

SALE NO. 15 OF 23RD/24TH APRIL, 2020

COMMENTS

Sale #15 which was concluded this week from April 23 through 24, 2020 via Electronic Platform comprised of a total quantity of 5.2 m/kgs which was an improvement of 2.3 m/kgs over the previous auction. Low Grown Leafy/Tippy/Premium Flowery Grades comprised of 1.9 m/kgs, whilst Main Sale High & Medium category teas totaled approximately 0.8 m/kgs. Teas on offer in the Ex Estate catalogue amounted to almost 0.8 m/kgs.

Teas of rotorvane type manufacture on offer in the Ex Estate catalogue received less demand at irregularly lower levels barring the select best Westerns which were firm to dearer. There was sustained demand from buyers for Japan, Hong Kong and the Far East at slightly lower levels and the overall demand was benefitted by the stronger presence of a large multinational liquoring buyer. The “Tea Bag” segment was again supported by Russia. The best available CTC teas from the High and Medium elevations were fully firm to irregularly dearer but teas with poorer leaf were marginally easier. Selected Low Grown PF1’s were firm and Rs. 10/- to 20/- dearer.

Low Grown leafy teas received good overall demand from buyers for the Middle East as well as Russia and Turkey. Stylish leafy BOP1’s/OPI’s were firm whilst the better OP/OPA’s ruled firm to dearer. There was much better demand this week for secondary and poor leaf OP/OPA’ which appreciated up to Rs. 20/- and more. Shotty Pek1’s were about maintained, and bolder Pekoe too were better received compared to the previous sale. The neater FBOP’s and FBOPF1’s continued to be actively sought after by Iran. Buyers for the C I S and Russia operated for well-made leafy descriptions. Very Tippy Teas continued to attract useful demand. There was maintained demand from Iraq and Libya.

Sri Lanka’s Tea Production statistics for February, 2020 have been released by the Sri Lanka Tea Board, and, our detailed circular is attached to this edition of the Tea Market Report. During the period January/February, 2020 the total harvest of 39.8 m/kgs shows a significant drop of 5.1 m/kgs, compared to the corresponding period of 2019.

This week’s auction comprised of **9,500** lots with a total quantity of **5,232,039** kgs.
 The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,839	1,191,259
Low Grown Tippy	1,487	730,073
High & Medium	1,551	779,427
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,143	1,190,654
Dust	532	524,922
Premium Flowery	188	28,528
Ex-Estate	<u>760</u>	<u>787,176</u>
Total	<u>9,500</u>	<u>5,232,039</u>

In Lighter Vein

She Was Named Paris

Son: Why is my sister’s name Paris?
 Dad: Because we conceived her in Paris.
 Son: Thanks dad.
 Dad: No problem Quarantine.

LOW GROWNS – LEAFY

- BOP1** : Select best together with best invoices firm on last levels; balance too were fully firm. Teas at the lower end maintained.
- OP1** : Teas in the select best category were fully firm on last week levels; balance was irregularly lower. Stalky invoices too maintained on last levels.
- OP** : Select best invoices appreciated by Rs.20/- per kg; balance was firm on last week levels. Teas at the lower end were firm.
- OPA** : Select best teas too appreciated; balance too maintained. Poorer sorts were fully firm.
- PEK/PEK1**: Well-made shotty invoices declined by Rs.30/- and at times more; balance was irregular. Best bold PEKOE's was firm and balance maintained. Teas at the lower were irregular.

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	1400-2300	1700-2450	900-1200	880-1000	750-850	600-750
OP1	1800-2400	2000-2900	900-1100	900-1300	500-650	500-650
OP	1000-1200	1000-1200	650-750	650-750	580-700	580-700
OPA	1000-1300	1000-1400	800-950	800-950	580-700	580-700
PEK/PEK1	1000-1300	1100-1300	850-950	880-970	630-700	680-720

