TEA BROKERS EAST AFRICA LIMITED

Telephone: +254 41 2221953 / 4
Fax: +254 41 231 4480
Mobile: +254 735 221953 / 729 403507
E-mail: mail@tbeal.co.ke
www.tbeal.net

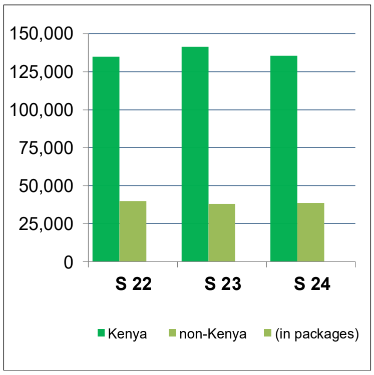
Tea Trade Centre
Nyerere Avenue
PO Box 87296 - 80100

Tea Market Report: Sale 22 of 31st May—2nd June, 2021

Good general demand prevailed for the 194,678 packages(12.88m/kgs) at irregular levels closely following quality with 11.41% unsold.

Current and Future Fresh Auction Offerings

Country	Sale 22 31 May - 2Jun'21 MG	SG	Sale 22 2 - 3 Jun'20 MG	SG	Sale 23 7 - 9 Jun'21 MG	SG	Sale 24 14 - 16 Jun'21 MG	SG
Kenya	122,220	12,660	123,600	10,934	127,780	13,680	121,660	13,914
Uganda	16,980	8,920	15,800	8,140	16,518	9,066	16,480	9,540
Tanzania	1,680	1,519	1,400	400	1,840	980	1,760	1,080
Rwanda	7,560	1,160	5,080	720	6,840	1,100	5,960	980
Burundi	1,640	360	2,200	220	1,280	400	1,600	160
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	720	240
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D R Congo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	523	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	0	600	0	0	0	0
Reprints	18,379	1,600	15,100	1,307	9,440	1,560	9,660	1,700
Total	**150,080**	**24,619**	**148,080**	**21,537**	**154,258**	**25,226**	**148,180**	**25,914**
	174,699		**169,617**		**179,484**		**174,094**	



Leaf Grades

Offerings: 104,119 packages (6.80m/kgs) and 10.24% remained unsold

Best **BP1s** available saw reduced enquiry and shed up to USC48 but a few improved invoices gained up to USC3 following quality while Brighter types were a strong feature and appreciated by up to USC74 although some invoices eased by up to USC10 with quality. Medium varieties met an irregular interest ranging between firm to USC28 above previous week's rates to easier by USC2 - USC3. Lower Medium categories ranged between steady to USC25 dearer to easier by USC3 - USC4 and some lines were unsold. Plainer sorts saw an irregular activity varying between firm to USC16 above last prices to easier by USC2 - USC25 with some teas remaining unsold.

The Best **PF1s** in the market held steady to USC2 easier while brighter sorts shed USC2 to USC5 with Medium varieties firm to USC10 below last week's rates. Lower Medium sorts saw an irregular support and varied between USC2 - USC14 dearer to easier by USC3 to USC8. Plainer descriptions ranged between firm to USC17 above last week's levels to easier by USC4 to USC13 with some teas neglected.

CTC Quotations and Highest Prices (USC)

	BP1			PF1		
Best	221	-	512	216	-	282
Good	188	-	392	210	-	236
Good Medium	186	-	296	200	-	226
Medium	175	-	224	173	-	217
Lower Medium	125	-	196	126	-	196
Plainer	090	-	170	080	-	182

DUST Grades

Offerings: 64,340 packages (4.7m/kgs). 14.27% remained without bids

The Best **PDUSTs** in the market were irregular ranging between firm to USC2 dearer to easier by up to USC5 with Brighter sorts well-competed for advancing by up to USC34 following quality but a few invoices shed up to USC8 while Medium types were irregular varying between USC6 - USC14 dearer with quality to easier by USC4 - USC5. Lower Medium categories ranged between firm to USC18 above previous week's rates to easier by USC4 - USC20 and a few lines were unsold. Plainer descriptions met irregular interest ranging between steady to USC17 dearer to easier by USC2 - USC8 with some teas remaining unsold.

Best **DUST1s** on offer were irregular ranging between firm to USC8 above last prices following quality to easier by up to USC3 while Brighter varieties varied between steady to USC12 dearer with quality to easier by up to USC8. Improved Medium types saw better absorption and held firm to USC29 above last prices while others eased by USC6 - USC14. Lower Medium sorts saw an irregular enquiry varying between USC2 - USC14 dearer to easier by USC5 to USC16 and some invoices remained unsold. There was irregular interest on plainer descriptions ranging between steady to USC18 above last week's levels to easier by up to USC40 and some teas remained without bids.

Secondary Grades

Offerings: 26,219 packages (1.32m/kgs). 11.59% remained unsold.

In the Secondary Catalogues, BPs were firm while PFs held value. Clean well sorted coloury Fannings appreciated while DUSTs were steady. Other Fannings were firm with similar DUSTs steady. BMFs were well absorbed.

Markets

There was strong enquiry from Egyptian Packers with useful but selective interest from Kazakhstan and other CIS states while Sudan, Yemen, other Middle Eastern countries and UK showed useful support. Pakistan Packers and Bazaar lent useful interest but at lower levels while Russia showed good activity with more but selective enquiry from Afghanistan. Iran were quieter with good support from Local Packers on account of price. Somalia were active at the lower end of the market.

