TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 10

MARCH 05 & 06, 2024

20 Years of Excellence

LCBL
COMMODITY HOUSE

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

This week's Tea Auction, namely Sale #10 of 2024 was held on March 05/06, 2024 (Tue/Wed). A total weight of 5.1 mkgs was on offer, which was a marginal increase of 0.56 mkgs when compared to the previous week's quantity. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy/Small Leaf & Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2.3 mkgs, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.65 mkgs. The Ex Estate category had 0.74 mkgs. [o

The overall market in the Ex-Estate catalogues met with improve demand with prices appreciating on last levels. Best Western BOP/BOPF's where quality was improved appreciated by Rs.50-100/- and at times substantially more as the sale progressed following special inquiry. In the below best category, here too improved teas gained Rs.50-100/- and more whilst plainer teas were fully firm to dearer to a lesser extent. Nuwara Eliya's select improved invoices were substantially dearer whilst others tended irregular following quality. The majority of the Uva/Udapussellawa tended irregular with the exception of a few select teas appreciating on last levels. CTC TEAS – High & Medium PF1's gained Rs.50-100/- more as the sale progressed whilst the balance were dearer but up to a lesser extent. Low Grown varieties were fully firm to Rs.50/- dearer at the commencement of the sale but eased as the sale progressed. The majority of the BP1's from all elevations continued to sell well on the last levels. There was improved demand from shippers to Japan, UK and the Continent for the better teas whilst Russia, CIS and the Tea bag sector accounted for the balance teas.

Low Grown teas continued to meet with good demand. The majority of the whole leaf grades maintained last levels with the exception of PEKOE's which tended irregular. In the Small Leaf category strong demand continued to be sustained with price levels maintaining last week levels. Bright Tippy Teas continued to meet with good demand and appreciated on last. Shippers to the Middle East, Russia and the CIS countries were fully active.

This week's auction comprised of 10,510lots with a total quantity of 5,190,316 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,760	661,020
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,430	609,728
Low Grown Tippy	2,110	1,039,493
High & Medium	1,491	655,060
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,138	1,018,814
Dust	506	416,446
Premium Flowery	311	46,877
Ex-Estate	764	742,878
Total	**10,510**	**5,190,316**

In Lighter Vein

The Dead Donkey

A Cajun named, Jean Paul, moved to Texas and bought a donkey from an old farmer named Ben for $100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day, Ben drove up and said, "Sorry, but I have some bad news. The donkey died." "Well, then, just give me the money back," said Jean Paul "Can't do that. I went and spent it already." Replied Ben "OK, then. Just unload the donkey," said Jean Paul.

"What ya going to do with him?" asked Ben. "I'm going to raffle him off," said Jean Paul. "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!" uttered Ben. "Sure can. Watch me. I just won't tell that he's dead," said Jean Paul.

A month later Ben met up with the Cajun and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?" "I raffled him off, I did. I sold 500-hundred tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of $898," said Jean Paul. "Didn't anyone complain?" inquired Ben.

"Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back," said Jean Paul.

LOW GROWN TEAS

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOP1 : Select best BOP's maintained last week levels however below best and best types of BOP1's declined by Rs.50/- per kg

OP1 : Select best OP1's held firm on last week levels and the balance too were maintained.

OP : Well-made OP's maintained on last week levels whilst the others appreciated by Rs.20/-.

OPA : Twisted OPA's and the balance too maintained on last week levels.

PEK/PEK1 : Well-made PEK's declined by Rs.50/- per kg. Balance were irregular and mostly lower. Shotty PEK1's too declined by Rs.50/- and lower end teas ended irregular.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
BOP1	**1800-4000**	1850-4000	**1500-1700**	1600-1800	**1400-1550**	1450-1600
OP1	**1800-4250**	1800-4250	**1650-1750**	1650-1800	**900-1100**	850-1050
OP	**1500-1950**	1500-1900	**1200-1350**	1200-1300	**840-960**	800-950
OPA	**1500-2350**	1500-1900	**1000-1200**	1000-1200	**820-920**	800-900
PEK/PEK1	**1400-2400**	1400-2500	**1200-1300**	1200-1300	**1000-1200**	950-1100

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : Select Best and Best BOP's were firm. Clean leaf Below Best together with the clean leaf teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance sold around last levels.

BOPF/BOPFSP : Select Best and Best BOPF's were firm, however, the Below Best and teas at the lower end appreciated.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Well-made FBOP's were firm, whilst few clean leaf Below Best and the clean leaf teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance were irregular following quality. However, the bolder varieties declined. Well-made FBOP1's were firm. Balance were irregular following quality.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Very Tippy teas met with good demand and were firm, whilst the Best and Below Best together with the clean leaf teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance sold around last levels. Well-made FF1's sold around last levels whilst the clean leaf Below Best and the clean leaf teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance were irregular following quality.

FBOPFSP/EXSP : FBOPFSP – Overall firm market. Other categories were on high demand.
EXSP – Overall market was firm

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
BOP/BOPSP	**1850-2000**	1900-2100	**1550-1750**	1600-1850	**1300-1500**	1200-1500
BOPF /BOPFSP	**1950-2300**	1700-1900	**1400-1850**	1250-1650	**1000-1300**	1000-1200
FBOP/FBOP1	**2250-2900**	2200-3000	**2100-2300**	2000-2400	**1700-2000**	1600-1900
FBOPF/FBOPF1	**2000-2550**	1900-2150	**1750-1950**	1750-1850	**1300-1650**	1200-1600
FBOPFSP/EXSP	**5600-5950**	5600-6850	**3900-5300**	3800-5200	**2800-3800**	2700-3700

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : Best Well-made wiry FBOP's were firm and easier towards the close whilst the secondary and the below best too were sold around the last week levels or below.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Except for select well made FBOPF1's, balance tended irregularly lower.

