

## **Factors Affecting on Supply of Standard Tea Leaves (Case of Bought Leaf Factories in Ratnapura District)**

R.M.R.S.B. Atugoda, R.P.D. Gunathilaka  
*Uva Wellassa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka*

*and*

S.A. Thalagoda  
*CIC Agri Businesses (Pvt) Ltd, Peradeniya Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka*

### *Abstract*

Among all stakeholders in Sri Lankan tea industry, tea smallholders and bought leaf factories have been playing a significant role. Processing of bought leaf supplied by the smallholders, which comes from diverse sources experience difficulties as the supply comprised of coarse leaves and leaves with physical damages. The standard of leaf is the major determinants of leaf quality practiced in bought leaf factories. This study was carried out to evaluate the efficiency of existing services provided by brought leaf factory and to provide 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 gathered 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, amount paid for 'B' category green leaf supplied, adoption level of good management practices to maintain standard of green leaf, adoption level of good cultural 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 only distance from tea land to the factory negatively related at 10 % significant level. And most of the existing available services to the smallholders are operating at inefficient condition.

**Keywords:** Tea smallholder, bought leaf factory, bought leaf, good cultural practices, good management practices