



TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: **04** of JANUARY 24 & 25, 2023

LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

P.O.Box.2077, Colombo, No: 70 & 72, Maligakanda Road, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Tel:94 11 5222300 Fax: 94 11 5377090

E-mail: lcbl@lcbl-sl.com Website: www.lcbl-sl.com

COMMENTS

Sri Lanka's Tea Production for 2022 was only 251.5 Mkgs which is a decline of 47.9 Mkgs when compared to 2021, and, is also the lowest harvest recorded for the past 27 years i.e., since 1995, during which year the National Crop was 246 Mkgs. This substantial decline of Tea Crop during 2022 is mostly attributed to the non-availability of fertilizer, besides the ill effects of Global Warming on plantation crops. The Small Holder sector continues to be the largest contributor to the National Tea Crop by producing 168 Mkgs (67%) whilst the Regional Plantation Companies (RPC Sector) produced 33% of the harvest, namely 83.4 Mkgs.

This week's Tea Auction, namely Sale # 04 of 2023 was held on January 24 & 25, 2023 (Tue/Wed), with a weight of 6.7 mkg, reflecting an increase of 1.6 mkg over the previous week's quantity. The reason for this additional weight was due to the non-closure of a sale catalogue during the Christmas holidays, namely, from December 23, 2022 to January 5, 2023, following which most arrivals of tea over a period of two weeks were eligible for inclusion in to the catalogue. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy & Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 3 mkg, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.7 mkg. The Ex Estate category had 0.94 mkg

There was fair general demand at firm to easier rates for teas in the Ex Estate catalogue. A selected range of best Western BOP's and BOPF's was dearer on last following special enquiry, whilst, below-best and plainer descriptions declined Rs. 50/- per kg. Nuwara Eliya BOP's and BOPF's were unsold for want of satisfactory bids. Uda Pussellawa BOP's and BOPF's eased Rs. 100/- to 200/- per kg. A selection of neater Uva BOP's were firm, while others lost up to Rs. 100/-. Uva BOPF's were mostly firm. CTC Teas - High and Medium Grown PF1's were irregular following quality, while, Low Grown sorts were mostly firm. There were hardly any High Grown BP1's on offer, while, Mediums, and, Low Grown teas were barely firm. There was selective demand from the Western Markets, while buying for Japan, China and Taiwan too was subdued. Strong Russian interest continued to prevail.

There was fair demand for Low Grown Teas. Select best OP1's were easier, but improved below-best as well as bottom level teas ruled firm. The better OP's and OPA's were firm whilst poorer sorts met with fair interest. The best BOP1's were barely steady, while below-best types were easier. Pekoes / PEK1's in general were fully firm to dearer. Well-made FBOP's and FBOPF1's were easier up to Rs. 100/- and more, while, secondary sorts were also irregular and lower. Demand was selective from Iran, a large market for flowery grades in particular, following the recent stepped up Western Sanctions resulting in the devaluation of the Iranian Currency which has hit an all-time low value of 450,000 Rials per US Dollar. There was good interest however, from buyers for Saudi Arabia, The UAE and other Middle Eastern countries, and, sustained demand was seen from Russia and the CIS. Türkiye and Syria continued to bid up for Pekoe grades. Libya was active for secondary whole leaf grades, whilst Iraq picked up the bottom level teas.

This week's auction comprised of 12,371 lots with a total quantity of 6,759,984 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	2,093	867,881
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,641	762,303
Low Grown Tippy	2,508	1,369,959
High & Medium	1,573	712,893
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,624	1,407,084
Dust	611	610,420
Premium Flowery	499	86,667
Ex-Estate	<u>822</u>	<u>942,777</u>
Total	<u>12,371</u>	<u>6,759,984</u>

In Lighter Vein

Do You Know What I Think?

Fred and Mary got married, but can't afford a honeymoon, so they go back to Fred's parents' home for their first night together. In the morning, Little Johnny, Fred's brother, gets up and has his breakfast. As he is going out of the door to go to school, he asks his mom if Fred and Mary are up yet. She replies, "No". Johnny asks, "Do you know what I think?" His mom replies, "I don't want to hear what you think! Just go to school."

Little Johnny comes home for lunch and asks his mom, "Are Fred and Mary up yet?" She replies, "No." Johnny says, "Do you know what I think?" His mom replies, "Never mind what you think! Eat your lunch and go back to school." After school, Johnny comes home and asks again, "Are Fred and Mary up yet?" His mom says "No." He asks, "Do you know what I think?" His Mom replies, "Ok, do tell me what you think?" He says: "Last night Fred came to my room for the Vaseline and I think I gave him my airplane glue."

LOW GROWN TEAS

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

- BOP1** : Well made stylish BOP1's maintained last levels. Bold BOP1's declined by Rs. 30/- to Rs.50/-. Others were irregular and mostly lower.
- OP1** : Select best few invoices gained Rs.50/- to Rs70/-, whilst best category declined by Rs.40/- to Rs.60/-, following quality. Lower end teas were fully firm to dearer.
- OP** : Select best types declined by Rs.25/- to Rs.50/-, others maintained last levels. Secondaries and poorer types were irregular lower by Rs. 30/- to Rs.50/-.
- OPA** : Select best few invoices sold on last levels. Others showed an irregular market condition and dropped Rs.30/- to Rs.60/-. Poorer teas were firm on last levels.
- PEK/PEK1**: Best on offer declined by Rs.50/- to Rs.80/-, below best and secondary types were irregular and mostly lower.

