

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 18

May 12 & 13, 2026



LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

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COMMENTS

This week's Tea Auction, Sale No.18 was held on May 12(Tue.)/13(Wed.), 2026. A total weight of 5.7MKGS was on offer, which shows an increase when compared to the previous week. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy/Small Leaf & Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2.2MKGS, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.8MKGS. The Ex Estate category had 1.0MKGS.

The overall demand at this week's Ex-Estate sale met with less demand following a decline in quality and coupled with a large volume of plainer teas on offer. A few select Best Western BOP's/BOPF's from the Western areas were firm to slightly dearer but the balance declined Rs.100/- per kg and more following quality as the sale progressed. Teas in the below category too eased Rs.50/- per kg and more along with plainer sorts. Nuwara Eliyas were mostly unsold. The majority of the Uva/Udapussellawa BOP's lost up to Rs.100/- per kg whilst their corresponding BOPF's too declined by Rs.50/- per kg and more. CTC Teas – High & Medium PF1's declined up to Rs.50/- per kg whilst Low Grown PF1's select types were firm but all others declined Rs.20-40/- per kg with many teas remaining unsold due to lack of suitable bids. There were hardly any BP1's on offer this week. The majority of the buyers who were active were very selective in their purchases.

Low Grown teas met with fair demand this week. Leafy teas maintained last levels whilst Small Leaf teas were a little irregular at times. Bright tippy teas continued to attract good demand and was quoted fully firm to dearer. Traditional markets were active.

This week's auction comprised of **10,777** lots with a total quantity of **5,789,176** Kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

In Lighter Vein

The 16 Year Deal

On a warm summer night, a young lady entered the butcher shop with startling news for the butcher: The baby in her arms was his. Nonplussed, the butcher did not know what to do, and eventually offered the only thing he thought he could - he offered to provide her with free meat until the boy was 16. She agreed. He had been counting the years off on his calendar, and one day the teenager, who had been collecting the meat each week, came into the shop and said, "I'll be 16 tomorrow." "I know," said the butcher with a smile, "I've been counting too, tell your mother, when you take this parcel of meat home, that it is the last free meat she'll get, and watch the expression on her face." When the boy arrived home, he told his mother what the butcher said. The woman nodded and said, "Son, go back to the butcher and tell him I have also had free bread, free milk, and free groceries for the last 16 years... then come back and tell me about the expression on his face!"

	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,949	757,156
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,415	599,882
Low Grown Tippy	1,770	866,380
High & Medium	1,696	810,003
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,993	1,014,586
Dust	656	617,350
Premium Flowery	244	34,092
Ex-Estate	<u>1,054</u>	<u>1,089,727</u>
Total	<u>10,777</u>	<u>5,789,176</u>

LOW GROWN TEAS**LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY**

- BOP1** : Select best invoices tended irregular to lower. Balance appreciated by Rs.50/- per kg.
- OP1** : Wiry OP1's declined by Rs.100/- per kg. However best and the secondary types were firm to dearer.
- OP** : Well-made OP's maintained at last week levels. Balance appreciated by Rs.50/- per kg.
- OPA** : Generally firm.
- PEK/PEK1** : Shotty PEK's maintained at last week levels. Balance tended irregular to lower. Well-made PEK1's were maintained. Balance were irregular.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)		BOP1	OP1	OP	OPA	PEK/PEK1
SELECT BEST	This Week	1800-3000	2000-3400	1600-1800	1550-2050	1650-2500
	Last Week	1900-3050	2000-3400	1550-1800	1500-1900	1650-2450
BEST	This Week	1650-1750	1650-1950	1400-1550	1400-1500	1450-1600
	Last Week	1600-1850	1650-1950	1350-1500	1350-1450	1500-1600
BELOW BEST	This Week	1400-1600	1500-1600	1200-1350	1250-1350	1300-1400
	Last Week	1350-1550	1400-1600	1150-1300	1200-1300	1350-1450
SECONDARIES	This Week	1200-1350	1250-1450	1000-1150	1050-1200	1150-1250
	Last Week	1150-1300	1200-1350	950-1100	1000-1150	1150-1300
POOR	This Week	1000-1150	800-1200	700-950	700-1000	800-1100
	Last Week	900-1100	800-1150	700-900	700-950	900-1100

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : In general were easier.

BOPF/BOPFSP : A selection of high priced teas were firm and selectively dearer, whilst the balance were irregular.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Select best FBOP's were irregular, whilst the best categories sold around last levels. Balance together with the bolder varieties appreciated. FBOP1's in general were firm to dearer.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Select best FBOPF1's were firm, whilst best varieties and below best varieties together with the teas at the lower end were irregular.

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

FFEXSP/SP1 : Overall dearer market.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)		BOP/ BOPSP	BOPF/ BOPFSP	FBOP/ FBOP1	FBOPF/ FBOPF1	FBOPFSP/ FBOPFEXSP
SELECT BEST	This Week	1650-1950	1500-1900	2200-2650	1480-1800	4950-6500
	Last Week	1750-2150	1550-1950	2250-2650	1480-1750	4700-5500
BEST	This Week	1460-1550	1300-1460	1800-2100	1420-1460	3200-4150
	Last Week	1480-1650	1300-1480	1850-2150	1400-1450	3050-3700
BELOW BEST	This Week	1300-1420	1200-1360	1550-1700	1280-1370	2000-3050
	Last Week	1320-1440	1200-1380	1550-1750	1280-1360	1950-2800
SECONDARIES	This Week	1160-1240	920-1120	1300-1420	1120-1260	1750-1900
	Last Week	1180-1260	960-1160	1300-1440	1100-1240	1700-1850
POOR	This Week	840-1050	750-900	900-1200	920-1100	1200-1420
	Last Week	860-1100	750-900	900-1180	900-1080	1180-1380

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : A few select best FBOP's were substantially dearer following quality, whilst the best sold around last levels.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Select best FBOPF1's were firm, whilst the below best and the teas at the lower end appreciated.