PEK/PEK1 : Except for very shotty invoices balance tended irregular on last levels.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
FBOP	**1700-2250**	1750-2350	**1300-1700**	1350-1750	**950-1300**	1000-1350
FBOPF/FBOPF1	**1700-2150**	1750-2050	**1450-1700**	1500-1750	**1200-1450**	1250-1500
PEK/PEK1	**1450-1850**	1500-1900	**950-1000**	1000-1500	**900-950**	900-1000

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP : Best Western's - where quality was improved, appreciated by Rs.50-100/- per kg and substantially more following special inquiry whilst the others sold around last week's levels and price fluctuations were most often following quality. In the Below Best category improved teas gained by Rs.100/- per kg and more, whilst the others were firm and dearer to a lesser extent. Plainer sorts mostly sold around last week s levels. Nuwara Eliya's - Select improved teas were substantially dearer, whilst the others were irregular following quality. Uda Pussellawa's were irregular and tended easier. Uva's were up to Rs.100/- per kg lower.

BOPF: Best Western s - where quality was improved, appreciated by Rs.100/- per kg and substantially more following special inquiry, whilst the others were up to Rs.50/- per kg dearer. In the Below Best category, better teas appreciated by Rs.50-70/- per kg and more following special inquiry whilst the others together with the teas at the lower end of the market appreciated by up to Rs.100/- per kg and more as the sale progressed. Nuwara Eliya's - Select invoices appreciated substantially, whilst the others were irregular following quality. Uda Pussellawa's were Rs.50-70/- per kg dearer. Uva's were barely steady.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	**1420-1900**	1260-1550	**1500-1850**	1440-2000
Below Best Westerns	**1240-1340**	1180-1240	**1340-1440**	1140-1320
Plainer Westerns	**1080-1200**	1020-1140	**1180-1280**	1080-1100
Nuwara Eliyas	**1700**	1480	**1400-1650**	1600
Brighter UdaPussellawas	**1200-1220**	1280-1300	**1180-1200**	1200
Other Uda Pussellawas	**920**	1080	**1100-1160**	1020-1140
Best Uva's	**1250**	1280-1380	**1220-1320**	1220-1380
Other Uva's	**1120-1180**	1100-1140	**1060-1200**	1100-1120

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Large Leaf teas continued to sell well, whilst the others were firm and tended dearer.

BOPF : Better sorts appreciated by Rs.50-80/- per kg, whilst the others were firm and dearer to a lesser extent.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	**1080-1850**	750-1950	**1020-1280**	940-1240

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:

BP1 - Continued to sell well.
PF1 - Gained by Rs.50-100/- per kg for most teas on offer.

MEDIUM GROWN:

BP1 - Irregular.
PF1 - Better sorts gained by Rs.50-70/- per kg, whilst the others were dearer to a lesser extent.

LOW GROWN:

BP1 - Continued to sell well at last week's levels.
PF1 - At the commencement of the sale were firm and up to Rs.50/- per kg dearer and eased as the sale progressed.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
High	**1360**	-	**1120-1280**	1040-1200
Medium	**750-1400**	840-1360	**730-1300**	770-1260
Low	**890-1500**	810-1500	**680-1550**	1040-1550

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 : Select Best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1 appreciated Rs.25-50/- per kg. Best teas dear Rs.25-50/-. Poorer types were firm to dearer by Rs.25-50/- per kg whilst well-made Low Grown FNGS/FNGS1 firm to dearer Rs.20/- . Others dearer Rs.25-50/-.

BM : Well-made teas held firm on last Best types advanced Rs.20-30/-. Poorer varieties were little irregular. Below best types advanced Rs.50-100/- per kg.

BOP1A : PEK1's reducers firm on last whilst best BOP1A's firm to dearer Rs.50-75/- per kg. Below best and poorer types advanced Rs.25-50/- per kg.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	**920-1300**	900-1250	**790-920**	780-900	**800-970**	780-950
Good Fannings (CTC)	**750-850**	750-850	**720-820**	720-810	**720-850**	700-820
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	**650-720**	650-720	**650-750**	650-720	**650-750**	650-720
Other Fannings (CTC)	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	N/A
Good BM's	**820-940**	820-890	**820-950**	830-920	**850-1500**	900-1500
Other BM's	**670-720**	670-720	**670-820**	670-730	**670-850**	670-750
Best BOP1As	**780-880**	750-820	**780-890**	780-890	**800-1450**	850-1500
Other BOP1As	**730-830**	730-800	**730-840**	730-790	**720-850**	720-820

DUST

DUST/DUST1: High grown liquoring Dust/Dust1's along with their secondaries gained Rs.40-80/- and more at times due to improved demand from local buyers. However, the lower end teas were irregular and mostly lower. Mid grown teas sold firm on last levels. Low Growns met with an irregular market particularly for last levels high priced teas declined by Rs.60-120/- and more at times. However their secondaries and below best types were firm to dearer.