CTC Quotations and Highest Prices (USC)

	PD			D1		
Best	215	-	306	188	-	255
Good	210	-	280	188	-	212
Good Medium	210	-	224	164	-	206
Medium	180	-	226	142	-	223
Lower Medium	120	-	236	090	-	226
Plainer	100	-	190	088	-	176

Secondary Quotations (USC)

	BP/BP2			PF/PF2			FNGS1/FNGS			DUST / DUST2			BMF		
Best/Good	178	-	246	193	-	200	121	-	204	086	-	200			
Good Medium / Medium							110	-	176	090	-	142			
Lower Medium	116	-	163	095	-	169	076	-	148	070	-	106	070	-	090
Plainer	114	-	137	068	-	158	068	-	122	070	-	122	068	-	078

Average Auction Hammer Quantities and Prices by Country

Country of Origin	Main			Secondary			Total			Total for Corresponding Sale for Last Year		
	Pkgs	Kgs	USC	Pkgs	Kgs	USC	Pkgs	Kgs	USC	Pkgs	Kgs	USC
Kenya	119,280	8,294,172	200	11,500	572,131	113	130,780	8,866,303	**194**	112,000	7,692,014	**189**
Uganda	15,560	997,077	133	8,020	396,304	96	23,580	1,393,381	**123**	20,200	1,186,403	**121**
Tanzania	1,760	101,696	122	1,339	54,141	79	3,099	155,837	**107**	1,480	80,155	**119**
Rwanda	6,880	476,150	258	1,220	79,268	183	8,100	555,418	**248**	5,600	392,865	**247**
Burundi	2,760	175,554	192	440	24,044	121	3,200	199,598	**184**	1,820	118,742	**215**
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	480	20,574	**76**
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D R Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	15,048	**72**
Total	**146,240**	**10,044,649**	**195**	**22,519**	**1,125,888**	**110**	**168,759**	**11,170,537**	**187**	**141,920**	**9,505,801**	**182**

Sale Number	Previous Sale's Quantities and Prices									Total for Corresponding Sale for Last Year		
	Main			Secondary			Total					
Sale 21/21	150,980	10,338,058	**197**	22,320	1,127,894	**110**	173,300	11,465,952	**189**	144,080	9,623,853	**186**
Sale 20/21	143,300	9,867,761	**193**	23,620	1,177,157	**103**	166,920	11,044,918	**184**	159,959	10,582,130	**188**
Sale 19/21	134,580	9,268,248	**191**	21,600	1,073,006	**102**	156,180	10,341,254	**182**	152,438	10,036,243	**192**
Sale 18/21	133,221	9,195,888	**193**	23,798	1,193,544	**102**	157,019	10,389,432	**183**	162,552	10,644,523	**194**
Sale 17/21	132,120	9,092,153	**195**	24,300	1,199,365	**103**	156,420	10,291,518	**185**	155,270	10,260,814	**207**
Sale 16/21	134,080	9,242,564	**194**	26,979	1,351,097	**104**	161,059	10,593,661	**183**	170,167	11,330,641	**212**

Average Auction Hammer Prices by Grade and Country

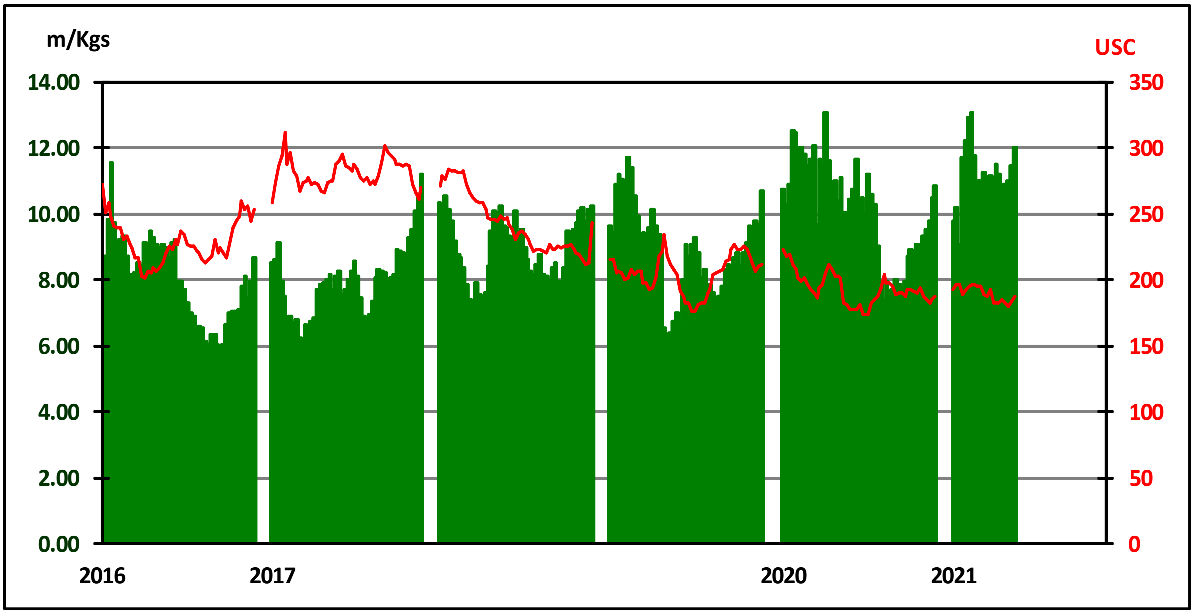
Country of Origin	Current Sale's Prices per Grade										Corresponding Prices per Grade for Last Year									
	BP1	PF1	PD	D1	BP/2	PF/2	D/2	F/1	BMF	**Av**	BP1	PF1	PD	D1	BP/2	PF/2	D/2	F/1	BMF	**Av**
Kenya	212	201	200	181	137	135	101	123	72	**194**	191	194	190	189	138	130	97	116	57	**189**
Uganda	135	130	139	127	131	113	90	94	70	**123**	117	125	142	142	96	107	86	84	54	**121**
Tanzania	109	120	130	117	114	92	70	81	72	**107**	109	129	135	139	-	-	75	80	56	**119**
Rwanda	303	242	248	213	213	195	149	158	-	**248**	344	235	237	225	204	180	109	184	-	**247**
Burundi	183	204	194	183	-	-	115	123	-	**184**	216	232	201	200	-	-	126	145	-	**215**
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	-	-	-	53	**76**
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D R Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	74	-	-	**72**
	210	**198**	**193**	**172**	**157**	**123**	**104**	**114**	**71**	**187**	**188**	**191**	**185**	**183**	**129**	**120**	**94**	**106**	**55**	**182**

