EFFECT OF STANDARD OF LEAF AND WITHERING PERCENTAGE ON THE BULK DENSITY OF MADE TEA

BY

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ABSTRACT.

A study was conducted in the low country tea factory to find out the variation in bulk density; appearance & tasting characteristics of made tea with variation of standard of leaf and withering percentage. The following measurements are taken.

1. Standard of leaf.
2. Withering Percentage.
3. Weight of 1st Dhools, 2nd Dhools, 3rd dhools, 4th Dhools, & big bulk.
4. Bulk density.
5. Appearance and taste of made tea

Standard of leaf is much important in tea processing. Stalks contain more moisture than the leaves. Leaves and stalks lost moisture at different rates during withering. Tender leaves withered faster than coarser leaves. When the leaves are damaged, the cell constitutes being mixed with enzyme, pre-moisture penetration started, leaves, which are damaged also dried out during withering and cause loss of both appearance and potential liquoring quality.

Standard of leaf is measured under two criteria.

1 Good leaf - Immature undamaged leafs and buds.

2. Bad leaf - Immature bud & leaf damaged, and coarse leaf

The quality parameter of the made tea such as appearance, taste and bulk density decreased as the standard of leaf and withering percentage decreases. Here the withering percentage must be fixed within a specified range. Highly Increasing withering percentage also gives bad result.

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