



LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD
TEA MARKET REPORT

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SALE NO.06 OF 08TH/09TH FEBRUARY, 2022

COMMENTS

This week's tea auction (Sale # 06) was conducted on February 8 & 9, 2022 (Tue/Wed), with a weight of 5.4 mkg which was a decrease of 1.2 mkg over the previous sale. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy & Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2.45 mkg, whilst Main Sale High & Medium had 0.57 mkg. The Ex Estate category had 0.8 mkg.

There was good demand for the better Westerns in the Ex Estate catalogue, whilst others were irregular and easier. Select best Western high priced BOP's of last week were lower following quality while others were generally firm and up to Rs.20/- dearer, with the corresponding BOPF's appreciating up to Rs.30/- per kg where supported by air-mail enquiry. In the below-best category, BOP's were RS.20/- to 30/- easier in general, but, their BOPF counterparts with neater leaf gained up to Rs.20/-, although poor leaf teas declined by a similar margin. Nuwara Eliya's were barely maintained. Uva/Uda Pussellawa BOP's lost Rs.20/- and more as did the poor leaf BOPF barring only a small selection of neat and even teas which gained Rs.10/- to 20/-. CTC Teas – The best High Grown PF1's were irregular and lower while other improved sorts were dearer up to Rs.20/-. Medium PF1's with neat and clean leaf held firm, but poorer leaf teas were again easier. The best Low Growns were firm. BP1's – There were hardly any High Growns on offer while Mediums were irregular. Low Growns were mostly firm. Russian bulk buyers were more active for "Tea Bag" types following greater demand for hot beverages in Russia during this current winter season. With rising costs of energy, a lot of Russian households find heating too expensive for use at all times, and, have opted to drink more hot cups of their favorite Ceylon Tea to keep themselves warm. There was fair interest from Japan, Germany and other European markets for select liquoring teas. Below best liquoring teas met with selective demand from buyers for Hong Kong and China.

There was fair demand for Low Growns. Select best OP1's were barely steady, but below-best improved sorts were dearer on last. Well-made OP's and OPA's were fully firm to dearer while below-best teas ruled irregular following quality. Teas at the bottom end however, continued to attract sustained demand, and, were fully firm. The better made BOP1's were maintained whilst others were a little irregular. Select best Pekoes were firm while the better Pek1's were irregular. Secondary Pek/Pek1's generally maintained last levels. Select best FBOP's and FBOPF1's together with neater below-best teas were firm; others were easier following quality. Middle Eastern buyers displayed robust interest for their requirements whilst the CIS buyers were active on clean and stylish leafy teas. Turkey was more selective on Pekoes. Libya was more active for secondary leafy grades. Iraq continued to support bottom level teas.

This week's auction comprised of 9,865 lots with a total quantity of 5,415,117 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,844	765,475
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,321	593,083
Low Grown Tippy	1,983	1,035,171
High & Medium	1,125	573,782
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,100	1,126,880
Dust	433	429,479
Premium Flowery	343	56,907
Ex-Estate	<u>716</u>	<u>834,340</u>
Total	<u>9,865</u>	<u>5,415,117</u>

In Lighter Vein

The Right Equipment

A newlywed fisherman's wife sees her husband sleeping on the couch. Bored, she decides to take the boat on a ride around the lake. She goes forward a bit, then drops the anchor and reads a book in peace.

A short while later, an officer of the coast guard appears and stops beside her.

"Good morning, ma'am, what are you doing?" "I'm reading a book."

Answered the surprised woman. "Couldn't he see that?" She thought... "I'm afraid this is a no fishing area." The officer notified her.

"I'm sorry officer but I'm not fishing, I'm clearly reading." "Yes but you can start at any second, you have all the right equipment. I'm going to have to take you to the station and fill out a complaint."

"OK, but if you do that I will have to give my own complaint about you sexually assaulting me!"

But..." splattered the surprised officer, "I never touched you!"

"Yes that's true," replied the woman, "but you can start at any second. you have all the equipment..."

LOW GROWN TEAS

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOP1 : Select best invoices were firm on last week levels; balance too maintained.

OP1 : Teas in the select best category declined by Rs.50-100/-and at times more; balance was fully firm. Stalky invoices were lower by Rs.20/- per kg.

OP : Best teas were maintained; balance too met with a good demand.

