

**FACTORS AFFECTING ON PLUCKING STANDARDS IN  
TEA HARVESTING IN TEA SMALLHOLDINGS IN THE  
PASSARA AREA.**

A dissertation submitted to the  
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By

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Factors affecting on plucking standards in tea harvesting in Tea Small holdings in the Passara area.**

Tea small holding sector plays a major role to Sri Lankan economy by contributing 74% of the national tea production. Quality of green leaf supplied to the tea factories by this sector greatly affects on the quality of the final made tea. But at present, most of the tea processing factories receive only about 35-40% of best quality leaves. Various climatic conditions, demographic conditions, cultivation practices and also post harvesting practices have been affected on quality of green leaf.

The present study was conducted to identify the factors that affecting on the best quality leaf percentage received to the factories. 150 tea small holders were selected randomly from the study area of Passara Tea Inspector range to represent the population and collection of the data was done through a semi-structured questionnaire. Linear regression analysis was done to identify the factors that affect on the best quality leaf percentage. According to the linear regression analyze it shows that plucking method, organic fertilizer application, crop age, land extent and crop cultivar are positively correlated and significantly affected on plucking standard and land extent has negatively correlated with the quality standards.

Key words – Tea Leaf Standard, Tea Small holding sector, Quality of green leaf