News Highlights.

- According to sources at Tea Board, it has proposed for a pan India auction system. The objective of the system is to ensure that teas are sold in a transparent manner and information about the prices realized should be in public domain. However it will not curtail the freedom of the small tea producers to sell directly so that they get their due.

- Prices of black tea are likely to increase this year amid hot and dry weather in the tea growing regions of India and Kenya, the two top producers of black tea in the world. According to planters in India, prices are likely to remain firm this new season, which will start in April.

- In the last few months, tea prices in Kenya have increased by around 24% compared to previous year. In 2014, Indian production of tea declined by 15 million kg to 1185 million kg compared to previous year. Prices might stabilize if there are rains in the coming months.

- Greenpeace India, the environment campaigner has planned to carry out awareness drive among small tea growers in the state to reduce the level of pesticide use in tea cultivation. According to sources at Greenpeace, the aim of the campaign is to create awareness among tea growers about the dangers associated with the unregulated use of pesticides.

- According to Kenya's Tea Board, output of tea increased to 444.8 million kg in 2014 compared to 432.2 million kg in 2013. Exports increased to 499 million kg compared to 494.4 million kg in 2013. The difference in export and production figures usually arise from unsold tea carried over from the previous year.

- Srilanka will connect tea brokers and buyers by providing a mobile based live feed that delivers real –time information directly to buyers according to a media release. The newly launched 'mAuction' a mobile solution for the Colombo Tea Auction is the first of its kind in the country, which delivers real time information and facilitate both pre and post auction processes using state of the art mobile technologies and devices.

- According to Kenya Tea Development Agency, tea earnings for the financial year ending June are likely to remain steady. Initially earnings were expected to drop amid hot and dry weather in the tea growing regions. Average price at the auction has increased during the recent weeks amid lower production.

Domestic Trade Scenario:

Indian Tea Auctions

Kolkata Tea Auction: Sale No: 12 (Price in Rs./kg)

Variety	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC	84.42	25,20,000	18,87,000
ORTHODOX	-	-	-
DARJEELING	-	-	-
DUST	86.59	9,81,000	7,61,000

(Source: CTTA, Parcon India)

Prices noticed weak tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale increased during the week compared to previous week. There good demand for Dooars variety. There was fair demand from the exporters and selective demand from Western India buyers. Prices are likely to notice weak tone in the coming days.

Guwahati Tea Auction: Sale No: 10 (Price in Rs./kg)

Guwahati	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC	105.80	9,34,000	4,61,000
Dust	101.69	2,38,000	1,41,000

(Source: CTTA, Parcon India)

Prices noticed firm tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale increased during the week compared to previous week. There is less demand in the market around current levels. Withdrawals are noticed in the market. There was demand from internal buyers and selective demand from Hindustan Unilever Ltd. and Duncans. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to firm tone in the near –term.

Siliguri Tea Auction: Sale No: 12 (Price in Rs./kg)

Variety	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	146.23	65,000	50,000
CTC Leaf	162.50	5,11,000	3,82,000

(Source: CTTA)

Prices noticed weak tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale declined during the week compared to previous week. There was good demand for Clean and Bright Liquoring first flush of tea and fair demand for Dust variety of tea. Buying interest was seen for old season teas. There was buying from internal buyers in the market. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to weak tone in the coming days.

Jalpaiguri Tea Auction: Sale No: 12 (Price in Rs./kg)

Variety	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	-	-	-
CTC Leaf	-	-	-

(Source: Jalpaiguri Tea Auction Committee)

There was no auction at Jalpaiguri during the week.

Cochin Tea Auction: Sale No: 13 (Price in Rs./kg)

Cochin	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	99.72	985772.30	858743.70
CTC Leaf	72.03	86619.50	47632.00
Orthodox Dust	58.68	15909.00	7492.00
Orthodox Leaf	132.60	88927.00	76205.00

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

Prices noticed mixed tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale increased during the week compared to previous week. Buying interest from AVT, Kerala State Civil Supplies and Tata Global lent support to the market. Demand from exporters for good quality tea leaf added to the positive tone of the market. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to weak tone in the coming days.