OPA : Select best invoices declined by Rs.40-50/- per kg; balance however firm to irregularly dearer by Rs.10-15/- per kg; poorer sorts were maintained.

PEK/PEK1: Well made PEKOE1s' were barely steady; balance tended irregular. Bold PEKOE varieties were lower by Rs.20/- per kg. Teas at the lower end tended irregular.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	<u>Best</u>		<u>Below Best</u>		<u>Others</u>	
	<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	1100-1500	1100-1750	800-1000	800-1100	650-750	650-800
OPI	1050-1200	1100-1200	850-1000	850-1100	650-800	700-850
OP	720-850	700-850	650-720	600-700	550-600	550-600
OPA	800-940	800-1000	700-800	700-800	530-650	580-700
PEK/PEK1	900-1400	900-1450	740-780	780-800	650-740	680-780

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : Well-made BOP's were firm to marginally easier. All others were firm.

BOPF/BOPFSP : In general dearer.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Select best FBOP's eased, whilst cleaner secondaries and cleaner teas at the lower end sold around last levels. Balance were irregular following quality. FBOP1's in general were dearer.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Tippy flowery grades were irregular following quality. Best were firm to easier whilst cleaner Below Best and cleaner teas at the lower end barely steady. Well-made FBOPF1's were marginally easier. Balance were irregular.

FBOPFSP/EXSP : A few select best invoices appreciated following quality and the balance maintained.

<u>Quotations (Rs./Kg)</u>	<u>Best</u>		<u>Below Best</u>		<u>Others</u>	
	<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	900-1250	950-1250	800-900	800-950	650-800	650-800
BOPF /BOPFSP	900-1200	900-1180	800-900	750-900	600-800	600-750
FBOP/FBOP1	1000-1450	1000-1550	900-1000	850-1000	700-800	700-800
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1000-1450	1000-1350	880-1000	850-1000	700-850	650-850
FBOPFSP/EXSP	2500-3850	2500-3750	1500-2500	1500-2500	700-1000	750-1000

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP - A few select FBOPs' maintained on last levels, others lost Rs.50/- and more towards the closed. Below best and the poorer types were firm to dearer.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 - Well-made FBOPF/FBOPF1's firm to easier whilst the below best tended irregular.

PEK/PEK1 - Except for the few selected well made shotty PEKOE1s' others lost Rs.40-60/- as the sale Progressed. Secondary and the poorer types too declined in value.

<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	830-1300	875-1350	800-830	825-875	775-800	775-825
FBOPF/FBOPF1	850-1180	875-1250	780-850	800-875	700-780	700-800
PEK/PEK1	725-920	750-960	530-725	550-750	500-530	500-550

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP: Best Western's- Select high priced teas of last week were lower following quality, whilst the others were generally firm and up to Rs.20/- per kg lower. In the Below Best category a few select coloury invoices were firm, whilst the others declined Rs.20-30/- per kg. Plainer sorts were irregular. Nuwara Eliya's were barely maintained. Uda Pussellawa's declined Rs.20/- per kg, whilst the Uva's were firm and dearer by a similar margin.

BOPF: Best Western's were firm and Rs.20-30/- per kg dearer on select invoices following special inquiry. In the Below Best category clean leaf coloury sorts were Rs.10-20/- per kg dearer whilst the poor leaf and lighter liquoring teas declined by up to Rs.20/- per kg. Plainer sorts were irregularly firm. Nuwara Eliya's were barely steady. Uva/Uda Pussellawa's were firm and Rs.10-20/-per kg dearer.

<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	710-880	710-1060	780-960	750-920
Below Best Westerns	670-700	680-700	710-770	680-720
Plainer Westerns	610-660	610-780	650-700	670-820
Nuwara Eliyas	700	600-710	60-700	600-700
Brighter Uda Pussellawas	610-650	680-710	640-680	640-680
Other Uda Pussellawas	530	580-650	N/A	N/A
Best Uva's.	670-760	690-720	710-750	710-750
Other Uva's	600-640	590-620	540-570	540-570

(Cont'd... 4)

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Teas in the higher price bracket continued to sell well although prices were irregular following quality, whilst the other tended irregular and easier.