PEK/PEK1 : Best firm whilst the others declined 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>
FBOP	1220- 2350	1220 - 2100	1100 - 1550	1150 - 1600	800 - 900	800-900
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1200 - 1750	1200 - 1750	1000 - 1400	1000 - 1400	750 -1050	750 -1000
PEK/PEK1	1150 - 1950	1150 - 2050	950 - 1180	1000 - 1280	720 - 950	720-1000

HIGH GROWN TEAS

MARKET : Less Demand

BOP: Best Western's – A few select invoices were firm, whilst the others declined by Rs.100/- per kg and more. Teas in the Below Best and Plainer categories declined by Rs.50-100/- per kg and more. Nuwara Eliya's were unsold. Uda Pussellawa's declined by up to Rs.100/- per kg and more. Uva's declined by around Rs.50/- per kg.

BOPF : Best Western's – A few select invoices were firm and dearer, whilst the others declined by up to Rs.20/- per kg and more following quality. Tea in the Below Best category, where quality was maintained, were barely steady, whilst the others together with teas at the lower end of the market declined by Rs.20/- per kg and more on last week's closing levels. Nuwara Eliya's were mostly unsold. Uda Pussellawa's – A few select invoices were firm to marginally easier, whilst the others declined by Rs.50/- per kg and more. Uva's were mostly firm and up to Rs.20/- per kg easier following quality.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1280 - 1650	1300 - 1440	1340 - 1480	1320 - 1460
Below Best Westerns	1100 - 1260	1140 - 1260	1220 - 1320	1240 - 1300
Plainer Westerns	900 - 1040	940 - 1120	1100 - 1180	1000 - 1220
Nuwara Eliyas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brighter UdaPussellawas	1020 - 1080	1100 - 1180	1040 - 1120	1140 - 1240
Other Uda Pussellawas	920 - 1000	1060 - 1080	980 - 1000	1040 - 1120
Best Uva's	N/A	1260 - 1340	1140 - 1260	1240 - 1260
Other Uva's	960 - 1100	1000 - 1080	850 - 1100	1200 - 1220

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Large Leaf teas continued to sell well, whilst the others declined by up to Rs.50/- per kg.

BOPF : Well-made types were firm and up to Rs.20/- per kg easier, whilst the poorer sorts eased by up to Rs.100/- per kg.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	800 - 1650	880 - 1900	750-1260	770-1280

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:-

BP1 - Hardly any offerings.

PF1 - Firm and marginally easier.

MEDIUM GROWN:-

BP1 - Irregular and hardly any offerings.

PF1 - Teas in the higher price bracket declined by up to Rs.50/- per kg, whilst the others were firm and marginally easier.

LOW GROWN:-

BP1 - The limited best available continued to sell at premium prices, whilst the others were neglected.

PF1 - Select invoices were firm, whilst the others declined by Rs.20-40/- per kg with many lines neglected without bids.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	N/A	N/A	900 - 1080	890 - 1120
Medium	650 - 840	700	670 - 1060	720 - 1120
Low	1480	980	620 - 1320	630 - 1400

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 : Select best liquoring FNGS/FNGS1's firm to easier Rs.25-50/- per kg. Low Grown select best FNGS/FNGS1's firm to dearer by Rs.10/- per kg, whilst others firm on last. Select best BM's lost Rs.20-40/-, others firm to easier by Rs.20/- per kg. Lower end teas firm on last levels.

BOP1A : Select best BOP1A's firm on last. Best teas tending irregular, whilst below best and lower end tea little irregular.

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)	830-1200	840-1260	640-780	620-770	640-830	640-790
Good Fannings (CTC)	620-650	620-650	580-660	580-660	620-660	620-660
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	620-720	600-700	600-670	580-650	600-680	580-670
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	730-780	730-820	750-800	750-850	750-880	780-920
Other BM's	530-720	530-720	530-730	530-730	500-750	500-750
Best BOP1As	750-800	750-800	770-860	770-860	850-1400	850-1400
Other BOP1As	650-740	650-740	650-750	650-750	650-760	650-760

DUST

DUST/DUST1: Western High Grown liquoring Dust/Dust1's gained Rs.60-150/- per kg and more at times. Mid grown teas maintained last levels. Low Grown were firm to dearer.