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	2650-3450	2500-3350	1500-2650	1600-2500	1400-1500	1500-1600
OP1	1750-3450	1600-3200	1300-1750	1350-1600	900-1300	1100-1350
OP	1600-2250	1650-2300	1350-1600	1400-1650	950-1350	1000-1400
OPA	1600-2400	1650-2400	1300-1600	1350-1650	900-1300	1000-1350
PEK/PEK1	2000-2750	2000-2550	1650-2000	1850-2000	1300-1650	1400-1850

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

- BOP/BOPSP** : A few select Best BOPs maintained, whilst all others declined..
- BOPF/BOPFS** : BOPFs in general were easier.
- FBOP/FBOP1** : Select Best and Best FBOPs together Below Best declined. However, teas at the lower end were firm.FBOP1s in general were easier.
- FBOPF/FBOPF1** : Well made FF/FF1s' together with Below Best were easier and declined further towards the closure and were mostly unsellable due to lack of sufficient bids. However, teas at the lower end sold around last levels.
- FBOPFSP/EXSP** : In the Premium catalogues, a few select high priced teas on special inquiry were firm, whilst all others declined sharply and were mostly unsellable due to lack of sufficient bids.

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	1800-2650	2200-2650	1400-1800	1800-2200	1000-1400	1400-1800
BOPF /BOPFSP	1600-2450	2000-2450	1400-1600	1700-2000	900-1400	1300-1700
FBOP/FBOP1	1800-2850	2500-3550	1600-1800	2000-2500	1200-1600	1500-2000
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800-2750	2200-2850	1400-1800	1800-2200	1100-1400	1400-1800
FBOPFSP/EXSP	4000-7000	5000-8500	2000-4000	2500-5000	1500-2000	2000-2500

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : Best FBOP on offer declined Rs.40-50/- towards the closure, below best and poorer types too lost in value.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Well made teas on offer were easier on last levels, below best and poorer sorts too declined in value.

PEK/PEK1 : Best PEKOE/PEKOE1 types were dearer by Rs.25-50/- below best and the lower end types too sold well.

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>
FBOP	1700-2400	1750-2450	1250-1700	1300-1750	1000-1250	1050-1300
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1550-2450	1600-2350	1150-1550	1200-1600	1000-1150	1050-1200
PEK/PEK1	1950-2400	1900-2450	1400-1950	1350-1900	1250-1400	1200-1350

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP: Best Western's - Select invoices were firm and Rs. 50-100 per kg dearer following quality/special inquiry, whilst the others together with teas in the Below Best category declined by Rs, 50 per kg. Plainer sorts declined Rs. 100 per kg and more. Nuwara Eliya's were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa's declined Rs. 100-200 per kg. Uva's - Better sorts were firm, whilst the others were up to Rs. 100 per kg lower.

BOPF: Best Western's - Select invoices gained Rs. 50-100 per kg and more following quality/special inquiry, whilst the others declined by Rs. 50 per kg. Teas in the Below Best category were firm and up to Rs. 50 per kg easier whilst the Plainer sorts were firm and lower to a lesser extent. Nuwara Eliya's were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa's declined Rs. 100-150 per kg, whilst the Uva's were mostly firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1650-1950	1600-1700	1600-1850	1600-1750
Below Best Westerns	1400-1550	1460-1550	1480-1600	1480-1550
Plainer Westerns	1280-1380	1340-1440	1400-1460	1420-1460
Nuwara Eliyas	N/A	1500	N/A	1550
Brighter UdaPussellawas	1260	1420-1480	1300-1480	1440-1500
Other Uda Pussellawas	N/A	1160-1300	1100-1160	1200-1300
Best Uva's	1300-1480	1360-1480	1400-1500	1400-1500
Other Uva's	1080-1200	1260-1300	1300-1360	1220-1380

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Large Leaf teas were mostly unsellable, whilst the others were firm and up to Rs.50/- per kg easier.

BOPF : Better sorts were barely steady, whilst the others were irregular.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1000-2350	1000-2100	1020-N/A	1020-N/A

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:

BP1 - Hardly any offerings.

PF1 - Better sorts were irregularly firm

MEDIUM GROWN:

BP1 - Irregularly firm.

PF1 - irregular following quality.

LOW GROWN:

BP1 - Barely steady.

PF1 - Mostly firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	NOT QUOTED	900-1320	1000-1420	1060-1380
Medium	920-1220	800-1300	800-1340	870-1360
Low	890-1300	900-1300	790-2400	810-1950

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 : Select best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1s' appreciated Rs.20/- per kg; others held firm. Clean Low Grown well-made FNGS1's firm to lower Rs.25-50/-; others irregularly lower Rs.20-30/-.

BM : Well-made BM's lost Rs.25-50/- per kg. Best types held firm whilst poorer types firm to dearer Rs.10-20/-.

