

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 37

September 18, 2024



LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

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COMMENTS

This week's Tea Auction, namely Sale #37 of 2024 was held on September 18, 2024 (Wed). A total weight of 4.0 MKGS was on offer, which shows a decrease when compared to the previous week's quantity. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy/Small Leaf & Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 1.8 MKGS, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.51 MKGS. The Ex Estate category had 0.6 MKGS.

Demand at this week's Ex-Estate sale which was a One-day Auction witnessed less overall demand. Best Western BOP/BOPF declined Rs.20-40/- per kg and more following quality whilst teas in the below best category lost further. Teas at the lower end too were an easier feature. Nuwara Eliya teas had hardly any demand and were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa BOP's tended irregular whilst their corresponding BOPF's were firm to Rs.20/- per kg dearer. Better Uva's sold at last levels whilst others were irregular and mostly lower following quality. CTC Teas - Select best High & Medium PF1's gained Rs.20-40/- per kg following special inquiry whilst the others sold around last levels. Low Grown PF1's were firm and selectively up to Rs.50/- per kg dearer. High & Medium BP1's from all elevations tended irregular. The limited selection of better liquoring teas continued to be sought after by shippers to Japan and Europe whilst the balance were accounted for by Russia, CIS and China. The majority of the Exporters were once again very selective in their purchases.

At the Low Grown sale held today select best whole leaf grades such as BOP1/OP1 and OPA's were firm on last levels whilst high priced OP's of last week lost on last levels. The balance teas where quality was not maintained tended irregular. Well-made shotty PEK's were selectively dearer whilst the balance held firm. Small leaf grades were generally firm on last levels and at times were selectively dearer. Bright Tippy teas continued to appreciate this week and sold well. Shipper to the Middle East, Russia and CIS countries were active.

This week's auction comprised of 8,374 lots with a total quantity of 4,026,455 kgs.

In Lighter Vein

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

ODD SIGNS

Sign in a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,492	520,985
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,265	511,165
Low Grown Tippy	1,593	738,695
High & Medium	1,214	510,878
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,393	669,041
Dust	423	369,480
Premium Flowery	282	37,063
Ex-Estate	<u>712</u>	<u>669,148</u>
Total	<u>8,374</u>	<u>4,026,455</u>

Sign on motorway garage:

PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE NEAR OUR PETROL PUMPS.

YOUR LIFE MAY NOT BE WORTH MUCH,
BUT OUR PETROL IS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Sign on a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING.

(PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR -
THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

LOW GROWN TEAS

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOP1 : Select best BOP1's appreciated by Rs.50/- per kg whilst the balance were fully firm on last week levels.

OP1 : In general were firm.

OP : Best OP's were firm whilst the balance were dearer by Rs.20-40/- per kg.

OPA : Select best and best OPA's were maintain whilst the balance were irregularly lower. Poorer sorts held firm.

PEK/PEK1: Bolder PEK's on average appreciated by Rs.50/- per kg. PEK1's were maintained last week 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>
BOP1	1600-3050	1600-3000	1000-1300	1000-1300	800-950	800-950
OP1	1350-3200	1300-3200	1000-1250	1000-1200	750-850	700-800
OP	1250-1700	1200-1800	1050-1300	1000-1250	700-750	700-750
OPA	1200-1900	1200-1900	1000-1100	1000-1100	700-750	700-750
PEK/PEK1	1550-2250	1500-2300	1250-1500	1200-1450	900-1100	900-1050

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : Well-made BOP's were firm. However the clean leaf below best and the cleaner teas at the lower end appreciated whilst the balance sold around last levels.

BOPF/BOPFSP : Select Best and Best BOPF's were easier. Balance were firm.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Select best FBOP's were firm whilst the Best together with the clean Below Best and the bolder varieties were firm to dearer. Balance sold around last levels. Well-made FBOP1's appreciated. The balance was firm.

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

FBOPFSP : Select best met with strong demand. Others were firm.

FFEXSP/SP1 : Firm to last.

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	2000-2650	1900-2300	1650-1950	1550-1850	1000-1600	1000-1550
BOPF /BOPFSP	1750-2000	1800-2050	1200-1700	1100-1750	950-1150	800-1050
FBOP/FBOP1	2000-2550	1850-2350	1500-1950	1400-1800	950-1450	950-1350
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1600-2000	1800-2250	1200-1550	1300-1750	900-1150	900-1250
FBOPFSP/EXSP	5300-7150	5200-7000	4000-5200	3900-5100	2300-3900	2200-3800

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : Select well-made types maintained on last levels. Below best and the poorer sorts were irregular.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Except for few well-made varieties; balance tended irregular. The poorer sorts were firm on last levels.