Coimbatore Tea Auction: Sale No: 13 (Price in Rs./kg)

Coimbatore	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	83.91	241567.00	149780.00
CTC Leaf	76.53	98637.00	74028.00
Orthodox Dust	68.29	27751.00	20609.00
Orthodox Leaf	85.44	4417.00	4417.00

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

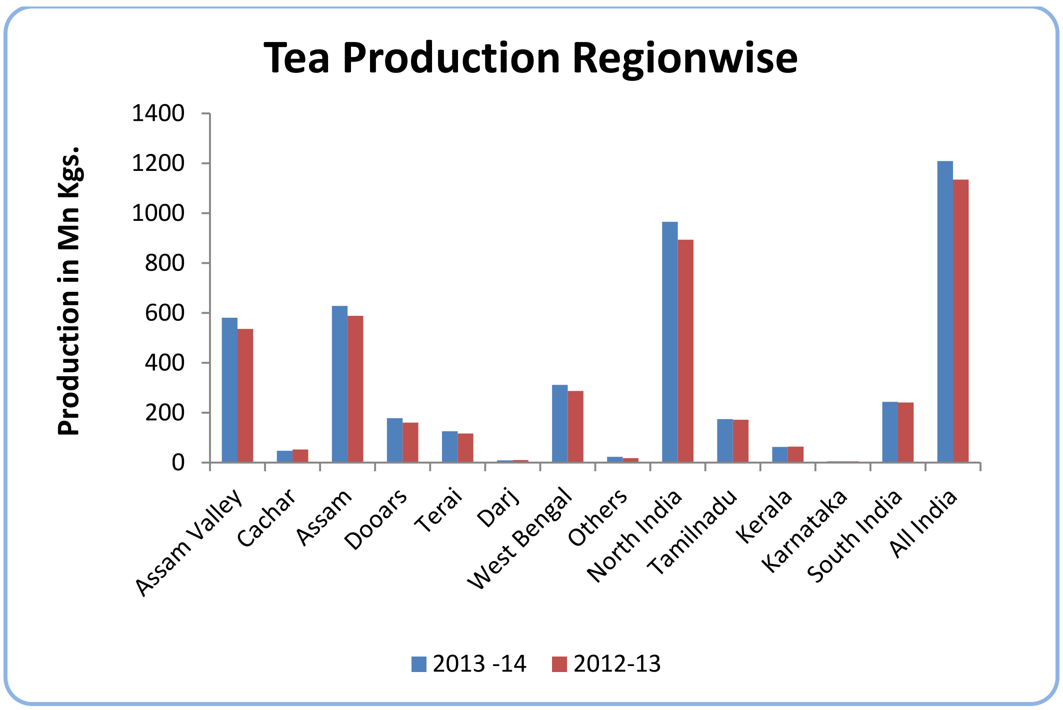
Prices noticed weak tone during the week except CTC Dust variety. Quantity offered on sale declined during the week compared to previous week. There was some demand from exporters for Select Best Nilgiri. Demand from loose tea buyers lends support to CTC Dust variety tea prices. Prices are likely to notice weak tone in the near –term.