BOP1A : Select best BOP1A's advanced Rs.50-100/-. Best teas dearer Rs.20-40/- per kg. Poorer types advanced Rs.20/- per kg.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	250-1480	850-1460	720-890	650-880	770-950	770-930
Good Fannings (CTC)	580-830	580-820	590-840	570-840	590-860	530-860
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	550-810	550-790	580-850	580-850	580-830	580-860
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	780-910	770-900	790-910	790-920	790-960	780-970
Other BM's	750-850	730-830	750-890	760-880	750-890	750-880
Best BOP1As	850-950	830-950	950-1150	950-1150	1250-1850	1250-1700
Other BOP1As	770-900	770-880	770-920	750-910	770-1000	750-1000

DUST

DUST/DUST1 : High Grown liquoring DUST/DUST1's eased Rs.30-50/-; whilst their Secondaries and poorer types were fully firm on last levels. Medium Grown also met with an irregular market and lost Rs.25-50/-. Low grown clean DUST/DUST1's dropped Rs.30-50/- following quality. Low grown lower end teas were fully firm on last levels.

PD : High grown PD's sold firm on last levels; whilst Medium grows were irregular and mostly lower. Low grows met with an improved demand and gained Rs.50-100/- and more at times.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	1300-1800	1250-1850	900-1480	950-1500	1000-1800	770-1340
Good Primary PD (CTC)	800-1420	750-1300	750-1440	750-1360	750-1950	700-1700
Secondary Dust	700-1500	700-1550	750-940	750-980	760-1120	720-1040

WESTERN MEDIUM

Craighead	BOP1	2400/-
*Dartry Valley	BOP1	2250/-
Craighead	OP1	2250/-
*Dartry Valley	OP/OPA	2050/-
*Orange Field	OP/OPA	1800/-
*Uplands	OP/OPA	1750/-
*Dartry Valley	OP/OPA	1750/-
*Uplands	PEK/PEK1	2400/-
*Dartry Valley	PEK/PEK1	2400/-
*Hatale	PEK/PEK1	2300/-
*Orange Field	PEK/PEK1	2300/-
*Elpitiya	PEK/PEK1	2300/-
New Fernland	PEK/PEK1	2300/-
*Hatale	PEK/PEK1	2250/-
*Uplands	PEK/PEK1	2250/-
Dartyry Valley	PEK/PEK1	2250/-
Dartyry Valley	BOP	2350/-
*Hatale	BOPSP	1850/-
*Uplands	BOPF/BOPFSP	1700/-
Dartyry Valley	FBOP/FBOP1	2400/-
Dartyry Valley	FBOPF/FBOPF1	2450/-

WESTERN HIGH

Great Wstern	BOP	1950/-
Bogahawatte	BOP SP	2050/-
Somerset	BOPF/BOPFSP	1850/-
Torrington	BOP1	2150/-
Queensberry	FBOP/FBOP1	1900/-
Torrington	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
Inverness	OP/OPA	1900/-
Frotoft Super	OP1	1700/-
Frotoft Super	PEK/PEK1	2200/-
Bogahawatte	PEK/PEK1	2200/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Kenmare	BOPF/BOPFSP	1100/-
Lovers Leap	FBOP/FBOP1	1550/-
Court Lodge	FBOP/FBOP1	1550/-
Court Lodge	OP/OPA	1600/-
Court Lodge	PEK/PEK1	1800/-

CTC TEAS**HIGH GROWN**

Dunsinane CTC	PF1	1420/-
Dunsinane CTC	BP1	1320/-

MEDIUM GROWN

New Peacock CTC	PF1	1340/-
Carlina CTC	BP1	1220/-
Donside CTC	BPS	1020/-
Aultmore CTC	BPS	1020/-

LOW GROWN

Hingalgoda CTC	PF1	2400/-
Ceciliyan CTC	BP1	1300/-
Canora CTC	BPS	1000/-

UVA MEDIUM

Halpewatte Uva	BOP1	2350/-
Tiniya	OP1	2150/-
Aruna Keppetipola	OP/OPA	1800/-
Misty Uva	OP/OPA	1800/-
Misty Uva	PEK/PEK1	2250/-
Demodera 'S'	BOP	1850/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	BOPSP	1700/-
Dickwella	BOPF/BOPFSP	1750/-
Ury	FBOP/FBOP1	2150/-
High Spring	FBOPF/FBOPF1	2100/-

UVA HIGH

Craig	BOP1	1750/-
Glenanore	BOP1	1750/-
Ranaya	OP1	1700/-
Oodoowerre	OP1	1700/-
Uvakellie	OP1	1700/-
Craig	OP/OPA	1700/-
Glenanore	OP/OPA	1700/-
*Battawatte	PEK/PEK1	2200/-
Glenanore	PEK/PEK1	2200/-
Aislaby	BOP	1750/-
Ranaya	BOPSP	1550/-
Bandara Eliya	BOPF/BOPFSP	1500/-
Ranaya	FBOP/FBOP1	1900/-
Craig	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-

UDA PUSSELLAWA

Gonapitiya	BOP1	1120/-
Alma	OP1	1800/-
Delmar	OP/OPA	1800/-
Alma	PEK/PEK1	2100/-
Luckyland	BOP	1260/-
Kirklees	BOPF/BOPFSP	1480/-
Alma	FBOP/FBOP1	2100/-
Gonapitiya	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-

OFF GRADES

Liyonta	BP	1700/-
Hingalgoda CTC	PF	1500/-
Wathurawila	BM	1700/-
Mattakelle	FNGS/FNGS1	1500/-
*Chandrika Estate	BOP1A	1950/-
*Aldora	BOP1A	1950/-
*Garden Leaf	BOP1A	1900/-
*Goorookoya Sup	BOP1A	1900/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