Sale Number	Previous Sale's Prices per Grade										Corresponding Prices per Grade for Previous Year									
	BP1	PF1	PD	D1	BP/2	PF/2	D/2	F/1	BMF	**Av**	BP1	PF1	PD	D1	BP/2	PF/2	D/2	F/1	BMF	**Av**
Sale 21/21	216	198	196	176	164	125	104	112	**72**	**189**	192	198	183	180	152	122	106	107	**54**	186
Sale 20/21	**201**	**198**	**191**	**171**	**144**	**119**	**99**	**102**	**76**	**184**	**194**	**207**	**186**	**186**	**159**	**122**	**99**	**108**	**57**	**188**
Sale 19/21	200	194	189	172	158	121	96	104	**71**	**182**	213	210	191	187	161	130	104	101	**55**	192
Sale 18/21	207	198	189	170	166	117	96	100	72	**183**	210	211	195	193	159	139	104	107	56	**194**
Sale 17/21	207	201	190	173	170	116	100	101	**73**	**185**	224	220	214	209	160	142	107	114	**58**	207
Sale 16/21	201	201	189	173	167	118	97	104	73	**183**	226	223	219	219	158	142	114	117	56	**212**

Average Auction Prices and Quantities by Country

Country	Previous Sale Sale 21/21 Kgs	USC	Year To Date 2021 Kgs	USC	Last Year Sale 21/20 Kgs	USC	Year To Date 2020 Kgs	USC	Variance Year To Date Kgs	USC
Kenya	9,687,056	194	191,180,803	197	8,031,018	193	191,686,047	209	-505,244	-12
Uganda	1,458,382	122	29,378,615	120	1,331,044	122	27,668,664	116	1,709,951	4
Tanzania	75,853	113	1,962,947	99	165,175	123	3,718,264	114	-1,755,317	-15
Rwanda	592,008	264	10,862,025	262	297,337	242	10,660,676	296	201,349	-34
Burundi	189,415	184	2,937,674	205	156,899	215	3,564,521	231	-626,847	-26
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	18,212	70	145,374	65	-145,374	-65
Madagascar	-	-	98,943	101	-	-	-	-	98,943	101
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
D R Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Ethiopia	-	-	108,333	141	21,242	88	317,499	140	-209,166	1
Total	**12,002,714**	**188**	**236,529,340**	**190**	**10,020,927**	**183**	**237,761,045**	**201**	**-1,231,705**	**-11**

Mombasa Weekly Average Auction Quantities and Prices 2016—2021



	Jan Kgs	USC	Feb Kgs	USC	Mar Kgs	USC	Apr Kgs	USC	May Kgs	USC	Jun Kgs	USC	Jul Kgs	USC	Aug Kgs	USC	Sep Kgs	USC	Oct Kgs	USC	Nov Kgs	USC	Dec Kgs	USC	Total Kgs	USC
2021	40.8	194	49.9	195	55.7	192	44.7	183	45.4	188															236.5	190
2020	44.4	217	47.4	203	56.5	192	46.9	205	42.5	189	53.0	181	42.3	176	34.6	192	39.1	194	33.3	192	36.1	190	40.6	187	516.8	193
2019	52.2	209	44.1	203	37.8	202	47.9	206	25.6	218	30.7	190	44.0	179	31.3	192	30.6	208	42.5	222	37.0	219	30.2	210	454.0	204
2018	50.7	278	35.0	282	30.3	265	40.6	252	39.9	246	38.0	239	44.9	233	33.6	223	32.9	223	42.9	225	39.5	219	30.1	213	458.4	243
2017	41.7	284	26.5	286	25.6	273	29.2	272	39.9	275	31.5	289	32.4	283	27.8	275	32.9	286	41.9	291	36.3	283	31.9	266	397.6	281
2016	38.4	256	37.4	238	41.8	224	36.1	204	45.4	212	35.3	227	29.9	231	32.8	219	24.5	222	25.2	222	37.2	250	24.0	251	407.9	229

Exchange Rates (2019-2021)

KES: USD	107.59	0.05 0.05%
KES:STG	152.72	0.13 0.08%
KES:EUR	131.30	0.76 0.58%
USD:STG	141.00	0.10 0.71%

During the week the Kenya Shilling traded between KES 107.53-107.75 and reached 107.75 at its lowest end week. Expectations are that the Kenya Shilling against US Dollar will trade at the level of 107.00 - 108.00 in the coming week.

(*These figures are given as a guide and readers are advised not to use them as a basis for business transactions*)

Auction Quantities

Country Offerings	This Week Sale 22/21 Packages	Kgs	Year To Date 2021 Packages	Kgs	Year To Date 2020 Packages	Kgs	Variance Year To Date Packages	Kgs
Kenya	134,880	9,130,766	2,988,529	202,058,639	3,005,601	203,242,936	-17,072	-1,184,297
Uganda	25,900	1,521,832	538,686	31,175,246	503,526	29,079,688	35,160	2,095,558
Tanzania	3,199	156,898	42,999	2,187,237	74,449	4,013,424	-31,450	-1,826,187
Rwanda	8,720	598,518	163,900	11,203,362	166,759	11,427,405	-2,859	-224,043
Burundi	2,000	122,918	49,920	3,107,258	57,520	3,662,736	-7,600	-555,478
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	3,443	172,345	-3,443	-172,345
Madagascar	0	0	2,020	99,835	0	0	2,020	99,835
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D R Congo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	6,300	334,389	-6,300	-334,389
Total	**174,699**	**11,530,932**	**3,786,054**	**249,831,577**	**3,817,598**	**251,932,923**	**-31,544**	**-2,101,346**

Sellers' Main Grade Quantities (in Packages)

Origin	BP 1			PF 1			PD			D 1			Total		
	S 22	S 23	S 24	S 22	S 23	S 24	S 22	S 23	S 24	S 22	S 23	S 24	S 22	S 23	S 24
KTDA	19920	17800	17280	54160	53800	55714	22200	23000	20880	11280	9660	9080	107560	104260	102954
Unilever Tea	800	1000	560	440	640	560	440	700	440	360	200	240	2040	2540	1800
James Finlay	40	40	40	160	120	80	400	240	160	0	0	0	600	400	280
Eastern Produce	200	320	120	820	1060	340	680	680	560	200	240	240	1900	2300	1260
Others (K)	40	40	40	160	80	120	120	120	120	80	40	40	400	280	320
Uganda	4919	40	120	160	160	280	120	160	240	4020	80	40	9219	440	680
Tanzania	400	600	620	1200	1440	1360	480	400	460	280	280	260	2360	2720	2700
Rwanda	5040	4520	4120	5880	5520	5560	2640	2480	2160	1120	1120	1160	14680	13640	13000
Burundi	1480	1480	1560	2000	1800	2040	600	520	680	280	360	360	4360	4160	4640
DR Congo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madagascar	80	80	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	20	100	100	100
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32919	25920	24540	64980	64620	66054	27680	28300	25700	17640	12000	11440	143219	130840	127734