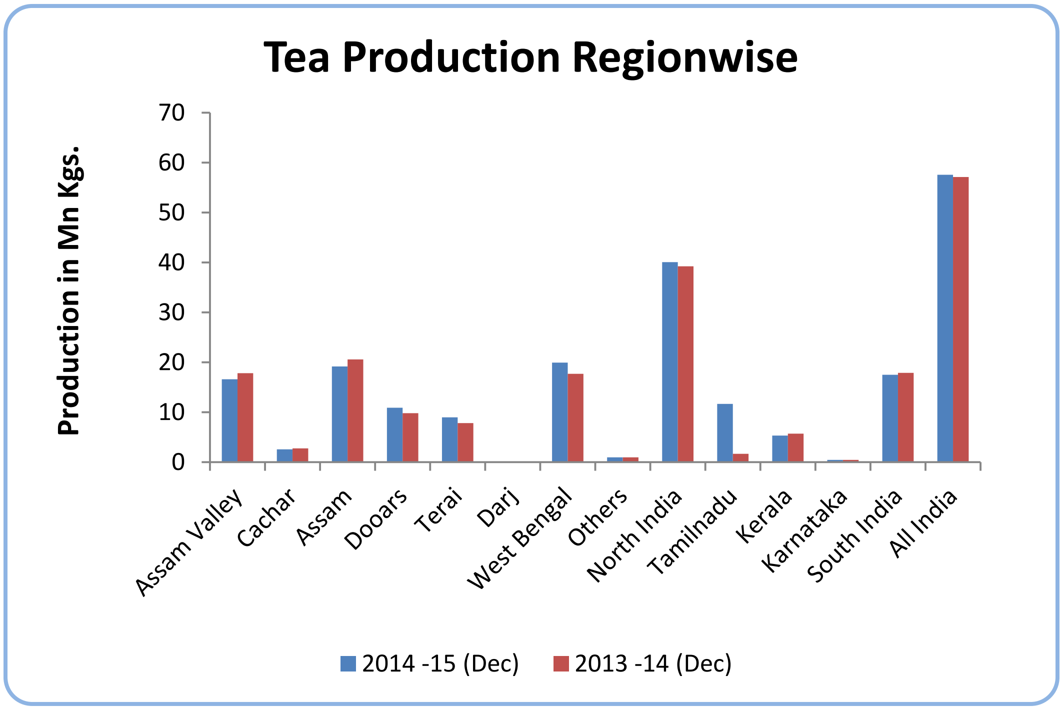
Coonoor Tea Auction: Sale No: 13 (Price in Rs./kg)

Coonoor	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	80.16	304693.80	218111.00
CTC Leaf	77.89	692937.00	513383.00
Orthodox Dust	74.45	57566.00	50420.00
Orthodox Leaf	94.22	36626.40	36331.20

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

Prices noticed weak tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale increased during the week compared to previous week. Demand usually slows down during the summer season. Demand from exporters lends some support to the market. Prices are likely to notice weak tone in the coming days.





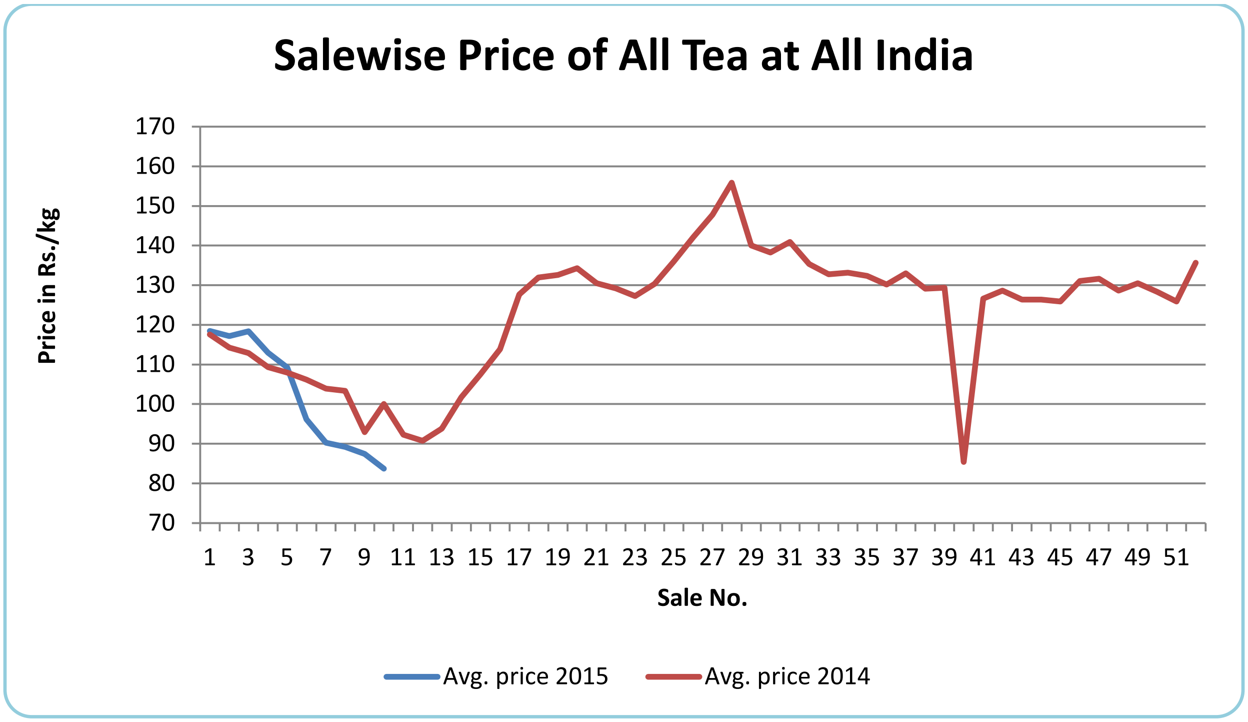
(Source: Tea Board)

