

**EFFECT OF RAINFALL CHANGES ON TEA (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O.
Kuntze) YIELD USING STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX
(SPI) IN BADULLA**

A dissertation submitted to the
Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
Uva Wellassa University
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Science in Tea Technology & Value Addition

by
KIRUTHHIKA THEVATHASAN

**Department of Export Agriculture
Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka**

2017

ABSTRACT

The variations in the rainfall pattern is very essential to understand the drought and wet conditions in tea growing areas. Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is provided one of useful tool to understand the drought and wet conditions of selected location/s or country. The objective of this study is to identify the rainfall changes impact in tea growing estates of Badulla region and evaluate its effects on tea yield. Therefore Rainfall data and tea yield data were collected from Ury, Telbedde, Spring Valley estates in Badulla region for the period of 1987 to 2016. Change point analyzer was used to understand the changes in rainfall and yield, Mann-Kendall test was used to identify the trend of these data. The 12-month SPI for January to December showed an increasing trend in Spring Valley estate and it indicated higher chance of occurring wet events as same decreasing trend in Telbedde estate showed there is a chance of occurring drought events while Ury showed no trend. The 5-month SPI which is representing desirable period of tea harvesting (South-West monsoon) from May to September showed a decreasing trend which led to high chance of occurring drought events in Telbedde while other estates not have any trend. Also it showed there was a decline in the annual yield by 10 to 32 kg ha⁻¹ per year in Badulla region and the r² value of these estates were varied between 0.07 and 0.13. The results of the study revealed that there is a less risk of changing rainfall pattern that effect on yield reduction in Badulla region in near future.

Key words: Drought, Rainfall, Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), Tea