**Lead Stories**

Members blocked the temporary extension of glyphosate for one more year

The EU’s current authorization for glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide, as an active substance in plant protection is set to expire in mid-December 2022.

However, earlier this year the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) stated that it required more time for its reassessment of the pesticide, pushing it back to July 2023, well after the approval expiry date.

As such, the European Commission proposed an interim renewal of one year, as per the legal framework, and put this before member states in its Standing Committee of the EU Commission on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCOPAFF).

However, a Commission spokesperson confirmed that the vote did not pass as it did not reach the necessary qualified majority.

According to sources inside the meeting, while the majority of member states backed the approval, Luxembourg, Malta, and Croatia opposed the extension of approval, while France, Germany, and Slovenia chose to abstain from the vote. Combined, this ultimately proved enough to block the proceedings.

The Commission spokesperson told that they “regret” that this decision did not pass.

The EU executive will now submit the file to an appeals process and, in case there would be no majority in the appeal committee as well, the matter will pass to the College of Commissioners which could approve the rules on its own.

However, the spokesperson was unable to give information on the timeline this would require.

Asked whether this would be approved before the December deadline, the spokesperson said that the Commission “would do all they could” to hurry the procedure along.

Whether glyphosate can be classed as a carcinogen – that is, whether it is a driver for cancer in humans – is one of the main issues around the herbicide that are contested not only between stakeholders but also in the scientific community and between different public agencies.

For its part, the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has previously evaluated the substance as “probably carcinogenic”, while the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has concluded it is “unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk” to humans when consumed through their diet.

While the EU agencies had previously concluded, for example, that there was “no evidence” to link glyphosate use to heightened cancer risk in humans, campaigners have criticized the agencies’ assessment process for being based too strongly on industry-commissioned studies and ignoring long-term health and environmental risks.

Following the vote, Germany – whose federal government has agreed to end the use of glyphosate, with a phase-out date set for 1 January 2024 – released a statement explaining its decision to abstain from the vote.

According to the statement, it did not want to stand in the way of the European Commission’s formal-administrative extension.

Meanwhile, the country – led by Green agriculture minister Cem Özdemir – remains critical of glyphosate’s impact on biodiversity.

“The federal government is sticking to the declared European goal of making the agricultural sector more sustainable, ecological and thus future-proof,” the statement reads, adding this is especially needed in light of the Ukraine war.
Stressing that food security can only be achieved with the preservation of biodiversity, an intact environment and real climate protection, the statement concludes that the federal government is therefore pursuing an agricultural policy that “recognizes and takes into account climate protection and biodiversity as fundamental prerequisites for sustainable agriculture”.

(Euro News)

**Tea Prices to come down in 2023 - World Bank**

The World Bank’s beverage price index changed little in 2022 Q3, as a 4 percent decline in cocoa prices helped offset a 9 percent increase in tea prices. The index, however, remains more than 12 percent higher than a year ago. Following an estimated 16 percent increase in 2022, the index is expected to drop about 7 percent in 2023, as the global economy slows and supplies (especially coffee) increase. Arabica and Robusta coffee prices changed little in 2022 Q3 but stand 23 and 9 percent higher, respectively, from a year earlier. The coffee market is still feeling the aftershocks of last year’s sharp output decline due to Brazil’s weather-induced shortfall, when global coffee production fell more than 8 percent in 2021-22 from a year earlier. An expected increase this year will partly compensate for last year’s losses.

However, the ongoing La Niña effect (the third in a row) presents a key risk to South America coffee production, as Brazil and Colombia account for a combined 45 percent of global coffee supplies and 55 percent of Arabica supplies. The coffee market could also face headwinds from lower consumption due to the worsening global economic outlook, with demand for 2022-23 expected to contract by 1 percent. Following strong gains in 2022, Arabica and Robusta prices are expected to decline 7 and 11 percent, respectively, as supplies are replenished. Intensification of La Niña and a more severe downturn of the global economy present key upside and downside price risks, respectively.

Cocoa prices continued to slide in 2022 Q3, falling 4 percent (q/q), and are 7 percent lower than a year ago. Robust global supplies during the present and prior season, especially from Côte d’Ivoire, the world’s largest supplier, have kept prices between $2.30 and $2.60/kg during the past two years. The 2022-23 season's global crop is also expected to be robust, estimated at more than 5 million tons up from last season's 4.9 million tons. In view of adequate global supplies and a slowdown in demand, cocoa prices are expected to decline about 2 percent in 2023, following a projected drop of 3 percent this year. Barring adverse weather in West Africa (world’s key cocoa supply region), price risks are tilted to the downside, reflecting headwinds to global growth.

Tea prices gained almost 9 percent in 2022 Q3 (q/q), reflecting large increases at the Colombo and Kolkata auctions (12 and 11 percent, respectively); prices at Mombasa have been fairly stable.

The tea price index stands 23 percent higher than in 2021 Q3. The price strength reflects declining global tea supplies by major producers and exporters. Sri Lanka’s tea output dropped nearly 20 percent in the first half of 2022 (or 35 million kg), reflecting unavailability and affordability of inputs (including an import ban of fertilizers), linked to the country’s domestic economic and political challenges. Supplies declined in India (-6.2 percent) due to floods and sharp wage increases. Drought conditions affected production in several East African countries, including Kenya (-14 percent), Malawi (-7.2 percent), and Uganda (-25.9 percent). Following a projected 15 percent increase in 2022, tea prices (three-auction average) are expected to decline almost 10 percent in 2023, as a reduction in consumption accelerates in several Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries.

**Tea Prices**

**Tea Production growth in selected countries**
The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña phase (NOAA 2022). According to the October assessment of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, La Niña conditions will likely continue into early 2023, with a 75 percent chance during the Northern Hemisphere winter (December -February). La Niña is likely to cause droughts in the Horn of Africa and heavy rainfall and flooding in Australia and southeast Asia. However, it could improve growing conditions in other regions, including parts of North America.