PD : High grown CTC's gained Rs.40-60/- whilst their secondaries were firm on last levels. Mid grown and Low growns were irregular and mostly lower.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	**840-1550**	880-1700	**800-1440**	840-1550	**780-1500**	740-1060
Good Primary PD (CTC)	**820-1320**	830-1300	**820-1380**	820-1320	**740-1400**	720-1420
Secondary Dust	**730-1240**	700-1220	**780-840**	730-1240	**740-1220**	730-1100

WESTERN MEDIUM

Craighead	BOP	1850/-
Windsoforest	BOPSP	1850/-
***Hatale**	**BOPSP**	**1800/-**
Doombagastalawa	BOPSP	1800/-
***Galgewatta**	**BOPSP**	**1650/-**
***Ancoombra**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1650/-**
***Uplands**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1550/-**
***Galgewatta**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1420/-**
Harangalla	BOP1	2250/-
***Ancoombra**	**BOP1**	**2150/-**
Dartry Valley	BOP1	2150/-
New Rothschild	BOP1	2150/-
Harangalla	FBOP/FBOP1	2250/-
***Meezan**	**FBOP/FBOP1**	**2200/-**
***Hatale**	**FBOP/FBOP1**	**2150/-**
***Dartry Valley**	**FBOP/FBOP1**	**2150/-**
***Hatale**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**2150/-**
***Ancoombra**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**2100/-**
***Harangalla**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**2100/-**
***Meezan**	**OP/OPA**	**1550/-**
***Orange Field**	**OP/OPA**	**1460/-**
***Hatale**	**OP/OPA**	**1460/-**
***Harangalla**	**OP1**	**2000/-**
***Dartry Valley**	**OP1**	**1950/-**
New Rothschild	OP1	1950/-
***Meezan**	**PEK/PEK1**	**1850/-**
New Rothchild	PEK/PEK1	1850/-
***Wattehena**	**PEK/PEK1**	**1850/-**

WESTERN HIGH

Somerset	BOP	1900/-
Dessford	BOP	1900/-
Bogawantalawa	BOPSP	1650/-
Great Western	BOPF/BOPFSP	1850/-
Glenloch	BOP1	2000/-
Queensberry	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
St. Andrews	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
St. Andrews	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Bambrakelly	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Queensberry	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Bambarakelly	OP/OPA	1650/-
Venture	OP1	1800/-
Weddemulla	PEK/PEK1	1750/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Mahagastotte	BOP	1700/-
Lovers Leap	BOPF/BOPFSP	1650/-
Court Lodge	FBOP/FBOP1	1750/-
Court Lodge	PEK/PEK1	1650/-
Lovers Leap	PEK/PEK1	1650/-

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN

***Dunsinane CTC**	**PF1**	**1280/-**
Dunsinane CTC	BP1	1360/-

MEDIUM GROWN

New Peacock CTC	PF1	1300/-
New Peacock CTC	BP1	1400/-

LOW GROWN

Himgalgoda CTC	PF1	1550/-
Suduwelipothahena	PF1	1550/-
Liyonta CTC	PF1	1550/-

UVA MEDIUM

Halpewatte Uva	BOP	1800/-
Halpewatte Uva	BOPSP	1600/-
Uva Samovar	BOPSP	1600/-
Hindagala	BOPSP	1600/-
Dickwella	BOPF/BOPFSP	1750/-
Wewesse	BOP1	2150/-
Dickwella	FBOP/FBOP1	2000/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1900/-
Ury	OP/OPA	1480/-
Blossoms Uva Tea	OP/OPA	1480/-
Halpewatte Uva	OP1	1950/-
Mist Uva	PEK/PEK1	1700/-

UVA HIGH

Aislaby	BOP	1800/-
Aislaby	BOPSP	1700/-
Pitarathmale	BOPF/BOPFSP	1260/-
Uva Highlands	BOP1	1900/-
Ellathota Uva	FBOP/FBOP1	1900/-
Mount Uva	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
Aislaby	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
Uvakellie	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
Mahadowa	OP/OPA	1600/-
Ellathota Uva	OP1	1950/-
Aislaby	PEK/PEK1	1700/-

UDAPUSSELLAWA

***Brookside**	**BOP**	**920/-**
Luckyland	BOPSP	1220/-
***Mooloya**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1200/-**
Liddesdale	BOPF/BOPFSP	1200/-
Luckyland	BOPF/BOPFSP	1200/-
Kirklees	BOPF/BOPFSP	1200/-
Alma	FBOP/FBOP1	1850/-
Alma	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
***Delmar**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**1800/-**
Delmar	OP/OPA	1500/-
Alma	OP1	1800/-
Alma	PEK/PEK1	1550/-

OFF GRADES

***Chandrika Estate**	**BP**	**1650/-**
Arbour Valley	BP	1600/-
***Kothmale Hills**	**BP**	**1550/-**
Hingalgoda CTC	PF	1480/-
***Avissawella**	**BM**	**1480/-**
Bogoda	BM	1440/-
***Chandrika Estate**	**BM**	**1420/-**
Agra Ouvah	FNGS/FNGS1	1260/-
Mattakelle	FNGS/FNGS1	1260/-
***Chandrika Estate**	**BOP1A**	**1460/-**
***Aldora**	**BOP1A**	**1460/-**
Aldora	BOP1A	1460/-
***Chandrika Estate**	**BOP1A**	**1440/-**

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

***Sithaka**	**BOP1**	**4000/-**
New Vithanakanda	BOP1	4000/-
Pothotuwa	OP1	4250/-
Galatara	OP	1950/-
***Ganganee**	**OP**	**1900/-**
***Wattahena**	**OP**	**1900/-**
***New Galagawa**	**OP**	**1850/-**
***Karawita**	**OP**	**1850/-**
***Athukorala Group**	**Super OP**	**1850/-**
Liyonta	OPA	2350/-
Lumbini	PEKOE	2400/-
Liyonta	PEKOE	2400/-
Galatara	PEKOE1	2350/-