PEK/PEK1 : Neat well-made varieties met with fair demand. Below best and the poorer types too were firm 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	1650-1900	1650-1800	1350-1650	1300-1620	750-1350	750-1300
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1500-1900	1475-1900	1200-1500	1200-1470	800-1200	750-1200
PEK/PEK1	1450-1750	1450-1800	1200-1450	1000-1350	800-1200	720-1000

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP : Best Western's declined by Rs.40/- per kg and more following quality, whilst teas in the Below Best category declined further. Teas at the lower end followed a similar trend. Nuwara Eliya's were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa's - Better teas sold at last levels, whilst the others were irregularly dearer following special inquiry. Uva's - Better sorts sold at last levels, whilst the others were irregular and mostly lower following quality.

BOPF: Best Western's declined by Rs.20-40/- per kg following quality. Teas in the Below Best category which commenced Rs.20-40/- per kg lower, gained by a similar margin towards the close, whilst the others together with teas at the lower end followed a similar trend. Nuwara Eliya's had hardly any demand and were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa's - Better invoices gained by Rs.20/- per kg, whilst the others sold at last levels. Uva's - Better teas were firm on last week's closing levels, whilst the others were barely steady.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1400 - 1460	1440-1550	1300 - 1380	1340-1420
Below Best Westerns	1180 - 1340	1200-1400	1180 - 1280	1200-1300
Plainer Westerns	1100 - 1160	1100-1160	1060 - 1140	1080-1180
Nuwara Eliyas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brighter UdaPussellawas	1380	1160-1220	1140 - 1180	1120-1160
Other Uda Pussellawas	1160	1060-1120	1080 - 1120	1080-1100
Best Uva's	1220 - 1320	1320-2150	1240 - 1320	1220-1320
Other Uva's	N/A	1160-1240	1180	1020-1180

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Better sorts declined by Rs.50/- per kg whilst the others declined by Rs.20-40/- per kg.

BOPF : Better sorts sold around last week's closing levels whilst the others declined by Rs.40/- 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	920 - 1750	850 - 1850	740 - 1200	860-1220

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:

BP1 - Firm following special inquiry.

PF1 - Better sorts gained by Rs.20-40/- per kg whilst the others sold around last levels.

MEDIUM GROWN:

BP1 - Better sorts were mostly unsold whilst the others were firm.

PF1 - Select invoices gained by Rs.20-40/- per kg following special inquiry whilst the others sold around last levels.

LOW GROWN:

BP1 - Better teas continued to sell well whilst the others were irregular and mostly lower.

PF1 - Better teas were fully firm and selectively up to Rs.50/- per kg whilst the others declined irregularly following quality.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	1200	920 - 1200	980 - 1220	1000 - 1220
Medium	820 - 1140	810 - 1180	920 - 1260	790 - 1200
Low	830 - 1500	880 - 1300	810 - 1600	820 - 1550

OFF GRADES

- FGS/FGS1** : Select Best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1 lost Rs.20/- per kg. Best types lost Rs.20/- per kg and poorer teas firm on last levels whilst well-made Low Grown FNGS/FNGS1 advanced Rs.10-20/- per kg. Below best firm on last levels. Poorer types held firm.
- BM** : Well-made teas advanced Rs.10-20/- per kg. Best teas advanced Rs.10-20/- per kg. Poorer varieties lower by Rs.10-20/- per kg.
- BOP1A** : PEK1's reducers' advanced Rs.50/- per kg on last whilst best BOP1A's firm on dearer by Rs.25-50/- per kg. Below best teas rregular and poorer 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)	920-1140	920-1160	780-830	780-820	850-950	850-950
Good Fannings (CTC)	880-920	880-950	770-850	770-850	770-830	770-820
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	680-720	680-720	680-720	680-720	680-770	680-770
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	830-860	830-860	820 - 870	820 - 870	820-950	820-950
Other BM's	700-740	700-740	700-730	700-740	700-730	770-750
Best BOP1As	780-820	780-820	760-820	760-830	950-1450	920-1400
Other BOP1As	730-760	730-760	720-750	730-760	710-770	730-780

DUST

- DUST/DUST1:** High Grown select types gained Rs.50-100/- per kg whilst their secondaries and below best types declined Rs.40-60/- per kg. Mid Grown teas were irregular and mostly lower whilst the Low Growns maintained last levels.
- PD** : High & Medium category declined Rs.50-80/- per kg whilst Low Grown teas also met with an irregular market.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	750-1850	770-1750	760-1180	730-1160	750-1240	780-1260
Good Primary PD (CTC)	720-1140	730-1200	730-1080	720-1040	730-1220	770-1320
Secondary Dust	740-1160	740-1160	740-810	740-820	740-1240	780-1220

WESTERN MEDIUM

Harangalla	BOP	1850/-
Dartry Valley	BOP	1800/-
*Ancoombra	BOP	1750/-
*Harangalla	BOP	1750/-
*Hatale	BOPSP	1550/-
* Uplands	BOPF/BOPFSP	1400/-
Dartry Valley	BOPF/BOPFSP	1400/-
*Galgewatta	BOPF/BOPFSP	1380/-
Greenwood	BOP1	1750/-
*Hatale	BOP1	1700/-
Craighead	FBOP/FBOP1	1900/-
*Ancoombra	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
*Hatale	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
New Rothschild	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
*Harangalla	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1900/-
Dartry Valley	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1850/-
*Ancoombra	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
*Hatale	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Craighead	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Doombagastalawa	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1800/-
Harangalla	OP/OPA	1380/-
Greenwood	OP/OPA	1380/-
Dartry Valley	OP/OPA	1360/-
*Hatale	OP/OPA	1320/-
Harangalla	OP1	1700/-
Greenwood	OP1	1700/-
*Hatale	PEK/PEK1	1750/-
*Harangalla	PEK/PEK1	1700/-

