News Highlights.

- Teabox, an online Siliguri-based brand, is setting up cold storages for tea in Siliguri followed by Guwahati and Coonoor. This is first of its kind initiative in the country. According to this facility, tea will be procured from plantations within 24-48 hours and then it will be taken to cold storage facilities where they will be stored at negative temperatures for a long period of time according to company sources. An advanced cleaning unit will also be established for the purpose.

- Darjeeling tea exporters are facing a rough patch with foreign buyers refusing to compensate them for exchange rate losses. About a year ago, the euro stood around 80-84 to a rupee and currently the rate is 68/euro. Though the pricing remains the same in euro terms, in rupee terms, it means less income for the sellers. The loss is significant for Darjeeling growers, considering around 90 per cent of the tea and the entire first flush is exported.

- Tea exports to Iran declined during the previous year amid report of pesticides in Indian tea. Currently India has made it compulsory for tea being exported to Iran to carry a certificate that the commodity complies with the standards in that country. According to officials at the Tea Board, it has been decided to start an online mandatory checking mechanism for export of Indian tea to Iran.

- Indian tea sector is disappointed with reduction in export benefits for tea in Foreign Trade Policy 2015 -2020. According to sources at Darjeeling Tea Association, government has replaced Vishesh Krishi Gram Udyog Yojana with Merchandise Exports from India Scheme in the new policy which directly affects organic tea exporters. The government has made tea exports uncompetitive in the global market at a time when unfavourable forex market movement in the Euro has hit the exporters.

- 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: 14 (Price in Rs./kg)

Variety	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	154.83	-	-
CTC Leaf	150.03	-	-

(Source: CTTA)

Prices noticed mixed tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale declined during the week compared to previous week. CTC Dust variety prices firmed up good demand for new season clean black and bright liquoring teas. CTC Leaf variety prices declined amid poor quality arrivals. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to firm tone in the coming days.

Jalpaiguri Tea Auction: Sale No: 13 (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: 14 (Price in Rs./kg)

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

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

There was no auction at Cochin during the week following 'Good Friday'.

Coimbatore Tea Auction: Sale No: 14 (Price in Rs./kg)

Coimbatore	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	83.09	272290.00	202865.00
CTC Leaf	73.51	102322.00	80760.00
Orthodox Dust	61.70	25429.00	5167.00
Orthodox Leaf	85.17	4144.00	2350.00

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

Prices noticed weak tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale increased during the week compared to previous week. There was some demand for CTC Dust variety from loose tea buyers. There was not much demand from exporters. Prices are likely to notice weak tone in the near –term.

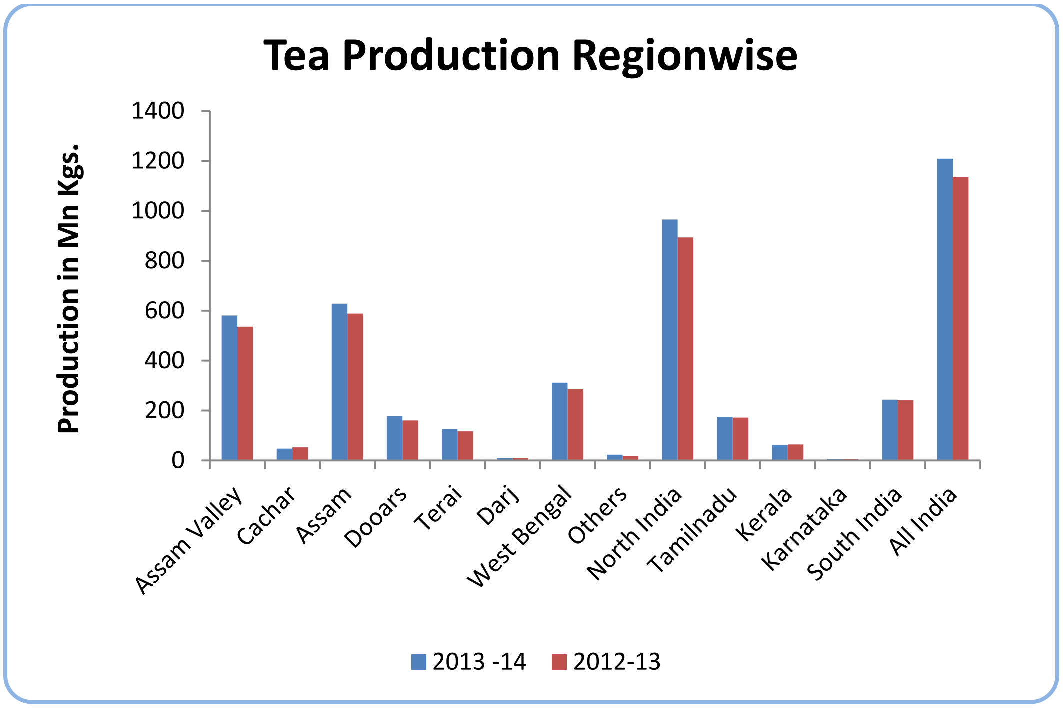
Coonoor Tea Auction: Sale No: 14 (Price in Rs./kg)