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

Ceciliyan	BOP	2050/-
Ceciliyan	BOP	2000/-
***Sithaka**	**BOP**	**1950/-**
***Wikiliya**	**BOP**	**1950/-**
***New Hopewell**	**BOP**	**1950/-**
Gunawardena	BOPSP	2050/-
Ceciliyan	BOPSP	1950/-
***Mahaliyadda**	**BOPSP**	**1950/-**
Sithaka	BOPF	2300/-
***Sithaka**	**BOPF**	**2150/-**
***Hidellana**	**BOPF**	**1900/-**
***Andaradeniya**	**Super BOPFSP**	**1950/-**
Palinda Nuwara	BOPFSP	1950/-
Sithaka	FBOP	2900/-
***Hidellana**	**FBOP**	**2650/-**
***Hidellana**	**FBOP1**	**2400/-**
Sithaka	FBOP1	2150/-
New Batuwangala	FBOP1	2150/-
***Wattahena**	**FBOP1**	**2100/-**
***New Laksakanda**	**FBOPF**	**2500/-**
***Hadigalla**	**FBOPF**	**2150/-**
Lumbini	FBOPF1	2550/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

***New Hopewell**	**FBOPFSP**	**5900/-**
New Batuwangala	FBOPFSP	5350/-
***Nawagamuwahena**	**FBOPFSP**	**5300/-**
***Athukorala Group**	**Super FBOPFEXSP**	**5950/-**
Nilgiri	FBOPFEXSP	5800/-
***Sithaka**	**FBOPFEXSP**	**5700/-**
Kamarangapitiya	FBOPFEXSP1	6000/-

DUST

Mattakelle	DUST	1220/-
Lumbini	DUST	1220/-
Mattakelle	DUST1	1750/-
Hingalgoda CTC	PD	1400/-
Ceciliyan CTC	PD	1400/-

COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.09 OF 27TH FEBRUARY, 2024

	2024			2023	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,202.97	1,102.31	1,049.45	1,282.49	1,245.20
Western High Grown	1,214.09	1,206.36	1,154.50	1,492.73	1,486.06
High Grown	1,211.94	1,186.49	1,129.74	1,440.05	1,422.31
Uva Medium	1,258.33	1,168.33	1,120.96	1,281.13	1,258.42
Western Medium	1,177.96	1,143.63	1,106.23	1,256.36	1,226.71
Medium Grown	1,199.98	1,149.75	1,110.27	1,263.25	1,235.85
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,485.98	1,445.89	1,430.46	1,555.35	1,567.86
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,451.65	1,412.68	1,405.33	1,526.93	1,540.43
Total	1,364.72	1,328.44	1,304.85	1,471.03	1,472.35

Private Sale Figures (24.02.2024 – 02.03.2024) - 157,552.00 kgs

Cumulative - 1,802,421.40 kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	Sale of 05th/06th Mar. '24		Sale of 12th/13th Mar. '24	
	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,758	642,041	1,650	604,414
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,343	555,239	1,256	520,127
Low Grown Tippy	2,058	999,774	1,916	913,443
High & Medium	1,686	753,892	1,679	761,648
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,133	1,049,483	2,007	999,001
Dust	509	430,822	520	451,279
Premium Flowery	321	46,946	272	38,260
Ex-Estate	835	825,621	848	847,594
Total	**10,643**	**5,303,817**	**10,148**	**5,135,766**

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No.13 of 26th/27th Mar, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **07th March, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.14 of 02nd /03rd April, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **14th March, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.15 of 16th /17th April, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **21th March, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

SALE NO. 11
AUCTION OF 12TH/13TH MARCH, 2024
BROKERS' SELLING ORDER

Leafy/Semi Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

Crop & Weather

For the period 27th February to 04th March 2024

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:

Bright weather was reported from both regions throughout the week. Misty conditions are expected in the Western Region in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology

Uva/ Udapussellawa Region:

The Uva and Uda Pussellawa regions reported sunny weather throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, dry weather conditions are expected in both regions in the week ahead.

Low Growns:

The Low Grown Region reported bright weather throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects evening showers in the Low Grown Region in the week ahead.

Crop Intake:

The Western, Uva and Udapussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, whilst the Nuwara Eliya and Low Grown regions showed a decrease.

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

Country	*Month*	*2022*	*2023*	*Difference +/-*	*To-date 2022*	*To-date 2023*	*Difference +/-*
BANGLADESH	Dec.	7.80	7.80	0.000	93.80	102.90	9.10
KENYA	Nov.	49.22	50.90	1.68	477.90	515.92	38.0
MALAWI	Nov.	1.70	2.70	1.00	43.10	39.30	-3.8
NORTH INDIA	Dec.	50.00	59.8	9.80	1134.50	1131.70	-2.80
SOUTH INDIA	Dec.	14.50	17.70	3.20	231.80	236.00	4.20

Country	*Month*	*2023*	*2024*	*Difference +/-*	*To-date 2023*	*To-date 2024*	*Difference +/-*
SRI LANKA	***Jan.***	***18.46***	***18.73***	***0.27***	***18.46***	***18.73***	***0.27***

"Africa Tea Brokers Bulletin of Statistic

OTHER MARKETS

MALAWI MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.10 HELD ON 06/03/2024

There was good demand at generally firm rates for the 7100 packages on offer.

BP1 - Were fully firm on last.

PF1/ PD - Tended firm where sold.

D1 - A few invoices on offer held firm to 3USC easier.

PF1SC - Sold 2 to 6USC easier on last where sold.

Secondary fngs were firm on last while respective dust sold firm to 5USC dearer.

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 03RD MARCH, 2024

Since last week's showers, some useful rainfall activity were experienced in the planting districts of Thyolo and Mulanje, total average rainfall up to 42mm and 180mm respectively.