BOPF : Select neat leaf coloury sorts were Rs.10-20/- per kg dearer whilst the others, particularly the poorer sorts, were irregular and easier.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	660-1600	720-850	480-790	550-800

CTC TEAS

High Grown :

BP1 - Hardly any offerings.

PF1 - Best available were irregular and barely steady, whilst the other improved sorts gained Rs.20-30/ per kg.

Medium Grown :

BP1 - Irregular.

PF1- Select clean leaf bright liquoring sorts were mostly firm, whilst the others were irregularly easier.

Low Grown :

BP1 - Irregular though mostly sold around last week's levels.

PF1 - Well-made types were firm to marginally dearer on last week's closing levels, whilst the other poorer sorts declined by Rs.20/- per kg and more with the poorest being difficult of sale.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	PF1		BP1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	520-720	520-710	Not Quoted	550-600
Medium	450-670	400-670	400-550	450-570
Low	400-900	510-900	450-750	480-750

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1:

Select best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1s firm on last whilst poorer sorts were firm on last weeks levels. Clean Low Grown FNGS1 appreciated Rs.10/- per kg; others firm on last week levels.

BM:

Well-made BM's lost Rs.20-40/-. Best teas and lower end teas held firm.

BOPIA :

Select best BOP1A's lost Rs.20/- whilst best types appreciated Rs.10/- per kg. Below best types lost Rs.10-20/- 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)	450-660	450-660	450-550	450-550	450-580	450-580
Good Fannings (CTC)	360-440	360-440	360-460	360-460	360-440	360-440
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	380-460	380-460	380-470	380-470	380-470	380-470
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	540-580	540-590	520-570	530-590	530-570	530-590
Other BM's	430-510	430-510	430-510	430-510	430-510	430-510
Best BOPIAs	530-560	530-570	520-560	530-570	530-620	530-650
Other BOPIAs	490-530	490-530	480-530	480-530	480-530	480-530

DUST

DUST/DUST1:

Liquoring High Grown D1's declined substantially by Rs.20-30/-; others gained by Rs.20-30/-. Low Grown Clean Dust/Dust1's maintained on last levels.

PD:

PD's from High & Medium elevations witnessed an irregular demand whilst Low Grown PD's firm on last levels.

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)	560-820	500-850	610-770	600-760	630-770	630-770
Good Primary PD (CTC)	570-660	550-630	530-660	520-650	560-700	560-700
Secondary Dust	350-400	350-400	340-380	340-380	350-400	350-400

(Cont'd...06)

COLOMBO AUCTION - GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.05 OF 01ST FEBRUARY, 2022

	2022			2021	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	643.01	640.27	629.26	574.13	578.07
Western High Grown	730.84	731.56	723.42	620.93	626.90
High Grown	709.72	709.09	694.82	608.64	614.00
Uva Medium	652.66	652.98	649.10	575.56	593.42
Western Medium	658.74	659.33	629.33	563.84	576.62
Medium Grown	657.21	657.75	635.37	567.18	581.77
Low Grown (Orthodox)	781.91	781.91	761.26	665.75	679.23
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	766.35	762.54	745.00	657.08	669.76
Total	734.64	732.25	716.14	632.24	643.63

Private Sale Figures (31.01.2022 – 05.02.2022) - 75,749.50 Kgs

Cumulative - 456,246.75 Kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	<u>Sale of 14th/15th Feb '22</u>		<u>Sale of 22nd/23rd Feb '22</u>	
	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,868	784,046	1,812	733,940
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,335	593,100	1,362	585,245
Low Grown Tippy	2,072	1,065,429	2,180	1,124,720
High & Medium	1,469	744,402	1,408	712,276
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,238	1,227,267	2,231	1,258,132
Dust	567	557,560	566	587,809
Premium Flowery	351	62,594	397	66,410
Ex-Estate	<u>867</u>	<u>986,672</u>	<u>866</u>	<u>982,115</u>
Total	<u>10,767</u>	<u>6,021,070</u>	<u>10,822</u>	<u>6,050,647</u>

(Cont'd...08)

CATALOGUES

Sale No.09 of 01st/02nd March, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues closed **10th February, 2022 at 4.30 p.m.**

Sale No.10 of 08th/09th March, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **17th February, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.11 of 14th/15th March, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **24th February, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.**

BROKER'S SELLING ORDER

SALE NO.07

Auction of 14th/15th February, 2022

Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

Crop & Weather

For the period of 31st January to 06th February, 2022

WESTERN/NUWARA ELIYA REGIONS –

Both regions reported bright weather throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, showery conditions are expected in both regions in the week ahead.