WESTERN HIGH

Wanarajah	BOP	1460/-
Queensberry	BOPSP	1500/-
Alton	BOPF/BOPFSP	1380/-
Inverness	BOP1	1480/-
St Andrews	FBOP/FBOP1	1750/-
Glenloch	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1700/-
Torrington	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1550/-
*Cymru	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1480/-
Venture	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1550/-
Venture	OP/OPA	1180/-
Venture	OP1	1550/-
Bambarakelly	PEK/PEK1	1550/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Kenmare	BOPSP	1180/-
Kenmare	BOPF/BOPFSP	1080/-
Kenmare	FBOP/FBOP1	1260/-
Kenmare	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1460/-

CTC TEAS**HIGH GROWN**

Dunsinane CTC	BP1	1200/-
Dunsinane CTC	PF1	1240/-

MEDIUM GROWN

Delta CTC	BP1	1100/-
New Peacock CTC	PF1	1260/-

LOW GROWN

Ceciliyan CTC	BP1	1340/-
*Kalubowitiyana CTC	PF1	1600/-
Kalubowitiyana CTC	PF1	1600/-

UVA MEDIUM

*Halpewatte Uva	BOP	1700/-
Demodera 'S'	BOP	1700/-
Demodera'S'	BOPSP	1650/-
El Teb	BOPF/BOPFSP	1240/-
*Roseland Uva	BOP1	1800/-
*Roseland Uva	BOP1	1700/-
Aruna Passara	FBOP/FBOP1	1800/-
*Roseland Uva	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Demodera 'S'	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Pinnawala	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Meddekanda	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Glen Alpin	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Ury	OP/OPA	1380/-
Telbedde	OP1	1950/-
Aruna Keppetipola	PEK/PEK1	1700/-

UVA HIGH

Ranaya	BOP	1500/-
Aislaby	BOPSP	1400/-
Nayabedde	BOPF/BOPFSP	1320/-
Ranaya	BOP1	1500/-
Gonamotawa	FBOP/FBOP1	1750/-
Gonamotawa	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1600/-
Glenanore	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1600/-
Spring Valley	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1600/-
Ranaya	OP/OPA	1220/-
Uva Highlands	OP1	1380/-
Ranaya	PEK/PEK1	1700/-

UDAPUSSELLAWA

*Mooloya	BOP	1160/-
Kirklees	BOPSP	1180/-
Luckyland	BOPF/BOPFSP	1180/-
Alma	FBOP/FBOP1	1440/-
Alma	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1650/-
Alma	OP/OPA	1400/-
Delmar	OP1	1550/-
Alma	PEK/PEK1	2300/-

OFF GRADES

Suwishka	BP	1550/-
*Greenhouse	BP	1500/-
Liyonta ctc	PF	1320/-
Parakaduwa super	BM	1140/-
Wanarajan	FNGS/FNGS1	1200/-
Chandrika Estate	BO1A	1480/-
*Chandrika Estate	BO1A	1480/-
*Aldora	BO1A	1440/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

*Sithaka	BOP1	3050/-
Pothotuwa	BOP1	3050/-
Gunawardena	OP1	3200/-
Andaradeniya	OP	1700/-
Liyonta	OPA	1900/-
Liyonta	PEKOE	2250/-
Liyonta	PEKOE1	2600/-

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

Mulatiyana Hills	BOP	2650/-
Galatara	BOPSP	2000/-
Ceciliyan	BOPSP	1950/-
*Mahaliyadda	BOPSP	1900/-
*Sithaka	BOPF	2000/-
*Andaradeniya Super BOPFSP	FBOP	1950/-
*Sithaka	FBOP	2550/-
Kiruwana ganga	FBOP1	2050/-
Halwitigala smallholders	FBOP1	2000/-
*Sithaka	FBOP1	1950/-
Gunawardena	FBOPF	2000/-
*Hidellana	FBOPF	1900/-
*Sithaka	FBOPF	1900/-
Lumbini	FBOPF	1900/-
Pothotuwa	FBOPF1	2000/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

New Falcon Lanka	FBOPFSP	6400/-
*New Hopewell	FBOPFSP	5950/-
*Ganganee	FBOPFSP	5650/-
HPP Tea	FBOPFEXSP	7150/-
Danawala	FBOPFEXSP1	5700/-

DUST

Pothotuwa	DUST	1240/-
Mattakelle	DUST1	1850/-
Ceciliyan CTC	PD	1220/-

COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.36 OF 10th September, 2024