New Vithanakande	BOP1	3450/-
Pothotuwa	BOP1	3250/-
*Sithaka	BOP1	3200/-
Pothotuwa	OP1	3450/-
Green Lanka	OP	2250/-
Liyonta	OPA	2400/-
*Wattahena	PEKOE	2750/-
Hidellana	PEKOE	2750/-
Galatara	PEKOE	2750/-
Liyonta	PEKOE	2750/-
Tippola Teas	PEKOE	2750/-
Lumbini	PEKOE	2750/-
*New Galagawa	PEKOE	2700/-
*Katandola	PEKOE	2650/-
*Kurunduwatte	PEKOE	2650/-
*New Galagawa	PEKOE	2650/-
Gunawardana	PEKOE1	2800/-

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

*Mahaliyadda	BOP	2650/-
Sithaka	BOP	2650/-
Pothotuwa	BOP	2650/-
*Hidellana	BOP	2550/-
Stream Line	BOPSP	2700/-
Sithaka	BOPF	2450/-
Kiruwaaganga	BOPF	2250/-
*Makandura	BOPF	2100/-
*Mahaliyadda	BOPFSP	2250/-
Stream Line	BOPFSP	2250/-
*Katandola	BOPFSP	2200/-
Sithaka	FBOP	2850/-
Pothotuwa	FBOP	2850/-
*New Galagawa	FBOP1	2450/-
Rotumba	FBOPF	2750/-
Gunawardana	FBOPF	2650/-
*Hadigalla	FBOPF	2550/-
Galatara	FBOPF1	2550/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

New Hopewell	FBOPFSP	7000/-
*New Galagawa	FBOPFSP	6050/-
Lickra	FBOPFEXSP	7600/-
Wathurawila	FBOPFEXSP1	7150/-

Dust

Mattakelle	DUST/DUST1	1800/-
Ceciliyan CTC	DUST/DUST1	1800/-
*Labookellie	DUST/DUST1	1650/-
Hingalgoda CTC	PD	1950/-

COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO. 03 OF 18TH JANUARY, 2023

	2023			2022	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,267.44	1,264.34	1,272.52	626.33	614.94
Western High Grown	1,486.83	1,506.75	1,503.36	715.15	711.26
High Grown	1,428.20	1,438.99	1,438.95	687.71	677.74
Uva Medium	1,290.58	1,270.65	1,292.66	643.34	629.69
Western Medium	1,262.45	1,252.21	1,254.74	625.48	595.44
Medium Grown	1,270.28	1,257.74	1,265.96	630.81	607.07
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,602.18	1,598.32	1,598.32	762.65	736.09
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,574.32	1,555.86	1,569.61	745.56	720.03
Total	1,496.10	1,485.50	1,496.70	715.29	693.24

Private Sale Figures (16.01.2023- 21.01.2023) - 70,165.00 kgs

Cumulative - 317,360.60 kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	<u>Sale of 30th / 31st Jan. '23</u>		<u>Sale of 07th / 08th Feb. '23</u>	
	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1787	661,581	1684	616,908
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1367	584,852	1342	569,789
Low Grown Tippy	2051	1,040,350	1952	985,900
High & Medium	1209	496,164	968	407,846
Off Grade/BOP1A	2005	1,008,892	1967	950,584
Dust	453	421,637	420	378,904
Premium Flowery	461	74,682	366	56,972
Ex-Estate	<u>689</u>	<u>745,187</u>	<u>587</u>	<u>590,414</u>
Total	<u>10,022</u>	<u>5,033,345</u>	<u>9,286</u>	<u>4,557,317</u>

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No. 07 of 14th / 15th February, 2023

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **26th January, 2023 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No. 08 of 21st / 22nd February, 2023

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **02nd February, 2023 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.09 of 28th Feb / 01st March, 2023

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **09th February, 2023 at 04.30 p.m.**

BROKER'S SELLING ORDER

SALE NO. 05

Auction of 30th/31st January, 2023

Leafy/Semi Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

Crop & Weather

For the period of 16th to 22th January, 2023

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:

Both regions reported bright weather throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects evening showers in both regions in the week ahead.

Uva/ Udapussellawa Region:

Clear weather was reported throughout the week in both regions. Occasional showers are expected in the mornings in the Uva Region in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology.

Low Grown:

Sunny mornings and chilly evenings were reported in the Low Grown region throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects evening showers in the Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa regions in the week ahead.

Crop Intake:

The Western. Nuwara Eliya, Uva and Udapussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, whilst the Low Grown Region reported a decline.

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>Difference</i> <i>+/-</i>	<i>To-date</i> <i>2021</i>	<i>To-date</i> <i>2022</i>	<i>Difference</i> <i>+/-</i>
SRI LANKA	<i>Dec.</i>	20.52	19.50	-1.02	299.48	251.50	-47.98
BANGLADESH	Nov.	10.24	10.84	0.60	89.57	86.05	-3.52
KENYA	Aug.	33.60	35.90	2.30	342.40	340.10	-2.3
NORTH INDIA	Nov.	104.10	111.6	7.50	1057.10	1062.40	5.30
SOUTH INDIA	Nov.	16.70	21.20	4.50	220.00	215.60	-4.40
MALAWI	Aug.	2.09	1.99	-0.10	38.40	35.70	-2.7
TANZANIA	June	1.80	1.76	-0.04	16.56	20.37	3.8
UGANDA	July	5.65	2.77	-2.9	45.86	33.32	-12.54

CONGRATULATIONS FROM “TEAM LCBL” TO MATURATA PLANTATIONS LTD



OTHER MARKETS

MALAWI MARKET REPORT SALE 034 HELD ON 25/01/2023

There was low demand for the limited quantity on offer of 2740 packages.