Buyer Purchases of Teas Offered by Grade (in Packages)

	BUYER	%	Total	BP1	PF1	PD	D1	BP2	PF2	D2	FNGS	BMF
1	GLOBAL TEA & COMMODITIES KENYA LTD.	11.64	22,660	3,080	12,400	4,520	1,800		80	620	160	
2	LAB INTERNATIONAL KENYA LTD	9.29	18,080	760	3,760	9,440	3,240		640	120	120	
3	JAMES FINLAY MOMBASA LIMITED	7.85	15,280	880	2,020	8,700	1,460		440	80	1,700	
4	CHAI TRADING COMPANY LTD	6.56	12,780	800	8,660	920	2,380			20		
5	CARGILL KENYA LTD	6.33	12,320	2,640	6,680	2,800	200					
6	SSOE (KENYA) LIMITED	5.52	10,740	2,600	4,980	800	1,000	680	200	480		
7	M J. CLARKE LTD	4.23	8,240		800	5,000	640		180	60	1,560	
8	COFFTEA AGENCIES LTD	4.11	8,000	4,240	1,800	320			120		1,460	60
9	DEVCHAND KESHAVJI (K) LTD	3.80	7,400		7,400							
10	VAN REES KENYA LIMITED	3.17	6,180	1,680	2,500	360	760		200	20	660	
11	MOMBASA COFFEE LTD	2.50	4,860	240		2,800	1,480	340				
12	ABBAS TRADERS LTD	2.34	4,560	520	2,040	1,160	180	300	40	200	120	
13	SHAKAB EXPORT & IMPORT CO. LTD	1.98	3,860	80	3,400		120	80	80	60	40	
14	CHAMU SUPPLIES LIMITED	1.92	3,740	1,640	720	480	200	160	220	80	240	
15	STANSAND (A) LTD	1.92	3,740	120	3,020	40			240		320	
16	EMPIRE KENYA (EPZ) LTD	1.58	3,080	1,440	320	440		560	40		280	
17	GOLD CROWN FOODS (EPZ) LTD	1.31	2,560	180			40	80	320	700	220	1,020
18	IMPERIAL TEAS (EPZ) LTD	1.27	2,480	960	280	360	240	120	240	120	160	
19	INDO-AFRICAN TEA CO. (K) LTD.	1.25	2,440	1,200	1,080		80		40		40	
20	RANFER TEAS KENYA LTD	1.08	2,100	840	400	220	520			120		
21	ALIBHAI RAMJI (MSA) LTD	1.02	1,980		1,700	40	240					
22	AL EMIR LIMITED	1.01	1,960	80	1,680	120	80					
23	GREEN LEAF TRADING CO. LTD	0.62	1,200							80	80	1,040
24	SARDIA INTERNATIONAL CO. LTD	0.54	1,060		840				80	80		60
25	PWANI HAULIERS	0.43	839						19		120	700
26	LULA TRADING COMPANY	0.38	740								100	640
27	LINDOP & COMPANY (KENYA) LTD	0.37	720		300	200			140	20	60	
28	MAYMUN ENTERPRISES	0.28	540							20	300	220
29	SUMMER LINER CO. LTD	0.28	540		20			120	20		160	220
30	NALA TEA COMPANY LTD	0.27	520			440	80					
31	TRANS-ATLANTIC TRADING Co. LTD	0.27	520		440						80	
32	AIMCO ENTERPRISES LTD	0.18	360								80	280
33	TUSHA TEA LTD	0.18	360							20		340
34	TROPICAL CROPS & COMMODITIES	0.16	320					40	20	20	200	40
35	AL KHALIFA ENTERPRISES LTD	0.14	280									280
36	KIRINDO TRADERS LIMITED	0.14	280	120	40					20	60	40
37	DELSTA TEA LIMITED	0.12	240		200				40			
38	PESHWOOD ENTERPRISES LTD	0.12	240			240						
39	GOKAL TRADING KENYA LTD	0.08	160	160								
40	JALEEL TRADING COMPANY	0.08	160									160
41	TEAVANA TEA STORE LTD	0.08	160									160
42	AFRO TEAS LTD	0.07	140	80							20	40
43	MCLEOD RUSSEL AFRICA LIMITED	0.06	120	120								
44	RIOTANA TRADING LIMITED	0.03	60	40				20				
45	GREAT WHITE PACKERS LTD	0.02	40							40		
46	MARA CHAI LIMITED	0.02	40			40						
47	MOMBASA TEA TRADERS LTD	0.02	40				40					
48	TRUST TEA TRADERS EAST AFRICA LTD	0.02	40	40								
	Total Sold	86.64	168,759	24,540	67,480	39,440	14,780	2,500	3,399	2,980	8,340	5,300
	Withdrawn	-										
	Unsold	13.31	25,919	4,859	7,360	6,840	3,560	300	640	360	1,320	680
	% Unsold			17	10	15	19	11	16	11	14	11
	Grand Total	**99.95**	**194,678**	**29,399**	**74,840**	**46,280**	**18,340**	**2,800**	**4,039**	**3,340**	**9,660**	**5,980**

Sale 21/21	89.49%	173,300	24,120	72,360	40,760	13,740	2,340	3,140	3,280	8,240	5,320
Sale 20/21	90.00%	166,920	23,300	65,360	41,920	12,720	2,520	3,280	2,900	9,140	5,780
Sale 19/21	83.32%	156,180	22,940	59,800	38,980	12,860	1,640	3,680	3,320	6,840	6,120
Sale 18/21	83.38%	157,019	19,700	59,641	42,220	11,660	1,880	3,860	2,960	9,160	5,938
Sale 17/21	85.85%	156,420	19,800	62,180	37,700	12,440	1,860	3,920	2,660	9,620	6,240
Sale 16/21	84.08%	161,059	19,980	61,860	38,820	13,420	1,820	4,180	3,200	11,819	5,960