	2024			2023	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,045.85	1,048.33	1,112.53	984.72	988.63
Western High Grown	1,172.44	1,172.76	1,190.58	1,117.77	1,133.80
High Grown	1,128.75	1,127.99	1,165.35	1,083.93	1,087.87
Uva Medium	1,062.63	1,081.65	1,140.51	1,010.98	1,030.56
Western Medium	1,020.01	1,008.13	1,067.74	998.00	997.80
Medium Grown	1,031.76	1,028.19	1,091.85	1,001.39	1,008.16
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,290.97	1,293.72	1,374.79	1,275.74	1,288.67
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,273.38	1,266.63	1,350.85	1,296.08	1,271.12
Total	1,205.08	1,200.67	1,266.57	1,185.29	1,187.95

Private Sale Figures (09.09.2024 – 14.09.2024) - 182,418.50 kgs
 Cumulative - 4,627,463.00 kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	<u>Sale of 24th /25th Sep. '24</u>		<u>Sale of 01st /02nd Oct. '24</u>	
	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	2,112	760,457	1,883	679,013
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,800	775,400	1,557	667,654
Low Grown Tippy	2,351	1,160,772	2,031	991,681
High & Medium	1,956	837,167	1,687	739,630
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,104	1,015,962	2,846	1,468,696
Dust	617	540,200	540	453,362
Premium Flowery	490	72,475	384	58,322
Ex-Estate	818	783,623	770	713,367
Total	<u>12,248</u>	<u>5,946,056</u>	<u>11,698</u>	<u>5,771,725</u>

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No.40 of 08th /09th October, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **20th Sep., 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.41 of 15th /16th October, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **26th Sep., 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.42 of 22nd /23rd October, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **03rd Oct., 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

SALE NO. 38

AUCTION OF 24th /25th SEPTEMBER, 2024

BROKERS' SELLING ORDER

Leafy/Semi Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

Crop & Weather

For the period 10th to 18th September, 2024

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:-

The Nuwara Eliya Region reported sunny weather and sporadic showers, whilst the Western Region reported rain throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, showers and windy conditions are expected in the Nuwara Eliya and Western regions in the week ahead.

Uva/ Udapussellawa Region:-

The Uva and Uda Pussellawa regions reported bright weather throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects showers in the Uva Region in the week ahead.

Low Grows:-

Bright mornings and evening showers were reported in the Low Grown Region throughout the week. Showers and windy conditions are expected in the Low Grown Region in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology.

Crop Intake:-

The Nuwara Eliya, Uva and Uda Pussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, whilst the Western and Low Grown regions reported an increase.

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

Country	Month	2023	2024	Difference +/-	To-date 2023	To-date 2024	Difference +/-
SRI LANKA	July	21.56	22.89	1.33	140.98	135.68	-5.30
BANGLADESH	June	8.20	4.80	-3.400	13.70	31.40	17.70
KENYA	May	57.88	54.52	-3.36	225.51	277.14	51.6
MALAWI	June	1.60	2.20	0.60	30.50	33.40	2.9
NORTH INDIA	July	150.34	124.16	-26.18	504.10	430.12	-73.98
SOUTH INDIA	July	21.19	22.68	1.49	134.55	122.71	-11.84

“Africa Tea Brokers Bulletin of Statistic”

OTHER MARKETS

MALAWI MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.38 HELD ON 18/09/2024

There was less enquiry for the small quantity of 2540 packages on offer.

BP1 - Attracted improved interest at irregular rates.

PF1/PD/D/PF1SC - Were all taken out.

Secondaries – Few available on offer were neglected.

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

Hot to very hot during the day and the nights were cool. No rainfall activity was reported.

Crop intakes were steady.

TEA BROKERS CENTRAL AFRICA LIMITED

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO. 19 OF TUESDAY 17th September, 2024

CTC LEAF : 53,813 packages of teas on offer continued to meet with an improved demand.

BROKENS : Good liquoring BOPs were a strong feature of the sale and were mostly dearer following competition. Smaller varieties also met with more demand and were mostly firm to occasionally dearer. Other varieties sold well in line with quality. Plain teas met with fair demand but occasionally eased. BLF teas met with a little more interest with fewer withdrawals.

FANNINGS : All good liquoring Fannings were a strong market and were mostly dearer whilst other varieties met with a fairly strong demand and were generally steady to touch easier. Plain teas met with fair demand but occasionally eased. BLF teas met with a little more interest with fewer withdrawals.

DUST : 12,683 packages of teas on offer met with good demand. Good liquoring Dusts particularly the CDs sold well with a few withdrawals. Mediums were a fair market and sold in line with quality with some withdrawals at Tk. 5/- to Tk.8/- less than last week. Plain/BLF Dusts were an easier market with fair withdrawals. Blenders lent strong support with quite fair interest from the Loose tea buyers.