Historically, La Niña’s impact on agriculture is milder and more mixed than that of El Niño (World Bank 2015). However, there is concern that La Niña conditions occurring for a third year in a row (a rare occurrence) could add further rainfall and flooding to already deluged areas.

(World Bank Commodity Outlook – October 2022)

**Market Information**

**SRI LANKA TEA PRODUCTION**

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(SLTB)

**SRI LANKA TEA EXPORTS**

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The latest tea crop figures of some leading tea producing countries are furnished below (in million Kg).

**World Tea Crop**

The latest tea crop figures of some leading tea producing countries are furnished below (in million Kg).

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(Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers)

**Stubbornly Stagnant Price of Tea**

Tea prices have stagnated for the past 20 years as buying power ebbs. (Source: International Tea Committee, courtesy Ian Gibbs.)

Tea prices at the world’s tea auction houses, driven to recent highs during the pandemic, are now stagnant or in decline.

International Tea Committee chair Ian Gibbs says consumers are paying much less than they should. “It’s terrifying. The industry is at the limit and has been for far too long,” Gibbs told attendees at the North American Tea Conference in September.
“If you look at prices over the last 20 years, there is no movement. Tea prices, in real terms, are less than what was paid 100 years ago,” said Gibbs.

Based on data from the top three auction houses, a composite of all auction prices averaged $2.85 per kilogram during the past decade, a benchmark that increased to $3 per kilogram year-to-date in 2022. The increase is primarily driven by higher prices in India and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka’s tea market has been affected by the nation’s recent economic and political upheaval and related decline in production. Average prices at the Colombo auction have climbed from $3.51 per kilogram in January to a record $4.49 per kilo in September.

Prices at Kenya’s Mombasa auction, the world’s largest by volume, have steadily declined since 2018. In September 2021, Mombasa prices averaged $1.98 per kilogram, well below the cost of production. In 2022 so far, prices have declined by 8% despite a 14% fall in output by the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), which markets tea on behalf of the smallholders who produce 60% of Kenya’s tea.

Kenya exports 92% of its crop, amounting to 28% of the world’s tea and earning $1.36 billion in sales in 2021. Peris Mudida, director of the Kenya Tea Board, said that tea production is growing by an average of 5.3% annually and that the country’s 620,000 acres (250,000 hectares) under cultivation of tea are expanding by 4% per year. The steady increase in supply is one reason why Kenyan CTC sold for an average of $2.10 per kilogram at auction in 2021.

The downward trend is also visible in the direct sale of tea. “China has really gone for production growth, but they are not exporting it,” said Gibbs. Prices are one reason, as China’s domestic consumers are willing to pay more for tea than consumers in export markets. In China in 2021, green tea prices averaged RMB 152 (about $21 per kilogram). According to the China Tea Marketing Association, the price of green tea exported to the United States in August was down 9% to an average of $5.76 per kilogram.

The Economist Intelligence Unit predicts that the average price of auctioned tea will decline by 4.5% to $2.90 in 2023 and remain low in 2024 due to economic downturns around the globe.

Production has more than doubled in the past 20 years to 6 billion kilograms, said Gibbs. Demand is closely tied to population growth, but the two billion people born since 2000 are only now beginning to purchase tea. In an expanding middle class, their parents account for the huge increase in apparent consumption per capita of 50 grams to an average of 800 grams per person.

There is more land under cultivation of tea, and average yields have increased to 1,200-2,000 kilograms per hectare in leading tea-producing countries. Yet export volumes are flat. Gibbs explained that consumers in producing countries drink a lot more tea, making it less available for export. China and India consume 61% of the world’s tea.

Global tea exports totaled $7.3 billion in 2021, down by 9.4% since 2017, when they were at $8.1 billion. Market growth has slowed from 4–5% per year before the pandemic to around 2.5% today. Gibbs said that apparent consumption outpaced production in 2022, leading to a shortfall of approximately 350,000 metric tons. But that’s on paper.

“There’s a lot of stock being held in producing countries,” said Gibbs. “These teas are not being exported, which suggests there is a gap between consumption and production, and as the gap widens, the price of tea comes under huge pressure and goes dark,” he said, citing lows of $0.98 per kilogram in Malawi and Bangladesh. “The more tea available in the market, the more difficult it is for producers to get the prices they want,” he said.

(STIR C&T / ITC)
RA requires tea brands to share sustainability cost

Many of the world’s leading tea brands will soon pay farmers more to uphold greener practices. Starting January 1, 2023, the Rainforest Alliance will require brand owners to pay certified producers a premium to offset the cost of implementing and investing in sustainable operations.

The Alliance’s "Sustainability Differentials " (SD) and "Sustainability Investments " (SI) are contributions intended to augment producers' incomes for certified tea. The amount is based on unit volume and is payable in U.S. dollars. The group will collect the premiums quarterly and pass them on to the farms they certify.

More than a hundred tea brands purchase tea certified by Rainforest Alliance. These include names like Lipton, Yorkshire Tea, Republic of Tea, Wal-Mart, Lyons, Kroger, Nestea, Typhoo, Nerada, and Fuze. As for producers, the Alliance certifies tea farms and farm groups that employ 950,000 farmers and 790,000 workers worldwide.

Rainforest Alliance’s global strategic accounts manager for tea, Robbie Hogervorst, told attendees at the North American Tea Conference in September, “We are encouraging companies to acknowledge the price of sustainability and invest in and reward more sustainable production — because a more sustainable product is a better product that deserves a better price.”

Hogervorst said that the new differential and investments help ensure “the burden of certification and the opportunities that arise from certification are shared more fairly along the supply chain.”

The SD/SI payments supplements tea producers’ sales income. This helps ensure that farmers have the financial resources to meet and progress against the Rainforest Alliance’s 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SAS) requirements.

To determine the amount for a Sustainability Investment payment, the Rainforest Alliance encourages the buyer and farm or farm group to discuss needs based on a farming investment plan. The Rainforest Alliance has not set a minimum level for the Sustainability Investments but recommends at least $40 per metric ton as a threshold. The recommended minimum for the Sustainability Differential is $10 per metric ton.