Crop intakes were generally steady.

TEA BROKERS CENTRAL AFRICA LIMITED

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO. 45 OF MONDAY 04th MARCH, 2024

CTC LEAF : 43,698 packages of tea on offer continued to meet with a very restricted demand.

BROKENS : Select few lines of clean liquoring Brokens met with a fairly good demand and sold at around last levels easing slightly in line with quality. All other varieties again met with much less demand with heavier withdrawals and prices declined further. BLF teas met with only fair demand at slightly easier rates with fair withdrawals

FANNINGS : Likewise, a few lines of good liquoring Fannings met with a fairly good demand at around firm to slightly easier rates. Other varieties witnessed much less demand at easier rates and withdrawals were heavier. BLF teas met with only fair demand at slightly easier rates with fair withdrawals.

DUST : 11,757 packages of tea on offer met with fair demand. Good liquoring Dusts particularly CDs sold well and appreciated by Tk.5/- to Tk.8/-. Mediums were also firm at around last levels with some withdrawals. Plain and BLF Dusts had improved demand and sold at easier rates than last levels. Blenders were quite active whilst Loose tea buyers showed fair interest..

COMMENTS : Offerings comprised of mostly reprinted and end of season teas which continued to meet with a restricted demand. Blenders lent fair support but were more selective. Loose tea buyers lent only little support for lower priced teas. As a result, withdrawals were heavier this week.

CDs were again a strong feature of the sale.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Best	**190-200**	195-205	**Best**	**200-205**	200-210	**PD**	**078-212**	078-219
Good	**165-175**	170-180	**Good**	**165-175**	170-180	**RD**	**065-326**	075-240
Good Med	**145-155**	150-160	**Good Med**	**145-155**	150-160	**D**	**062-332**	097-269
Medium	**120-130**	125-135	**Medium**	**125-135**	130-140	**CD**	**115-321**	130-292
Plain	**055-085**	055-090	**Plain**	**055-085**	055-090	**BLF**	**090-095**	100-105
BLF	**080-115**	080-120	**BLF**	**080-115**	080-120			

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

MOMBASA TEA AUCTION MARKET REPORT

Sale No.09 of 26th & 27th FEBRUARY, 2024

Good general demand prevailed for the 315,219 packages (21,108,424.00 kilos) in the market with 45.50% remaining unsold

MARKETS

Pakistan Packers and **Bazaar** lent strong support with **Egyptian Packers, UK, Yemen** and **other Middle Eastern countries** showing more and useful activity. There was more enquiry from **Afghanistan** and **Russia** while **South Sudan, Kazakhstan** and **other CIS states** reduced interest. **Local Packers** were more active with **Iran** and **Sudan** quiet**. Somalia** maintained interest at the lower end of the market.

OFFERINGS

Leaf Grades - 190,400 packages (12,436,980.00 kilos) – 52.31% unsold.
Dust Grades - 96,860 packages (7,232,763.00 kilos) – 41.15% unsold.
Secondary Grades - 27,959 packages (1,438,681.00 kilos) – 14.24% unsold.

LEAF GRADES (M2)

BP1:

Best – Met irregular interest ranging between steady to USC7 above previous levels with selected lines advancing by USC47 and USC50 to easier by up to USC40. The lower end of the category dropped to USC125 on older teas.

Brighter – Were steady with a few teas irregular varying between USC24 dearer to easier by up to USC18; the older offerings showed improved absorption at lower levels with the lowest price at USC126.

Mediums – KTDA mediums held value at reserve price on current teas where sold while the lower end of the category dipped further to up to USC100 on the older offerings. Plantation mediums were irregular ranging between firm to USC21 dearer to easier by up to USC27.

Lower Medium – Varied between steady to USC18 dearer to easier by up to USC14.

Plainer – Mostly firm to USC18 below last prices but a few teas appreciated by up to USC10.

PF1:

Best – Saw improved enquiry at steady to USC27 dearer.

Brighter – Were firm to USC14 above previous levels.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were firm to USC17 dearer with plantation mediums irregular varying between steady to USC26 dearer to easier by up to USC19.

Lower Medium – Irregularly dearer by up to USC20 but a few lines lost up to USC23.

Plainer – Gained up to USC14 but a few teas eased by up to USC7.

CTC QUOTATIONS	BP1 – USC	PF1 – USC
Best	125 - 340	319 - 453
Good	126 - 288	311 - 337
Good Medium	128 - 344	289 - 325
Medium (KTDA)	100 - 252	130 – 299
Medium (Plantations)	130 - 201	126 - 237
Lower Medium	102 - 190	088 - 150
Plainer	072 - 127	050 - 112

DUST GRADES (M1)

PDUST:

Best – Steady to USC7 dearer with selected invoices appreciating by USC23 and USC36 some lines however, shed up to USC18.

Brighter – Were firm to dearer by up to USC26.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were irregular varying between firm to USC5 dearer to easier by up to USC12 while plantation mediums advanced by up to USC26.

Lower Medium – Met improved competition and appreciated by up to USC28 but a few lines eased by up to USC20.

Plainer – Were dearer by up to USC20

DUST1:

Best – Most teas were firm to USC15 dearer with a select teas gaining USC30 and USC75.

Brighter – Were irregular ranging between firm to USC10 above previous prices with a few lines appreciating by USC28 and USC34 to easier by up to USC15.

Mediums – KTDA mediums varied between steady to USC20 dearer to easier by up to USC8 with plantation mediums firm to USC20 above last levels.

Lower Medium –Were dearer by up to USC20.

Plainer – Ranged between firm to USC20 dearer to USC17 below previous prices.