PD : High grows together with Mid grows were firm on last levels. Low grows maintained last levels.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	900 - 2300	800 - 1750	800 - 1200	760 - 1360	740 - 1280	700 - 900
Good Primary PD (CTC)	800 - 1200	780 - 1080	800 - 1180	770 - 1160	800 - 1360	800 - 1340
Secondary Dust	740 - 1160	700 - 1120	720 - 750	680 - 730	700 - 1200	650 - 900

WESTERN MEDIUM

*Harangalla	BOP	1650/-
Dartry Valley	BOP	1650/-
*Hatale	BOPSP	1440/-
Craighead	BOPSP	1440/-
*Uplands	BOPSP	1400/-
Vellai Oya	BOPF	1260/-
Dartry Valley	BOPFSP	1400/-
*Harangalla	BOPFSP	1340/-
Craighead	BOP1	2200/-
Craighead	FBOP	2300/-
Harangalla	FBOP1	1420/-
Craighead	FBOPF1	1750/-
Dartry Valley	FBOPF1	1650/-
*Ancoombra	FBOPF1	1600/-
Dartry Valley	OP	1420/-
*Galgewatta	OP	1400/-
Harangalla	OP	1400/-
*Hatale	OP	1380/-
*Dartry Valley	OPA	1320/-
Harangalla	OPA	1320/-
Craighead	OP1	1750/-
*Hatale	PEKOE	1700/-
Harangalla	PEKOE	1700/-
*Harangalla	PEKOE1	1950/-
*Harangalla	PEKOE1	1900/-
Dartry Valley	PEKOE1	1900/-
*Hatale	PEKOE1	1800/-

WESTERN HIGH

Craig Hill	BOP	1650/-
Queensberry	BOPSP	1320/-
Wattogodde	BOPF	1480/-
Cymru	BOP1	1460/-
Venture	FBOP	1650/-
Cymru	FBOP1	1160/-
Cymru	FBOPF1	1420/-
Cymru	OP	1400/-
Cymru	OPA	1320/-
Kirkoswald	OP1	1750/-
Craig Hill	PEKOE	1550/-
Cymru	PEKOE1	1800/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Kenmare	FBOPF1	1420/-
Kenmare	OP	1040/-

UVA MEDIUM

Halpewatte Uva	BOP	1550/-
Hindagala	BOPSP	1360/-
El Teb	BOPF	1120/-
Dickwella	BOPFSP	1460/-
Dickwella	BOP1	1700/-
Aruna Keppetipola	BOP1	1700/-
*Halpewatta Uva	FBOP	1650/-
Dickwella	FBOP1	1500/-
*Roseland Uva	FBOP1	1460/-
Hindagala	FBOPF	1160/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	FBOPF1	1550/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	OP	1480/-
Wewesse	OPA	1380/-
Kinellan	OPA	1380/-
Adawatte	OP1	1750/-
Rathkelle Uva	PEKOE	1550/-
Aruna Keppetipola	PEKOE	1500/-
*Halpewatta Uva	PEKOE	1480/-
Aruna Keppetipola	PEKOE1	1950/-

UVA HIGH

*Ellathota Uva	BOP	1260/-
Spring Valley	BOP	1260/-
Spring Valley	BOPSP	1420/-
Nayabedde	BOPF	1260/-
Bandaraeliya	BOPF	1260/-
Aislaby	BOPFSP	1200/-
Spring Valley	BOP1	1600/-
Uvakellie	BOP1	1600/-
Ellathota Uva	FBOP	1650/-
Uva Highlands	FBOP1	1440/-
Uvakellie	FBOPF	1180/-
Spring Valley	FBOPF1	1420/-
Gonamotawa	FBOPF1	1420/-
Ellathota Uva	OP	1440/-
Spring Valley	OPA	1320/-
Aislaby	OP1	1650/-
Oodoowerre	OP1	1650/-
Ellathota Uva	PEKOE	1440/-
Ranaya	PEKOE1	1850/-

UDAPUSSELLAWA

Kirklees	BOP	1080/-
Luckyland	BOPSP	1040/-
Luckyland	BOPF	1120/-
Delmar	FBOP	1460/-
Delmar	FBOPF1	1380/-
Blairlomond	OP	1340/-
Blairlomond	OPA	1280/-
Delmar	OP1	1650/-
Blairlomond	PEKOE	1400/-
Blairlomond	PEKOE1	1650/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

Pothotuwa	BOP1	3000/-
Dampahala	OP1	3400/-
Pothotuwa	OP1	3400/-
*Makandura	OP	1800/-
Miriswatta	OP	1800/-
Ceyenta	OP	1750/-
Mulatiyana Hills	OP	1750/-
Berubeula	OP	1750/-
Nilgiri	OP	1750/-
Lions	OP	1750/-
*Green House	OP	1700/-
Liyonta	OPA	2050/-
Miriswatta	OPA	1900/-
*Green House	OPA	1750/-
Lumbini	PEKOE	2500/-
*Green House	PEKOE	2300/-
*Makandura	PEKOE	2300/-
*Ganganee	PEKOE	2250/-
Dampahala	PEKOE1	2350/-
Galatara	PEKOE1	2350/-
New Spring View	PEKOE1	2350/-

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

Ayagama	BOP	1950/-
*Nawagamuwahena	BOP	1900/-
*New Laksakanda	BOP	1900/-
*Elaine Super	BOPSP	2000/-
New Spring View	BOPSP	1950/-
*Mahaliyadda	BOPSP	1900/-
*Andaradeniya S	BOPSP	1900/-
Nawagamuwahena	BOPF	1700/-
Pothotuwa	BOPF	1600/-
*Sithaka	BOPF	1500/-
Wewelkandura S	BOPFSP	1900/-
Kings Bru	BOPFSP	1850/-
*Ganganee	BOPFSP	1750/-
*Sithaka	FBOP	2650/-
Kiruwana ganga	FBOP1	2200/-
Athukorala G.S	FBOP1	2050/-
*Ganganee	FBOP1	1800/-
*Selna	FBOP1	1800/-
*Ganganee	FBOPF	2200/-
*New Laksakanda	FBOPF	1750/-
*Sithaka	FBOPF	1550/-
Kings Bru	FBOPF1	1800/-
New Vithanakande	FBOPF1	1650/-
*Sithaka	FBOPF1	1600/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