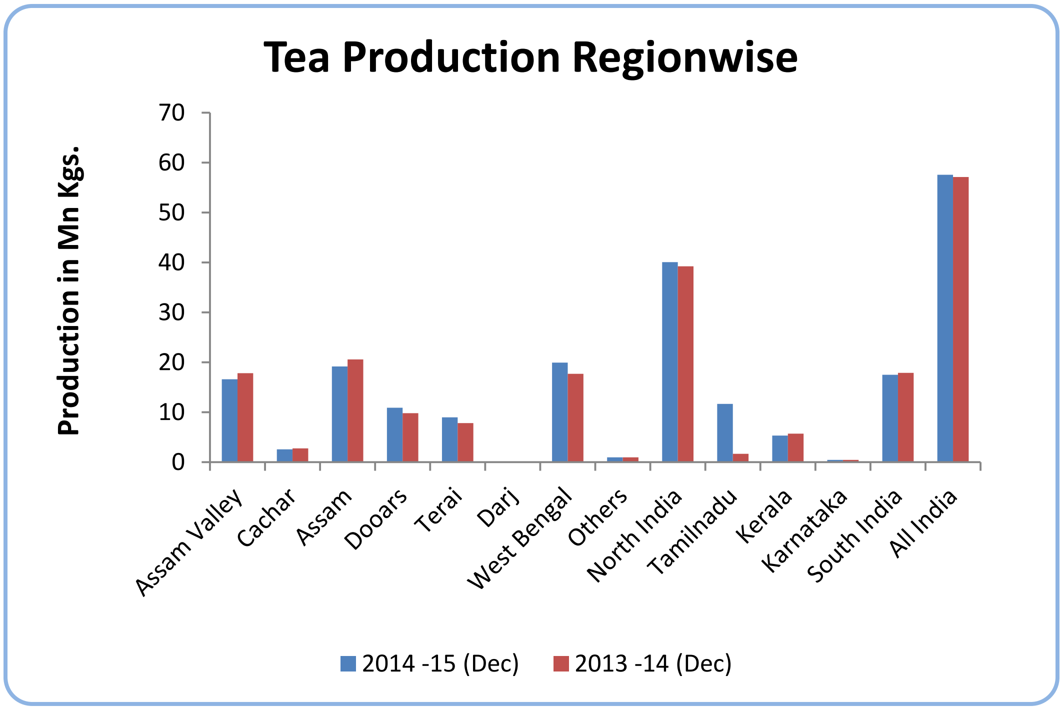
Coonoor	Avg. Price	Total Offerings (Kgs)	Total Sold (Kgs)
CTC Dust	78.24	315904.00	240557.00
CTC Leaf	76.33	707315.00	487485.00

Orthodox Dust	96.02	37230.00	24548.00
Orthodox Leaf	97.76	38487.80	34438.40

(Source: Paramount Marketing, Coimbatore)

Prices noticed firm tone during the week. Quantity offered on sale declined during the week compared to previous week. Good demand from exporters and loose tea buyers lend support to the market. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to firm tone in the coming days.