COMMENTS : There was a strong tone noticeable in this week's sale for the best varieties which were often substantially dearer. All others held firm in line with quality. Blenders operated strongly whilst there was a good support from the Loose tea buyers. As a result, withdrawals were less this week.

CDs again were a strong feature of the market.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Best	225-235	220-230	Best	225-235	220-230	PD	160-225	160-250
Good	215-220	210-215	Good	215-220	210-215	RD	160-316	160-337
Medium	200-210	195-205	Medium	195-210	190-205	D	160-259	160-335
Plain	160-180	160-180	Plain	160-180	160-180	CD	160-285	175-370
BLF	160-165 N	160	BLF	160-165N	160	BLF	160-182	160

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD



SOUTH INDIAN ROUNDUP

FOR THE WEEK ENDING - 14TH September, 2024

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fair demand. All grades are sold dearer levels by Rs.4/- to 5/-.

ORTHODOX LEAF

Demand : Good demand.

Buying Pattern : Cleaner blacker whole leaves and primary brokens sold at dearer levels by Rs 5 to 10 and at times more. Other whole leaves and brokens sold at fully firm levels. Secondary brokens and fannings also sold around last levels

Market : CIS & Middle East, buyers operated.

DUST

Demand : Good Demand.

Buying Pattern : Popular Marks & Better mediums sold at fully firm levels by Rs.1 to2. Mediums and plainers also sold at better demand by ₹ 4 to ₹6 or sometimes more.

Market : Major Packeteers and exporters were active, internal market were selective.

COONOR

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fairly strong.

Market : The bullish market sentiments continued this week too as it opened on a fully firm to dearer by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- on the Brokens across all categories whilst the Larger Brokens and Fannings were rather trading at barely steady level. However, the latter part of the sale had witnessed a further increase in the price levels on the Mediums.

The overall sale percentage is 92% at an average of Rs. 139.97.

Buying Pattern: Very strong presence of the Major Blenders continued this week too. The other Regional Packeteers and Internal buyers were seen lending fairly good support whilst the Export has been subdued or rather very selective confined only to Larger Brokens.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Fairly strong.

Market : Generally, a fully firm to dearer market on the Whole leaf grades and on the Brokens by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- and more following quality whilst the Fannings were rather trading at barely steady to occasionally dearer levels.

The overall sale percentage is 94% at an average of Rs. 157.87.

Buying Pattern: Fairly strong Internal enquiry was forthcoming with equal support from the Exporters.

CTC DUST**Demand :** Fairly strong.**Market :** Market generally was tending fully firm to dearer by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- and upto Rs. 10/- across all grades and categories with the finer grades appreciating in prices even further.**The overall sale percentage is 92% at an average of Rs. 144.21.****Buying Pattern:** Good participation from all quarters of buying fraternity with the Exporters too lending their support.**ORTH DUST****Demand :** Fairly good.**Market:** An irregular market with teas trading at steady to occasionally dearer levels with some withdrawals on the Tertiaries.**The overall sale percentage is 89% at an average of Rs. 130.43.****Buying Pattern:** Internal and Exporters were seen operating with Anjaneya enterprises being active on the primary dust grades.**COIMBATORE****CTC LEAF****Demand :** Good demand.**Market :** Better medium and popular sorts were irregular and lower by Rs.2/- to Rs.3/- with some withdrawals, however BOPF / PF grades were firm. Medium teas were firm to dearer by Rs.2/- sometimes more. Plainer teas were firm to occasionally dearer, however BOPF's were dearer by Rs.6/- to Rs.12/-.**Buying Pattern :** Blenders, packeteers were active. Exporters and internal were selective.**ORTH LEAF****Demand :** Good demand.**Market :** Whole leaf were barely steady to firm. Well made brokens were substantially dearer by Rs.20/- sometimes more following quality. Secondary brokens were steady to occasionally dearer. BOPF / PF were irregular.**Buying Pattern :** All sections were active.**CTC DUST****Demand :** Good demand.**Market :** Better medium and popular bolder sorts were fully firm to occasionally dearer by Re.1/- with few withdrawals. Medium teas were dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.3/-. Plainer teas were fully firm to dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.4/-.**Buying Pattern :** All sections were active.**ORTH DUST****Demand :** Fair demand.**Market :** Irregular.**Buying Pattern :** Exporters were active.

MOMBASA TEA AUCTION MARKET REPORT

Sale No.37 of 09th & 10th SEPTEMBER, 2024

Fairly good general demand prevailed in the market for the 171,201 packages (11,571,253.00 kilos) on offer with 48.06% remaining unsold.

127,360 packages (8,686,959.00 kilos) were on offer in the multiple reprint (M4) auction with 89.48% neglected.

MARKETS

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

OFFERINGS

Leaf Grades - 99,680 packages (6,599,239.00 kilos) - 57.34% unsold.

Dust Grades - 55,640 packages (4,141,596.00 kilos) - 38.53% unsold.

Secondary Grades - 15,881 packages (830,418.00 kilos) - 23.15% unsold.

LEAF GRADES (M2)

BP1:

Best - Were mainly firm to dearer by up to USC45 but some lines lost up to USC32.

