

**DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINE FOR LOW
COUNTRY ORTHODOX TEA MANUFACTURING
FACTORIES BASED ON PACKING WEIGHT,
MARKET PRICE AND QUALITY**

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**By
WILE HEWANANNAHELAGE HIMALI ISANKA
WICKRAMASINGHE**

**Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
Uva Wellassa University**

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ABSTRACT

There is a large packing weight variation of same grade and price variations of same grade having same packing weight/various packing weights. There is no any method to determine reasons for price variations. According to the Colombo Tea Traders' Association (CTTA) circular No.12 of 2013, packing weight range for each grade was given. It is important when filling tea sacks to ensure that sacks are packed at their optimum weights to prevent bulging, particle size degradation, sagging, extra space for storage and transportation. There is a price variation of same grade having same packing weight due to variations of quality characteristics. Therefore identification of an optimum packing weight and to develop a quality improvement method for low country orthodox tea manufacturing factories is important. If there is a necessary can give suggestions to change the packing weight range given by CTTA. Low grown leafy grade, low grown tippy/small leaf were used to identify optimum packing weight. Population size was 50 sales and sample was 12 sales. Data regarding packing weight, price, and weekly low grown elevation average were collected. Prices were standardized to low country elevation average. Data was analyzed by using graphical method to find out optimum packing weight. Tea tasting was done for sensory evaluation. Data regarding quality characteristics of the lot having the optimum packing weight, the highest market price and the lot having optimum packing weight, the lowest market price was collected for each grade for three consecutive weeks from three brokering firms. Eighteen numbers of samples were checked for each grade from three trained panelists of each brokering firm. Samples were surveyed based on the structured questionnaire. Data analysis method was chi square test and data analysis software was MINITAB. There was a strong positive correlation between packing weight range given by CTTA and market price. To find out optimum packing weight, number of lots and market price were considered. Optimum packing weights for BOP1, OP1, OP, OPA, PEKOE, PEKOE1, FBOP, FBOP1, FBOPF and FBOPF1 are 40 kg, 32 kg, 30 kg, 28 kg, 38 kg, 42 kg, 42 kg, 40 kg, 50 kg and 48 kg respectively. There were relationships between price and quality characteristics. As the first step manufacturers should try to achieve optimum packing weight. Then they can improve other quality characteristics to achieve high prices.

Key words: Low country orthodox premium tea grades, Packing weight, Market price, Quality, Number of lots