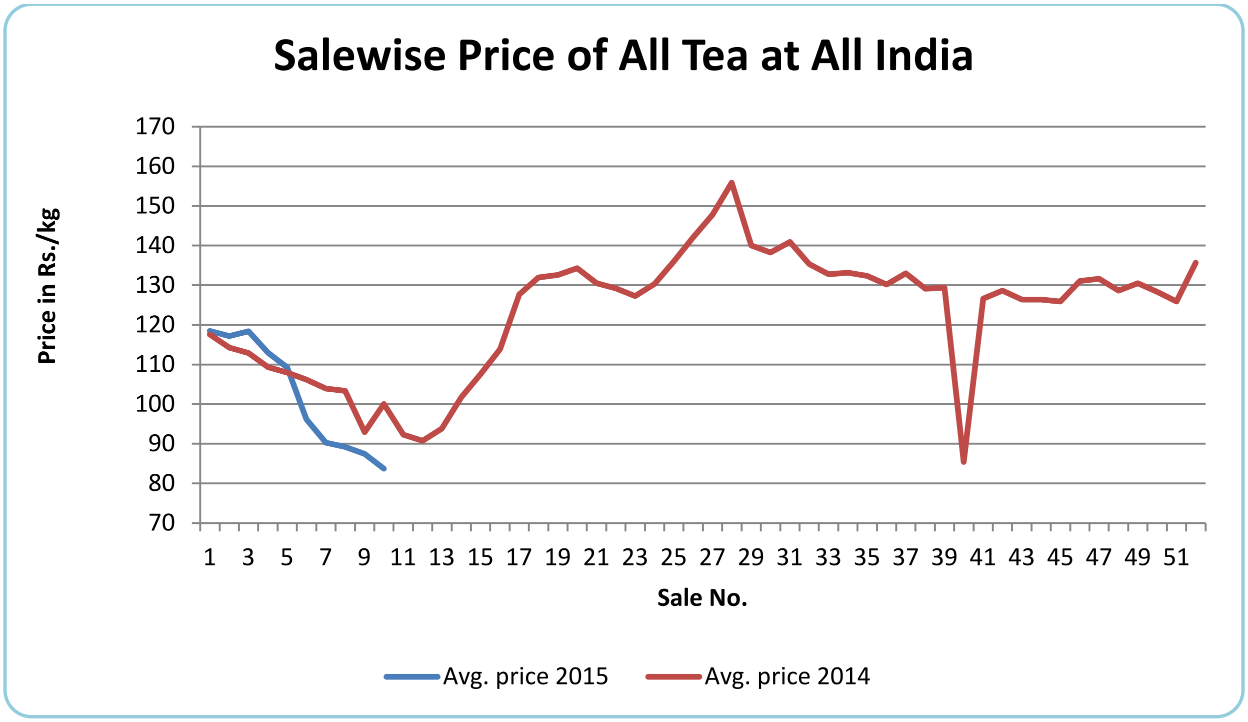
(Source: Tea Board)

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 2014-03-28

Variety	Kolkata	Guwahati	Siliguri	Jalpaiguri	Cochin	Coonoor	Coimbatore	Tea Serve
CTC All Dust	84.97(102.38)	NS(91.43)	125.35(95.63)	NS(NS)	97.94(109.19)	78.30(73.59)	80.36(84.07)	59.12(67.56)
Total Tea	85.53(113.34)	NS(91.12)	125.35(95.61)	NS(NS)	100.60(110.56)	79.01(74.59)	80.45(84.11)	59.12(67.56)

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

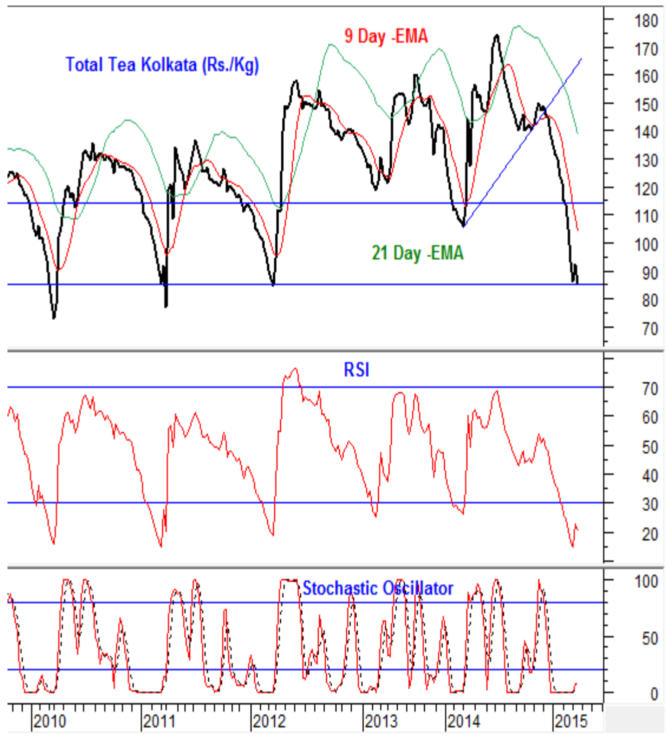
Variety	North India	South India	All India
CTC All Dust	90.62(96.53)	84.57(87.06)	88.12(91.16)
Total Tea	91.09(100.59)	86.31(88.29)	89.05(93.77)

(Source: Tea Board)

Tea – Technical Outlook	**Total Tea -Kolkata**

Technical Commentary:
Tea prices declined during the week. Prices are likely to move towards 70 levels in the coming days. MACD is declining in the negative territory supporting weakness in the medium –term. Stochastic oscillator is steady in the oversold region supporting some recovery in the near –term.

