of the week and dull/rainy weather towards the latter part of the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, heavy showers in the Western Region and strong winds in the Nuwara Eliya Region are expected in the week ahead. **Uva/Udapussellawa Regions** - Bright mornings and scattered evening showers were reported from the Udapussellawa Region, whilst the Uva Region reported bright mornings and evening showers throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects heavy showers and strong winds in the Uva Region in the week ahead. **Low Growns** - The Low Grown Region reported sunny mornings with evening showers throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, heavy showers are expected in the Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa regions in the week ahead.

Crop Intake - All regions maintained the crop intake.

(Cont'd...7)

CATALOGUES**Sale No.22 of 08th/09th June, 2021**

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues closed on **20th May, 2021** at **04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.23 of 15th/16th June, 2021

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **28th May, 2021** at **04.30 p.m.** but sale may close before the scheduled date when the number of lots if reached.

Sale No.24 of 21st/22nd June, 2021

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **03rd June, 2021** at **04.30 p.m.** but sale may close before the scheduled date when the number of lots if reached.

SALE NO.21**BROKER'S SELLING ORDER****Auction of 01st/02nd June, 2021****Leafy/Tippy/BOPIA/ Premium Flowery**

1. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
2. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd.
3. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
4. John Keells PLC
5. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
6. Eastern Brokers Ltd
7. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
8. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

1. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
2. Eastern Brokers Ltd
3. John Keells PLC
4. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
5. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
6. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
7. **Lanka Commodities Brokers Ltd**
8. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd

Ex-Estate

1. Eastern Brokers Ltd
2. John Keells PLC
3. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
4. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
5. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
6. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
7. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
8. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd

- OTHER MARKETS -**BANGLADESH AUCTION- SALE NO.03 HELD ON MONDAY 24TH MAY, 2021**

CTC LEAF: 20,034 packages of Current Season & 810 packages of Old Season teas on offer met with a selective demand with higher withdrawals.

BROKENS A handful of well made clean liquoring Brokens sold well often easing by Tk. 5/- and more whilst Mediums met with much less demand and prices declined by Tk.7/- to Tk.8/- with heavy withdrawals. Similarly Plain teas also met with only limited interest and there were heavy withdrawals. BLFs saw less interest at lower rates. There were again more withdrawals in this category.

FANNINGS: A few well made coloury Fannings were well supported at about last levels but Mediums saw selective demand and where sold eased by Tk. 5/- to Tk.7/- but there were heavy withdrawals. Plain teas saw only limited interest and only a few lines sold at reduced levels. BLFs saw less interest at lower rates. There were again more withdrawals in this category.

CTC DUST: 6,075 packages of Current Season & 60 packages of Old Season teas on offer met with quite a strong demand. Best and good liquoring Dusts met with a good competition and sold at firm to dearer rates. Other varieties were a steady market. BLF Dusts were readily absorbed at slightly dearer rates with less withdrawals. Blenders lent strong support with fair interest from the Loose tea buyers..

COMMENTS: Demand was more selective this week with mostly Blenders operating for coloury teas and neglected lesser varieties. Loose tea buyers were much less active and lent limited support to the best on offer. As a result, withdrawals in the Leaf catalogue was heavier. Dusts witnessed better demand than Leaf and most teas were sold.

Our catalogue (Sale 03): Avg: Tk 212.86, Sold 74.2% & (Sale 02) Avg: Tk 212.88, sold 77.2%.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Large	195-199N	207-212	Best	205-210	208-201	PD	205-232	205-232
Medium	197-202	203-212	Good	200-203	203-206	RD	170-258	180-275
Small	198-205	205-215	Medium	190-197	195-200	D	200-279	195-285
Plain	180-185	185-190	Plain	180-185	185-190	CD	190-292	206-311
BLF	165-175	165-180	BLF	165-175	165-180	BLF	170-212	180-211

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

(Cont'd...8)

SOUTH INDIAN ROUND-UP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 22ND MAY, 2021

CTC LEAF

KOCHI

Demand: Good demand. Broken and Fannings were selling at fully firm. Good demand from Internal and Upcountry buyers. Export buyers were active.

LEAF-ORTHODOX:

Demand: Good demand.

Market: Well made high grown whole leaf, broken sold at barely steady levels. Medium whole leaf and bolder broken also sold at irregular to easier levels whilst smaller broken tended steady

Buying Pattern: CIS/Middle East exporters were active. Upcountry buyers lent support on whole leaf grades

DUST

Demand: Fair demand.