BP1 were firm on last where sold.

PF1 were taken out, with few lines under bids.

PF /PF1SC /PD /D1/ - N/A.

Secondaries – Few D2 held firm, F2/F1 were taken out under bids.

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 22ND JANUARY, 2023

Heavy rainfalls were experienced this week, total average 39 to 112mm in Mulanje and 33 to 83mm in Thyolo.

Crop intakes were slightly lower this week than last week.



SOUTH INDIAN ROUNDUP

FOR THE WEEK ENDING – 21ST JANUARY, 2023

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand : Good Demand. All grades sold irregular around last levels.

ORTHODOX LEAF

Demand : Fair Demand.

Market : High grown & medium whole leaf grades sold barely with some withdrawals. The primary brokens sold at steady to occasionally easier levels with heavy withdrawals. Secondary brokens & fanings sold barely steady.

Buying Pattern : Middle East and CIS buyers operated.

DUST

Demand : Good demand.

Market : Popular marks & better mediums sold fully firm levels. Plainer sorts also shared the same market trend.

Buying Pattern : Major Blenders operated with some support from packeteers, internal buyers were active.

COONNOOR

CTC LEAF

Demand : Good.

Market : Market opened on an irregular note with teas mostly trading at steady to firm on the Better types and firm to occasionally dearer on the Mediums. However, as the sale progressed there has been a little sluggish demand which resulted in the sale witnessing some withdrawals.

The overall sale percentage is 86% at an average of Rs. 113.96.

Buying Pattern : Major Blenders continued their good buying and were well supported by the Internal buyers along with other Regional Packeteers. Export has been very selective or rather subdued.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Good.

Market : Firm to dearer on the Whole leaf grades and Brokens. Fannings were trading rather fully firm to dearer by Rs. 5/- and some select lines were even higher.

The overall sale percentage is 83% at an average of Rs. 129.70.

Buying Pattern : Strong Export enquiry was forthcoming with Shah Brothers was seen active. Internal buyers were lending fairly good support in which King Kailash and Shri Vallabhdas were operating strongly.

CTC DUST**Demand :** Strong.**Market :** Market opened on a fully firm to dearer levels by Rs.2/- to Rs. 3/- and as the sale progressed it gained momentum to be sold at Rs. 4/- to Rs. 5/- dearer. Towards the end of the sale the market witnessed further increase in price level at up to Rs.8/-.**The overall sale percentage is 99% at an average of Rs. 119.11.****Buying Pattern :** Strong Internal operation was forthcoming with Vikrama Impex was seen trading quite actively. Export has been less active or rather subdued.**ORTH DUST****Demand :** Strong.**Market :** Market was fully firm to occasionally dearer on the Primary dusts and irregularly easier on the Secondaries. However, the Tertiaries were trading rather firm to dearer by Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/-.**The overall sale percentage is 98% at an average of Rs. 102.70.****Buying Pattern :** Yet again fairly good Export enquiry was forthcoming with Madhu Jayanthi and Girnar being active. Internal were lending fair support.**COIMBATORE****CTC LEAF****Demand :** Fair demand.**Market :** Better medium / popular sorts were irregular and yet again suffered heavy withdrawals. Medium sorts were barely steady to occasionally dearer. Plainer teas were irregular and lower by Re.1/- to Rs.2/-.**Buying Pattern :** Blenders, packeteers and internal were active. Exporters selective.**ORTH LEAF****Demand :** Less demand.**Market :** Whole leaf were barely steady with some withdrawals. Others suffered heavy withdrawals.**Buying Pattern :** Exporters and internal were selective.**CTC DUST****Demand :** Good demand.**Market :** Better medium and popular sorts were firm to dearer by Re.1/- to Rs.2/- sometimes more on finer grades. Medium teas were dearer by Re.1/-. Plainer teas were dearer by Rs.2/- sometimes more.**Buying Pattern :** Blenders, packeteers and internal were active. Exporters very selective.**ORTH DUST****Demand :****Market :****Buying Pattern :**

} Not Quotable.

*Source: Paramount Tea Marketing (SI) Private Limited***25th January, 2023****- /ra.**

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

How climate change, cheaper tea imperil Darjeeling tea industry

The production costs for Darjeeling tea have increased, while the price has not increased enough, putting the industry that produces the ‘champagne’ of Indian teas, at risk

by [India Spend](#) January 18, 2023

Darjeeling: Climate change, recession in global markets, competition from tea varieties from Nepal, and the mismatch between production costs and its price have put the tea industry in Darjeeling at risk, an IndiaSpend ground report from the tea gardens has found.

- Known worldwide as the ‘[champagne](#)’ of Indian teas, Darjeeling tea stands its own against teas from the Nilgiri hills in South India and from Assam. Its unique flavour, believed to be induced by the right balance of sunshine, rainfall, mist and soil acidity in the Himalayas, and plucked by hand, has won Darjeeling tea “the patronage and recognition of discerning consumers worldwide for more than a century”, says the Tea Board of India on its [website](#). “Darjeeling Tea that is worthy of its name cannot be grown or manufactured anywhere else in the world.”