*Ganganee	FBOPFSP	6500/-
*Green House	FBOPFSP	5300/-
Bulathsinghala Tea	FBOPFEXSP	5250/-
Nilvin Super	FBOPFEXSP1	3700/-
*Ganganee	FBOPFEXSP1	3050/-

CTC TEAS**HIGH GROWN**

*Dunsinane CTC PF1	1080/-
Dunsinane CTC PF1	1080/-

MEDIUM GROWN

New Rothschild CTC BP1	840/-
Strathdon CTC PF1	1060/-
New Peacock CTC PF1	1060/-
Rothschild CTC PF1	1060/-
Aultmore CTC BPS	920/-

LOW GROWN

Ceciliyan CTC BP1	1480/-
Kalubowitiyana CTC PF1	1320/-
Ceciliyan CTC PF1	1320/-
Lantern Hill CTC BPS	920/-

OFF GRADES

Nawalakanda BP	1360/-
Berubeula BP	1280/-
Mihimuthu BP	1280/-
*Laksakanda BP	1260/-
Chandrika CTC PF	860/-
*Chandrika CTC PF	800/-
*Chandrika CTC PF	790/-
Gunawardana BM	1080/-
Adams View BM	1080/-
New Vithanakande FNGS	1000/-
Gouravilla FNGS1	1200/-
Wanarajah FNGS1	1200/-
Wattegodde FNGS1	1200/-
Aldora BOP1A	1400/-

BOPA

Kings Bru BOPA	2000/-
Danawala BOPA	1950/-
Makandura BOPA	1950/-
*New Mount Carmel BOPA	1900/-
*Hedigalla BOPA	1900/-
*Selna BOPA	1900/-
*Green House BOPA	1900/-

Dust

Lumbini DUST	1200/-
Mattakelle DUST1	2300/-
Hingalgoda CTC PD	1360/-

WESTERN MEDIUM

*Vellai Oya DUST1	1200/-
Delta CTC DUST1	1200/-

WESTERN HIGH

*Labookellie DUST	1160/-
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COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.17 OF 06TH MAY, 2026

	2026			2025	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,134.64	1,134.60	1,046.76	1,057.41	1,060.92
Western High Grown	1,192.75	1,201.73	1,204.31	1,061.76	1,141.15
High Grown	1,170.73	1,176.36	1,158.20	1,060.12	1,116.83
Uva Medium	1,131.85	1,135.21	1,023.74	1,094.18	1,095.12
Western Medium	1,016.53	1,017.34	981.50	1,037.45	1,035.04
Medium Grown	1,056.83	1,056.63	994.26	1,056.89	1,053.76
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,254.74	1,254.74	1,238.07	1,257.60	1,269.01
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,230.42	1,224.69	1,220.07	1,242.53	1,255.64
Total	1,183.75	1,180.20	1,171.43	1,166.87	1,193.65

Private Sale Figures (29.04.2026 – 06.05.2026)

208,718.88

Cumulative

4,319,983.45

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

SALE NO: 19

SALE NO: 20

Sale of 19th/20th May. '26

Sale of 25th/26th May. '26

	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	2,269	900,860	2,224	877,561
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,695	720,555	1,577	652,588
Low Grown Tippy	2,095	1,017,982	1,861	878,638
High & Medium	1,849	919,897	1,763	810,617
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,278	1,206,502	2,240	1,201,737
Dust	673	645,768	633	610,601
Premium Flowery	278	39,530	309	41,704
Ex-Estate	<u>1,051</u>	<u>1,111,001</u>	<u>1,019</u>	<u>1,071,970</u>
Total	<u>12,188</u>	<u>6,562,095</u>	<u>11,626</u>	<u>6,145,416</u>

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No.21 of 02nd (Tue.)/03rd (Wed.) June, 2026

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **Thursday, 14th May, 2026 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.22 of 09th (Tue.)/10th (Wed.) June, 2026

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **Thursday, 21st May, 2026 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.23 of 16th (Tue.)/17th (Wed.) June, 2026

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **Friday, 29th May, 2026 at 04.30 p.m.**

SALE NO.19

AUCTION OF 19TH/20TH MAY, 2026

BROKERS' SELLING ORDER

<u>Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy/Premium Flowery/ BOP1A/</u>	<u>High & Medium/ Off Grades/ Dust</u>	<u>Ex-Estate</u>
1. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd	1. Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd	1. Eastern Brokers PLC
2. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd	2. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd	2. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
3. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd	3. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd	3. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
4. John Keells PLC	4. Eastern Brokers PLC	4. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
5. Eastern Brokers PLC	5. John Keells PLC	5. Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd
6. Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd	6. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC	6. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
7. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC	7. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd	7. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
8. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC	8. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC	8. John Keells PLC

Crop & Weather

For the period 05th May to 11th May 2026

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions

Both regions reported bright mornings and evening showers during the week. According to the Department of Metrology, heavy showers are expected in the Western and Nuwara Eliya regions in the week ahead.