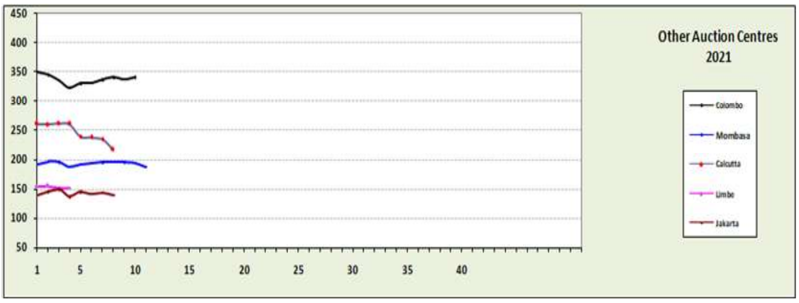
Other Tea Auction Centres

Jakarta: at Sale 21 held on the 25th May, 2021. This week auction was held a day ahead, following Buddhist holiday Vaisak Day tomorrow. The offerings of 6,980 psacks included 1,640 psacks CTC teas. There was good general, widespread demand at firm levels. As usual, only 2 to 3 lots were sold at the eauction, leaving buyers to negotiate final prices after auction. The pattern of buying this week was mostly unchanged.

Colombo: at Sale 20 held on 24th and 25th May, 2021, The 1.2Mkg of Ex Estate teas on offer met with lower demand. Select best Western High Grown BOPs were easier, the below best and plainer varieties too eased Rs.20/- to Rs.30/- on average. Select best BOPFs were irregularly easier, the below best and plainer varieties were lower by Rs.10/- to Rs.20/- on average. Nuwara Eliya BOPs sold well following quality, the BOPFs were irregularly easier. Udapussellawa BOPs were lower by Rs.10/- to Rs.20/-, the BOPFs too eased by a similar margin. Uva BOPs were firm to a little easier, the BOPFs were mostly lower. Low Grown CTC BP1s declined, the High and Medium sorts were easier by Rs.20/- to Rs.30/-. Low Grown PF1s too declined from last week's levels. The High and Medium sorts were barely steady. The 3.3Mkg of Low Grown teas which were on offer met with lower demand. Select best and best OP1s were firm. Well-made BOP1s attracted better interest, others met with fair demand. Select best OPAs were firm, others were lower. OPs declined following quality. Bold Pekoes were irregularly lower to last. Well-made Pekoe1s were firm, others declined several rupees. In the Small Leaf segment, select best BOP.SP / BOPF.SP and BOPFs met with lower demand. Select best and best BOPs shed few rupees. FBOPs declined few rupees following quality. Select best and best FBOPF1s met with lower demand. FBOPFs were firm. All Premium Flowery teas met with fair demand. Iran, Russia and the C.I.S. countries lent fair support, whilst Turkey was selective. Libya and Iraq lent fair support.

Auction Offerings				
	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Centre	25-May	02-Jun	08-Jun	15-Jun
Mombasa	185,040	193,240	194,678	190,484
Limbe	12,400	10,680	8,820	8,800
Colombo	7.9m/kgs	7.6m/kgs	6.0m/kgs	7.7m/kgs
Jakarta	8,180	7,520	7,860	-
Calcutta	64,364	63,224	0	0
Guwahati	62,123	-	-	-
Chittagong	26,569	36,321	31,362	31,399
Total	**267,743**	**211,440**	**211,358**	**199,284**

Chittagong: at Sale 03 held on 24th May, 2021. **CTC LEAF:** 20,034 packages of Current Season & 810 packages of Old Season teas on offer met with a selective demand with higher withdrawals. **BROKENS:** A handful of well-made clean liquoring Brokens sold well often easing by Tk. 5/- and more whilst Mediums met with much less demand and prices declined by Tk.7/- to Tk.8/- with heavy withdrawals. Similarly Plain teas also met with only limited interest and there were heavy withdrawals. BLFs saw less interest at lower rates. There were again more withdrawals in this category. **FANNINGS:** A few well made coloury Fannings were well supported at about last levels but Mediums saw selective demand and where sold eased by Tk. 5/- to Tk.7/- but there were heavy withdrawals. Plain teas saw only limited interest and only a few lines sold at reduced levels. BLFs saw less interest at lower rates. There were again more withdrawals in this category. **CTC DUST:** 6,075 packages of Current Season & 60 packages of Old Season teas on offer met with quite a strong demand. Best and good liquoring Dusts met with a good competition and sold at firm to dearer rates. Other varieties were a steady market. BLF Dusts were readily absorbed at slightly dearer rates with less withdrawals. Blenders lent strong support with fair interest from the Loose tea buyers. **COMMENTS:** Demand was more selective this week with mostly Blenders operating for coloury teas and neglected lesser varieties. Loose tea buyers were much less active and lent limited support to the best on offer. As a result, withdrawals in the Leaf catalogue was heavier. Dusts witnessed better demand than Leaf and most teas were sold.



Cochin: at Sale 20 held on 19th May, 2021. **CTC Leaf:** Good demand. Brokens and Fannings selling at fully firm levels. **Buying pattern**: Good demand from Internal and Upcountry buyers. Export buyers were active. **ORTHODOX Leaf**: Good demand. Well made high grown whole leaf, brokens sold at barely steady levels. Medium whole leaf and bolder brokens also sold at irregular to easier levels whilst smaller brokens tended steady. **Buying pattern:** CIS/Middle East exporters were active. Upcountry buyers lent support on whole leaf grades. **Dust** Fair demand. Popular varieties and good liquoring finer grades sold dearer 4-5c and sometimes more. Plainer sorts witnessed better enquiry and selling dearer 4-6c and more. **Buying pattern**: Major blender AVT was active. KSCSC was inactive. Best mediums fetched with fair support from regional packeters. Domestic buyers were less active in their purchases. Exporters were selective.

