

**FACTORS AFFECTING ON POST HARVESTING
LOSSES OF GREEN LEAF SUPPLY CHAIN IN
SMALL HOLDING SECTOR**

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ABSTRACT

There are 400 tea factories of smallholders in the low country. Then the setting up a factory in that area may lead to encourage the suppliers to supply coarse leaf and damage laves and there by there is a scope of deterioration in the quality of made tea. The post – harvest sector includes all points in the value chain from production in the field to the beginning of the tea processing. This study was conduct in the both small holdings densely populated and number of bought leaf factories located districts of Galle and Rathnapura. Data was collected by the pre tested questionnaire. The linear multiple regression was used to analyze factors affect on the post harvesting losses of the small holder level and leaves transporters level. At the small holder level education level of the small holders, number of puckers per of acreages, type of labors, weight basis payment system, cloth bag plucking basket, water addition, number of shoots were negative effected. plucking extent, plucking rounds per month, standard of plucking, task basis payments system, monthly basis payment system, nylon plucking material, number of factories, deduction for the standard of green leaves, storage condition, no of shoots hold in the hand positively effected to the post harvesting loss. number of pluckers per acreage, water adding for the green leaves, number of factories, number of shoots hold in the hand, Monthly basis payment method for the green leaves were significantly affected to the post harvesting losses at small holder level.

At the transporters level, education level of the transporter, density of packing bag, number of small holders cover, total area cover by transporter, usage of the plastic cages were positively affected to the post harvesting loss. awareness about the post harvesting loss, training about the post harvesting loss, condition of the vehicle (open/ cover), coir and nylon packing material, time duration for the single round and water adding were negatively affected o post harvesting loss.

Key Words : Green leaves, Post harvesting losses, Small holding sector