

**A STUDY ON TEA SMALLHOLDERS SUPPLY OF
FRESH TEA LEAVES TO A TEA FACTORY AT
KURUWITA DS DIVISION IN RATNAPURA DISTRICT**



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ABSTRACT

This study was broadly designed to analyze smallholders supply of fresh tea leaves to a tea factory in Ratnapura district. In the study, quality and quantity of fresh tea leaves supplying process was analyzed. The study was mainly based on primary data obtained from a sample survey in three G.N. divisions in Kuruwita D.S. division in Ratnapura district. 110 numbers of smallholders in the study area were selected randomly as the respondents and data were collected through a pretested questionnaire. Another was used to collect information from the Factory Officer on tea production. Secondary data also used for this study. Data were analyzed using SPSS. Descriptive statistic, frequencies and multiple regression were done. Aspects of socio economic features of farmers, productivity parameters, cost of tea cultivation, constrains in tea cultivation and reasons for reduction of supplying quality and quantity of fresh tea leaves to the tea factory were studied.

All of the smallholders had own tea cultivation land and some smallholders had used hired workers for tea cultivation. All smallholders had used cuttings as planting material. It was found that low price for fresh tea leaves, low quality of fertilizer, limited time to maintain tea cultivation and severe diseases were the major problems faced by smallholders. The main fresh tea leaves supply to the factory were by own and by tea leaves collectors in this D.S. division. It was found from the study that, most of smallholders had old cultivation land and had another main occupation. Now tea cultivated lands were not proper maintained and some lands were leaved, because of no time to maintain their tea cultivation. Yield and tea smallholding extent had an impact on amount of fresh tea leaves supplied to the tea factory.

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ANNEXURE - I

Questionnaire of tea smallholder farmers

ANNEXURE - II

Questionnaire of factory officer

ANNEXURE - III

Photos of field survey