Calcutta: Sale 21 postponed

Guwahati: at Sale 21 held on 26th May, 2021 with 53,184 packages of tea on offer. **Market: CTC** There was good demand for good and better medium Assams at firm to dearer rates. Demand was fair for the medium Assams, Cachars and BLF at around last levels. **Buying Pattern:** HUL/TCPL lent good support. Western India buyers were very active on good and better medium Assams. Buyers for other upcountry destinations operated normally. There was very little export enquiry. **Market: DUST** The sale witnessed good demand for good Assams dusts at firm to dearer rates. Demand was fair for the remainder Assams, Cachars and BLF at around last levels. Significant withdrawals were seen in this category. **Buying Pattern:** HUL/TCPL and Western India buyers lent fair support. There was very little export enquiry.

News Articles of Interest

Wednesday 2nd June 2021

Covid surge spooks tea gardens

Workers live in cramped living quarters where measures to curb the virus's spread are difficult to implement.

When Indian tea plantation worker Bholanath Natto and his wife tested positive for Covid-19 their biggest worry was not their health, but where they could get hold of food and drinking water without his wages.

As some of the cities worst hit by India's Covid-19 crisis see a lull in new cases, infections are rising among millions of tea pickers — many of whom live in cramped living quarters where measures to curb the virus's spread are difficult to implement.

The positive test result and hospital orders to quarantine have been a logistical nightmare for the Nattos, who have spent the last 15 days holed up in a wood shed behind the two-room plantation house they share with their children.

"We converted a shed where we stored wood in case our cooking gas ran out into a makeshift room for my wife and me to live in isolation," Natto, 55, said from his home in Bengal. "My teenage daughter stepped into the kitchen for the first time to cook, while her older brother tried to arrange drinking water for us. Nobody wanted to help us because everyone is scared. We are home alone, with food running out." India reported its lowest daily rise in new infections since April 11 on Monday, but concerns have been voiced about rising numbers in the country's east and northeastern regions, home to lush tea gardens that supply much of the world's tea. Since the pandemic began, India has reported 28 million cases and 329,100 deaths, health ministry data showed, though the true figures are widely believed to be much higher. India's tea estates employ some 3.5 million workers, thousands of whom are currently quarantining in small, overcrowded homes, struggling to access food, water and aid, union leaders said.

n Bengal, more than 4,500 cases have been recorded across 300 of the state's 800 tea gardens, according to government data.

Cases in the tea gardens of neighboring Assam have risen three-fold in the last 10 days, with more than 6,000 workers and family members testing positive, local media reported. "The situation is alarming," said Abhijit Mazumdar, working president of the Tarai Sangrami Cha Shramik Union, which represents tea pickers in Bengal. "There are no facilities — no isolation centers, no doctors in defunct dispensaries — leaving workers to battle the disease alone. Fever cases are up, those testing positive are stuck at home with their families and simply resigned to fate," he added.

Islands of neglect

India is the world's second-largest tea producer and the industry has long faced accusations of exploitative labor conditions.

"The gardens are like isolated islands, each supposed to have all facilities for its workers who live on site. But in reality they are islands of neglect," Mazumdar said. Tea industry group the Indian Tea Association said it was pushing for plantations to ensure on-site vaccination for all workers and their families. "We are not just concerned but fully involved with the district authorities to keep tea garden workers safe," said Arijit Raha, the association's secretary general. "There are customised guidelines for tea gardens and we are ensuring our members follow them. Fever checks, masks, sanitization and Covid care centers are a must. We have managed to keep the infected numbers low, but the challenge remains."

Recipe for disaster

But deep in the heart of the gardens, where ongoing tea picking season means non-stop work, workers said they had no access to separate quarantine facilities and were constantly worried they would spread the infection to their families. "There are up to three generations living in these two-room, often dilapidated homes, with one bathroom to share," said Victor Basu, founder of Dooars Jagron, a charity working to defend tea workers' rights. "It's a recipe for disaster. Tea garden hospitals need to be made functional and if safe spaces for isolation are not created, the pandemic will spread like wild fire," he added.

In Banarhat in Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, Gangaram Teli, who works as a security guard, has been watching with trepidation as coronavirus cases in his tea garden rise. "There is one tap for four houses," said Teli, 39. "For affected families, accessing the water point or buying groceries is very stressful. The disease is such that neighbors hesitate to help." While Natto's fever has passed, the last few days of the couple's three-week confinement have been particularly fraught because their savings have dried up. "I feel fine but cannot step out for another few days," said Natto, who earns about Rs 7,000 per month and only gets four days of paid sick leave. "We need food in the house.... I have to go back to work."

Source:
https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/covid-surge-spooks-tea-gardens/cid/1817427

Friday 28th May 2021

Tea sommelier finds niche in luxury flavors

While living in the UK and the US for about 14 years, tea sommelier Tehmeena Manji, realised that it was difficult to find African loose leaf teas in some of the finest tea rooms and supermarkets in the two countries. "This seemed like a bit of a disconnect with my knowledge of the existence of beautiful tea gardens all over Africa," she told BDLife.. Eager to showcase the bounty of African heritage through the lens of beautifully hand-crafted tea blends, she launched the Muthaiga Tea Company in August 2020. She makes flavours such as Rwanda Noir and Swahili Oolong. Swahili Oolong is a hand-rolled tea that has a natural malt taste. "We add spices to the delicate malt taste. I first taste the tea to ensure the consistency of quality and then I taste each of the spices in hot water to ensure their consistency as well," she