“The Rainforest Alliance does not intervene in these negotiations, but the brand owner’s commitment is recorded in the online platform, invoiced, and paid via the Alliance’s payment facility,” the group has stated.

The group’s Guidance statement says that $40 per metric ton “is a starting point to set a level playing field for all brand owners to help farmers reach compliance with the Sustainable Agriculture Standard.”

There are no requirements on how farms or farm groups may spend the differential, but in the case of smallholder farms that are part of a farm group, the full amount must be paid to the smallholders. However, funds distributed as “Sustainability Investments” must be used to meet sustainability standard requirements identified in the certificate holder’s investment plan.

“We are moving away from a model that places the burden of investing in sustainable production mainly on producers and towards a new system where responsibility for sustainable production is shared across the entire supply chain,” said Hogervorst.

“Rather than setting a fixed commodity price that could make certified commodities less competitive, our approach is systemic. It aims to tackle the root causes of inequality and poverty in supply chains by empowering producers to define what investment support they need to better negotiate and advocate for themselves,” he said.
“We know that brands, companies, traders, are already supporting producers with certification costs and audits and funding living wage initiatives,” he said. The new program makes it more transparent by integrating that support with the credibility and assurance the Rainforest Alliance can provide,” said Hogervorst. “Aggregating funds from every brand and company also makes it more feasible.”

According to Hogervorst, the Alliance developed its traceability platform to improve transparency along the entire supply chain. The platform will provide data to help companies target their investments to where they are needed most, including workers’ well-being.

In the tea sector, Rainforest Alliance defines a brand owner as the market actor that makes claims demonstrating their commitment to achieving specific sustainability goals. These claims include displaying the Rainforest Alliance seal on packaging, social media, company materials, and websites. A brand owner might be a corporate entity, private label brand, or packer.

“For retail and food service brand owners, the brand owner is responsible for making sure that SD/SI is paid for certified tea volumes packed on their behalf, by the packer, and compensating packers accordingly,” according to the group’s Tea Sector Guidance. “Tea differs from other sectors by the granularity of traits other sectors don’t have. The bigger brands already invest and participate in investment programs through sector actors like Ethical Tea Partnership and other organizations. So hence, the focus is on brands,” he said.

The Rainforest Alliance recognizes that the tea sector is recovering from geopolitical, weather-related, and pandemic setbacks, Hogervorst told attendees.

The group’s Sustainable Agriculture Standard requires that brands pay the SD/SI contributions quarterly. For tea, the Sustainability Differential and Sustainability Investments are required to be paid for teas sold as Rainforest Alliance certified from January 2023 onward, with invoicing and payments starting in the first half of the year.

(STIR C&T)

**India allows mixing of other teas with Darjeeling**

The Centre will allow the blending of imported tea with Indian varieties protected by geographical indications (GI) tags, diluting a previous order which prohibited the practice for any blend.

The Tea Board of India issued a notification on recently which will let sellers mix Darjeeling tea with any other varieties, especially Nepal tea in their packs — as long as the end product does not claim to be an exclusive item covered by the GI label.

The prohibition, which was set in motion with an order on November 11, 2021, had impacted the bottom rung of the Darjeeling tea industry in terms of quality.

The gardens were dependent on domestic buyers such as Tata Consumers Products Ltd, which would pick up the tea that could not be otherwise exported such as the globally renowned first and the second flush.

Following last year’s order, TCPL had largely refrained from buying Darjeeling tea this season, leading to a dip in auction prices. The situation led to several representations from the producers as well as buyers such as TCPL to the Union ministry of commerce and the Tea Board.

“We have lifted the hindrance to domestic procurement of Darjeeling tea without diluting the spirit of the last order. The Tea Board will take stern action if any seller is found to be mixing imported tea and claiming it to be GI tea,” a source in the Tea Board said.
Nepal teas, which carry qualities akin to Darjeeling because of similarities in terrain, have been making steady inroads as they are cheaper than Darjeeling. There have been representations before the Tea Board in the past to check the rampant blending of Nepalese tea, which local producers claim, often fail to pass Indian food and safety standards.

The Tea Board order superseded the previous one, adding that, “...any end product not claiming to be GI teas, i.e. Darjeeling, Kangra, Assam (orthodox) and Nilgiri (orthodox) would not fall under the ambit of this notification”.

A Tea Board source explained: “Darjeeling tea is often blended with teas of other origin when sold abroad, as long as it is not sold as Darjeeling tea. There is no reason to stop the practice in India either.”

Atul Asthana, vice-chairman of Indian Tea Association (ITA), welcomed the Tea Board decision.” It was eagerly awaited. This will go a long way to help Darjeeling tea industry,” Asthana said.

( Telegraph India)

TRIPURA CM asks for government intervention

Tripura Chief Minister Prof (Dr) Manik Saha has sought the intervention of the Government of India to take effective steps in reducing the duty on the export of tea produced in Tripura to Bangladesh and to speed up the opening of the “Maitri Setu” (Friendship Bridge) built on the river Feni in Sabroom under South Tripura district.

“The Bangladesh government has imposed a 90 percent duty on the import of tea from Tripura. If it is reduced to 25-30 percent, the tea growers of Tripura will benefit”, he added.

The Chief Minister also said, the issue of taking necessary steps to export Tripura tea to Bangladesh was brought to the attention of the central government.

He also added that there is a tea auction center in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh. Tripura’s tea growers can participate in the auction if the Bangladesh government reduces import duty. He said that importance has also been laid on the use of e-market places for marketing of tea produced in Tripura.

“The issue of setting up a major land port on the border of the states of the North Eastern region was again raised from the Indian side in the meeting. He mentioned in the meeting to request the Bangladesh Government to complete all the facilities to effectively open the “Maitri Setu” (Friendship Bridge) over the Feni River to connect Tripura with Chittagong Port in Bangladesh.

According to him, permission to transport all goods to the final destination is a long-standing demand of traders in India and Bangladesh.

(North-East today)

A new tea policy brewing in Assam

Renowned globally for its richly coloured and aromatic tea, Assam the country’s largest tea producer is now working on a new policy for its nearly 200-year-old tea industry.