The tea prices are likely to notice recovery towards 100 levels in the coming days. Buyers can purchase on any weakness for their near –term requirement.



Strategy: Buy On Near –Term Weakness

Weekly Supports & Resistances		**S1**	**S2**	**PCP**	**R1**	**R2**
Total Tea	Kolkata	75.10	60.00	85.53	100.00	150.10

International Trade Scenario:

Srilanka Tea Auction (Colombo): Sale No: 13 (Price in Srilankan Rs./kg)

	BOP	BOPF
Good Westerns	425 - 530	420 - 570
Average Westerns	400 - 420	395 - 415
Plainer Westerns	360 - 395	375 - 390
Western Mediums	340 - 550	340 - 460
Uva Teas	300 - 410	310 - 415
Nuwara Eliya Teas	520 - 540	400 - 440
Udapussellawa Teas	310 - 365	320 - 415
CTC (BP1 and PF1)	270 - 450	300 - 530

In this week's auction, 7.15 million kgs of tea was offered for sale compared to 6.92 million kgs of tea during the previous week. There was fair demand for Select Best teas during the week. Better western BOP's noticed firm 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 weak 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 less demand from Russia.

AGRIWATCH

Tea Weekly
04 April 2015

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

AUCTION NO.	15		14		13	
Dates	21st /22nd April 2015		07th/08th April 2015		30th/31st March 2015	
	No. of Lots	No. of Kgs	No. of Lots	No. of Kgs	No. of Lots	No. of Kgs
Ex Estate	1,121	1,319,720 kg	1,035	1,219,297 kg	1,076	1,271,584 kg
Main Sale Total	10,764	6,039,705 kg	10,690	6,100,248 kg	10,474	5,880,095 kg
High & Medium	1,306	731,173 kg	1,334	740,880 kg	1,246	687,164 kg
Low Growns Leafy Tippy	3,845 2,474	1,854,360 kg 1,557,906 kg	3,743 2,411	1,833,909 kg 1,527,792 kg	3,760 2,456	1,807,171 kg 1,544,459 kg
Premium/Flowery	369	90,561 kg	320	80,284 kg	417	102,298 kg
Off Grades	2,193	1,249,346 kg	2,269	1,314,549 kg	1,975	1,136,964 kg
Dust	577	556,359 kg	613	602,834 kg	620	602,039 kg
Grand Total	11,885	7,359,425 kg	11,725	7,319,545 kg	11,550	7,151,679 kg
Reprints	616	377,927 kg	560	344,498 kg	657	403,540 kg
Scheduled to Close (Ex) Dates (Ms)		26.03.15 27.03.15		19.03.15 20.03.15		12.03.15 13.03.15

Scheduled Closing Dates

Auction No. 14	:	07th/08th April 2015
Ex Estate	:	19.03.2015
Main Sale	:	20.03.2015

Auction No. 15	:	21st/22nd April 2015
Ex Estate	:	26.03.2015
Main Sale	:	27.03.2015

Auction No. 16	:	27th/28th April 2015
Ex Estate	:	02.04.2015
Main Sale	:	02.04.2015

Auction No. 17	:	05th/06th May 2015
Ex Estate	:	09.04.2015
Main Sale	:	10.04.2015

(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: 13

	OFFERED		SOLD		%
Orthodox	**OFFERED**		**SOLD**		**%**
PTPN ESTATE	9.240	485.280 Kg	6.240	328.000 Kg	67.59
PRIVATE ESTATE	---	--- Kg	---	--- Kg	--,--
TOTAL	9.240	485.280 Kg	6.240	328.000 Kg	67.59
C.T.C	**OFFERED**		**SOLD**		**%**
PTPN ESTATE	1.780	100.860 Kg	1.360	78.320 Kg	77.65
PRIVATE ESTATE	---	---- Kg	---	--- Kg	--,--
TOTAL	1.780	100.860 Kg	1.360	78.320 Kg	77.65
TOTAL	10.020	586.140 Kg	7.600	406.320 Kg	66.32