Brighter - Varied between steady to USC43 dearer to easier by up to USC46.

Mediums - KTDA mediums were firm with some teas appreciating by up to USC10 while others eased by a similar margin. Plantation mediums were steady to USC5 above previous levels with selected lines gaining USC32.

Lower Medium - Saw irregular interest and varied between USC16 dearer to easier by similar levels.

Plainer - Tended easier by up to USC18 but a few teas advanced by USC26.

PF1

Best - Steady to easier by up to USC50.

Brighter - Irregularly easier by up to USC48.

Mediums - KTDA mediums held value with a few teas irregular ranging between USC9 dearer to easier by USC7.

Plantation mediums appreciated by up to USC22 with select invoices gaining USC39.

Lower Medium - Varied between USC8 dearer to easier by USC17.

Plainer - Met improved interest at firm to USC20 above previous prices but a few teas lost up to USC10.

CTC QUOTATIONS	BP1 - USC	PF1 - USC
Best	332 - 486	332 - 486
Good	291 - 360	291 - 360
Good Medium	257 - 401	257 - 401
Medium (KTDA)	250 - 268	250 - 268
Medium (Plantations)	140 - 202	140 - 202
Lower Medium	112 - 175	112 - 175
Plainer	098 - 116	098 - 116

DUST GRADES (M1)**PDUST:**

Best – Were mainly dearer by up to USC41 but some teas shed up to USC12.

Brighter – Irregular varying between firm to USC17 above previous levels with select invoices dearer by USC31 to easier by up to USC16.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were firm at last levels while plantation mediums ranged between steady to USC8 dearer with selected lines advancing by USC32 to easier by up to USC4.

Lower Medium – Varied between dearer by up to USC12 to easier by up to USC5.

Plainer – were irregular but mostly dearer by up to USC23 to easier by up to USC18.

DUST1:

Best – Steady to USC13 below last prices but a few lines advanced by up to USC6.

Brighter – Ranged between firm to USC12 dearer to easier by up to USC7.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were steady to USC6 easier with plantation mediums firm to USC26 dearer to easier by up to USC10.

Lower Medium – Were irregular and varied between USC8 dearer to USC9 below last prices.

Plainer – Appreciated by up to USC15, a few lines however lost up to USC8.

CTC QUOTATIONS	PDUST - USC	DUST1 - USC
Best	318 - 462	318 - 462
Good	310 - 347	310 - 347
Good Medium	270 - 358	270 - 358
Medium (KTDA)	258 - 272	258 - 272
Medium (Plantations)	180 - 242	180 - 242
Lower Medium	110 - 188	110 - 188
Plainer	082 - 130	082 - 130

SECONDARY GRADES (S1)

In the Secondary Catalogues, **BPs** tended easier with best **PFs** irregularly discounted while others were steady. Clean well sorted coloury **Fannings** appreciated with **similar DUSTs** about firm. **Other Fannings** gained while **DUSTs** held value. **BMFs** were readily absorbed.

SECONDARY QUOTATIONS (USC)	BP / BP2	PF / PF2	FNGS1 / FNGS	DUST / DUST2	BMF
Best / Good	166 - 210	166 - 210	166 - 210	166 - 210	-
Good Medium / Medium	-	-	125 - 131	125 - 131	-
Lower Medium	092 - 132	092 - 132	092 - 132	092 - 132	092 - 132
Plainer	062 - 117	062 - 117	062 - 117	062 - 117	062 - 117

18th September, 2024

-/tp.

International Tea News

Sri Lanka's Tea Industry Faces Crisis



The majority of Sri Lankan tea workers are ethnically Indian Tamils, who were brought to the country by the British to work on plantations. [get News](#)

It's 8am and there is sleet rain – miserable conditions to be outside, let alone work in Sri Lanka's tea fields

But for Sagunthla, a mother of two, it's just another day.

She wraps a plastic sheet over her head, ties a hessian sack on her back, and steps out into the cold to walk to the fields.

"Look at my hands," she says, thrusting them toward me.

Her fingers are a web of fine cuts – like paper cuts but deeper.

"This is very hard work," she says, readjusting the strap of her basket.

Sagunthla is one of many Tamil women who make up the backbone of Sri Lanka's tea industry.

The industry employs about 700,000 labourers – primarily women – most of whom work in the lush but gruelling highlands surrounding Nuwara Eliya in central Sri Lanka.

Tea is central to the country's economy, bringing in more than \$1 billion a year and accounting for about 11% of the country's exports.

In 2021 alone, Australia imported \$30 million worth of tea from Sri Lanka, roughly 33% of its total tea consumption, according to UN Comtrade.

But Sri Lanka's tea industry finds itself at a crossroad.



Ceylon tea refers to the product produced in the highlands of Sri Lanka. ABC

Three years ago, the government abruptly banned chemical fertilizers and pesticides, causing production to plummet by 18% – a decision many now consider disastrous.