Assam produces nearly 700 million kg of tea annually and accounts for around half of India’s overall tea production. The state also generates foreign exchange earnings estimated at an equivalent to Rs 3,000 crore.

However, for several years now India’s tea industry has been struggling with issues such as rising production costs, relatively stagnant consumption, subdued prices and crop losses due to climate change. It also has to face the challenge of a competitive global market.
The state’s industries and commerce minister Bimal Borah recently chaired a meeting in Guwahati on the proposed draft ‘Tea Policy’ with representatives of the tea industry bodies along with other relevant stakeholders, including auctioneers and buyers. Among other salient features discussed at the meeting, the state government is mulling providing support to exporters for sending tea directly from Assam to overseas destinations.

ANI has learnt that a financial incentive of Rs 5 per kg is under consideration with an aim to compensate additional expenditure on transportation and terminal handling charges of tea while being shipped out.

The draft policy, which is seen by ANI, has provisions for the exemption of SGST (State Goods and Service Tax) for the tea which are sold through the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre - one of the world’s major tea trading centres. "SGST reimbursement at 40 per cent shall be provided to the buyers," the draft tea policy said.

For the replacement of old and worn-out machinery and for the installation of additional machinery, the state intends to provide 25 per cent of the actual cost of the plants and machinery, subject to a ceiling of Rs 50 lakh. Further, for setting up of new blending, packaging units, value addition units and instant tea unit expansion of existing units or replacement / addition of existing units, an incentive of 30 per cent of the actual cost subject to a ceiling of Rs 50 lakh is part of the discussions.

The tea business is cost-intensive, where 60-70 per cent of the total investment is fixed cost. Assam, recently raised daily wages for tea garden workers by Rs 27, over and above other benefits, to which they are entitled.

Post the revision, tea workers in Assam’s Barak valley will get Rs 210 per day and for that of Brahmaputra valley Rs 232. Just ahead of State elections in 2021 too, the BJP government in Assam had hiked the wage rate by Rs 38.

(ANI)

**India to Restructure Plantations**

Researchers have suggested restructuring plantations, "collectivization" through farmer producer organizations (FPO) for small tea growers (STG) and encouraging STGs to produce high-value tea for reviving the Indian tea industry and guaranteeing better prices and exports.

The revamp could begin with the medium-sized tea plantations that have, over time, become less efficient than the larger ones and STGs. The land can be leased out to the small farmers, the paper, 'Value chain configuration in the Indian tea economy: A historical perspective,' authored by Thiagu Ranganathan, Tirtha Chatterjee and Rucha Takle of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS).

The crisis in Indian tea is largely on account of stagnating prices, declining efficiency of plantations - medium-sized ones in particular - and stagnant export demand. That the STGs (growers having up to 10.12 hectares) are producing more tea than the plantations also make a case for restructuring the plantations, it noted.

"As of 2021, small tea growers contributed to 50.73% of total tea production in India, implying that small tea growers produced more tea than the plantations. As of 2017-18, STGs produce 42% of tea in Assam and 54% of tea in West Bengal," the paper observed, adding that tea growing areas have expanded to 66 districts in 11 States.

For providing a fillip to small growers, the researchers have suggested collectivization through FPOs and helping them improve quality. They should also be encouraged to diversify into high-value tea varieties that have markets abroad, a step which could guarantee higher prices and revive exports.

(The Hindu)
Request to regulate sale of tea lands in Assam

A senior tea community leader from Assam, who is also a ruling BJP member, is pushing for a law to regulate the sale of tea gardens for the smooth functioning of the tea industry, one of the mainstays of the state economy.

State BJP executive member Bhagirath Karan has raised the above “issues and problems” faced by the tea industry in a letter written to Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 17.

Besides a law to regulate sale/transfer of tea estates, Karan’s letter also wants the government to put a bar on transfer of land allotted to tea gardens for non-tea activities, to ensure sale of 75 per cent of tea through auction centres and to seek a detailed financial statement of profit and loss from the tea gardens to know the actual market/industry condition.

Assam has over 800 tea gardens producing around 700 million kg of tea annually, more than half of India’s annual production. The industry employs directly or indirectly about 30 lakh people.

Karan told The Telegraph that the trigger for seeking a new law to regulate sale/transfer of gardens was the ownership/management of about 70 company or individual tea gardens “changing hands” in the past five years, of which at least 50 were in the past three years, leading to post-sale/transfer inconveniences to both the government and the workforce.

The problematic issues post-sale include pending provident fund dues, arrears wages, arrears bonus, regularizing contractual garden workers and committed housing and education facilities, often leading to friction between the employees and the new owners who invariably show these were “not” part of the agreement with the old owners.

“This often leads to friction where the government has to get involved. We want a law where the government involvement is required for such sale or transfer because the garden land belongs to the government. If the government is in the loop, it can check liabilities and commitments and ensure these are implemented by the new owner. Such a law is in the interest of all stakeholders,” Karan said.

Calling for making government land leased for tea cultivation “non-transferable” in nature, Karan said tea garden owners are “illegally” selling their estates — where private schools, hospitals, private establishments, brickyard, etc have mushroomed. The government should evict all such illegal infrastructures and take back those land and properties, the letter stated.

The veteran tea community leader also highlights how only a meager 20 per cent of the total tea produced in Assam is sold through public auction and the remaining through private entities.

“At least 75 per cent of the total produce needs to be sold through the public auction window so that we get to know/have an idea of the market condition,” Karan said.

He also wanted tea estate owners to submit a detailed financial statements before the government stating their incomes and expenses because tea-estate owners often talk about the losses they have to run to maintain their tea estates.

“But, seldom has there been any accompanying record to testify the tea company’s profits and losses. Also, the government should be duly informed about the capital, from the profits of the company, that is to be reinvested within the tea-estates,” the letter states.
Karan also wants the Tea Board, which monitors the overall development of the tea industry, should take steps to check quality of tea produced by bought tea leaf (BTF) factory besides placing in public domain the list of tea gardens, big or small, availing government schemes.