UVA/UDAPUSSELLAWA REGION –

Clear weather conditions were reported throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects heavy showers in the Uva Region in the week ahead.

LOW GROWN REGION –

Sunny weather was reported from the Low Grown Region throughout the week. Showers are expected in the Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa regions by the Department of Meteorology in the week ahead.

CROP INTAKE –

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

World Crop Statistics (MKGS)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>	<i>To-date 2020</i>	<i>To-date 2021</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>
SRI LANKA	Dec.	28.65	20.41	-8.24	278.85	299.34	20.49
BANGLADESH	<i>Sep.</i>	12.14	12.61	0.47	57.45	64.76	7.31
KENYA	<i>Aug.</i>	38.52	33.63	-4.89	375.75	342.44	-33.3
SOUTH INDIA	<i>Oct.</i>	20.16	21.26	1.1	179.83	204.18	24.35
NORTH INDIA	<i>Oct.</i>	155.62	167.4	11.74	853.05	940.74	87.69
MALAWI	<i>Sep.</i>	2.78	4.03	1.25	36.40	42.40	6.0
TANZANIA	<i>June</i>	1.67	1.80	0.13	17.52	16.56	-1.0
UGANDA	<i>June</i>	5.77	3.57	-2.2	33.94	25.74	-8.20

“Africa Tea Brokers Bulletin of Statistics”

(Cont'd... 10)

- OTHER MARKETS -
BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE 39 HELD ON MONDAY 07TH FEBRUARY, 2022

CTC LEAF : 46,288 packages of Current Season teas on offer continued to meet with a selective demand.

BROKENS : There was only a small weight of clean Brokens which met with a good demand and sold at slightly easier rates but all other varieties met with much less demand and where sold recorded a further drop in price. BLF teas saw some demand but prices were once again a little easier.

FANNINGS : There was only a few clean Fannings on offer which met with a fairly strong competition and generally sold at firm to occasionally dearer rates. Medium and plainer types saw less demand and prices dropped further with heavy withdrawals. BLFs sold at around last levels.

CTC DUST : 9,762 packages of Current Season teas on offer met with a fairly good demand. Good liquoring Dusts witnessed fair competition and sold well at around last levels. Other Dusts were an easier market following a seasonal decline. BLF Dusts saw a limited interest with prices easing further. Blenders lent good support with fair interest from the Loose tea buyers.

COMMENTS: A heavier weight of plain teas eroded the general demand in the market and prices declined even further. Only bright feature was the strong demand for a few clean Fannings on offer. Blenders were fairly active although at reduced levels and there was a little more interest from the Loose tea buyers.

Dusts sold well.

Our catalogue (Sale 39) : Avg: Tk 180.61, Sold 54.4 % & (Sale 38) Avg: Tk 181.16, Sold 51.3 %.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Large	NQTA	NQTA	Best	205-215	202-210	PD	170-240	175-230
Medium	145-160	152-167	Good	170-175	175-180	RD	120-279	133-281
Small	152-165	157-170	Medium	150-160	155-165	D	130-272	140-274
Plain	130-140	130-145	Plain	130-140	135-145	CD	142-266	150-282
BLF	120-140	120-138	BLF	120-140	120-138	BLF	120-142	133-150

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

(Cont'd... 11)

SOUTHINDIAN ROUNDUP FOR THE WEEKENDING 29TH JANUARY - 2022

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand: Good Demand. All grades sold at steady to dearer levels by Rs2 to Rs.3

LEAF-ORTHODOX:

Demand: Fair Demand.

Market: Well made High grown and medium whole leaf and primary brokens sold at dearer levels depending on the quality. The cleaner brokens fannings had good demand gaining Rs.2 to Rs.4.

Buying Pattern: Middle East and CIS buyers operated.

DUST

Demand: Fair Demand.

Market: Popular marks and better medium teas eased by Rs.3 to 4 on the finer grades. Bolder grades eased further in value. Plainer sorts witnessed fair enquiry at irregular and lower levels.