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

- BOP/BOPSP** : Select best BOPs were dearer on last whilst below best too was firm to dearer. Teas at the bottom were maintained.
- BOPF/BOPFSP** : A few select best maintained. Others were firm to dearer.
- FBOP/FBOP1** : Select best and best were firm to dearer. Below best and teas at the bottom gained Rs. 20/- per kg and more. FBOP1's in general were firm to dearer.
- FBOPF/FBOPF1** : Very tippy teas continued to attract good demand. Best and below best were firm to dearer. Teas at the bottom maintained.
- FBOPFSP/EXSP** : A few select best invoices appreciated following quality. Best and below best teas too were appreciated by Rs.50-100/- per kg and the balance were 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	1000-1300	1000-1310	800-900	800-900	600-700	600-700
BOPF /BOPFSP	900-980	900-1100	750-850	750-850	600-700	600-700
FBOP/FBOP1	1500-1700	1500-2100	900-1200	900-1200	700-800	700-800
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1200-1650	1200-1450	900-1050	900-1050	700-800	700-800
FBOPFSP/EXSP	3000-3700	3000-4200	2200-2800	2200-2800	950-1300	950-1300

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MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : All-round showed irregular market condition and dropped Rs.40-50/- per kg and at times more.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Best on offer maintained last levels whilst the others were irregular and mostly lower.

PEK/PEK1 : Best on offer gained Rs.30-40/- per kg whilst the others maintained on last levels.

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	850-1100	950-1250	700-850	780-900	600-700	650-800
FBOPF/FBOPF1	900-1100	900-1100	800-900	800-900	650-780	650-780
PEK/PEK1	950-1100	900-1050	800-950	800-900	700-800	650-800

HIGH GROWN

BOP: Best Westerns - Select high priced teas were irregular and mostly easier. Teas in the Below Best category were barely steady, whilst teas at the lower end gained Rs. 10-20/- per kg. Nuwara Eliya's were substantially easier though still quite attractive. Uda Pussellawa's were Rs. 10-20/- per kg lower. Uva's declined Rs. 30-50/- per kg and more.

BOPF: Best Westerns were irregular following quality. Teas in the Below Best category were irregular though, in general continued to sell around last. At the lower end, teas were Rs. 30-40/- per kg lower. Nuwara Eliya's were neglected. Uda Pussellawa's were irregular following quality. Uva's declined Rs. 20-30/- per kg and more.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	740-850	710-818	790-850	780-840
Below Best Westerns	640-730	640-690	750-780	710-750
Plainer Westerns	530-620	N/A	640-740	690-700
Nuwara Eliyas	900	1200	N/A	750-800
Other Uda Pussellawas	580	N/A	610-650	600-620
Best Uva's	650-680	670-700	720-750	750-780
Other Uva's	600-630	630-640	630-700	650-700

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP: Better sorts were Rs. 30-40/- per kg dearer. Others were irregular.

BOPF: Irregular.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	600-960	530-620	500-750	500-750

CTC

PF1: High Grown PF1's firm to dearer. Medium Grown PF1's – Clean leafy coloury sorts were firm & irregularly dearer. Others were Rs.10-20/- per kg easier. Low Grown PF1's firm and Rs.10-20/- per kg dearer.

BP1: High Grown BP1's firm to dearer. Medium Growns gained Rs.20-30/- per kg and more. Low Grown select BP1 invoices were substantially dearer. Others were firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	PF1		BP1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	510-640	520-640	N/A	N/A
Medium	370-680	370-630	360-600	360-540
Low	360-1200	450-830	460-610	N/A

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OFF GRADES

Best liquoring FNGS/FNGS1 lost by Rs.20-30/-per kg. Clean Low Grown FNGS/FNGS1 were irregularly lower by Rs.20-50/- per kg. Best BPs' held firm. Well-made BMs declined Rs.50-100/- per kg. Well-made BOP1A's were irregularly lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg whilst the others and below best types lost Rs.50-75/- 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)	450-620	550-670	380-460	450-550	380-470	430-570
Good Fannings (CTC)	400-550	525-600	400-425	500-550	400-425	500-550
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	400-450	N/A	325-380	300-370	325-380	300-370
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	500-510	625-650	500-550	625-650	500-570	625-650
Other BM's	425-450	500-550	420-470	500-550	420-470	500-550
Best BOP1As	550-600	475-525	570-620	500-550	575-670	600-700
Other BOP1As	400-440	450-500	400-450	500-525	400-460	525-600