Darjeeling tea with its bright metallic colour was the [first product of the country](#) to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) trademark in 2004.

Despite these accolades, production of the tea, and its demand in both domestic and international markets, has been falling, experts say.

This is the first story in a series on the Darjeeling tea industry. The first part will detail how climate change and economic considerations are impacting the industry, while the second will focus on the condition and rights of workers in tea plantations.

How Darjeeling tea became a household name

Leaves from a plant called [Camillia sinensis](#) produce what is known as [Darjeeling tea](#) to the world. The plant was [first brought to Darjeeling](#) by the East India Company’s Arthur Campbell in [1841](#). By 1874 there were 113 tea gardens across the Darjeeling hills, Dooars and Terai region—foothills of the Himalayas—spread across modern-day Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts in West Bengal. The number rose to 156 by 1914 with crop production of over 8.16 million kilograms, wrote author Basant B Lama in his 2008 [book](#), ‘The Story of Darjeeling’, quoting Bengal government statistics from 1915. Today, about [10 million kilograms](#) of tea is grown every year, estimates the Tea Board of India.

The growing phenomenon of tea trade introduced a demographic change in Darjeeling as many labourers of the estimated 40,000 in 1914, at the tea gardens in the hills and Dooars Terai region were immigrants from neighbouring Nepal and from the Chhota Nagpur plateau.

The industry around Darjeeling became one of the main sources of livelihood in the region.

“Apart from directly employing a vast number of plantation workers, the tea industry also provides indirect employment to a vast number of other persons in transport establishments, warehouses, hotels, schools, hospitals, trading firms and agricultural input-manufacturing units,” wrote Pratima Chamling Rai, professor at Raiganj University in West Bengal, in the *International Journal of Applied Science and Engineering* in June 2019.

Climate change crisis

Change in climate has hit the quality and production of Darjeeling tea. According to a 2013 study by researchers at the *Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre*, climate change reduced production by “41.97% and 30.90% as compared with 1993 and 2002 respectively”.

The study said that the production of tea, a “rain-fed crop grown in different agro-ecological regions”, is majorly influenced by environmental factors, such as the total annual rainfall and its distribution, temperature and solar radiation.

The study found that the temperature in the area has risen by 0.51 degree Celsius from 1993 to 2012, annual rainfall has declined by 152.50 cm and relative humidity by 16.07%, leading to “overall production declines”.

Even though the total average rainfall is enough to provide the required 10 tonnes of water daily to mature Darjeeling tea plants standing in an area of one hectare, the distribution of rainfall is a major problem.

“The groundwater level has gone down while the season now starts with drought,” said Sandeep Mukherjee, Principal Advisor of the Darjeeling-Indian Tea Association (DITA). The Indian Tea Association (ITA) is the oldest association of tea producers in India.

Anshuman Kanoria, the chairman of the Indian Tea Exporters Association (ITEA), echoed the same. “Every year there’s drought in [late] winter which affects the first flush [harvested between mid-February and April, first flush tea is young and greenish]. Every year unseasonal rainfall starts in April and then we have torrential rainfall in May and June which is the peak quality period of the second flush [harvested between May and June, the second flush tea leaves are full-bodied and are darker than the first flush]. It is the high revenue period and the adverse weather is affecting the best quality of Darjeeling tea.”



A rise in temperature in the Dooars and the Terai region and in the hills are affecting the yields in tea gardens. Pictured, Happy Valley Tea Estate.

It is important to implement adaptation measures in tea plantations to minimise adverse impacts of climate change without a delay, as it takes a considerable period of time to bring about changes to a tree crop system such as tea cultivation, researchers say.

“The Tea Research Institutes are working on this to tide over the problem to develop ‘climate-resilient clones’,” the Deputy Chairman of the Tea Board of India, Saurav Pahari, said in response to an email seeking information about the steps the government has taken to combat climate change.

Falling demand

The demand and production of Darjeeling tea has been falling in both domestic and international markets for some time, and experts say the situation turned worse when Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022.

According to [statistics](#) released by the *Tea Board of India*, the production of Darjeeling tea was only about 7 million kilograms in 2021.

Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and sanctions on Russia, major European buyers have either stopped purchasing Darjeeling tea or are paying less for it, explained Kanoria of ITEA.

“Export situation has worsened due to the recession in Europe,” said Mukherjee of DITA, adding that only 2.84 million kilograms of Darjeeling tea was exported in 2022 (till November) in comparison to 3.5 million in 2021.

Other than Europe, Japan is also a major market of Darjeeling tea. However, with the Yen's value sliding against the US Dollar, Darjeeling tea sellers are failing to fetch good prices for their produce from the Japanese, explained Kanoria.

Kanoria, the ITEA chairman, said that despite an increase in the cost of production by 30% on a year-on-year basis, the average price for Darjeeling tea in the last four auction sales in 2021 had failed to compensate tea growers adequately.

Migration as a result of the Gorkhaland movement

The situation in North Bengal tea gardens worsened during the 104-day shutdown due to the [2017 Gorkhaland movement](#). Violent protests had flared up across the Darjeeling hills after the West Bengal government declared Bengali as a mandatory subject at all schools in the state. Calling it an [imposition of Bengali](#) culture on the Nepali-speaking population of the hills, the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) reignited the longstanding demand of a separate state of Gorkhaland.