…./9

News Articles of Interest continued …

says. "We then cut the spices into sizes and blend them with the tea and then cup/taste the blended tea and grade it to ensure consistency of quality." She did not want to replicate the tried and tested tea blends such as mint tea, masala chai and the like. "We want to create unique teas using natural ingredients that you are not likely to find anywhere else," Ms Manji says. The UK Tea Academy-trained sommelier sources the teas from smallholder farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, with a pipeline of ingredients from other African countries— herbs, dried fruits and flowers —creating a unified blend specific to the artisanal teas. One such blend is the Resurrection d'Amour (The Resurrection of Love), where they used the Resurrection Leaf from Zimbabwe, popular among herbalists for its healing properties. "This was one of the first known instances of the Resurrection Leaf to be used with a green tea from Kenya," she says. Just like wine, good quality, loose leaf tea has different notes depending on the terroir and location where the leaf is grown. High altitudes and slightly acidic soil give the leaf a specific flavour profile, perfect for diverse food pairings. Training as a tea sommelier enables one to pick up notes in the tea leaf as well as other complementary ingredients. Once the aromatic notes have been identified, she then determines how these notes can mingle with different flavour profiles in food. "For example, if you are having sushi or sashimi, you want to retain the flavour of fish in your mouth and slightly cool down the bolder flavour of the soya sauce and wasabi, so I would pair that with our white tea blend—Moonlight Needle," she says. The savannah grass and apricot notes of the tea enhance the flavour of the fish, the slightly sweet peach notes mellowing the wasabi and soya flavour down a notch. "You will be left with a lingering bouquet of balanced notes in your mouth," she says. For Ms Manji, her perfection comes from experimenting with the teas. As the current "chief everything officer" of Muthaiga Tea Company, she employs her vast background in Japanese and British tea-making techniques. "For instance, I wanted to see how our Purple Haze tea (Kenyan purple tea blend) would taste while cold, so I brewed and kept it overnight and added a dash of lemon and honey the next day and since it was a beautiful, sunny day, I decided to add a little gin to it and it tasted amazing," she says. After refining the recipe with mixologists at restaurants where she supplies the tea, it grew to be a fan favourite. "Now we have a new Purple Haze G & Tea which gives you a boost of antioxidants while you are enjoying your gin. Field evidence indicates that it reduces the guilt from drinking gin too," she says.

Price range

Nearly a year after its inception, the company has already found a niche in the tea market. "We did a six-month pilot study to understand how the market would receive innovative, artisanal teas blends and to our delight, we found that there is a healthy market for premium teas from people that have refined taste and are willing to spend for their health and wellbeing," Ms Manji notes. The teas range from Sh585 to Sh1,500 and are currently being sold at select stores in Nairobi and online.

With favourable response from both expatriates and locals after their pilot phase, they upgraded their packaging to a definitive "tea caddies" inspired by the Japanese love for all things tea. Though they have yet to begin exporting, a following abroad has already been established. "People are regularly requesting us to create gift hampers with our tea boxes and some have sent our gifts to their families and friends abroad," she says.

Quick facts

-According to Chinese legend, Emperor Shennong was the first to travel this journey, recognizing loose leaf tea for its unique taste and healing properties. While sheltering in the shade of a tea tree circa 2737 BC, a breeze blew a few dry leaves into a pot of water he was boiling to drink. The rich flavour of the water pleased him, he christened it "cha", and so the worldwide travels of quality loose leaf tea began. -Kenyan soil first hosted tea trees in 1903, planted by the Caine brothers in present-day Limuru town, and has since produced some of the most prestigious and renowned varieties of black tea in the world.

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Source:

https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/lifestyle/food-drinks/tea-sommelier-finds-niche-in-luxury-flavours-3416204

Regional Weather Conditions and World Crop

Kenya: Murang'a: was mostly sunny with light showers at night. 24.5mm of rainfall was recorded over 4 wet days. The highest and lowest temperatures were 28˚c & 10˚c respectively. Crop intake averaged 95 tonnes/day on a six day plucking cycle.

Nyeri: the week was a bit cold. 16.4mm of rainfall was recorded over 2 wet days. The highest and lowest temperatures were 22˚c & 11˚c respectively. Crop intake averaged 55 tonnes/day on a six day plucking cycle.

Meru: was mostly warm and sunny with no rainfall activity recorded throughout the week. The highest and lowest temperatures were 27˚c & 14˚c respectively. Crop intake averaged 53 tonnes/day on a six day plucking cycle.

Sotik: there was a change in weather pattern; cool & dry conditions with reduced rainfall. 8.8mm of rainfall spread in three days was received. The highest and lowest temperatures were 26˚c & 13˚c respectively. Factory utilization remained as last week's levels.

Kericho: Sunny conditions throughout the week with only two rainy days. An average of 16.1mm rainfall was recorded. Average temperatures were highs of 24° Celsius and lows of 10° Celsius. Crop volumes went up by 6% compared to previous week's levels. Crop is on an upward trend with current good growing conditions.

Uganda: there was reduced rainfall activity in all tea growing areas with the exception of Hoima that recorded improved rainfall activity. Fort Portal received 13mm (48mm), Hoima 40mm (18mm), Bushenyi 5mm (4mm) and Kibale 12mm (17mm). Average temperatures were highs of 30° Celsius and lows of 15° Celsius. Crop intake increased.

The trouble with weather forecasting is that it is right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it.

Performance of the March-April-May 2021 Rainfall Season

The March to May 2021 seasonal rainfall has ceased over several parts of the country except over the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Central and South Rift Valley and the Coastal strip as had been predicted. The distribution, both in time and space, has been generally poor over most parts of the country. The month of March saw depressed rainfall over the whole country. In April and May 2021, several parts of the country received near to below average rainfall. An assessment of the rainfall recorded from 1st March to 25th May 2021 indicates that the rainfall performance was near average to below average over most parts of the country. Only three stations (Eldoret, Lodwar and Meru) recorded rainfall that was above their MAM LTM. The most enhanced rainfall of 143.5% was recorded at Eldoret station. This was followed by Lodwar at 131.7% and Meru at 131.3%. Lamu Meteorological Station in the coastal strip recorded the lowest amount of 36.8mm (7.6% of MAM LTM). As of 25th May, Kisii Meteorological Station recorded the highest seasonal rainfall total of 641.2mm

The Outlook for June-July-August 2021 Rainfall Season.

The outlook for the June-July-August (JJA) 2021 rainfall season indicates that the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin Region, Central and Southern Rift Valley as well as the Northwestern region are likely to receive slightly above-average rainfall. The Coastal strip is likely to receive below-average rainfall. The rest of the country is expected to remain generally dry.

Most areas in the Central Highlands and Nairobi area are expected to experience cool/cold and cloudy conditions with occasional rain or drizzle. The temperatures are likely to be slightly warmer than average for the season.