DUST

Select best liquoring High Grown D1's irregularly lower whilst the secondary and below best types were firm on last levels. Poor varieties maintained on last level. Low Grown Clean D/D1s declined by Rs.50/-per kg. PD's from all elevations were irregularly lower by Rs.40/- 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 Primary Dust 1(Orthodox)	650-760	550-650	500-590	550-610	500-590	550-620
Good Primary PD (CTC)	600-650	650-720	600-650	650-710	600-650	650-720
Other Primary Dust (Orthodox)	260-270	260-270	260-280	260-280	280-300	280-300
Other Primary Dust (CTC)	N/A	N/A	260-290	260-290	260-280	260-280
Secondary Dust	240-270	240-270	240-260	240-260	240-270	240-270
Poorer Dust	230-250	230-250	180-250	180-250	190-250	190-250

World Crop Statistics (MKGS)

Country	Month	2019	2020	Difference +/-	To-date 2019	To-date 2020	Difference +/-
SRI LANKA	Jan.	23.20	21.90	-1.30	23.20	21.90	-1.30
BANGLADESH	Jan.	0.495	0.175	-0.32	0.495	0.175	-0.3
KENYA	Jan.	48.38	53.63	5.25	48.38	53.63	5.3
SOUTH INDIA	Jan.	14.22	16.01	1.8	14.22	16.01	1.79

Country	Month	2018	2019	Difference +/-	To-date 2018	To-date 2019	Difference +/-
MALAWI	Dec.	6.4	5.0	-1.4	50.6	48.2	-2.4
NORTH INDIA	Dec.	35.8	48.9	13.1	113.7	170.7	57.0
UGANDA	May	7.30	6.10	-1.2	28.18	21.95	-6.23

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALES

	<u>Sale of 29th/30th April' 2020</u>		<u>Sale of 05th May' 2020</u>	
	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,414	1,050,710	1,465	736,930
Low Grown Tippy	1,231	649,075	788	477,884
High & Medium	1,333	667,926	939	502,115
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,828	1,042,781	846	535,617
Dust	442	407,700	335	341,149
Premium Flowery	153	30,441	81	17,719
Ex-Estate	<u>606</u>	<u>629,177</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>604,875</u>
Total	<u>8,007</u>	<u>4,477,810</u>	<u>4,965</u>	<u>3,216,289</u>

Weekly Private Sale Figures (From 13.04.2020 to 18.04.2020) - 153,784.00 Kgs.
 Cumulative - 1,223,435.60 Kgs.

CATALOGUES

Sale No.17 of 05th May, 2020

The Main Sale, Ex-Estate, High & Medium, Leafy, Tippy, Premium Flowery and Dust Sale catalogues closed on **20th April, 2020** – 3 days ahead of schedule. Off Grades & BOP1A catalogues closed on 18th April, 2020.

Sale No.18 of 12th/13th May, 2020

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **30thApril, 2020 at 04.30 p.m.** but sale will be closed before the scheduled date when the number of lots if reached.

Sale No.19 of 19th/20th May 2020

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **06th May, 2020 at 04.30 p.m.** but sale will be closed before the scheduled date when the number of lots if reached.

Cont'd.... (P6)

SALE NO.16

BROKER'S ORDER

Auction of 29th/30th April, 2020

Leaf/Tippv/BOPIA/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

**Crop & Weather
From 13th to 19th April, 2020**

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions - Both regions reported bright mornings and wet evenings throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology predicts rain fall (above 100mm) in the week ahead in both regions.

Uva/Udapussellawa Regions - Sunny mornings and evening showers were experienced during the week in both regions.

Low Grows - Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa regions reported clear mornings and evening showers. Misty mornings are predicted in the Sabaragamuwa Region according to the Department of Meteorology.

Crop Intake - All planting regions showed a moderate increase in the crop intake.