Market: Popular varieties and good liquoring finer grades sold dearer by Rs.6 to Rs.8/- and sometimes more. Plainer sorts witnessed better enquiry and selling at dearer by Rs.8 to 10/- and more

Buying Pattern: Major blender AVT, KSCSC and Indcoserve was active. Best mediums fetched with fair support from regional packeters. Domestic buyers were less active in their purchases. Exporters were selective.

CTC LEAF

COONOR

Demand: Fair.

Market: Market was easier by Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- across all categories, however on competition maintained to last. More outlist noticed on the Plainer categories without bids. **The overall sale percentage is 62% at an average of Rs. 121.76.**

Buying Pattern: Major Blender and Packeteers were active. Internal and Export buyers were very selective.

ORTH LEAF

Demand: Fair.

Market: Market was easier by Rs. 5/- to Rs. 8/-, however few Secondaries were barely maintained to last. More outlist was noticed on the Whole leaf grades. **The overall sale percentage is 72% at an average of Rs. 133.03.**

Buying Pattern: Exporters were active. Internal were subdued

CTC DUST

Demand: Less.

Market: Market was easier by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- across all grades and categories. More outlist noticed on the PD & RD. **The overall sale percentage is 40% at an average of Rs. 124.59.**

Buying Pattern: Indcoserve was active with very selective participation from the Exporters and Internal buyers.

ORTH DUST

Demand: Fair.

Market: Market was steady to easier by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 7/-. **The overall sale percentage is 67% at an average of Rs. 117.99.**

Buying Pattern: Exporters were active with very select Internal participation.

CTC LEAF

COIMBATORE

Demand: Fair general demand.

Market: Better medium teas were barely steady. Others lower by Rs.2/- to Rs.4/- sometimes more.

Buying Pattern: Blenders & packeters were active. Internal and exporters were selective.

ORTH LEAF: Fair demand.

Market: Whole leaf were irregular and lower by Rs.5/-. Broken/BOPF's were barely steady with some withdrawals

Buying Pattern: Exporters were selective.

CTC DUST

Demand: Good demand.

Market: Better liquoring and popular marks were fully firm to dearer by Rs.5/- to Rs.7/- sometimes more. Medium bolder grades were dearer by Rs.5/- to Rs.8/-. Plainer teas dearer by Rs.5/-. As sale progressed the medium teas were moved up further by Rs.5/- to Rs.10/-.

Buying Pattern: Blenders, packeters were active. Exporters and internal were selective.

ORTH DUST

Market: Fair demand. Barely steady to lower by Rs.2/- to Rs.5/-.

Buying Pattern: Exporters were selective.

25th May, 2021.

Source: Paramount Tea Marketing (SI) Private Limited

-tp.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRODUCER CLIENTS

Moisture Measurements in Tea

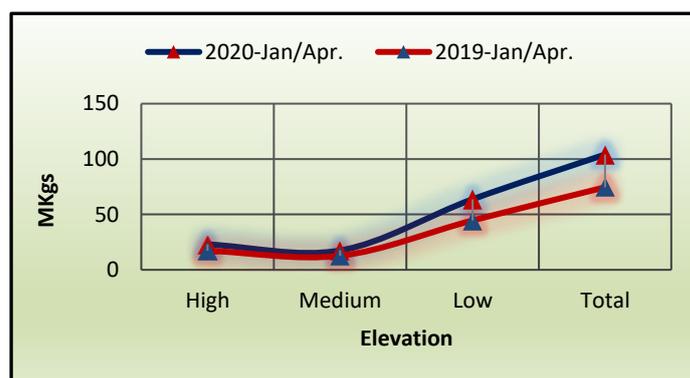
Circular No.13 issued by the Colombo Tea Traders' Association is attached to this edition of the Tea Market Report in view of the singular importance of this subject. Producer clients are requested to also read through the Annexure document of the Tea Research Institute which is of much value in controlling Moisture in Made Tea.

Tea production for April has shown a significant improvement year-on-year with a gain of 8.7Mkgs for the month and, an improvement of 29.5Mkgs seen in the year-to-date position. This same trend can be expected during May as well due to favorable weather conditions experienced over all three elevational categories.

Given below are more comprehensive details relating to tea production.

Sri Lanka Tea Production-April 2021 vs. 2020 (In Kgs)

	2021-April	2020-April	+/-	%	Jan/ Apr. 2021	Jan/Apr. 2020	+/-	%
High	6,850,518	4,180,458	2,670,061	63.87	22,921,215	17,256,883	5,664,332	32.82
Medium	5,497,243	3,078,744	2,418,498	78.55	17,469,177	12,674,588	4,794,588	37.83
Low	17,239,746	13,563,444	3,676,302	27.10	63,700,242	44,573,417	19,126,825	42.91
Total	<u>29,587,507</u>	<u>20,822,646</u>	<u>8,764,861</u>	<u>42.09</u>	<u>104,090,633</u>	<u>74,504,888</u>	<u>29,585,746</u>	<u>39.71</u>



During the period January to April, 2021 the larger crop harvests have been from the following regions.

