

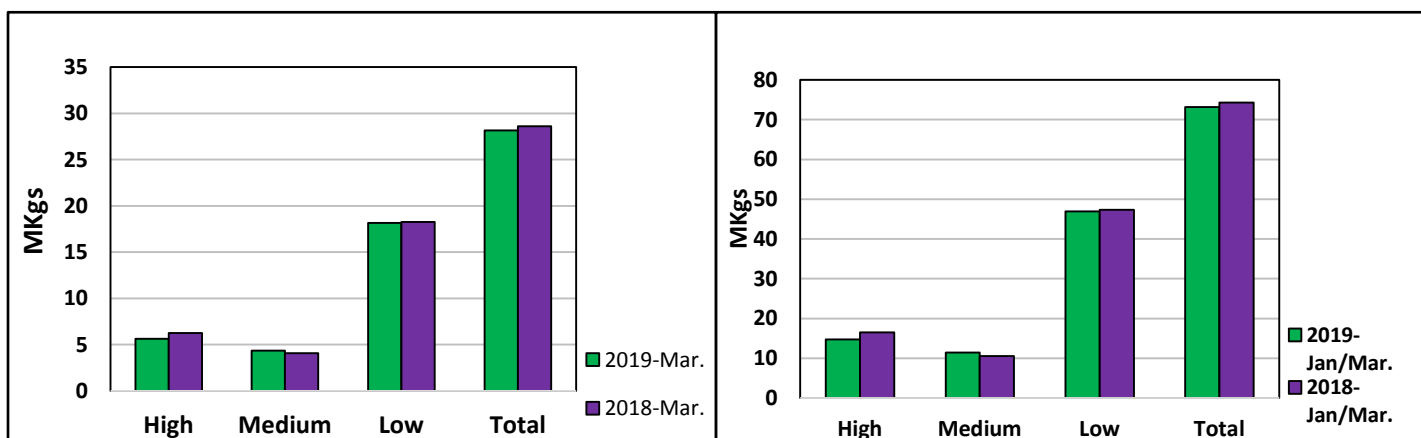
Tea production in March 2019, has shown a decline of 453,608 kgs over the corresponding month last year, and when compared to March 2018, the largest reduction of 9.75% is seen from the High Grown elevation. During the month under review, the Low Grown elevation too has recorded a marginal decline over the same month last year, and, the severe drought conditions experienced, along with rising temperatures are seen as the main reasons for the retarded growth. Global warming is indeed becoming a serious threat to our tea crop as well as other agricultural produce, and, it is unlikely that we will see a significant improvement in harvests within the short to medium term.

During the first quarter of the current year (Jan/Mar 2019), the total harvest of 73.1 m/kgs is once again lower when compared to the first quarter of 2018, with respective declines of 10.34% and 0.72% from the High and Low elevations.

Given below are more comprehensive details relating to tea production.

Sri Lanka Tea Production-March 2019 vs. 2018 (In Kgs)

	2019-March	2018-March	+/-	%	Jan/ Mar 2019	Jan/Mar 2018	+/-	%
High	5,647,284	6,257,310	(610,026)	(9.75)	14,765,503	16,467,629	(1,702,126)	(10.34)
Medium	4,354,928	4,089,117	265,811	6.50	11,458,046	10,560,012	898,034	8.50
Low	18,152,272	18,261,664	(109,392)	(0.60)	46,966,490	47,306,452	(339,963)	(0.72)
Total	<u>28,154,484</u>	<u>28,608,091</u>	<u>(453,608)</u>	<u>(1.59)</u>	<u>73,190,039</u>	<u>74,334,093</u>	<u>(1,144,055)</u>	<u>(1.54)</u>



During the period January to March, 2019 the larger crop harvests have been from the following regions.

1	Ratnapura	12,735,769.00	11	Kadugannawa	1,544,043.00
2	Galle	10,603,931.00	12	Hatton/Dickoya	1,522,635.00
3	Kalutara	5,804,335.00	13	Upcot/Maskeliya	1,509,619.00
4	Gampola/Nawalapitiya/Dolosbage	4,636,194.00	14	Morawaka	1,499,628.00
5	Matara	3,781,187.00	15	Kegalle	1,481,971.00
6	Deniyaya	3,499,216.00	16	Pussellawa/Hewaheta	1,436,145.00
7	Demodara/Haliella/Badulla	2,125,810.00	17	Balangoda	1,402,336.00
8	Nanuoya/Lindula/Talawakelle	2,087,498.00	18	Bogawanthalawa	1,338,403.00
9	Balangoda/Rakwana	1,928,343.00	19	Agarapathana	1,131,452.00
10	Kelani Valley	1,890,912.00	20	Patana/Kotagala	963,122.00

April 26, 2019

JRA: sr