(Telegraph India)

India exports more tea in 2022

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
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(Tea Board of India)
Kenyan Tea Farmers revenue up by 53%

Small-scale tea grower earnings grew by more than half to Sh20 billion ($160 million) in the third quarter of the year, helped by the government-backed minimum price of $2.43 (Sh291) per kilogram that protected their revenue.

Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) says the earnings were more than the Sh13 billion ($104 million) that was recorded in the corresponding period last year. The impressive earnings were recorded despite a 13 percent decline in the production of green leaf. KTDA says green leaf deliveries by farmers to 71 factories that it manages dropped to 197 million kilos in the July-September period compared to 225.8 million kilos last year, with the decline attributed to poor rainfall. A kilo of tea in the review period fetched $2.65 (Sh318), up from $2.55 (Sh302) in the corresponding quarter last year.

The agency says the outlook for the remainder of the year looks promising, coming as a big boost to farmers who will be expecting good returns should the trend hold.

“Prices at the auction have been fairly steady with a positive outlook expected for the coming weeks despite the market challenges faced with the Russia-Ukraine war and the flooding disaster that recently hit Pakistan,” KTDA chief executive officer Wilson Muthaura said.

Pakistan, a key buyer of Kenyan tea that accounts for nearly 40 percent of the total exports, recorded lower-than-expected uptake due to the economic disruption.

Prices for KTDA-managed factories continued to outperform the aggregate Mombasa auction as buyers paid keen interest on the quality of the beverage. The average price at the auction stood at $2.28 in the latest sale.

Mr. Muthaura added the agency has procured 84,550 tons of the NPK fertilizer for distribution to farmers ahead of the short rains to boost output. KTDA also continues to intensify its efforts in curbing costs by improving operational efficiencies through a number of interventions. These include investment in small hydropower stations for cheaper power supply, diversification to orthodox teas to reduce reliance on Black CTC teas and training of farmers on income diversification and management.

Eleven factories affiliated with KTDA are now producing orthodox teas. There are plans to increase the number of factories to meet the market demand for the product. KTDA said earlier it is seeking Sh800 million ($6 million) from the government to expand the production line for the specialty teas following a surge in demand at the international market.

(Business Daily)

Government push for reforms

President Ruto has acknowledged that tea machines were a major challenge, especially for the youth. He has said that tea-picking machines and lack of value addition were the biggest headaches in the sector.

“The youth are complaining about these machines because there are no other jobs. In Kericho and nationally, we must re look at the tea and coffee sectors to create more jobs for them,” said Ruto.

Ruto said that his government would ensure more investments are made within the county, citing value addition and agro-processing among his plans for rescuing the economy.

“We shall not be selling unprocessed tea from Kenya. We want to create a common user facility to add value to our tea which will create more jobs and earn us more returns,” said the president.

The president weighed in on calls for cessation of land owned by two multinationals to create room for expansion of Kericho town.
“This is an issue I have touched on before but it was handled by people who didn’t understand it. Kericho needs room for expansion and establishment of public institutions,” said Ruto.

Gachagua said the issue of the tea-picking machines had brought so much suffering.

“During our economic forums, it was clear that the problems of Kericho County start and end with the tea machines. We shall have a forum to find a solution. We shall not be leaders of complaining but those who offer solutions for the president to make informed decisions,” said Gachagua.

Dr Mutai took issue with the multinational tea companies for deploying Tea Harvesting Machines, saying they had rendered thousands jobless and stunted the economy.

The tea companies used to employ at least 60,000 workers, but the number reduced to around 10,000 workers when mechanization was adopted.

“It’s not about whether the companies are going to remove the machines, the question is when they are going to do it. We will not compromise about it. They must remove the machines,” he said.

His Nandi counterpart Stephen Sang petitioned the Attorney General to examine laws that govern mechanization.

“If there is a piece of legislation which allows the multinational tea firms to employ technology which renders thousands of people unemployed, it must be addressed,” he said.

Sang disclosed that governors in tea-growing counties will hold a round table meeting to discuss the legal challenges counties face in their quest to outlaw the machines.

(Standard Media)

Kenya plans to ban export of raw tea

Kenya is planning to hit the brakes on the export of all raw tea in an effort to beef up revenues for farmers and create jobs. President William Ruto said the move is part of a long-term plan to boost earnings from agriculture, including livestock, cotton and other cash crops, by compelling producers to process the goods domestically. President Ruto said farmers stand to earn more if they embrace value addition instead of exporting raw commodities.

"There is absolutely no reason why we are selling 95 per cent of our tea unprocessed in a space where we have a competitive advantage," he said during a consultative meeting with manufacturers in Nairobi.

"It is not going to be possible and practical for us to continue to export 95 per cent of our tea unprocessed." President Ruto said the government would offer support to tea marketers to accelerate the shift.

"I have already had a conversation with our tea marketers. I told them that if the government is required to invest in a common user facility so that we can add value to our tea, we will," said Ruto.

Kenya’s 2021 tea export earnings rose 13 per cent to Sh136 billion ( $ 1.2 billion ) compared with a year earlier, helped by rising export volumes, official data shows. "We are getting Sh120-130 billion (from tea earnings ) now, but we can get Sh300-Sh400 billion ( $ 2.4-3.2 billion ) by merely adding value said the President.

Government officials have also been holding marketing trips to Asia in a bid to increase sales of the commodity to countries like China. Even as export earnings rise, proceeds are spread more thinly, with the number of smallholder farmers increasing. Most of the farmers are members of the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA).
He challenged manufacturers to fill the gap by carrying out value addition on agricultural products to allow farmers to earn more. Manufacturers at the forum called for tax reforms and access to affordable energy to grow the sector. "There are huge opportunities in value addition," said Kenya Association of Manufacturers Chairman Rajan Shah.

Kenya also plans to initiate the process for obtaining GI status for their tea to enhance exports to European markets.