(If possible a file image of 2017 movement can be placed here or the above picture can be used as representative. Caption: The 2017 Gorkhaland movement reignited the violence that Darjeeling hills witnessed during the 80s.

“Since people were not paid when the tea estates were closed, many workers migrated out of the hills for work opportunities. Most of them have not returned to tea estates,” said Sumendra Tamang, a social activist who works for the rights of tea workers in North Bengal, blaming the political upheaval for large-scale out-migration from the hills. “People have not just gone out to other parts of West Bengal or India, but also to middle-eastern countries like Qatar and Oman. As a result, a massive shortage of workforce has hit the tea plantations.”

“It has become compulsory for tea workers to send at least one person from the family, if not everyone, outside for a better prospect,” said Dawa Sherpa, a PhD scholar at the Centre for Economic Studies in Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. “Remittance sent back home is keeping families inside tea gardens from falling apart.” [The second part of this series will detail the conditions of tea workers in the plantations.]

Migration, however, has intensified another problem: human traffickers who deceive women into sex slavery or force them to work as labourers in metro cities.

“Generally, migrant women from the hills end up as sex workers if they fall into the wrong hands of traffickers, while people from Dooars and Terai region are lured to work in low-paying intensive labour jobs in construction sites or as maidservants,” said Nirnay John Chetri of Marg NGO, which fights human trafficking in North Bengal and helps rescued survivors. “Most of them end up being trapped with no light at the end of the tunnel.”

For instance, this [report](#) by *The Print* showed how young girls were trafficked out of tea gardens in North Bengal and forced into illegal surrogacy and smuggled to neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. The Siliguri Police Commissionerate recorded 22 trafficking cases between 2019 and 2021, while Darjeeling district reported one in 2019 and Alipurduar three each in 2019, 2020 and 2021, according to the report.



A road to Happy Valley Tea Estate. Lured by better paying jobs and the prospect of a better life outside of Darjeeling, tea plantation workers are often trapped in a web of human trafficking or exploitation.

But nonprofits say the numbers are underreported. “The police, at first, hesitate to lodge a complaint when a family goes to report a missing member from their household,” said Chetri. Even if they register a missing complaint and find the person, the family and the victim of sexual trafficking do not want the police investigation to continue due to societal stigma and public embarrassment, Chetri added.

This correspondent was referred to Inspector Biswajit Majumder by the Siliguri Police Commissionerate headquarter to speak about human trafficking incidents in tea gardens under its jurisdiction

Majumder, inspector in the Missing Persons Bureau of the Siliguri Police Commissionerate said, “As soon as we receive a missing complaint, an ‘all concerned message’ is raised through our CID portal if the case involves a minor. If the victim is over 18 years, we ask families to wait for two-three days before registering the case,” he said.

Inspector Majumder refused to comment about the police protocol for investigation in human trafficking cases, as he is “not the right authority to speak about it”. He said that the police offer all kinds of help to families considering the sensitivity of the situation.

We have sent an email to the police commissionerate requesting data on trafficking cases as well as for comment on the problems that Chetri laid out. We will update the story when we receive a response.

Competition from cheaper tea from Nepal

Meanwhile, as the workforce shrank due to outward migration, and the Gorkhaland shutdown impacted production, Darjeeling tea's [cousin from Nepal](#) appeared as a cheap alternative in the markets.

“[D]ue to large volumes of inferior tea originating from Nepal being wrongfully branded as Darjeeling tea, the premium prices of authentic Darjeeling tea in the global markets is experiencing an undercut,” according to a 2022 [report](#) by a Parliamentary standing committee on Commerce, titled ‘Issues Affecting the Indian Tea Industry especially in Darjeeling Region’.

A tea plantation worker plucks tea leaves by hand in Darjeeling's Tukvar Tea Estate, November 17, 2022. The precarious state of the Darjeeling tea industry has also put the livelihoods of its workers at risk.

The lower cost of tea from Nepal is because of “their low cost of production and inferior manufacturing process”, the report said. The “tea industry is the backbone of the economy of Darjeeling district in West Bengal and the surge in duplicity of Darjeeling Tea poses a threat to the production of tea and the livelihood of small tea growers in the region”.

The Tea Board, in association with the Ministry of Commerce, has disallowed distributors from distributing imported tea. Exporters have also been barred from exporting imported tea, said Mr Pahari's office.

Registered buyers have also been directed to not blend authentic Darjeeling tea with imported tea.

The first lockdown because of Covid-19, starting [March of 2020](#), was the “final nail in the coffin” for many tea growers, who are still recovering from its impact, said Tamang, the social activist. Some tea plantation owners sold their estates, including [six of 10 estates](#) owned by The Darjeeling Organic Tea Estates Private Limited (DOTEPL).

Tea tourism

In a bid to rescue the Darjeeling tea industry and improve the standards of living of workers and their families, the Government of West Bengal announced the ‘[Tea Tourism and Allied Business Policy, 2019](#)’. It allowed for an extensive merger between the state's tea industry, a large employer in Darjeeling, and tourism, [one of the main](#) revenue earning sectors of Darjeeling.

The policy permitted tea estates to utilise 15% of their lands, or a maximum of 150 acres, for tea tourism and other allied business activities such as “wellness centres, educational institutions, cultural/recreational & exhibition centres, floriculture, medicinal plants, food processing units, packaging units etc”.