CTC QUOTATIONS	PDUST – USC	DUST1 – USC
Best	314 - 520	296 - 355
Good	309 - 339	270 - 324
Good Medium	297 - 340	160 - 326
Medium (KTDA)	140 - 301	135 - 298
Medium (Plantations)	170 - 236	120 - 243
Lower Medium	094 - 184	100 - 186
Plainer	067 - 118	054 - 133

SECONDARY GRADES (S1)

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

SECONDARY QUOTATIONS (USC)	BP / BP2	PF / PF2	FNGS1/FNGS	DUST / DUST2	BMF
Best / Good	200 - 283	193 - 269	106 - 220	070 - 305	100
Good Medium /Medium	-	-	125 – 160	125 - 255	-
Lower Medium	092 - 143	056 – 130	074 - 128	045 - 110	058 - 084
Plainer	075 - 108	058 - 098	058 – 098	035 – 094	060 - 085

6th March, 2024

-/ra

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

Is green tea good for you? Drinking it every day can provide these health benefits

Green tea has developed a reputation as a superfood and health elixir, but which claims are true? Here's what experts say

By A. Pawlowski TODAY • Published March 1, 2024 • Updated on March 1, 2024 at 11:46 pm

Green tea is as famous for its potential health benefits as its vibrant color.

The beverage has been around for millennia, used for hydration, ceremony and medicinal purposes, with researchers calling it "the second most popular drink in the world besides water."

Most recently, green tea has developed a reputation as a superfood and health elixir, with claims that it can impact everything from heart disease and cancer risk to weight loss. But is that true?

Just drinking tea in general is a healthy habit, especially if it's a replacement for sugary drinks, says dietitian Teresa Fung, Sc.D., co-chair of the department of nutrition at Simmons University in Boston and an adjunct professor at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"Tea itself is great because it has antioxidants," Fung tells TODAY.com. "You're drinking fluids, and when we are getting our fluids from tea, hopefully we are not getting it from soda."

Regular green tea consumption can be beneficial to people's health, adds Dr. Jay Lee, a member of the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"Many patients do sort of swear by it and believe that it does help with their sense of wellbeing," says Lee, who is medical director at Integrated Health Partners of Southern California.

What is green tea?

Green and black tea comes from the same tree, but the tea leaves are processed differently after they're picked, Fung says.

To make black tea, the leaves are oxidized — allowed to dry and darken — for a longer period. Green tea undergoes much less processing, which preserves the antioxidants in the leaves better, she notes.

Green tea nutrition

Since it's mostly water, green tea is a low-calorie beverage as long as you don't add sweetener or cream.

One cup contains the following, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- 2 calories
- 29 milligrams of caffeine
- 0.5 grams of protein
- 2 milligrams of sodium

Brewed pure green tea has no fat, sugar, carbs or fiber. It contains trace amounts of magnesium, potassium, manganese and riboflavin.

What are the benefits of green tea?

Green tea is special because it contains strong antioxidants called polyphenols, Fung says.

Antioxidants can neutralize free radicals — damaging particles generated when the body performs regular processes we need for life.

Because some of these free radicals are also inflammatory, antioxidants could reduce the risk of inflammatory-based diseases, such as cancer, Fung notes. Catechins are the dominant polyphenols in green tea, with researchers studying their potential to prevent breast, lung, prostate, stomach and pancreatic cancer.

But studies of green tea and cancer in people have had inconsistent results, according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.

Both green and black tea might have beneficial effects on heart disease risk factors, such as blood pressure and cholesterol, but the few studies done in this area have limitations so no definite conclusions have been reached, the center notes.

When it comes to blood sugar, green tea may be able to reduce it a bit, Fung says. In short-term studies, green tea supplementation "significantly reduced fasting glucose," but long-term trials are needed, the authors of a 2020 review and meta-analysis wrote.

A surprising benefit of green tea is that it naturally contains fluoride, which prevents tooth decay, because the tea tree extracts the mineral from the soil, Fung says. One study found matcha green tea powder had the highest concentration of fluoride of various types of teas tested.

Does green tea lead to weight loss or reduce belly fat?

No, Fung says. It contains caffeine, which can temporarily increase metabolic rate a little, but "it's really it's not going to be enough to do anything," she explains.

Green tea extracts don't produce meaningful weight loss in adults who are overweight or have obesity, and don't help people maintain weight loss, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health notes.

"People think if you drink a few cups of green tea, you'll see the fat melt away," David Nieman, director of the Human Performance Lab at Appalachian State University, told Consumer Reports. "That's just not going to happen."

Is it OK to drink green tea daily?

Yes, up to eight cups per day is believed to be safe to drink, according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.

Drink at least three cups a day to get the health benefits, Fung says.

If you're sensitive to caffeine, you'll want to fine-tune the amount so that you're not overdoing it and start to feel sick, Lee advises.

"Modest amounts of caffeine, if it's something that someone is consuming regularly, shouldn't be an issue."

A cup of green tea has about a third of the caffeine found in a cup of coffee.

Drinking green tea plain is traditional, but you can add lemon or honey to it if that's your preference, Fung notes. She's not a fan of green tea in chai latte form, which uses milk and sugar, and contains lots of calories.

Green tea extract vs. drinking green tea

The experts recommend brewing your own tea and drinking it rather than taking green tea extract supplements.

You get the flavor, and it's more enjoyable to slow down and savor a cup of tea, both Fung and Lee say. You also meet your fluid needs.

"I'm generally in favor of avoiding pills when you can," Lee notes.