(Standard media)

Kenya exports tea to Ghana under AFCFTA

African Continental FTA is a free-trade area agreement signed by most African countries. It is a flagship project of the African Union’s agenda.

The agreement aims at creating "a single market for goods, services, facilitated by movement of persons to deepen the economic integration of the African continent."

While flagging off the first value added tea consignment to Ghana, Kenyan president Ruto said Kenya was determined to generate revenue by selling its quality tea to other African countries.

“Kenya is strongly committed to exploiting the full potential of value addition and unlocking the opportunities available within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) framework," Ruto said in a tweet.

“We will take decisive action to enhance the diversification of our economy to unleash the full force of our manufacturing sector for our farmers to benefit from better prices."

(East Africa News)

Kenya production down

The volume of tea auctioned at the Mombasa bourse has gone down significantly, with officials warning the trend may worsen in the next decade due to erratic weather.

Latest figures from the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) show the volume of tea offered on the auction dipped by almost 500,000 kgs in the last trade, the second time in a row the quantities have declined in less than a month.

EATTA managing director Edward Mudibo said the decline in volume of tea offered for sale at the Mombasa auction was as a result of ongoing drought.

“Kenyan tea contributes about 60 percent of tea traded in the auction followed by Uganda at eight percent. Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania come third, fourth and fifth respectively. The total volume traded for Sale 39 was 407,913 kilos less than Sale 38, which was as a result of ongoing drought," said Mudibo.

During the last sale at the auction, the average price increased to $2.27 from $2.25 in the previous sale.

Demand was reduced for the 181,340 packages (12,077,628kg) on offer, with about 120,480 packages (7,952,000kg) being sold, and 33.56 percent of packages remaining unsold.

Last month, Rhoda Ruto, a senior researcher at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation’s Tea Research Institute warned that tea production will be affected by increased temperature as a result of global warming.
“More effect of climate change on crops will be felt in Kenya’s tea sector as an increase in temperature beyond 23.5 degrees Celsius would significantly reduce yields of the cash crop,” she said.

Extremely low temperatures also affect tea production, with frosts cutting yield per bush. Ruto, however, noted that climate change will enhance the suitability of tea production in areas where the crop is today not grown, especially the higher altitudes around Mount Kenya.

Kenya’s temperature will rise by 2.5 degrees Celsius between 2000 and 2050, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The country will experience extreme rainfall events, especially in the Rift Valley region.

(Tanzania Public Tea Company (Tatepa), a leading exporter of tea from Tanzania, production is being affected by weather patterns. The firm said in a report that its subsidiary, the Wakulima Tea Company (Watco), decreased production due to climate constraints and as a consequence it made financial losses.

Statistics from data aggregation portal Statista show that Tanzania produced 20,400 tons of tea in 2020/2021, a five-year low compared to 27,000 tons (2016/2017), 34,000 tons (2017/2018), a peak of 37,200 tons in 2018/2019 and 28,700 tons in 2019/2020.

“During the year tea production decreased by three per cent as compared to 2018. This was due to weather conditions in 2019. The average selling price of $1.67 per kg was lower than last year’s price of $1.90 kg. The lower price was due to lower world prices,” said the firm.

Tanzania exports fermented and partially fermented tea to Britain, South Africa, Russia, Pakistan and Poland among other countries.

(Africa News)
Record tea crop in Bangladesh

Bangladesh’s tea production surged to a record high of 14.74 million kgs in September this year, according to state-run Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).

Year-on-year, this is an increase of about 17 per cent. The previous record was of October 2021, when 14.58 million kgs were produced.

The BTB attributed it to favourable weather, distribution of subsidized fertilizer, regular monitoring of the Ministry of Commerce and BTB and efforts of garden owners and workers overcoming a labour strike in August. Garden owners earlier had claimed that the strike would affect production and cause losses in business.

A meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and representatives of garden owners fixed the minimum daily wage of workers at Tk 170. Earlier it was Tk 120. Although the strike temporarily halted production, work quickly resumed at gardens, said Maj Gen Md Ashraful Islam, chairman of the BTB.

Production is much better also for the increase in workers’ wages and for labour welfare being ensured, Islam said. He added that the capacity of the industry has increased a lot due to the continuous efforts of garden owners, traders and workers along with various government initiatives.

Tea production has expanded in Bangladesh over the past decade. About 96.51 million kgs were produced in 2021, up by some 54 per cent from that in 2012, shows the BTB data.

This is the highest amount produced in a year in the 167-year history of the region’s commercial tea cultivation. In the first nine months of 2022, 63.83 million kgs were produced in the country’s 167 gardens.

Omar Hannan, chairman of the Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh, said local consumption rises by 6 per cent to 7 per cent every year.

In Bangladesh, 45 per cent of the tea produced is consumed at the household level while the rest at tea stalls, restaurants, and offices, according to industry insiders.

Local tea brands dominate the domestic market with a 75 per cent share while non-branded producers account for the rest.

(Daily Star)

China Tea Exports

(Asi Siyaka Commodities PLC)
Researchers Publish First Intake Recommendations for Bioactive Flavanols in Tea

Range of flavan-3-ol content in foods commonly consumed. Data based on Phenol Explorer v2.0

Nutrition researchers would like for flavan-3-ols to be included in the official Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the United States Department of Agriculture and Health Canada’s Food Guide.

The intake recommendations, published in the journal Advances in Nutrition, state that consuming 400 to 600 milligrams of flavan-3-ols daily may reduce the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Flavanols are abundant in fruits, such as blueberries, apples, and blackberries, but the highest concentrations are found in tea, wrote Professor Taylor C. Wallace, Ph.D. one of the authors of the recommendations. If the recommendations to add flavanols is acted on, it would become the first time that bioactive compounds are included in the USDA and Canadian guidelines.

“Flavan-3-ols are non-essential nutrients, meaning you won’t develop scurvy and die from not consuming them, as is the case with vitamin C and other essential nutrients, but flavanols may promote and maintain good health,” Taylor explains. There are thousands of bioactive compounds, including carotenoids, such as beta-carotene; flavonoids, such as isoflavones; cannabinoids, and phytosterols,” Taylor noted.