(Prices in US cents/kg)

Orthodox First Grades						
BOP.I	**BOP**	**BOPF**	**PF**	**DUST**	**BT**	**BP**
152-210	**125-171**	**95-177**	**95-202**	**102-138**	**93-130**	**277-287**

Orthodox Secondary Grades				
PF.II	**DUST.II**	**BT.II**	**BP.II**	**DUST.III**
100-190	**110-119**	**92-113**	**187**	**102-127**

CTC First and Secondary Grades						
BP.1	**PF.1**	**PD**	**D.1**	**FANN**	**D.2**	**D.3**
148	**153-222**	**155-218**	**159-240**	**98-192**	**140-188**	**---**

Market offerings declined to 10,020 paper sacks from 10,460 paper sacks. There was fair demand in the market around current levels. Average price declined to USDcts 143.30 instead of USDcts 147.72 during last week's auction. Average price of Orthodox variety declined to USDcts 136.64 and average price of CTC declined to USDcts 168.66. Secondary variety and Fannings noticed easy tone. Quantity sold declined to 66.32% during the period compared to 67.27% during last auction.

OFFERING FOR THE NEXT AUCTION

PRODUCER	Orthodox		C.T.C	
	08/04/15	15/04/15	08/04/15	15/04/15
PTPN. IV	1.220 S	1.620 S	-	-
PTPN. VI	240 S	360 S	440 S	480 S
PTPN. VII	1.120 S	1.360 S	180 S	140 S
PTPN. VIII	4.760 S	5.120 S	1.080 S	520 S
PTPN. IX	360 S	300 S	-	-
PTPN. XII	- S	- S	540 S	520 S
Total Estate	7.700 S	8.760 S	2.240 S	1.660 S
Pagilaran	- S	- S	- S	- S
Total Private	- S	- S	- S	- S
Grand Total	7.700 S	8.760 S	2.240 S	1.660 S

(Source: TEH)

Bangladesh Tea Auction (Chittagong): Sale No: 45

(In Taka/kg)

BROKENS	QUOTATIONS	FANNINGS	QUOTATIONS
Large/Bold	NQTA	Best	150-170 nom
Medium	110-135 nom	Good	140-150 nom
Small	125-140 nom	Medium	120-130
Plain	65-110	Plain	70-110

Tea prices at Bangladesh tea auction declined during the week following lower demand from local buyers 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 1.60/kg. Around 565,522 kgs of tea was offered for sale and nearly 25 percent remained unsold.

There was good demand from loose tea buyers and blenders. 6,631 packages and 1.968 packages of CTC Leaf of new season noticed good demand. 1,405 packages, 10 packages of old season and 335 packages of new 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	2014 2015	CUMULATIVE	2014 2015	2014 2015	CUMULATIVE + INC./-DEC.
Sri Lanka	Feb.	25.4	22.5	Up to Feb.	48.7	48.1	+ 0.6
North India	Jan.	3.95 (E)	4.96 (E)	Up to Jan.	3.95(E)	4.96 (E)	- 1.01
South India	Jan.	17.17 (E)	17.10 (E)	Up to Jan.	17.17 E)	17.10 (E)	+ 0.07
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	04-04-2015	28-03-2015
USD	62.17	62.53
Srilankan Rupee	0.4708	0.4688
Indonesian Rupiah	0.0048	0.4704
Kenyan Shilling	0.6789	0.6782
Bangladeshi Taka	0.8106	0.8037

Overall Outlook and Recommendation:

In the domestic market, prices noticed range –bound to firm tone during the week compared to previous week. Trading activities remained lack –luster amid market holidays during the week. Quantity offered on sale declined during the week compared to previous week. The production of first flush of tea is likely to decline in the current season amid lack of sufficient rainfall in the tea growing regions. Prices are likely to notice range –bound to firm tone in the near –term.

In the global market prices noticed weak tone. In the global market, prices noticed mixed tone during the week. Offerings at the auction centers are higher compared to previous week. Lack of rain in the tea growing regions of East Africa, Assam and South India is likely to affect the crop this season. Output of tea is likely to be lower this season in Malawi amid drought conditions in certain tea growing regions. Prices are likely to notice firm tone in the coming days.