1	Ratnapura	17,315,593.00	11	Kelani Valley	2,984,299.00
2	Galle	15,186,997.00	12	Kegalle	2,492,877.00
3	Gampola/Nawalapitiya/Dolosbage	6,622,953.00	13	Morawaka	2,168,783.00
4	Kalutara	6,474,733.00	14	Bogawantalawa	2,073,415.00
5	Matara	4,935,809.00	15	Pussellawa/Hewaheta	2,033,133.00
6	Deniyaya	4,652,605.00	16	Agarapathana	1,951,595.00
7	Hatton/Dickoya	3,266,503.00	17	Upcot/Maskeliya	1,890,180.00
8	Nanuoya/Lindula/Talawakelle	3,249,096.00	18	Patana/Kotagala	1,722,700.00
9	Demodara/Haliella/Badulla	3,022,511.00	19	Balangoda	1,714,199.00
10	Balangoda/Rakwana	2,989,080.00	20	Kadugannawa	1,440,981.00

May 21, 2021

JRA : sr

THE COLOMBO TEA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

P .O. Box 274
Colombo 02

Circular No. 13 of 2021

May 25,2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CEO

MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS IN TEA

On 1st January 2021, Circular No. AL/MQS-02/2021 under the subject of “Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards / Directives for Tea”, was issued to the industry by the Sri Lanka Tea Board. Accordingly, all stakeholders were advised to follow the standards / directives.

The subject matter of moisture content in Tea has been deliberated at the monthly CTTA Meetings and a decision was taken for the producers who have moisture measuring equipment to document the moisture content in the invoice particulars with effect from 1st April 2021. In this regard, reference is made to CTTA Circular No. 04 of 2021, under the caption “Moisture Measurements”. The importance of procuring moisture meters by factories, who do not have such measuring equipment has been stressed.

Importing countries like Turkey, Russia and Iran have reported a high percentage of moisture at the point of import. The possibility of Ceylon tea, losing markets resulting in a decline in prices and shipments being rejected is a reality, unless this matter is addressed by the stakeholders.

The SLTB has released notifications relating to moisture content in 2001, 2017 and 2018. The notification issued in 2018, specifies that the moisture content at the point of pre-auction be 6.5%.

The maintenance of moisture content in tea, at different stages is multi-factorial and associated with firing continuously, whilst operating the furnace and the dryer efficiently. A large number of grades in low country manufacture (now resorted to by many high and mid grown factories) and the considerable time taken for packing that results in the building up of stocks, leads to absorption of moisture and therein special attention will be required to minimize such absorption. The moisture of teas at dryer mouth and maintaining records towards taking corrective actions is a pre-requisite at the operational level.

Annexed is a document by the Tea Research Institute, styled “Known Practices & Necessary Measures / Steps for Adaptation” on the following stages:

- Stage 1 at Factory Dryer Mouth
- Stage 2 at Factory Dispatch
- Stage 3 at Pre-auction Teas
- Stage 4 at Pre-shipment Teas

Considering the supply / value chain, consistent measurement of moisture in the brokers' warehouses as well as measurements at pre-shipment of teas at the exporters, are a critical aspect of this initiative, necessitated by the strictures on moisture imposed by importing countries.

Amongst methods available for determination of moisture content in food materials, the ISO1573: Tea - Determination of Loss in Mass at 103⁰C standard gravimetric method is the most accurate, but not practically useful for day to day work. This method is time consuming.

Quoted below is an extract from a letter received from the Director / TRI which is self-explanatory.

Quote

The infrared (IR) method, moisture content is directly measured by evaporation of water from a sample with an infrared heating lamp. IR moisture analyzers feature a precisely controlled halogen heating system which supports to yield fast and repeatable results with a reliability upto 0.01%, and time taken to measure one sample is around 15 minutes.

Unquote

The TRI also comments on a near-infrared (NIR) method for moisture measurements. However, due to exorbitant costs of such a unit, it is not an affordable solution. It is imperative that moisture analyzers used in the tea industry are calibrated against ISO1573 method to obtain accurate results. It therefore follows that any type of moisture measurement equipment procured, be calibrated against ISO1573, for near accuracy. The suppliers should be advised to calibrate the units against this ISO method and certify same, prior to purchase.

The CTTA solicits the cooperation of all stakeholders to address this issue towards maintaining the quality of Ceylon teas. The success of this initiative will depend on stakeholders willingly following guidelines and recommendations during the supply line.