Brewed tea is by far the best dietary source of flavan-3-ols, Taylor observed. “An 8-ounce cup of green tea provides about 318 mg of flavan-3-ols, while the same amount of black tea provides about 277 mg. It is worth noting that the harm of added sugar may offset the benefits of flavan-3-ols, so choose unsweetened tea,” he said.

Tea associations in the U.S. and Canada are lobbying to include tea in dietary guidelines. Tea and Herbal Association of Canada president Shabnam Weber is lobbying government officials in Ottawa. “Canada’s Food Guide should reflect how consumers eat today,” she said. “Health Canada should expand its recommendations to include flavan-3-ols considering the increase in cardiovascular disease and obesity — particularly in the past two years.”

According to Dr. Wallace, flavan-3-ols improve blood pressure, blood flow, cholesterol level and blood sugar, and “even help protect the body’s cells from damage as we age.”
The intake recommendations follow years of debate on the benefits of bioactive plant-based compounds. “The scientific community has finally decided that the evidence is sufficient to move forward with an official intake recommendation for what is arguably the most studied group of dietary bioactive compounds: The flavan-3-ols,” Wallace said.

Black tea is the largest source of flavan-3-ols in the U.S. diet, accounting for 32% of total flavonols consumed, according to the National Health and Nutrition Survey of food intake. Brewed tea (caffeinated and decaffeinated, green, black, and oolong) account for 94% of flavan-3-ols consumed in the American diet.

Wallace observed, “Flavan-3-ols aren’t just your typical ‘antioxidants,’ marketed by food companies. For decades, research has consistently demonstrated the ability of Flavan-3-ols to help reduce the risk of diet-related conditions.”

To calculate the intake of flavan-3-ols in tea, researchers sum the total concentration of catechin, epigallocatechin, epicatechin, epicatechin 3-gallate, epigallocatechin 3-gallate (EGCG), theaflavin, thearubigins, theaflavin-3,3-digallate, theaflavin-3-gallate, theaflavin-3’-gallate, gallocatechin, and catechin 3-gallate.

(STiR C&T)

**Sustainability**

**Ekaterra reassures its commitment for sustainability**

Ekaterra during a recent press conference discussed their sustainability commitments and their commitment to Pakistan.

As the global market leader in tea, ekaterra recognizes the responsibility it holds as a major buyer and is continually working to make its supply chain more sustainable. This starts with helping to improve the lives of the people who pick our tea leaves and how we blend and package our products, through to reducing the environmental impact tea production has on the planet.

The press conference was held at Pearl Continental Hotel in Lahore and was led by Farheen Salman, President BSPAN & General Manager Pakistan, Bruno Laine, Chief Supply Chain Officer, and Irfan Bhatti, Supply Chain Lead, BSPAN. At the press conference, Farheen emphasised on the importance of private corporations coming together to address the impacts of climate change.
Our vision is to grow a world of wellbeing through the regenerative power of plants while our mission is to enable a virtuous cycle of growth for everyone connected to our business, consumer, employees, community, planet, shareholders, ‘commented Farheen. Meanwhile, Bruno Laine, Chief Supply Chain Officer emphasized the importance of Pakistan as a key market for ekaterra. Bruno mentioned that the potential for tea consumption in Pakistan and adding new market segment is immense, which ekaterra would be interested in tapping on to. Not only that, Laine spoke about the technologies that can be replicated in Pakistan as the government of Pakistan looks to increasing the size of tea producing land to 25,000 acres. These technological advancements have the potential to yield an increase in production by up to 50% in the next 10 years. Highlighting sustainability efforts already embarked in Pakistan, Irfan Bhatti spoke about the journey of installing solar panels for their tea factory in Khanewal. This project was led by the company’s engineers which required an installation of 806 KW System Size which resulted in a 60% energy generation from the solar system.

(Daily Times)

**Nestle launches Nescafe 2030**

Nescafé, Nestlé’s largest coffee brand and one of the world’s favourite coffees, outlined its extensive plan to help make coffee farming more sustainable: the Nescafé Plan 2030. The brand is working with coffee farmers to help them transition to regenerative agriculture while accelerating its decade of work under the Nescafé Plan.

The brand is investing over one billion Swiss francs by 2030 in the Nescafé Plan 2030. This investment builds on the existing Nescafé Plan as the brand expands its sustainability work. It is supported by Nestlé’s regenerative agriculture financing following the Group’s commitment to accelerate the transition to a regenerative food system and ambition to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions.

“Climate change is putting coffee-growing areas under pressure. Building on 10 years’ experience of the Nescafé Plan, we’re accelerating our work to help tackle climate change and address social and economic challenges in the Nescafé value chains,” said David Rennie, head of Nestlé coffee brands.

Rising temperatures will reduce the area suitable for growing coffee by up to 50% by 2050. At the same time, around 125 million people depend on coffee for their livelihoods and an estimated 80% of coffee-farming families live at or below the poverty line. Action is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of coffee.

“As the world’s leading coffee brand, Nescafé aims to have a real impact on coffee farming globally,” said Philipp Navratil, head of Nestlé’s coffee strategic business unit. “We want coffee farmers to thrive as much as we want coffee to have a positive impact on the environment. Our actions can help drive change throughout the coffee industry.”

Regenerative agriculture is an approach to farming that aims to improve soil health and fertility – as well as protect water resources and biodiversity. Healthier soils are more resilient to the impacts of climate change and can increase yields, helping improve farmers’ livelihoods. Nescafé will provide farmers with training, technical assistance and high-yielding coffee plantlets to help them transition to regenerative coffee farming practices.

Nescafé will be working with coffee farmers to test, learn and assess the effectiveness of multiple regenerative agriculture practices. This will be done with a focus on seven key origins, from where the brand sources 90% of its coffee: Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Indonesia and Honduras.
Nescafé aims to achieve:

- 100% responsibly sourced coffee by 2025
- 20% of coffee sourced from regenerative agricultural methods by 2025 and 50% by 2030 as part of Nestlé’s ambition for its key ingredients

Nescafé is committed to supporting farmers who take on the risks and costs associated with the move to regenerative agriculture. It will provide programs that aim to help farmers improve their income as a result of that transition.