Buying Pattern: Major blenders were active with useful support from packeteers & Internal buyers. Upcountry buyers operated on bolder grades. Best mediums witnessed fair support from internal & regional packeteers.

COONOOR

CTC LEAF

Demand: Fairly good

Market: Irregular market with Mediums being barely steady selling around last. Best and Better mediums were rather trading easier by Rs.3/- to Rs 5/- and have suffered some withdrawals.

The overall sale percentage is 83% at an average of Rs. 102.00.

Buying Pattern: Fairly good enquiry was forthcoming from the Major Blenders with equal support from the Internal buyers. Export has been subdued.

ORTH LEAF

Demand: Fairly good.

Market: Steady to firm on the Brokens and fully firm to dearer on the Whole leaf grades. Primary Fannings were barely steady and Secondary Fannings were easier.

The overall sale percentage is 71% at an average of Rs. 110.50.

Buying Pattern: Fairly good Export enquiry was forthcoming with Internal also lending fair support.

CTC DUST

Demand: Fair.

Market: Market had witnessed a sluggish demand for the Best and Better types which were selling at Rs.5/- to Rs. 10/- lower with fair withdrawals. The Mediums and Plainers were selling at barely steady with Smaller Dusts at fully firm levels.

The overall sale percentage is 69% at an average of Rs.106.08.

Buying Pattern: Fair Internal operation with Major Blenders and Exporters lending equal support.

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ORTH DUST

Demand: Fair.

Market: Generally an easier trend prevailed on the Primary dusts. Secondaries and Tertiaries were steady to firm and dearer at times.

The overall sale percentage is 66% at an average of Rs.98.58.

Buying Pattern: Fair participation from both Internal as well as Exporters.

COIMBATORE

CTC LEAF

Demand: Good general demand.

Market: Better medium brokens were steady to dearer by Rs.2/- sometimes more following quality with some withdrawals on BOPF's. Medium teas were firm. Plainer teas were fully firm to dearer by Rs.2/-.

Buying Pattern: Blenders were active. Exporters and internal buyers were selective.

ORTH LEAF:

Demand: Good demand.

Market: Whole leaf were lower by Rs.3/-. Brokens were firm to dearer. FNGS suffered heavy withdrawals.

Buying Pattern: Exporters were active. Internal selective.

CTC DUST

Demand: Good general demand.

Market: Better medium and popular marks were barely steady with some withdrawals on bolder grades. Medium teas were irregular. Plainer teas were fully firm to dearer by Rs.1/- to Rs.2/-.

Buying Pattern: Exporters and internal buyers were active. Blenders and packeeters were selective.

ORTH DUST

Demand: Poor demand.

Market: Lower by Re.1/- to Rs.2/- with heavy withdrawals.

Buying Pattern: Exporters were selective.

Source: Paramount Tea Marketing (SI) Private Limited

09th February, 2022.

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TEA SALE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 02ND QUARTER - 2022

APRIL / MAY / JUNE



SALE NO	DATE OF SALE	CLOSING DATES		PROMPT DATES		10% PAYMENT	E PLATFORM LEVY PROMPT DATES	
		EX ESTATE	MAIN SALE	BUYER'S	SELLER'S		BUYER'S	BROKER'S
APRIL								
14	Mon/Tue 04 th /05 th	18/03/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		11/04/2022	12/04/2022	08/04/2022	12/04/2022	19/04/2022
15	Tue/Wed 19 th /20 th	24/03/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		26/04/2022	27/04/2022	22/04/2022	26/04/2022	28/04/2022
16	Tue/Wed 26 th /27 th	31/03/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		04/05/2022	05/05/2022	29/04/2022	04/05/2022	06/05/2022
MAY								
17	Tue/Wed 03 rd /04 th	08/04/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		10/05/2022	11/05/2022	06/05/2022	10/05/2022	12/05/2022
18	Tue/Wed 10 th /11 th	22/04/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		17/05/2022	18/05/2022	13/05/2022	17/05/2022	19/05/2022
19	Tue/Wed 17 th /18 th	28/04/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		24/05/2022	25/05/2022	20/05/2022	24/05/2022	26/05/2022
20	Tue/Wed 24 th /25 th	06/05/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		31/05/2022	01/06/2022	27/05/2022	31/05/2022	02/06/2022
21	Tue/Wed 31 st May/ 01 st June	12/05/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		07/06/2022	08/06/2022	03/06/2022	07/06/2022	09/06/2022
JUNE								
22	Tue/Wed 07 th /08 th	19/05/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		15/06/2022	16/06/2022	10/06/2022	15/06/2022	17/06/2022
23	Mon/Wed 13 th /15 th	26/05/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		21/06/2022	22/06/2022	17/06/2022	21/06/2022	23/06/2022
24	Tue/Wed 21 st /22 nd	02/06/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		28/06/2022	29/06/2022	24/06/2022	28/06/2022	30/06/2022
25	Tue/Wed 28 th /29 th	09/06/2022 at 4.30 p.m.		05/07/2022	06/07/2022	01/07/2022	05/07/2022	07/07/2022