And in May this year, the government ordered a 70% increase to plantation workers' minimum wage, a move intended to improve their living standards.

But plantation owners are struggling to balance profitability with demands for better pay.

Experts say drastic reforms are needed to keep the industry alive, and to improve conditions for workers like Sagunthla.

Before Sri Lanka became synonymous with tea, coffee dominated the island's central highlands.

That started to change under British rule in the 1820s, when the first tea plant was brought to the island.

After the first export of tea received the seal of approval from English tea sippers, cultivation expanded rapidly.

Soon, Ceylon tea, which refers to tea produced in the highlands of Sri Lanka, gained an international reputation, and by 1962, the country had become the world's largest exporter of tea.

But the British quickly faced a problem: neither the local Sinhalese population nor the Tamils in northern Jaffna were willing to do the backbreaking work of picking tea.

To fill the labour gap, the British imported Indian Tamils who worked for a small fee or no pay in exchange for their passage to Sri Lanka.

Bound by contract, the workers lived in isolation on remote plantations with poor infrastructure.

Pickers today say the patriarchal work system that was in place during those colonial times has continued mostly unchanged.

Male supervisors oversee the largely female workforce, dictating their daily tasks and enforcing strict quotas, often with little regard for the physical toll endured by the women.

Workers say conditions have hardly improved over the past five decades.

They live in cramped “line houses” – one-room quarters where they cook, sleep, and raise their families in the same space.

Muttamha, 59, has worked in the fields her whole life and finds the physical toll particularly grim during the monsoon season.

“The leeches are the worst,” she says.

“We work all day, then go home to cook for our families. It’s too tough.”

Tea pickers are required to harvest 18 kilogrammes of green tea leaves each day to earn the minimum wage, which increased by 70% from 1,000 rupees (\$5) to 1,700 rupees (\$8.50) in May.

While this wage hike was intended to support workers, industry leaders argue it was implemented recklessly, without enough consultation.

Roshan Rajadurai, chair of the Planters’ Association of Ceylon, says the move is unsustainable, given rising production costs and a struggling economy.

The ongoing financial crisis meant farmers had to pay more for fuel and power.

“We’re not against wage increases, but they need to be tied to productivity,” Rajadurai said.

He is advocating for a more measured 35% wage increase, because Sri Lanka’s tea industry is struggling with lower productivity and higher labour costs compared to competitors such as India and Kenya.

Industry experts say a low uptake of new technology, slow growth in production, increasing labour scarcity, and skills deficits have resulted in low productivity.

Dilhan Fernando, chairman of Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company, acknowledges the need for improved wages and conditions, but stresses that sudden, drastic wage hikes threatens the industry’s profitability.

“The government is vilifying plantation companies, but the reality is, it’s a choice between survival and sustainability (or not),” Fernando said.

He says consumers and supermarket retailers need to be prepared to pay higher prices for tea.

Mr Fernando also criticised smear narratives that claim all producers are bad, pointing to climate initiatives such as using biochar – a form of processed plant matter used to help grow crops – and an agroforestry model for soil regeneration that have been introduced by several estates.

He says during the pandemic, many estate owners such as Dilmah also built hospitals in isolated areas to provide urgent care.

“We want to increase sustainability and show socially conscious consumers how we support workers, from green initiatives to a programme for young mothers,” Fernando says.

“But we face constant pressure from a colonial economic system that demands low prices.

“We can’t survive in a race to the bottom.”

In an industry with a long history of worker exploitation, a few pioneers are shaking up conditions with bold initiatives.

Amba Estate, a 26-acre tea plantation near Ella, provides workers with essential gear including boots, leech socks, and raincoats.

And instead of a traditional seven-hour work day, workers’ hours are determined by how long it takes them to pick the best new tea leaves and collectively sort through and process their harvest.

On a typical day, workers spend a few hours plucking tea, weighing their hauls in the measuring room, logging the flavour profiles, and spreading the leaves to dry.

The estate uses modern technology and a simple drying set-up, replacing colonial-era machinery to make the process quicker and more accessible.

They also have a 10% revenue-sharing scheme, which supplements workers’ monthly base salary.

“We pay out the revenue share whether we’re profitable or not,” Amba Estate owner Simon Bell said.

He says it has resulted in higher-quality tea, produced by workers who feel a sense of pride and ownership in what they produce.

Jesmine Fernando, an accounts manager at Amba Estate, says at some tea estates women are paid less than men despite working more hours.

“But here, everybody has the same hours, we work together and get paid equally.”

Other estates are also following suit and shaking up their approach.

Some have implemented productivity-based models that reward workers for hitting their targets, rather than set hours per day.

Once workers pluck the set target, they can finish their work day.

It’s a market-driven system aimed at incentivizing efficiency and improving conditions.

Despite the success stories, Rajadurai from the planters’ association says many tea estate owners have a stubborn mindset.

“Even when we show them the evidence, people are hesitant to try something new,” he says.

Many in the industry are calling for diversification into tourism or alternative crops, such as less labour-intensive coffee, to stay afloat.

