

**FACTORS AFFECTING ON SUPPLY OF
STANDARD TEA LEAVES TO THE BOUGHT LEAF
FACTORIES**

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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is globally renowned as the largest exporter of world's finest tea and various teas are marketed under the term of "Ceylon Tea". Among all stakeholders in Sri Lankan tea industry, tea smallholders and bought leaf factories are playing significant role. And processing of bought leaf from the smallholders, which comes from divers sources, various difficulties are experienced.

The study was carried out with the aim of determining the factors affecting standard green leaf supply to the bought leaf factory. Evaluate the efficiency of existing services and provide the recommendation to develop the current system. A survey using structured questionnaire was carried out to collect the data from random sample of 150 tea smallholders who supply green leaf to the Sunhill Tea Factory (Pvt) Ltd. The Multiple Linear Regression Model was used to find out the relationship between quantity of standard green leaf supplied and the relevant explanatory variables. Descriptive statistical analyze method was used to evaluate the efficiency of existing services available to the smallholders. And recommendations were made according to the suggestions that have been collected during the interview.

Result revealed that the quantity of standard green leaf supplied was significantly determined by the amount paid for 'A' category green leaf supplied, adoption level of good management practices to maintain standard of green leaf, adoption level of good agricultural practices to produce good quality green leaf, usage of family labour for the plucking and availability of advance facilities from the factory have positive relationship at 5% significant level and the distance from tea land to factory has negative relationship at that level and amount paid for 'B' category green leaf supplied positively related at 10 % significant level. And most of the existing available services to smallholders are operating at inefficient condition.

Key words - Tea smallholder, Bought leaf factory, Estate factory, Good agricultural practices, Good management practices