Crop production Kenya: Crop production maintained previous week's level. With the early onset of the cold spell in the EoR crop production is expected to decline whilst WoR will continue to receive useful precipitation and with it fairly good volumes. **Uganda**: Crop volumes increased. In the backdrop of good rainfall activity in the recent past, crop volumes will remain health. **Malawi:** Crop intakes remain good.

	World Production from Main Producing Countries over the Past Twelve Months														Production over calendar years	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	+ / - Variance	2020	2019
Bangladesh	0.3	1.2	1.7	3.9	8.7	11.7	12.2	11.3	12.1	13.4	10.5	7.0	5.9	2.1	90.7	94.6
North India	-	2.2	46.9	51.4	75.6	116.5	140.7	142.9	163.8	155.6	127.6	53.4	100.5	43.2	1,033.4	1,170.6
South India	16.1	15.3	19.6	73.4	20.8	22.0	20.3	16.8	24.1	20.2	21.4	18.1	124.4	68.7	219.4	218.7
Sri Lanka	23.1	22.3	28.4	29.6	28.4	26.8	26.3	22.4	21.9	23.4	24.8	28.5	103.4	30.0	275.9	298.1
Kenya	48.9	43.3	48.7	49.7	47.0	46.4	36.6	38.5	43.4	48.3	47.7	54.4	140.9	(17.7)	570.6	459.0
Uganda	5.8	4.5	5.6	6.1	6.2	5.8	4.8	3.9	5.3	6.7	5.8	5.9	66.4	0.0	28.3	59.7
Tanzania	3.8	2.8	3.4	3.3	2.5	1.7	1.2	0.8	1.7	2.7	2.5	2.2	28.6	0.0	28.6	33.9
Rwanda	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.1	1.6	1.7	2.5	3.3	3.5	12.9	0.1	33.2	32.2
Malawi	7.0	7.2	8.0	6.4	2.8	1.4	1.1	1.3	2.8	2.1	1.4	5.3	28.6	1.6	45.2	48.3
Total	98.6	93.3	156.7	168.0	188.8	229.3	240.5	235.6	237.5	4.6	245.0	178.3	516.6	128.0	2,325.3	2,415.1
Variance	(6.8)	(2.7)	30.8	43.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.1			

Monthly figures in ***"BLACK"*** *are for 2021 whilst figures in* ***"BLUE"*** *are for 2020*

Mombasa Auction—Weekly Sale Average Prices (All teas) 2021

Sale Nos.	Sale Date	Kilos sold Weekly	Kilos Sold monthly	Year : 2021 Av.Price US$ weekly	Year : 2021 Av. Price US$ monthly	Year : 2020 Av. Price US$ monthly	Year : 2019 Av. Price US$ monthly
1	05-Jan-21	9,791,304		1.93			
2	12-Jan-21	10,195,498		1.97			
3	19-Jan-21	9,094,727		1.96			
4	26-Jan-21	11,713,721		1.89			
			40,795,250		1.94	2.17	2.09
5	02-Feb-21	12,192,341		1.93			
6	09-Feb-21	12,945,087		1.95			
7	16-Feb-21	13,051,731		1.96			
8	23-Feb-21	11,798,728	49,987,885	1.97	1.95	2.03	2.03
9	02-Mar-21	11,205,377		2.06			
10	09-Mar-24	11,015,249		1.95			
11	16-Mar-21	11,259,688		1.89			
12	23-Mar-21	11,064,181		1.88			
13	30-Mar-21	11,146,680	55,691,175	1.82	1.92	1.92	2.02
3 mths Totals: }					$1.94 146,474,310 Kgs	$2.03 148,359,082 Kgs	$2.04 134,129,903 Kgs
14	06-Apr-21	11,106,771		1.82			
15	13-Apr-21	11,521,994		1.83			
16	20-Apr-21	11,178,057		1.82			
17	27-Apr-21	10,852,098		1.85			
			44,658,919		1.83	2.05	2.06
18	04-May-21	10,912,164		1.82			
19	11-May-21	11,006,663		1.80			
20	18-May-21	11,474,571		1.84			
21	25-May-21	12,002,714	45,396,112	1.88	1.84	1.89	2.18
22	02-Jun-21						
23	08-Jun-21						
24	15-Jun-21						
25	22-Jun-21						
26	29-Jun-21		-			1.79	1.90
6 mths Totals: }						$1.97 290,761,896 Kgs	$2.04 238,404,735 Kgs
27							
28							
29							
30							
			-			1.76	1.79
31							
32							
33							
34							
35			-			1.92	1.92
36							
37							
38							
39			-			1.94	2.08
9 mths Totals: }						$1.94 406,720,334 Kgs	$2.00 344,324,012 Kgs
40							
41							
42							
43			-			1.90	2.22
44							
45							
46							
47							
48			-			1.90	2.19
49							
50							
51							
			-			1.85	2.10
Sale Nos. 1 to 51 Year end Totals :						516,802,891 Kgs $1.93	454,012,998 Kgs $2.04

Summary : Sale Averages by Country

	Year : 2021 Sale Nos: 1 to 21 (5 months)			Year : 2020 Sale Nos: 1 to 21 (5 months)	
Country :	Kilos ' 000	Av. Prc US$	Country :	Kilos ' 000	Av. Prc US$
Kenya	191,181	1.97	Kenya	191,686	2.09
Uganda	29,379	1.20	Uganda	27,669	1.16
Tanzania	1,963	0.99	Tanzania	3,718	1.14
Rwanda	10,862	2.62	Rwanda	10,661	2.96
Burundi	2,938	2.05	Burundi	3,565	2.31
Malawi	-		Malawi	-	-
Mozambique	-		Mozambique	145	0.65
D R Congo	-		D R Congo	-	-
Madagascar	98	1.01	Madagascar	-	-
Ethiopia	108	1.41	Ethiopia	317	1.40
Total :	236,529	1.90		237,761	2.01

Year 2019 : 12M	454,013	2.04
Year 2018 : 12M	458,361	2.43
Year 2017 : 12M	397,646	2.81
Year 2016 : 12M	407,989	2.29
Year 2015 : 12M	358,639	2.73
Year 2014 : 12M	390,246	2.03

Compiled by : Tea Brokers East Africa Ltd