Will the tea workers ever get fair wages?

The state is constitutionally obligated to provide an exploitation-free work environment, but this promise remains unfulfilled for tea workers, whose Tk170 daily wage remains insufficient in today's economic reality.



Despite the passing of several laws, amendments over the years have not adequately addressed the workers' needs. Photo: Syed Zakir Hossain

The exploitation experienced by tea workers in Bangladesh is unparalleled. Denied fair salaries, proper nourishment, education, and adequate health facilities, 97% of them live under extreme hardship.

Most of the workers are women, many of whom face physical, verbal, and sexual abuse, violating their basic human rights.

Their demands for better conditions are not only reasonable but also necessary for leading a humane life. Despite their repeated protests, the daily wage was set at Tk170, which remains insufficient in today's economic reality.

Wages are decided by a bilateral agreement between the Bangladesh Tea Association (BTA) and the Tea Workers Union every two years.

According to the 2019 agreement, the daily rate ranged from Tk117-120-0, and after the 2022 movement, wages were increased by Tk50 to Tk168-170.

However, 96% of workers do not have formal employment status, making it easier for employers to exploit them.

Tea workers in the neighbouring Indian state of Assam earn Tk330, or 250 Indian Rupees, while in Sri Lanka, workers receive 1700 Sri Lankan Rupees, equivalent to Tk674. Bangladesh's per capita income is \$2,784, yet a tea worker earns only Tk170 per day, or \$1.43.

In August 2022, the tea workers called for a strike, demanding Tk300 per day salary. In response to the tea workers' movement, the pay was raised by Tk50, making it Tk168-170.

First-class, second-class, and third-class tea garden labourers now receive pay of Tk170, Tk169, and Tk168 consecutively. Since most of them do not have official employment, it is only natural for the employers to take advantage of them.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees education as a fundamental right, echoed by Article 17 of the Bangladesh Constitution, which mandates free and compulsory education.

Section 34.1 of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 prohibits child labour, yet children in tea estates often work instead of attending school.

Moreover, tea workers are not provided with employment letters, violating Section 5 of the same act, which requires such documentation. They are also excluded from benefits like the provident fund, as outlined in Section 320 of the law.

The state is constitutionally obligated to provide an exploitation-free work environment, but this promise remains unfulfilled for tea workers. Additionally, tea workers do not receive quota benefits, as they are neither recognised as minorities nor as tribal communities.

For Tk170, tea workers are not able to provide for their own adequate sustenance. In areas with tea plantations, there is a notably low rate of schooling. Youngsters who are meant to attend school are forced to labour on tea plantations.

There are just two high schools, a few government elementary schools, and no colleges among the 241 tea plantations.

Furthermore, tea workers do not possess any personal residences. For at least three generations, they have resided in homes that are eight or 12 feet in size.

The Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 covers various aspects of worker rights, including minimum wages, safety, education, and compensation for work-related injuries. While the law applies to tea workers, specific exemptions hinder its full impact on their lives.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to eradicate forced labour, yet tea workers in Bangladesh remain exploited, with the Bangladesh Development Survey highlighting how these workers have been denied equal rights and citizenship since the 19th century.

Despite the passing of several laws, such as the Bangladesh Tea Workers' Welfare Fund Ordinance of 1986 and the Tea Plantation Ordinance of 1979, amendments over the years have not adequately addressed the workers' needs, particularly in compensation and labour law enforcement.

Despite several amendments throughout time, these laws have not sufficiently addressed societal demands, especially with regard to worker compensation and labour law infringement remedies.

Though the law's provisions would have benefitted ordinary labourers, there was no explicit reference to tea workers, raising the possibility that they were not allowed to use these facilities. The majority of them are uneducated and ignorant of their rights, which is the primary cause.

Several laws, including the Bangladesh Tea Workers' Welfare Fund Ordinance of 1986 and the Bangladesh Labour Act of 2006, aim to protect tea workers, but their implementation remains weak.

Corruption and middlemen further complicate the situation, denying workers their basic rights. Poor transportation infrastructure in tea-growing regions adds to their challenges, along with discrimination based on language, culture, and socio-economic status.

Addressing the rights of tea workers requires comprehensive action. Proper enforcement of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 could offer a solution.

Key provisions include setting a fair minimum wage, ensuring weekly holidays, fostering cooperation between employers and workers, protecting female workers with maternity leave, and providing primary education for workers' children.

Ensuring the rights of tea workers poses several challenges that must be addressed. It is feasible to provide people with their fundamental human rights by adopting some common measures, such as the appropriate application of the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006.

The main provisions of the act that must be adhered to are the following: a suitable minimum wage, required weekly holidays, collaboration between employers and workers, safety for female workers and permitting maternity leave, removal of provident fund disbursements, requirement for primary education for the children of tea workers and guaranteeing their inclusion in the quota system, provision of adequate housing, environment, medical, and transportation facilities.

The government must acknowledge the struggles of tea workers for a just working environment if tea exports and economic growth are to both soar to new heights.