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MOMBASA TEA AUCTION

MARKET REPORT – SALE NO.16 OF 21ST /22ND APRIL, 2020

There was strong demand for the 181,917 packages (12.12m/kigs) in the market. 6.63% remained unsold.

Best **BP1s** available were irregular varying between steady to USC4 dearer to easier by up to USC14 with Brighter types ranging between firm to USC5 dearer to easier by up to USC15 while Mediums met less interest and eased by USC8 - USC14 and some invoices were unsold but a few improved lines gained up to USC5. Lower Medium categories were steady to USC5 above previous rates with plainer sorts better absorbed at firm to USC15 dearer.

The Best **PF1s** in the market were firm to USC4 dearer while Brighter varieties shed USC2 -USC18. Medium sorts met an irregular enquiry and ranged between USC3 - USC6 dearer to easier by up to USC10 with a few lines remaining unsold. Lower Mediums were irregular and varied between steady to USC10 above previous week's levels with a few improved invoices gaining substantially following quality while others eased by USC6 - USC7. Plainer descriptions appreciated by USC8 - USC22.

Best **PDusts** on offer gained USC4 - USC9 while Brighter categories appreciated by USC2 - USC6 with Medium types advancing by USC2 - USC17. Lower Medium varieties were again strongly competed for and held steady to USC30 dearer with Plainer types firm to USC6 above last prices.

The Best **DUST1s** in the market appreciated by USC4 - USC19 with Brighter varieties well competed for and gained USC18 - USC35 while Mediums met an irregular enquiry ranging between USC2 - USC12 dearer to easier by up to USC18. Lower Medium sorts were a strong feature and gained USC6 - USC68. Plainer descriptions were USC2 to USC6 dearer.

In the **Secondary Catalogues**, BPs were dearer while PFs appreciated. Clean well sorted coloury Fannings gained with DUSTs dearer. Other Fannings held value while similar DUSTs were steady. BMFs were well absorbed.

Egyptian Packers and Pakistan Packers showed very strong support and were dominant with increased and strong interest from UK. There was more and useful activity from Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries with useful enquiry from Kazakhstan, other CIS states, Sudan and Russia. Bazaar were active but selective with reduced and selective support from Afghanistan while Iran showed selective interest. Somalia were more active at the lower end of the market.

CTC Quotations and Highest Prices (USC)

	BP1	PF1	PD	D1
Best	210 - 670	236 - 340	224 - 360	220 - 357
Good	190 - 325	214 - 256	226 - 260	215 - 262
Good Medium	190 - 258	216 - 250	212 - 242	182 - 252
Medium	205 - 226	205 - 240	206 - 235	197 - 234
Lower Medium	102 - 228	150 - 306	150 - 230	194 - 226
Plainer	094 - 188	092 - 192	085 - 212	102 - 208