Then, there's the issue of what's actually in the nutritional supplements, which aren't regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Antioxidants are sensitive to oxygen, so Fung wonders how many would still be active after the green tea is processed and transformed into supplement form.

Liver problems have been reported people who took green tea extracts in pill form, so people with liver disease should consult a health care provider before using products with green tea extract, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health cautions.

Herbal Tea Market Projected to Reach $4.3 billion by 2031, Fueled by Growing Demand for Food Industry

News Provided By
Allied Analytics LLP
March 04, 2024, 13:04 GMT

Herbal Tea Market

Increased consumption of herbal beverages owing to the rise in awareness of the health advantages offered by the consumption of herbal tea products.

WILMINGTON,NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES, March 4, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Allied Market Research published a report, titled, "Herbal Tea Market By Type (Chamomile, Peppermint, Hibiscus, Lemongrass, Ginger, Fruits, Blends, Others), Packaging (Loose Tea, Paperboards, Aluminum Tins, Tea Bags), and Distribution Channel (Supermarket-Hypermarket, Specialty Stores, Convenience Stores, Online Sales Channel, Others): Global Opportunity Analysis and Industry Forecast, 2022–2032". According to the report, the global herbal tea market was valued at $2,497.6 million in 2022, and is projected to reach $4,330.5 million by 2032, registering a CAGR of 5.6% from 2023 to 2032.

Prime determinants of growth

The herbal tea market has experienced rapid growth owing to the shift of consumers toward natural and organic tea beverages in recent times. Herbal teas, derived from dried herbs, flowers, fruits, and spices, offer a natural, plant-based beverage for health-conscious consumers. The absence of artificial flavors and preservatives caters to the preference for natural ingredients, attracting individuals seeking unprocessed beverage options. Moreover, the herbal tea market has experienced a surge in innovation owing to advances in technological and packaging aspects, driven by consumer demand for convenience, sustainability, and personalized wellness experiences.

The chamomile gum segment to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period

Based on type, the chamomile segment held the highest market share in 2022, accounting for more than one-fifth of the global herbal tea market revenue and is estimated to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period. The market for chamomile tea is driven by the significant active compounds present in chamomile, such as terpenoids alpha-bisabolol, and azulenes. These compounds exhibit antioxidant, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory characteristics, which contribute to the popularity of this segment. Chamomile tea is often consumed for its potential health benefits, such as promoting relaxation, aiding in sleep, and helping with digestive issues. In addition, chamomile has a long history of traditional use in herbal medicine, particularly for its calming effects. Thus, this segment is to maintain dominance throughout the forecast period. Thus, the demand for chamomile tea is growing significantly boosting the market growth.

The tea bags segment to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period

Based on packaging, the tea bags segment held the highest market share in 2022, accounting for nearly two-fifths of the global herbal tea market and is estimated to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period. The busy and fast-paced lifestyle of consumers has propelled the demand for ready-to-use products such as tea bags. They are designed to provide a standardized flavor and strength, which ensures a consistent and reliable taste experience with each use. The tea bags offer a hygienic and mess-free alternative to another packaging of tea leaves available in the market. The contained nature of tea bags prevents tea leaves from floating freely in the cup and thus provides a cleaner drinking experience. Thus, this segment is expected to grow in coming years.

The supermarket-hypermarket segment to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period

Based on distribution channel, the supermarket-hypermarket segment held the highest market share in 2022, accounting for more than two-fifths of the global herbal tea market and is estimated to maintain its leadership status throughout the forecast period. The hypermarket/supermarket is gaining popularity owing to the availability of a broad range of consumer goods under a single roof, ample parking space, and convenient operation timings. Manufacturers work closely with retailers to secure optimal shelf space within hypermarkets and supermarkets. Placing herbal tea products prominently, such as at eye level or in high-traffic areas, increases visibility and the likelihood of customer engagement. Moreover, increase in urbanization, rise in working class population, and competitive pricing boosts the popularity of hypermarkets in the developed and the developing regions. These stores offer a variety of brands in a particular product category, thus providing more options for the consumers to buy herbal tea products of their choice. All these factors increase the sales in supermarkets and hypermarkets.

Asia-Pacific to maintain its dominance by 2032

Based on region, Asia-Pacific held the highest market share in terms of revenue in 2022 and is likely to dominate the market during the forecast period. Herbal tea has held a significant place in traditional Chinese medicine and its therapeutic properties have been recognized and utilized for centuries in various herbal remedies. These herbal concoctions are highly regarded for their potential effectiveness in treating serious health concerns in this region. Moreover, herbal teas are grown in plenty in China, Japan, and India. Thus, it may help the key players to cater to the requirements of consumers with less cost and effort, as people in this region are accustomed to the benefits of herbal tea. These factors are driving the growth of the herbal tea market in Asia-Pacific.

BLUE FIELD TEA FACTORY

WINS GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY 2024 GOLDEN AWARD IN PLANTATION SECTOR

Muhammad Jawad

04 Mar 2024 00:07 EST

Blue Field Tea Factory, recognized with the Global Sustainability 2024 award, sets a sustainability benchmark in the tea industry. Their commitment highlights the vital role of environmental stewardship.

Blue Field Tea Factory Wins Global Sustainability 2024 Golden Award in Plantation Sector

Blue Field Tea Factory, a prominent tea manufacturer located in Nuwara Eliya District's Ramboda area, has been honored with the prestigious Global Sustainability 2024 golden award in the plantation sector. The accolade was presented at a recent ceremony at the Colombo Hilton, marking a significant achievement for the company and highlighting its commitment to sustainable practices.