The above graph shows production comparison region wise during the last two years and in the month of May in comparison with previous year. In the year 2014 (Apr –Mar), production increased by 6.5% to 1208.78 million kgs mainly on account of increase in production in Assam. In the current year in the month of May, production of tea in India declined by 11.8% to 91.41 million kgs. in comparison with the same period last year following lack of suitable temperature and rainfall in north India.

REGIONWISE QUARTERLY EXPORTS (IN MILLION KGS.)

		North India			South India		All India		
	Qty	Value	Unit Price	Qty	Value	Unit Price	Qty	Value	Unit Price
Apr-Dec 2014 (P)	80.42	1996.9	248.3	61.41	835.17	136	141.83	2832.02	199.68
Apr-Dec 2013	97.41	2424.9	248.93	68.95	987.32	143.19	166.36	3412.17	205.11
Inc/Dec in %	-17.44	-17.65	-0.25	-10.94	-15.41	-5.02	-14.75	-17	-2.65
Jan-Dec 2014 (P)	116.29	2777.31	238.83	84.94	1151.63	135.58	201.23	3928.94	195.25
Jan-Dec 2013	128.08	3075.87	240.15	90.98	1279.36	140.62	219.06	4355.23	198.81
Inc/Dec in %	-9.21	-9.71	-0.55	-6.64	-9.98	-3.58	-8.14	-9.79	-1.79

Source: Tea Board Of India



The above graph shows the price comparison of All Tea at All India in 2014 and 2015. Currently the average prices of all tea are slightly lower compared to previous year amid lack of availability of good quality tea in the market. Prices have declined during the week compared to previous week.

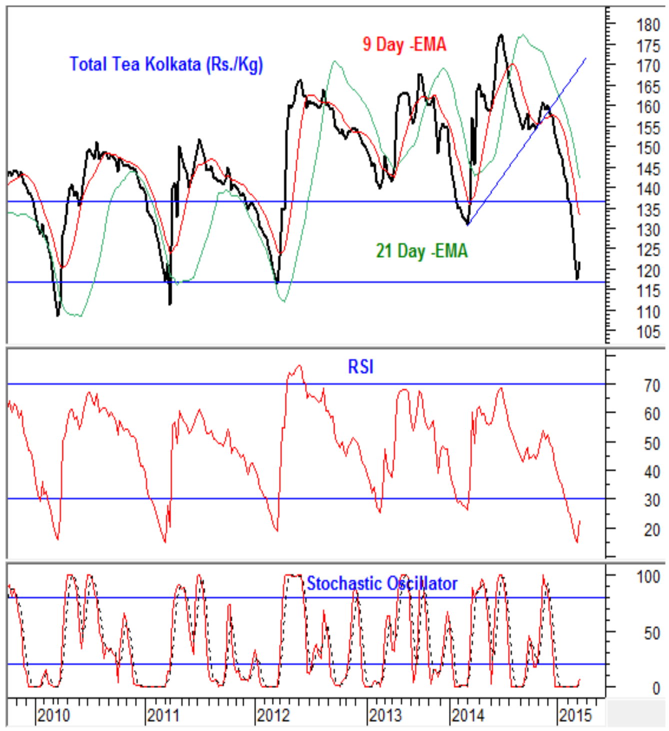
Weekly Average Prices at Indian Auction Centers for week ending 2014-03-21