24th April, 2020

-/tp



LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

SRI LANKA TEA PRODUCTION-FEBRUARY 2020



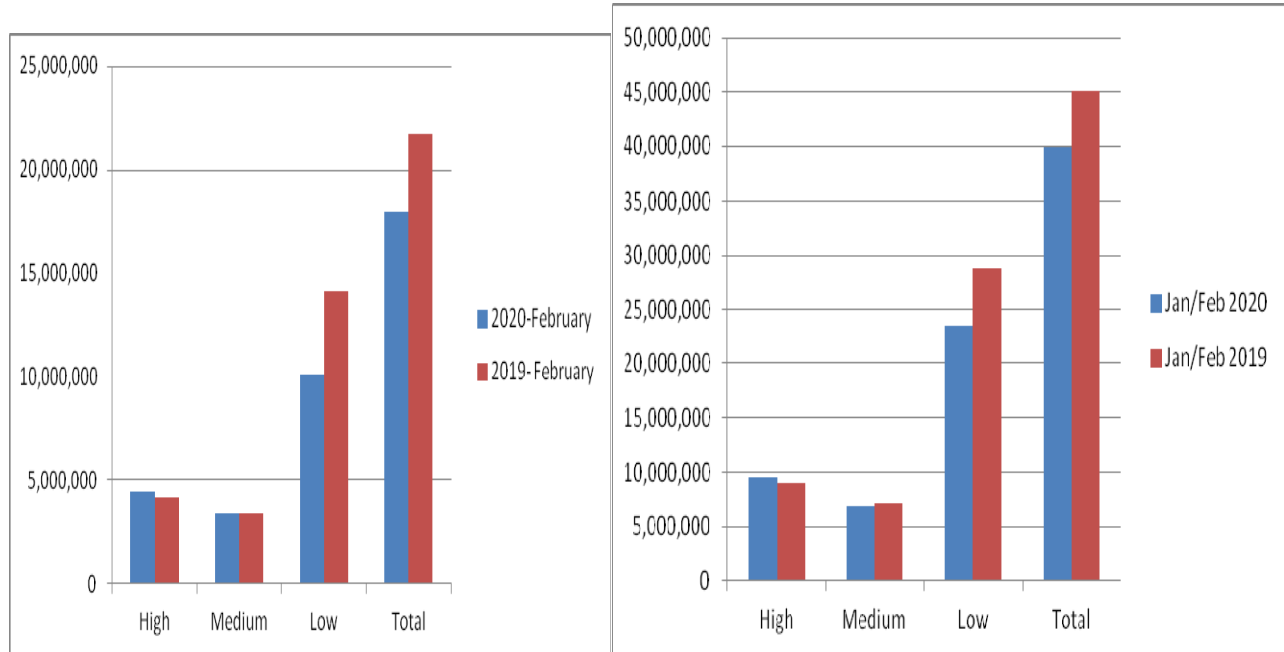
The drought conditions prevalent throughout February, 2020 have resulted in a rapid drop in production to 17.9 Mkgs for the month under review compared to 21.7 Mkgs in February, 2019, i.e., a decline of 3.7 Mkgs(-17%).

The production for January / February, 2020 has recorded 39.8 Mkgs which is again a drop of 5.1 Mkgs over the corresponding period last year. A closer look at the detailed crop statistics given below would reveal that the Low Grown plantations have been the worst affected by the prolonged drought conditions.

Given below are more comprehensive details relating to tea production.

Sri Lanka Tea Production - February 2020 vs. 2019 (In Kgs)

	2020 February	2019- February	Change	%	Jan/Feb 2020	Jan/Feb 2019	Change	%
High	4,452,424	4,220,161	232,263	6	9,537,260	9,082,659	454,601	5.01
Medium	3,384,700	3,391,721	-7,021	0	6,904,389	7,158,851	-254,462	-3.55
Low	<u>10,111,273</u>	<u>14,104,688</u>	<u>-3,993,415</u>	<u>-28</u>	<u>23,445,680</u>	<u>28,827,543</u>	<u>-5,381,863</u>	<u>-18.6</u>
Total	<u>17,948,397</u>	<u>21,716,570</u>	<u>-3,768,173</u>	<u>-17</u>	<u>39,887,328</u>	<u>45,069,052</u>	<u>-5,181,724</u>	<u>-11.5</u>



During the period January to February 2020 the larger crop harvests have been from the following regions.

1	Ratnapura	6,258,302.00	11	Bogawantalawa	973,264.00
2	Galle	5,095,598.00	12	Kegalle	958,375.00
3	Kalutara	3,030,237.00	13	Pussellawa/Hewaheta	927,537.00
4	Gampola/Nawalapitiya/Dolosbage	2,775,163.00	14	Kelani Valley	911,937.00
5	Deniyaya	1,599,827.00	15	Upcot/Maskeliya	878,219.00
6	Matara	1,572,028.00	16	Kadugannawa	785,924.00
7	Nanuoya/Lindula/Talawakelle	1,303,631.00	17	Agarapathana	770,052.00
8	Hatton/Dickoya	1,249,466.00	18	Morawaka	764,990.00
9	Demodara/Haliella/Badulla	1,227,906.00	19	Balangoda	631,229.00
10	Balangoda/Rakwana	1,050,337.00	20	Kandy/Matale/Kurunegala	614,263.00

April 20, 2020

JRA/-