Dedication to Sustainability

During the award ceremony, Marketing and Sales Manager K. Hatheem received the prestigious award from Parliamentarian Dr. Harsha De Silva. In a statement to the media, Hatheem attributed the success of the Blue Field Tea Factory to the relentless efforts and dedication of its Managing Directors and the entire team at Blue Field Tea Gardens. He emphasized that their commitment to sustainable plantation practices and environmental stewardship played a crucial role in securing this global recognition.

Impact on the Tea Industry

This award not only underscores Blue Field Tea Factory's position as a leader in sustainable tea production but also sets a benchmark for others in the industry. It highlights the importance of integrating sustainable practices in the plantation sector and demonstrates how environmental responsibility can coexist with business success. The achievement is expected to inspire other tea producers to adopt similar sustainability measures, potentially leading to widespread improvements across the industry.

Looking Forward

The Global Sustainability 2024 award has put Blue Field Tea Factory in the spotlight, not just locally but on an international scale. This recognition is likely to open new doors for the company, enhancing its brand reputation and potentially leading to increased demand for its products globally. The award also serves as a reminder of the critical importance of sustainability in today's business landscape, encouraging continuous improvement and innovation in sustainable practices within the tea industry and beyond.

Houthi Missile Attacks Threaten UK's Tea Supply

British people are known around the world for their love of tea. This is borne out by the statistics: a staggering 50 billion cups of tea are consumed on average in the UK every year.

Most of this tea is made using black tea leaves, most of which are not produced in the UK. Thus, shipping disruption caused by attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea, through which an estimated 12% of global trade passes each year, has sparked fears of a national tea shortage.

The attacks, which are being carried out by the Yemeni Houthi rebel militant group in support of Hamas, have forced shipping companies to redirect around the southern tip of Africa – a journey that can take up to three weeks longer.

Two of the UK's biggest suppliers of tea, Tetley and Yorkshire Tea, have announced that they are monitoring their supply chains closely for any potential disruptions. And customers have reported reduced stocks of tea in supermarkets across the UK.

It is no surprise that tea is vulnerable to supply chain disruption. The tea supply chain is a complex global network, involving producers, processors, auctions and wholesalers, packers, distributors and retailers.

The UK imports primarily unprocessed tea from countries in south Asia and east Africa. This tea is then packaged and blended within the UK for both domestic and export markets. Only around 10% of the packaged tea sold in the UK is supplied by companies from overseas.

But tea is one of many items to be caught up in the supply chain crisis. The disruption is affecting supplies across various other sectors too, including electric cars and liquified natural gas – and it could prove costly.

The UK is particularly reliant on natural gas for the production of carbon dioxide, a gas that is essential for everything from NHS operations to keeping food fresh while it is transported.

Not so unpredictable

The disruption caused by the Red Sea attacks is considered by some to have been an entirely unpredictable occurrence of what is known as a "black swan" event. But this crisis is the latest in a long line of shocks to global supply networks that have occurred over the past decade.

Whether it was the 2011 tsunami off the coast of Japan, Brexit, COVID, US trade sanctions on China, or the war in Ukraine, the fact of the matter is that supply chains are now experiencing disruption more often than they used to.

There are two reasons for this. First, organizations have become increasingly reliant on distant countries for the manufacturing and supply of routine and critical components.

Sometimes this decision is made because of the natural advantage these countries hold. For example, China currently accounts for 93% of the global production of so-called rare earth elements, which are used in the components of many of the devices we use every day. But most of the time these decisions are driven by an organization's pursuit of lowering its cost of operation.

Second, a focus on just-in-time production, where businesses focus on producing precisely the amount they need and delivering it as close as possible to the time their customers need it, has reduced the buffer against supply chain shocks.

Building resilient supply networks

Organizations need to diversify their supply chains by developing alternate sources of supply. Many businesses already spread their source of materials over multiple suppliers across different regions to ensure quality, the continuity of supply, and to minimize costs.

For less complex components, such as packaging (cardboard, plastic bags and bubble wrap) or raw materials (metals and plastic), multiple sourcing is often practiced through competitive tendering and reverse auctions; where the sellers bid for the prices at which they are willing to sell their goods and services.

However, for more complex products, the development of alternate sources of supply needs to be done strategically. One of the most important steps to improve supply chain resilience is to reduce reliance on global suppliers through processes called "onshoring", "nearshoring" and "friendshoring".

Onshoring is where components are sourced from suppliers located within domestic national borders. Nearshoring is a similar strategy where a company moves its supply to neighbouring countries. And friendshoring is where organizations transfer their production away from geopolitical rivals to friendlier countries.

The US, for example, has traditionally relied on Taiwan and South Korea for its supply of semiconductors (computer chips). But geopolitical tensions with China, coupled with a global shortage of semiconductors, have forced the US to look for suppliers in countries closer to home, while also exploring the potential of moving chip manufacturing to the US.

Geographical and climate factors restrict the onshoring of tea cultivation to the UK. But these supply strategies could help businesses manage the risk of supply chain disruption to other, potentially more critical, commodities.

Making supply chains more agile

The frequency with which global supply chains are now becoming disrupted means that organizations must rethink their supply chain strategies, evolving from being efficient and lean to flexible and agile.

An agile supply chain strategy will require businesses to maintain adequate inventory levels to guard against a situation where stock runs out. These inventory levels must be informed by real-time – or as close to real-time as possible – data on customer demand.

The disruption to the UK's tea supply highlights the vulnerability of supplies of everyday essentials to unexpected events. But businesses can make sure they are better prepared for the occurrence of an unexpected event by enhancing the resilience of their supply chain through diversification and agility.

Jas Kalra is Associate Professor of Operations & Project Management at Manchester Metropolitan University.

****