Soon after the declaration of the new tea tourism rules, luxury hotel chain Taj [set up](#) a resort and spa, named Chia Kutir, inside the famous [Makaibari](#) Tea Estate in the hills of Darjeeling. The advent of a Taj hotel in a Darjeeling tea garden opened the floodgates for similar upscale tourism projects in other plantations, such as the Kanchan View Tea Estate.

Kanchan View Tea Estate, known as Rungeet Tea Garden till 2002, has reportedly [planned tourism projects](#) worth more than Rs 200 crore after the new tea tourism policy.

However, the decision has not gone down well with tea garden workers. Alleging that the tea garden management had failed to clear their dues and remaining salaries “due to lack of funds”, workers told **India Spend** they wondered how the owners [of Kanchan View] were managing funds for hotels and resorts.

“Our salaries and bonuses were due. The management said it did not have funds. But they had money to build five-star hotels. This is unacceptable,” a worker at Kanchan View Tea Estate, who did not wish to be named, said.

Construction of the proposed resort inside Kanchan View Tea Estate that has been temporarily stopped. Pictured on June 24, 2022.

They further alleged that the tea estate management was planning to construct a resort at the location of workers’ *basti* or slum by demolishing their homes. Workers also accuse Kanchan View authorities of uprooting tea plants to make way for tourism activities, a strict ‘no’ as per the 2019 policy.

Experts say it is still early to assess whether this new policy will benefit the tea plantations and its workers.

We reached out to the Department of Tourism and the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation, via call and email to seek their comments about the new policy and how it is helping tea tourism in North Bengal. This story will be updated when they respond.

None of these problems in tea gardens popped up overnight; experts say they are results of decades-old negligence from owners, illiteracy of workers and opportunistic politics by local leaders and trade unions.

These challenges for the Darjeeling tea industry have meant that workers’ wages and their living conditions have not improved. This, coupled with legacy issues in labour laws and a lack of government support, has led to dissatisfaction among workers at the tea plantations in the area, propagating a negative cycle for the industry. The second part of our series delves into the issues of workers’ rights at the plantations in Darjeeling.

Lipton Revamps Tea Time with High-Energy Rock ‘N’ Roll

In its latest campaign, “Good shines in. Good shines out” Lipton adds a surprising flavour to the category with help from LOLA Mullen Lowe Madrid



This isn't your typical tea so put your pinkies down and the volume up. Lipton, the world's number one tea brand is taking on a new positioning and with it, the entire tea market. With “Good shines in. Good shines out.” The brand adds some energy and Rock ‘n’ roll to put a spotlight on this traditional drink.

The campaign starts in the heart of Kenya. With a focus on the naturalness of tea, the action takes place in Kenya, tea gardens where a good part of Lipton Yellow Label black tea is grown. Here we see a glimpse of what makes Kenya the perfect place to grow tea: the constant sunshine, the daily rainfall, the diverse wildlife, the elevation and of course, the passion and skills of the farmers.

Then things take off on a frenetic trip, showing tea drinkers from all walks of life: a woman in a spa, a group of friends in a motor home, adversaries having a chess match and a man dancing on the street with a to-go cup. This a significant departure from the usual people we see drinking tea. The high-energy music, fast-paced editing and the overall vibe of the film is something quite unexpected from a tea brand. And it makes sense, Lipton's tea range can put you in all sorts of moods: from helping you relax after a long day to getting you pumped up to kick Monday in the face.



Marie-Helene Dubois, global brand manager of Lipton said: “We gave ourselves a simple challenge: to make people fall in love with tea, with Lipton.”

“It was an exciting challenge; we weren’t just repositioning a brand; we were revamping tea.” said Tomás Ostiglia, executive creative director at LOLA MullenLowe.

The film was produced by Landia and ManVsMachine and is currently running on TV in Poland and France and is live across all social media channels, POS, & print.

British tradition of tea and biscuits dying out as samosa takes over



LONDON: Britain has been a nation of tea-lovers since the days of the British Empire, which thrived because of tea, among other things, but that British tradition of dunking a custard cream, Rich Tea or bourbon biscuit into a cuppa is now running out of steam as a new survey shows that young people in the UK prefer munching on snacks such as a samosa with their tea.

This has sparked fears that biscuit sales in the UK will be at risk unless young people take up the traditional habit. Market research firm Mintel has found that 16-to-24-year-olds are half as likely to enjoy a sweet biscuit with their tea as those over 55. It said Gen Z had been exposed at a young age to exotic cuisines on TikTok.

A survey of 1,000 UK employed tea drinkers — by the UK Tea and Infusions Association (UKTIA) — featured in the latest edition of [Brew](#) found that sweet biscuits are now the go-to snack for just four in 10 UK tea drinkers. Instead one in five have a piece of fruit, while granola bars and samosas are popular among the 18-to-29-year-old tea drinkers. No one over 65 said they had a samosa with their tea.

Dr. Sharon Hall, chief executive of the UKTIA, told the Daily Telegraph: “I think granola bars are probably also quite filling so maybe people are having that as a snack with their tea to fill them up. “They may be looking for something a little bit more substantial. The same would apply to a samosa.” Dr. Hall surmised that young British people now preferred “nutty or spicy flavours” which brought back memories of backpacking round the world in their gap years.