Uva/Uda Pussellawa Regions

Sunny weather and evening showers were reported in both regions throughout the week. Rain is expected in the Uva Regions in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology.

Low Grown

Bright morning and evening showers were reported in the Low Grown Region during the week. Showery conditions are expected in the Low Grown region in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology.

Crop Intake

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

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

Country	Month	2025	2026	Difference +/-	To-date 2025	To-date 2026	Difference +/-
SRI LANKA	Mar.	24.80	21.00	-3.8	62.16	59.61	-2.6
BANGLADESH	Feb.	0.03	0.02	0.0	0.34	0.60	0.3
MALAWI	Feb.	6.70	5.60	-1.1	12.00	10.80	-1.2
NORTH INDIA	Mar.	52.08	49.05	-3.0	62.93	55.31	-7.6
SOUTH INDIA	Mar.	15.77	17.81	2.0	47.47	42.70	-4.8

Country	Month	2024	2025	Difference +/-	To-date 2024	To-date 2025	Difference +/-
KENYA	Dec.	55.83	50.69	-5.1	598.47	550.37	-48.1

OTHER MARKETS

LIMBE MARKET REPORT SALE 19 HELD ON 13 MAY, 2026

There was less interest at firm to easier rates where sold for the 4120 packages on offer, with the majority on offer taken out.

BP1/PF1/D1/PF1SC – All taken out.

Secondary fngs sold up to 13USC easier on last where sold.

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 3 MAY, 2026.

Dry and hot weather conditions were experienced this week.

Green leaf intake steady.

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO. 03 OF MONDAY, 11th MAY, 2026

CTC LEAF: 27,572 packages of tea on offer met with a good demand.

BROKENS: Black, well made, good liquoring BOPs once again met with a good demand and were about steady. GBOPs were a fairly strong market but were little easier over last. The remainder were a fairly good market but prices eased slightly. BLF teas were in good demand but there were few withdrawals.

FANNINGS: Black, well made, good liquoring Fannings met with a good market but eased a little. Below best met with a little less demand and were firm to slightly easier Plainer sorts were an easier market. BLF teas were in good demand but there were few withdrawals

DUST: 5,664 packages of tea on offer met with a very strong demand. Well made good liquoring Dusts were a dearer market and met with a good competition. Remainders also sold well at around last level closely following quality. Blenders lent strong support with fair interest from the Loose tea buyers.

COMMENTS: As in the previous week, black, well made varieties were strongly competed for but prices were easier particularly towards the close. Blenders continued to be active whilst there was a little less interest from the Loose tea buyers. Good liquoring Dusts were a strong feature of the sale.

Dusts sold well.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Best	295 -320	290 -330	Best	290-310	290-320	PD	250-310	280-296
Good	280-290	285-290	Good	280-285	280-290	RD	262-324	275-314
Medium	270-275	270-280	Medium	270-275	270-275	D	265-326	288-316
Plain	260-265 Nom	260-265 Nom	Plain	260-265	260-265	CD	275-341	298-341
BLF	235-270	242-279	BLF	242-284	249-275	BLF	250-280	NQTA

MOMBASA TEA AUCTION MARKET REPORT

Sale No.18 of 04TH & 05TH MAY, 2026

Less general demand for the 168,131 packages (11,253,141.00 kilos) available in the market; 31.85% remained unsold.

MARKET:

Pakistan Packers were active with maintained interest at lower levels from Yemen and **other Middle Eastern countries. Kazakhstan** and **other CIS states** lent more support with less activity from **Bazaar** and **Afghanistan**. Egyptian Packers were active at lower rates while UK were selective. Russia maintained enquiry with **South Sudan** active; **Local Packers** were quiet. **Somalia** were active at the lower end of the market.

OFFERINGS :

Orthodox Grades - 3,460 packages (122,154.00 kilos) – 69.65% unsold.
 Leaf Grades - 91,480 packages (6,095,995.00 kilos) – 44.38% unsold.
 Dust Grades - 54,480 packages (4,076,574.00 kilos) – 16.74% unsold.
 Secondary Grades - 18,711 packages (958,438.00 kilos) – 7.59% unsold.

LEAF GRADES (M2 & M3)

BP1:

Best : Steady to dearer by up to USC35 with some teas substantially gaining by USC84 to easier by up to USC24.

Brighter: Irregularly dearer by up to USC25 but some lines were discounted by up to USC16.

Mediums: KTDA mediums met more irregular interest varying between firm to USC39 dearer to easier by up to USC24. Plantation mediums saw some good enquiry ranging between USC3 dearer to easier by up to USC14.

Lower Medium: Irregularly shed by up to USC21.

Plainer: Were firm with good sorts easier by up to USC11.

PF1:

Best : Firm to USC10 dearer to easier by up to USC11.

Brighter : Steady to easier by up to USC4.

Mediums : KTDA mediums were easier by up to USC16 while plantation mediums irregularly shed by up to USC6.

Lower Medium : Were discounted by up to USC14.

Plainer : Steady to USC14 above previous levels.