HOLIDAYS for 02ND QUARTER

April -

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, April 13, 2022 | - Day prior to Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day (P.B.M.) |
| Thursday, April 14, 2022 | - Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day (P.B.M.) |
| Friday, April 15, 2022 | - Good Friday (P.B.) |
| Saturday, April 16, 2022 | - Bak Full Moon Poya Day (P.B.M.) |

May -

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, May 1, 2022 | - May Day (P.B.M.) |
| Monday, May 2, 2022 | - Statutory Holiday on Account of May Day Falling on Sunday |
| Tuesday, May 3, 2022 | - Id Ul-Fitr (P.B.) |
| Sunday, May 15, 2022 | - Vesak Full Moon Poya Day (P.B.M.) |
| Monday, May 16, 2022 | - Day following Vesak Full Moon Poya Day (P.B.M.) |

June -

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, June 14, 2022 | - Poson Full Moon Poya Day (P.B.M.) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|

P- Public / B – Bank / M- Mercantile

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

A State-of-the-Industry View: Tea Today, Tea Tomorrow

By Joyce Maina



(Photo by: Nagehanozsezer / BigStock.com)

“If tea was heroine, I’d be dead.”

I saw this saying on my friend’s sustainably produced cotton groceries bag the other day, and it brought a huge smile to my face. She, like me, is a “tea head” and quite happy to let the world know it. And we are not in the minority. You see, tea is here to stay and the only thing changing is the selection – what, how and where we choose to consume it.

It is not by accident that tea is only second to water in terms of volume of beverage consumed by the world (according to [Euromonitor](#)). There are several things that have driven this over the last 5,000 years and, while I do not know all of them, I do recognize a few.

FEATURED EVENT

Celebrating Traditions and the Future of Tea.

March 21-23, 2022

Las Vegas, NV
Register

For starters, tea is a warming or cooling break when you need it – and we all need one of those every now and then. The taste of tea (whichever tea you choose) is generally easier on the palate compared to other beverages, and this makes it a conscious and subconscious choice across all demographics for many. I think the affordability of it has also played a big part in this, too. Tea remains a very low-priced beverage in comparison to others – with substantial pros and cons. While this is very attractive to the consumer, it does not bode well for the producers. Indeed, it does not necessarily help the industry as a large section of tea has become commoditized by this.

Tea Is Not Just a Drink, It's a Meal

In some of the largest markets, tea is not just a drink – it is a meal. Growing up in Kenya, I had schoolmates who had only a few cups of tea for breakfast before school. This is not unique or out of date; it is still replicated in many places around the developing world. Even when it is accompanied by other foods, tea sits center in the breakfast meal. And it is not just breakfast – it's a mid-morning and mid-afternoon break, too. It's also the drink at lunch and dinner in these places, and the meal is not complete without it. Can you imagine a Chinese meal without tea? Or, in the United Kingdom, the thought of a family member popping in and not being offered a cuppa? Unheard of! With tea embedded in the culture of these markets, it is weaved into the fabric of life and will be for many more generations.

Tea flows both ways, serving as a social opportunity as well as a solo break. It brings us together – building conversations and anchoring relationships. Many marriages, funerals and even businesses discussions are held over cups of tea everyday around the world. It also allows us to have a mindful moment, to re-center ourselves through the ritual of making it. It's the escape of sipping away and emptying one's mind, savoring the moment. Both of these have become even more needed over the last 18 months, as we all dealt with the "P" word (pandemic) and we will all probably be doing more of it in future.

But we will be choosing to do this differently.