**THE SECRETARIAT
THE COLOMBO TEA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION**

Appendix: The known practices and necessary measures/steps for adaptation

Stage 1: At Factory drier mouth

Minimize variation of moisture in dhool fed to the dryer by
a. Ensuring even wither in leaf in all the troughs
b. Avoiding surface drying of dhool, maintaining hygrometric difference of 2-3°F in the rolling & fermenting area using humidifiers
Check & record regularly dried tea moisture content using a Moisture meter (Certified calibration) & inlet hot air temperature & exhaust air/weir-end tea-bed temperature at the collection time of tea sample for moisture determination.
Take follow up action to ensure tea is dried to the desirable moisture level 2.5 - 3.0%.
Conduct drier performance test regularly & check/attend to the followings
a. Calibration of dryer thermometers
b. Hot airflow to the dryer
c. Condition of the dryer & its parts
d. Any hot air leak from the drier chamber & dried tea discharge section/mechanism
e. Condition of the feeding conveyor, and dhool spreader & its mechanism
f. Condition of the furnace/air heater & its parts.
g. Smoke leak test
h. Adjust the dryer & operating parameters to ensure moisture content of dried tea (2.5-3.0%)
i. Avoid any fall through & by-passing of dhool in the dryer
Use cut, split & dried firewood in the furnace/air heater to maintain steady hot air inlet temperature in the drier
Cool the drier mouth teas to 35°C quickly to avoid
a. Absorption of moisture & bakey character
Cover dried teas till the transference to grading room
Transfer dried teas to grading room quickly
Never keep dried tea in the Drying room under any circumstances
Never allocate common section to carry out drying & grading processes together

Stage 2: At Factory dispatch

Monitor relative humidity using hygrometers by maintaining at 60-65% (Hygrometric difference of 6 °F) in the

- a. grading area (especially in winnowing area where absorption of moisture is considerably higher)
- b. bulking & packing areas

To achieve this,

- Divert some amount of hot air to grading, bulking & packing areas during dryer heating up time
- Avoid ambient air leaking into the grading, bulking & packing areas
- Avoid frequent opening & closing of doors to the grading, bulking & packing areas
- Close wall openings immediately after operating exhaust fan/s in the grading area
- Practice opening of one or two windows carefully in the grading area for effective removal of dust during fan operation to avoid exceeding upper limit of 65 % relative humidity
- Restrict staff & workers from other tea processing sections entering into grading, bulking & packing area

Reduce grading, bulking and packing time as much as possible to minimize exposure of tea, To achieve this,

- Draw up suitable grading program to complete grading process early
- Avoid number of repasses in grading machinery
- Use required number of machinery & high output machinery

Cover teas due for grading to prevent exposure to air & moisture absorption

Store graded tea under airtight condition in bins

Check moisture content of tea at different stages in grading process using a Moisture meter (Certified calibration) & take follow up action to prevent moisture absorption

Record moisture content of each & every invoice at the time of packing

Separate tea grades with moisture content exceeding maximum & re-fire if necessary

Use appropriate packing materials with SLS logo for packing teas to prevent moisture absorption

Ensure sealing of sacks soon after filling teas

Determine grade mix & curtail reasonably accepted number to minimize handling & exposure

Stage 3: At Pre-auction teas

Pay special care during loading & unloading the sacks filled with tea in transportation to avoid damages

Ensure suitable storage conditions during transportation to brokers' warehouses

Pay special care & attention when teas are stored at the brokers' warehouses

Monitor relative humidity using hygrometers & maintain at 60-65 % (a hygrometric difference of 6 °F) in the warehouses
To achieve this,

- Operate dehumidifiers where necessary
- Avoid ambient air leaking into the warehouse
- Restrict & minimize staff & worker movements in brokers' warehouses
- Avoid damp floors, walls, equipment & utensils

Stage 4: At Pre-shipment teas

Monitor relative humidity using hygrometers & maintain at 60-65 % (a hygrometric difference of 6 °F) in the

a. bulking/blending area

b. value addition & packing areas

To achieve this,

- Operate dehumidifiers where necessary
- Avoid ambient air leaking into the bulking/blending/value addition & packing areas
- Restrict staff & workers from other tea sections entering into bulking/blending/value addition & packing areas

Reduce bulking/blending/value addition & packing time as much as possible to minimize exposure to air

Store teas due for bulking/blending/value addition & packing under airtight condition in bins/containers

Check moisture content regularly & record at the time of the bulking/blending/value addition & packing using a Moisture meter, & take necessary follow up actions to prevent moisture absorption

Take necessary steps to separate teas with moisture content exceeding maximum moisture level & re-fire if necessary

Use suitable packing materials for re-packing of blended/value added teas to prevent moisture absorption