CTC QUOTATIONS	BP1 - USC	PF1 - USC
Best	258 - 420	290 - 346
Good	250 - 336	270 - 317
Good Medium	245 - 308	270 - 288
Medium (KTDA)	170 - 210	225 - 268
Medium (Plantations)	165 - 207	170 - 226
Lower Medium	143 - 172	150 - 221
Plainer	102 - 156	100 - 158

DUST GRADES (M1)**PDUST:**

- Best:** Saw irregular enquiry ranging between USC8 above previous levels to USC15 easier.
- Brighter:** Select teas saw steady tendencies with others mostly easier by up to USC12.
- Mediums:** KTDA mediums shed by up to USC10 while plantation mediums saw improved absorption gaining by up to USC10.
- Lower Medium:** Irregular support at mostly steady levels with some teas selectively advancing by up to USC7 while others lost by up to USC4.
- Plainer:** Met improved interest appreciating by up to USC17.

DUST1:

- Best:** Were mostly easier by up to USC12.
- Brighter:** Steady to USC3 above previous levels to irregularly easier by up to USC10.
- Mediums:** KTDA mediums irregular varied between steady to USC8 dearer to easier by up to USC7 with plantation mediums advancing by up to USC13.
- Lower Medium:** Firm to USC5 dearer.
- Plainer:** Saw strong enquiry and were dearer by up to USC12 but select invoices were up to USC6 below last levels.

CTC QUOTATIONS	PDUST - USC	DUST1 - USC
Best	260 - 334	275 - 360
Good	256- 300	255 - 301
Good Medium	215 - 270	257- 288
Medium (KTDA)	190 - 226	180- 263
Medium (Plantati ons)	195 - 218	175 - 199
Lower Medium	162- 190	161 - 174
Plainer	115 - 162	114 - 154

SECONDARY GRADES(S1)

In the Secondary Catalogues, **BPs** advanced with best **PFs** selling above last levels while others held value. Clean well sorted coloury **Fannings** were barely steady while **similar DUSTs** held firm. **Other Fannings** were dearer with **DUSTs** appreciating. **BMFs** were readily absorbed.

SECONDARY QUOTATIONS (USC)	BP / BP2	PF / PF2	FNGS1/FNGS	DUST / DUST2	BMF
Best / Good	252 - 339	210-293	170 - 248	142 - 299	-
Good Medium /Medium	-	-	135 - 192	140 - 192	-
Lower Medium	130 - 184	130 - 171	112 - 174	114 - 160	100 - 109
Plainer	090 - 111	087 - 121	080 - 118	086 - 130	080 - 098



SOUTH INDIAN ROUNDUP

FOR THE WEEKENDING – 09TH MAY, 2026

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fair Demand. All grades sold irregularly and lower around last.

ORTHODOX LEAF

Demand : Good Demand.

Buying Pattern : Cleaner and blacker whole leaves sold at dearer levels by Rs.5 and more, others were barely steady depending on quality. Primary brokens appreciated in value over last. Secondary brokens and fannings were fully firm.

Market : CIS & Middle East Buyers operated.

DUST

Demand : Fair Demand.

Buying Pattern : Popular marks and good liquoring sorts sold irregularly and lower by Rs.1. Medium and plainer sorts shared an easier trend by Rs.2 and noticed some withdrawals.

Market : Major Packeteers and exporters were active, internal buyers operated cautiously.

COONOOR

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fairly good.

Market : The easier trend continued this week too as prices across all grades and categories were dropping by Rs. 2/- to Rs. 4/- and more on the Brighter liquoring / high-priced teas. The sale had continued to experience fair withdrawals which were mostly on the browner, flakier and fibrous teas.

The overall sale percentage was 77% at an average of Rs. 101.95.

Buying Pattern: Major blenders were the main stay along with the Regional Packeteers who have absorbed mostly the sustainable certified teas. Internal was lending fair support with the Karnataka and Andhra markets covering fairly good quantity. Export was rather confined to Larger Brokens and cleaner Fannings.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Good.

Market : An irregular market and mostly on an easier trend across all grades and categories as prices were dropping by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- and more upto Rs. 10/- following quality.

The overall sale percentage was 87% at an average of Rs. 132.43.

Buying Pattern: Strong Export enquiry was forthcoming with Shah Brothers being active. Internal was rather being selective.

CTC DUST

Demand : Fairly good.

Market : The easier trend continued on the dust as well as prices continued to drop by Rs. 2/- to Rs. 4/- and more following quality. Yet again the market witnessed fair withdrawals on the browner, flakier and fibrous teas.

The overall sale percentage was 78% at an average of Rs. 110.22.

Buying Pattern: The Exporters being dominant force with Bhansali and Girnar being active, followed by SSK Exports. Packeteers were also lending fair support with Goodricke being active. Anjaneya enterprises (Devagiri Tea & produce) was absorbing the major quantity of the high-priced brighter liquoring teas.

ORTH DUST

Demand : Fairly good.

Market: Barely steady to occasionally dearer across all grades and categories.

The overall sale percentage was 78% at an average of Rs. 113.55.

Buying Pattern: Fairly strong export participation was noticed with very select Internal operation.

COIMBATORE**CTC LEAF**

Demand : Fair general demand.

Market : Better medium and brokens were firm to dearer. Medium teas were lower by Re.1/- to Rs.2/-. Plainer teas were lower by Rs.2/- with some withdrawals.

Buying Pattern : Blenders, packeteers and internal were selective. Exporters were active.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Fair demand.

Market : Whole leaf were lower by Rs.2/-. Medium brokens were irregular with few withdrawals. BOPF were barely steady.

Buying Pattern : Exporters were active.

CTC DUST

Demand : Fair general demand.