Expect a Growth in Tea Drinking Outside the Home

More of us will choose to increase our tea drinking outside home – be it at work, as we eat out or on-the-go as we shop or travel. With a renewed interest in tea and increased offerings of more accessible formats, it is sound to expect growth in this area. Cold infuse tea bags or drops in your water bottle, ready-to-drink (or RTD) fortified teas to boost your pre-workout, or tea to sway you gently down as you unwind, or experiential custom-made bubble teas – just to mention a few.

We are now presented with exciting choices beyond a tea bag in hot water. Recently in Valletta, on a hot day exploring the sights, I stopped at [Tea Fusion Bubble Tea](#) and enjoyed selecting and customizing my own Boba tea from a menu so rich and diverse in taste, color, texture and fun that I felt like a kid in a candy shop!

I chose a regular size, popping mango boba with added salted cream, cold with no ice and with reduced sugar. I sat down to enjoy it and watched as a steady flow of people – generally between 15 and 35, I'd say – came up and customized their choice. Next to it was a drinks bar and a coffee shop. Guess where the queues were?

Indulging in Tea in Its Many Forms

As we emerge from the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, we also want to treat ourselves and indulge in tea in its many forms – none of which is more decadent than the afternoon tea experience. As Eileen Donaghey, [The Afternoon Tea Expert](#), says:

“Afternoon tea is the perfect excuse to meet friends and socialize over tea. Aside from the elegance and atmosphere at afternoon tea, the one thing that was really missing was the conversations with friends and comparing thoughts about the finger sandwiches and compliments on which course was their favorite. As the popularity of afternoon tea has soared in the past five years, it is used to celebrate baby showers, hen parties and even I have seen afternoon tea at weddings. While afternoon tea is seen as the ultimate indulgence, it seems that every venue wants to get a slice of the action. In London, you can consume afternoon tea on plane, rail and automobiles, (alongside the ever-popular hotels). Afternoon Tea is certainly here to stay, and as restrictions ease, the kettles across the country will be singing.”

More Understanding of Tea and Using It in More Diverse Ways

Overall, we want to not only enjoy tea but also learn more about it – about the history and etiquette of it – and have a good time while at it. Never has the interest in learning about tea been higher. In fact, I recently spoke at a [tea blending and tasting workshop](#) at [The Royal Botanic Gardens](#) at the outstanding Kew Gardens. They collaborated with the premium brand [Ahmad Tea London](#), to bring beautiful teas, a tea talk and afternoon tea experience in the beautiful surrounding. A truly plant-based tea experience!

In the end, we will continue to use tea in more diverse ways – cooking with tea, tea in beauty products and supplements, tea and art, as well as tea in alcohol and non-alcoholic refreshment drinks – and the list goes on. More brands will also seek to link tea to social issues, from diversity to equality to integrity and more.



(Photo: Joyce Maina / Cambridge Tea Consultancy)

In the industry, we will see and hear more of the large, growing domestic markets, where tea is a way of life; and while tea may not be packeted and retailed in the same way here as it is in the developed markets, there are vast amounts of it being consumed. With growing young populations, the way tea is done there will make bigger dynamic shifts.

More Growers Moving to Specialty Teas

The landscape on the production side of tea is also likely to shift. We're already seeing more growers moving to specialty teas. And as the balance is tilting gently and gradually towards differentiated teas and away from traditional teas in developed markets. There may well be less but better pure tea consumed, with more "tea" in total encompassing all the other ingredients that play in this space, which are added to or drunk instead of pure tea.

Joyce Maina is a global tea expert and consultant with many years of experience in multiples areas of the industry. Born and raised in the tea growing country of Kenya, she now lives in the United Kingdom and is the founder and director at Cambridge Tea Consultancy. Her company focuses on tea business advisory, tea education, communications and connections – supporting all stakeholders in tea industry from growers to packers and NGOs. Maina's tea journey began rather serendipitously when she joined Brooke Bond in Kenya as a graduate trainee in tea marketing. This opened up a whole new world of tea for her beyond the fine Kenyan teas she had grown up drinking. It enabled her to taste teas from all over the world and visit and work with producers in tea origin countries including China, Sri Lanka, Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa and India. With each new discovery, her love for tea grows. Over 30 years on, she still raves about tea. To learn more, visit CambridgeTeaConsultancy.com.