Variety	Kolkata	Guwahati	Siliguri	Jalpaiguri	Cochin	Coonoor	Coimbatore	Tea Serve
CTC All Dust	NS(NS)	NS(NS)	78.45 (NS)	NS(NS)	94.63(107.35)	78.68(76.32)	79.40(83.51)	65.30(70.72)
Total Tea	NS(NS)	NS(NS)	78.45(NS)	NS(NS)	97.43(108.17)	79.54(77.10)	79.56(83.52)	65.30(70.72)

(Figure in brackets denote prices during the same corresponding period in the previous year)

Variety	North India	South India	All India
CTC All Dust	78.45(NS)	83.77(89.98)	82.30(89.98)
Total Tea	78.45(NS)	85.56(90.77)	83.68(90.77)

(Source: Tea Board)

Tea – Technical Outlook	Total Tea -Kolkata
Technical Commentary: Tea prices noticed recovery during the week. After the recent decline in prices, recovery was expected. Prices are holding below 9 –Day and 21 –Day EMA supporting the overall weak tone of the market. RSI is increasing in the oversold region supporting some recovery in the near –term. ***The tea prices are likely to continue recovery towards 120 levels in the coming days. Buyers can purchase around current levels for their near –term requirement.***	

Strategy: Buy Around Current Levels

Weekly Supports & Resistances		S1	S2	PCP	R1	R2
Total Tea	Kolkata	75.10	60.00	94.69	100.00	150.10

International Trade Scenario:

Srilanka Tea Auction (Colombo): Sale No: 12 (Price in Srilankan Rs./kg)

	BOP	BOPF
Good Westerns	430 - 680	430 - 560
Average Westerns	400 - 420	400 - 420
Plainer Westerns	360 - 390	360 - 390
Western Mediums	345 - 550	325 - 470
Uva Teas	300 - 400	315 - 420
Nuwara Eliya Teas	510 - 670	510 - 670
Udapussellawa Teas	340 - 390	300 - 460
CTC (BP1 and PF1)	330 - 475	320 - 540

In this week's auction, 6.92 million kgs of tea was offered for sale compared to 7.16 million kgs of tea during the previous week. There was fair demand for Select Best teas during the week. Better western BOP's noticed steady tone and BOPF's noticed easy tone during the week. High Grown and Mid Grown CTC's noticed easy tone and Low Grown CTC's noticed easy tone during the week. There was fair demand for liquoring leafy teas.

In the leaf category, Better PEK/PEK1's and a few bolder types noticed firm tone. In the Tippy catalogues, better made FBOP and FF1's noticed easy tone during the week. The below best and plainer variety noticed easy tone during the week. There was selective demand from Russia and active demand from Iran. There was some buying from Iraq, Syria, Turkey, U.A.E, and Libya.

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

AUCTION NO.	14		13		12	
Dates	07th/08th April 2015 No. of Lots	No. of Kgs	30th/31st March 2015 No. of Lots	No. of Kgs	24th/25th March 2015 No. of Lots	No. of Kgs
Ex Estate	1,035	1,219,297 kg	1,076	1,271,584 kg	1,100	1,292,789 kg
Main Sale Total	10,690	6,100,248 kg	10,474	5,880,095 kg	10,092	5,626,172 kg
High & Medium	1,334	740,880 kg	1,246	687,164 kg	1,253	710,693 kg
Low Growns Leafy Tippy	3,743 2,411	1,833,909 kg 1,527,792 kg	3,760 2,456	1,807,171 kg 1,544,459 kg	3,563 2,364	1,654,530 kg 1,445,340 kg
Premium/Flowery	320	80,284 kg	417	102,298 kg	300	77,026 kg
Off Grades	2,269	1,314,549 kg	1,975	1,136,964 kg	2,036	1,177,614 kg
Dust	613	602,834 kg	620	602,039 kg	576	560,969 kg
Grand Total	11,725	7,319,545 kg	11,550	7,151,679 kg	11,192	6,918,961 kg
Reprints	560	344,498 kg	657	403,540 kg	896	548,401 kg
Scheduled to Close (Ex) Dates (Ms)		19.03.15 20.03.15		12.03.15 13.03.15		06.03.15 06.03.15