Market : Better medium teas were irregular and lower by Re.1/- to Rs.2/-. Medium teas were lower by Rs.2/- to Rs.4/- with some withdrawals. Plainer teas were steady with heavy withdrawals.

Buying Pattern : Blenders, packeteers and exporters were active. Internal were selective.

ORTH DUST

Demand : Good demand.

Market : Fully firm to dearer.

Buying Pattern : Exporters were active.

May 13, 2026

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TEA NEWS – LOCAL

Sri Lanka's competitive edge

Intellectual Property Rights and the Power of Geographical Indications

May 12, 2026 1:09 am – Source Daily News

Dilani Hirimuthugodage Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)



Geographical Indications (GI) can unlock higher export earnings by leveraging origin-based values in tea, spices, and other agricultural products. GIs enhance global recognition, secure premium prices, and access niche markets through branding and value addition.

Targeted GI reforms are essential to build a more resilient, value-driven export economy.

With Sri Lanka's export competitiveness steadily declining in major destination markets amid global economic uncertainty, the need to explore innovative tools for sustaining export growth has become urgent. Improving export competitiveness is essential for robust growth. One powerful, yet often underutilised, tool in this effort is the country's intellectual property rights (IPR) system.

Sri Lanka stands at a critical juncture as the international community marks World Intellectual Property (IP) Day in April. In an increasingly competitive global environment, countries cannot compete on volume alone. They must instead compete on value, capitalising on consumers' willingness to pay a premium for products with unique qualities. This is where IPRs play a vital role. Geographical Indications (GI) are a tool for safeguarding the intellectual property of unique export products. They assure consumers and traders that the product comes from a specific place and has unique qualities, characteristics, or a reputation linked to that origin. Through certification, GIs enable premium prices for origin-based products such as tea, spices, and other agricultural goods while protecting the reputation of products from counterfeits.

Sri Lanka's Strength in Origin Based Agricultural Exports

Sri Lanka is globally renowned for its high-quality agricultural products, including tea, cinnamon, and other spices, coffee, king coconut, cashew, and regional fruits like Malwana Rambutan and Karthakolomban Mango. Yet, many of these products are still exported as raw commodities without adequate branding, leaving them vulnerable to price fluctuations and intensifying competition from similar products.

Agricultural exports in Sri Lanka have accounted for approximately 20–24% of total export earnings over the past five years. Tea alone accounted for 51% of agricultural exports and 10.9% of total exports in recent years. Sri Lanka ranked third in the world for tea exports in 2024. The highest percentage of the country's tea exports goes to Middle East countries (43%), mainly Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Iran; 22% to Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); 4% to China; and 3% to the USA. Further, Sri Lanka was ranked as the 15th most important exporter of spices in 2023 and continues to dominate the global market for true cinnamon, supplying 90% of the world's demand, while also ranking highly for pepper, cloves, nutmeg, and coffee.

GI Success and Sri Lanka's Edge

Publication – Aruna

Headline – Planters seek coordinated response to stabilise tea production and key export markets

Journalist – N/A

Summary - The Planters' Association of Ceylon called for an urgent review of plantation industry cost structures amid pressures on tea export markets. Around 45% of Sri Lanka's annual tea exports, worth about \$680 million, comes from Middle Eastern markets including Iran, Iraq, UAE and Saudi Arabia. Supply and demand constraints are creating challenges for Regional Plantation Companies and smallholders across tea and rubber. Wages account for nearly 70% of production costs in tea and rubber, while fuel, fertiliser, chemicals, firewood and packing materials account for the rest. Plantation sector wages increased to Rs.1,750 from 1 January 2026, including a Government contribution of Rs. 200 per worker per day. Fertiliser availability concerns may affect the target of producing 300 million kilograms of tea in 2026, with the PA calling for fertiliser stocks, working capital support for smallholders, stock management, and market diversification.

Publication – Daily FT

Headline – Trouble brewing? Climate change puts tea drinkers in hot water

Journalist – N/A

Summary - Climate change is affecting tea production in Kenya, India and Sri Lanka, making tea taste more bitter and harsh with less consistent flavours. Smallholder farmers and producers are facing the biggest impact, along with rising fertiliser and fuel prices. Tea production depends on stable temperature and rainfall, which are changing in producer nations. Higher temperatures reduce sweetness and increase more astringent compounds, while erratic rainfall and extreme weather can lower yields and quality. Christian Aid calls for resilient tea varieties, improved irrigation, shade trees, fair pricing, funding for producers and protections for workers.

TEA NEWS – INTERNATIONAL

Chinese brands gain global popularity with innovation and cultural appeal

From electric vehicles turning heads on European streets to bubble tea shops multiplying across Southeast Asia and quirky plush toys igniting a collecting frenzy worldwide, Chinese brands have gained global popularity, emerging as symbols of innovation, design and quality.

More than a string of business successes, this trend offers fresh evidence of China's evolving role in global trade and the dynamism underpinning its economic transformation.



A boy eats ice cream at a Mixue Ice Cream & Tea store in Mexico City, Mexico, April 1, 2026.

GLOBAL APPEAL

When Mixue Ice Cream & Tea opened its first store in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in April, crowds of curious customers lined up outside the shop, some waiting for more than an hour to try the popular Chinese beverage chain for the first time. The Sao Paulo debut marked the latest step in Mixue's overseas expansion. Since launching its first international outlet in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2018, the chain has grown to more than 4,000 stores outside China.

Mixue is among a growing number of Chinese brands accelerating their global expansion and winning over overseas consumers with quality products, competitive pricing and localized offerings.

Sportswear giant Anta opened its first North American flagship store in February in Beverly Hills, California. Hotpot chains led by Haidilao have built a loyal following across dozens of countries, while Yadea's electric bikes and motorcycles have gained strong sales in Southeast Asia and South America.

Global trust in Chinese brands has risen significantly, with their international influence continuing to expand, according to a report by consulting firm Ipsos.

"They have zeroed in on the preferences of younger global consumers," said Zhao Xisan, a researcher with the Henan Academy of Social Sciences. "Continuous innovation in product design, user experience and marketing models aligns with Generation Z's preference for personalized and trend-driven consumption."



People stand in line in front of a Pop Mart store in Milan, Italy, Aug. 9, 2025. (Photo by Michele Novaga/Xinhua)

Pop Mart's Labubu offers a telling example. The character, part of the brand's The Monsters series, has become a global phenomenon, with revenue reaching 14.16 billion yuan (about 2.07 billion U.S. dollars) in 2025, up more than threefold year-on-year. Pop Mart expanded into more than 30 overseas cities last year, including Berlin, Rome, Copenhagen and Toronto.

The commercial success is underpinned by China's industrial strength. "China's complete manufacturing ecosystem, particularly its supply chain coordination and scale, allows companies to compress the cycle from design and production to restocking and logistics," said Li Kai, an associate professor at Xiamen University's School of Economics.

"For overseas consumers, that means access to trendier, more reliable and faster-updating products and services at the same price point," Li said.

Beyond products, Chinese brands increasingly encompass lifestyle and experience.

Heytea offers a case in point. Its London store near the British Museum is designed as an immersive Chinese aesthetic space, featuring interactive ceiling screens, rock garden displays, and seating inspired by traditional ink art. Its Toronto location, meanwhile, includes a "tea laboratory" where customers can observe the process of making tea drinks from raw ingredients.

"Hot pot is less about the broth than the social experience. Milk tea is less about the drink than about the aesthetics, flavors, and social media appeal it carries. And sportswear is no longer just clothing, but a reflection of design, technology and lifestyle," Li said. "Increasingly, overseas consumers are buying experiences -- and a sense of identity."

Chinese brands are engaging global markets with a more open and collaborative approach, driven by the country's growing innovation capacity, market vitality, and rising cultural appeal, said Wang Weiqiang, an associate professor at the business school of Zhengzhou University



People attend the opening ceremony of Anta's first North American flagship store in Beverly Hills, California, the United States, Feb. 13, 2026.

NEW ROLE

Behind the commercial success lies a structural shift in how China participates in the global economy.

Consulting firm Kearney described Chinese brands as evolving from product sellers to ecosystem builders, and from market participants to network orchestrators. "By expanding global footprints in R&D and manufacturing, Chinese brands are strengthening competitiveness and becoming more integrated in local economic ecosystems," it said in a report.

The shift is visible on the ground. Automaker Chery inaugurated its first overseas regional operations center in Barcelona, Spain, last month. Yin Tongyue, Chairman of Chery, said the company aims to integrate into local R&D, manufacturing, supply chain systems and market structures, contributing to local economic development.

Mixue, likewise, announced plans last year to source at least 4 billion yuan worth of Brazilian goods, including coffee beans and fruits, over the next three to five years while building localized supply chains.

"China is moving up the global value chain," said Li. "In the past, its role was largely centered on processing and assembly. Today, more companies are expanding into R&D, design, distribution, branding, user data and standardized operations."

Services are also becoming an increasingly important part of that transformation.

The government has unveiled plans to develop more globally competitive "China Service" brands. Earlier this year, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao highlighted tourism, traditional Chinese medicine, and catering as potential areas for service export growth.

China expects its service sector's added value to surpass 100 trillion yuan by 2030, up from 80 trillion yuan recorded last year. In 2025, services accounted for 57.7 percent of the country's GDP and contributed 61.4 percent of economic growth.

Nowadays, China is increasingly exporting not just products but also brands, experiences, services, and the operational systems behind them, Li said.

Looking ahead, experts believe that Chinese companies will become ever more deeply woven into the fabric of overseas economies -- creating jobs, forging new models of cooperation, and unlocking opportunities that stand to benefit both sides.

Annual sales at Kenya tea auction dip 7.9 pct

NAIROBI, Jan 8 (Reuters) - Kenya's tea auction sold a total of 279.3 million kgs of black tea in 2009, down from 303.2 mln kgs the previous year, the Africa Tea Brokers said on Friday.

A total of 204 million kgs, or 73 percent of all the tea sold, originated in Kenya, compared with 228 million in the previous year.

Kenya is ranked as the biggest exporter of black tea globally and supply constraints due to prolonged drought have driven its prices to record highs this year.

The weekly auction held in the port city of Mombasa handled tea from eight African producers -- Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Madagascar.

Uganda sold 43.6 million kgs and Rwanda another 13.6 million kgs while Tanzania came in fourth with 10.2 million kgs.

Lipton Limited -- part of food and consumer goods group Unilever -- was the leading exporter. It bought 59.5 million kgs, down from 61.3 million in 2008.

It was followed by Global Tea, which took up 25.3 million kgs, down from 28.6 million last year.