Scheduled Closing Dates

Auction No. 13 :	30th/31st March 2015	Auction No. 15 :	21st/22nd April 2015
Ex Estate :	12.03.2015	Ex Estate :	26.03.2015
Main Sale :	13.03.2015	Main Sale :	27.03.2015
Auction No. 14 :	07th/08th April 2015	Auction No. 16 :	27th/28th April 2015
Ex Estate :	19.03.2015	Ex Estate :	02.04.2015
Main Sale :	20.03.2015	Main Sale :	02.04.2015

(Source: John Keells Tea Brokers)

Kenya Tea Auction (Mombasa): Sale No: 12

AUCTION AVERAGE PRICE

AUCTION	KENYA 2014	KENYA 2015	TOTAL 2014	TOTAL 2015
10	$ 2.12	$ 2.85	$ 2.03	$ 2.64
11	$ 2.15	$ 2.76	$ 2.07	$ 2.57
12	$ 2.21	$ 2.78	$ 2.12	$ 2.59

QUOTATIONS	BROKENS	FANNINGS
Best	366 – 449	433 - 458
Good	363 - 393	428 - 437
Good Medium	350 – 402	428 - 439
Medium	312 – 363	377 - 421
Lower Medium	161 – 350	215 - 361
Plain	107 – 297	115 – 285 (SL RUPEES)

During the week good demand noticed for 7,253,458 kilos of tea on offer. Brighter DUST1s were upto UCS18 lower, with mediums USC5 to USC18 lower and prices of lower mediums were firm to USC20 higher during the week. Prices of Brighter BP1's noticed weak tone and were lower up to USC8, prices of mediums were up to USC250 lower and prices of lower mediums were USC2 to USC20 lower. Other varieties like Brighter Pdusts, Lower Medium PF1's noticed mixed tone during the week.

In the secondary catalogues, BPs noticed firm tone and PF's noticed easy tone during the week. Well sorted clean coloury Fannings noticed firm tone and Dusts prices noticed firm tone during the week. Other Fannings and BMF's noticed firm tone. There was good buying interest from Egyptian Packers, Yemen, Sudan and other middle –eastern countries. There was less buying interest from Pakistan Packers, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, other CIS countries. There was some buying interest from Russia and Iran. There was some buying support from Somalia.

(Source: Africa Tea Brokers)

Indonesia Tea Auction (Jakarta): Sale No: 12

	OFFERED		SOLD		%
Orthodox	**OFFERED**		**SOLD**		**%**
PTPN ESTATE	9.100	479.680 Kg	5.800	307.880 Kg	64.18
PRIVATE ESTATE	---	--- Kg	---	--- Kg	--,--
TOTAL	9.100	479.680 Kg	5.800	307.880 Kg	64.18
C.T.C	**OFFERED**		**SOLD**		**%**
PTPN ESTATE	1.360	77.120 Kg	1.160	66.660 Kg	86.44
PRIVATE ESTATE	---	---- Kg	---	--- Kg	--,--
TOTAL	1.360	77.120 Kg	1.160	66.660 Kg	86.44
TOTAL	10.460	556.800 Kg	6.690	374.540 Kg	67.27

(Prices in US cents/kg)

Orthodox First Grades						
BOP.I	**BOP**	**BOPF**	**PF**	**DUST**	**BT**	**BP**
158	**130-190**	**103-112**	**110-202**	**108-190**	**93-136**	**319**

Orthodox Secondary Grades				
PF.II	**DUST.II**	**BT.II**	**BP.II**	**DUST.III**
99-190	**105-121**	**99-110**	**153**	**102-110**

CTC First and Secondary Grades						
BP.1	**PF.1**	**PD**	**D.1**	**FANN**	**D.2**	**D.3**
152	**156-214**	**152-211**	**160-248**	**105-193**	**152-168**	**---**

Market offerings declined to 10,460 paper sacks from 12,580 paper sacks. There was fair demand in the market around current levels. Average price increased to USDcts 147.72 instead of USDcts 145.22 during last week's auction. Average price of Orthodox variety increased to USDcts 142.42 and average price of CTC declined to USDcts 169.92. Secondary variety and Fannings noticed easy tone. Quantity sold increased to 67.27% during the period compared to 56.35% during last auction.

OFFERING FOR THE NEXT AUCTION

PRODUCER	Orthodox		C.T.C	
	01/04/15	08/04/15	01/04/15	08/04/15
PTPN. IV	1.260 S	1.220 S	-	-
PTPN. VI	800 S	240 S	520 S	440 S
PTPN. VII	1.360 S	1.120 S	260 S	180 S
PTPN. VIII	5.580 S	4.760 S	520 S	1.080 S
PTPN. IX	280 S	360 S	-	-
PTPN. XII	- S	- S	480 S	540 S
Total Estate	9.280 S	7.700 S	1.780 S	2.240 S
Pagilaran	- S	- S	- S	- S
Total Private	- S	- S	- S	- S
Grand Total	9.280 S	7.700 S	1.780 S	2.240 S

(Source: TEH)

Bangladesh Tea Auction (Chittagong): Sale No: 44
(In Taka/kg)

BROKENS	QUOTATIONS	FANNINGS	QUOTATIONS
Large/Bold	NQTA	Best	220-230
Medium	130-150	Good	170-180
Small	140-160	Medium	140-160
Plain	80-140	Plain	80-140

Tea prices at Bangladesh tea auction declined during the week amid lower supply of tea in the market and political unrest in the country. The average price of tea during this week's auction was around USD 1.73/kg. Around 419,543 kgs of tea was offered for sale and nearly 8 percent remained unsold.

There was good demand from loose tea buyers. 6,258 packages and 5 packages of CTC Leaf of old season noticed good demand. 1,182 packages and 18 packages of old season on offer of CTC Dust noticed good buying interest. In CTC Dust, good liquoring varieties were firm and medium levels noticed steady tone. Good liquoring Broken varieties noticed demand around lower levels. Good liquoring varieties in fannings noticed firm tone during the week. Good liquoring Dusts noticed easy tone during the week.

(Source: National Brokers Limited)

WORLD CROP STATISTICS IN (Mn/kgs)

Country	MONTH	2014 2015*	2013 2014*	CUMULATIVE	2014 2015*	2013 2014*	CUMULATIVE + INC./-DEC.
Sri Lanka	Feb.*	25.4*	22.5*	Up to Feb.*	48.7*	48.1*	+ 0 .6
North India	Dec.	40.1(E)	39.3	Up to Dec.	943.6(E)	958.6	- 15.0
South India	Dec.	17.5(E)	17.9	Up to Dec.	241.2(E)	241.8	- 0.6
Kenya	Jan.*	41.6*	44.9*	Up to Jan.*	41.6*	44.9*	- 3.30
Bangladesh	Jan.*	0.16*	0.23*	Up to Jan.*	0.16*	0.23*	- 0.07
Malawi	Jan.*	6.48*	8.20*	Up to Jan.*	6.48*	8.20*	- 1.72

(Source: John Keells Tea Brokers)

World tea production has been increasing over the years. With more medicinal value of tea being highlighted, the consumption is set to increase in the coming years. However in the previous year, global black tea output declined to 2019.13 mkg compared to 2027.5 mkg in 2013. India’s production declined by 16.06 mkg to 1127.21 mkg. According to Indian Tea Association, consumption of tea is increasing at an annual rate of 3 per cent. In the current financial year in India, production of tea is likely to be affected in the coming months following cold and frost weather conditions in the tea growing regions in the months of December and January.

Currency	28-03-2015	21-03-2015
USD	62.53	62.32
Srilankan Rupee	0.4688	0.4688
Indonesian Rupiah	0.4704	0.0048
Kenyan Shilling	0.6782	0.6773
Bangladeshi Taka	0.8037	0.8010

Overall Outlook and Recommendation:

In the domestic market, prices noticed weak tone during the week compared to previous week. Arrivals have increased in the tea growing regions amid hot and dry weather. Demand for tea usually slows down during the summer season. The arrival of first flush of tea has started in North India. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to weak tone in the near –term.

In the global market, prices noticed mixed tone during the week. Offerings at the auction centers are higher compared to previous week. There was good demand for Select Best teas and fair demand for other varieties. Future offering of tea is likely to increase in Srilanka and decline in Indonesia. Prices are likely to notice firm tone in the coming days.