(From & Coffee TJ)

**Innovations**

**Rocket Tea is Revolutionizing the Tea Industry with the World’s Highest Caffeine Tea**

Tea is a popular drink around the world, but it lacks the energy “boost” some caffeine drinkers seek from a morning cup of coffee. Rocket Tea is revolutionizing both the tea and caffeinated beverage spaces with the release of its new High Caffeine Tea, just launched on Amazon at an $8 discount for a limited time. The first tea beverage of its kind, Rocket Tea contains the highest-caffeine concentration of any tea in the world, offering a superior energy boost.

Containing 200 mg of caffeine per tea bag, Rocket Tea provides more caffeine than a triple shot of espresso. To balance the higher caffeine concentration, each tea bag is formulated with an additional 100 mg of L-Theanine, a naturally occurring amino acid that curbs any aggressive effects of caffeine. The vast majority of highly-caffeinated products, such as coffee and caffeinated energy drinks, do not contain any L-Theanine, causing most people to associate these drinks with the feeling of being anxious, jittery, and the experience of the inevitable caffeine crash.

As the product’s name suggests, Rocket Tea’s goal is to provide customers with out-of-this-world energy while eliminating the common problems associated with highly caffeinated beverages. That’s why the team added the extra L-Theanine in every tea bag.

Rocket Tea’s supplemental L-Theanine promotes the calm and relaxing feeling associated with drinking a cup of regular tea, but with the extra boost of caffeine while eliminating the caffeine crash. L-Theanine is found naturally in tea, not coffee, and offers additional cognitive benefits, such as improved mood and focus. After months of research, the team at Rocket Tea developed what they believe to be the perfect ratio of caffeine and L-Theanine to give you the boost of energy you want without the crash, all while experiencing an alert, calm, and focused sensation.

A tea drinker himself, Willem Ossorio, Rocket Tea’s founder, spent the past few years developing a product that offers the best of both worlds: a caffeine boost without the crash or jitters.

Willem enjoys the energy coffee provides, but he doesn’t like the side effects of drinking it: the caffeine crash, anxiety, and an upset stomach. With Rocket Tea, Willem has struck the perfect balance between energy, relaxation, and an overall smooth experience.
Rocket Tea’s debut product is a passion fruit black tea blend combined with caffeine and L-Theanine to offer a better drinking experience. The passion fruit gives the drink a wonderful aroma, subduing the bitterness sometimes associated with higher caffeine content. The 200mg of caffeine provides the tea drinker with maximum energy, and the L-Theanine minimizes the sense of a caffeine crash that sometimes follows while supporting and enhancing cognitive functions. Willem explains that this product is specifically formulated for people who want a caffeine energy boost, accompanied by a smoother, calmer experience not followed by a crash.

Additionally, Willem’s goal was to formulate Rocket Tea as the highest quality, eco-friendly beverage experience. The tea is blended in the United States and the packaging is sourced here as well. To reduce waste, Rocket Tea comes in 100% biodegradable tea bags with no tags or strings. The Rocket Tea package can also be repurposed for other uses. Willem is working towards making the brand completely waste-free in the near future.

As Rocket Tea awareness grows, Willem and his team are working on new blends to offer flavors and products tea drinkers will love. The goal is to create more delicious teas and flavors and make Rocket Tea the go-to brand for functional teas. Ultimately, Rocket Tea will make people think differently about the power of tea.

( LA Weekly)

Currency News

Little respite for Indian rupee in coming year, likely weak in near term

India’s rupee will recoup only some of its recent losses against the dollar over the coming year as the interest rate gap is set to widen further alongside a worsening current account deficit, according to a Reuters poll of FX strategists.

The currency has declined in every month this year - its longest losing streak in almost four decades - as the U.S. Federal Reserve has adopted far more aggressive policy tightening than its peers, including the Reserve Bank of India, boosting the greenback to two-decade highs.

With more hikes to come from the Fed, including a likely fourth straight 75-basis point hike and the RBI expected to be more tame, the policy divergence will probably expand further. That means no respite for the sinking rupee at least in the near term.

Down over 10% against the dollar this year despite the RBI burning through its dollar reserves to support the currency, the rupee will trade at 82.5 per dollar in three months, near where it was last week of October, according to the Reuters poll of 26 FX analysts.

The rupee touched a lifetime low of 83.29/$ on Oct. 20, but the median view of 13 analysts who answered a separate question showed it would surpass that to trade as weak as 83.50/$ before year-end. Forecasts ranged between 83.00-84.20/$.

"The Fed’s communication on Wednesday is likely to set the course for the dollar and consequently the rupee over the coming weeks," said Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at HDFC Bank.

(Reuters)
China central bank says Yuan to remain stable

China’s central bank governor said that the Yuan will remain stable against a basket of currencies and expressed hopes for a soft landing in the country’s property market.

Yi Gang, governor of the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), also told a conference in Hong Kong that structural reform will continue to fuel China’s economic growth, and that the country’s reform and opening-up policy will continue.

“I should say that the Chinese economy has remained broadly on track despite some challenges and downward pressure,” Yi told the Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit.

“The Chinese economy has proved to be quite resilient ... and inflation remains subdued.”

China’s accommodative monetary policy played a role in supporting stable economic growth, and the central bank will use structural policies to prop up key areas such as agriculture, green development and smaller companies, he added.

Although the Yuan has weakened against the dollar this year, it has appreciated against other major currencies, and will remain relatively stable against a basket of currencies, with the exchange rate mainly determined by the market, Yi said.

Regarding the property market, which is suffering from a prolonged debt crisis, Yi said local governments play an essential role in promoting its healthy development.

(Reuters)

Energy News

Oil poised for limited gains as economic risks loom-Reuters poll

Oil prices will find support from OPEC+ output cuts and sanctions on Russia for the rest of the year and into the early part of 2023, a recent Reuters poll showed, but a recession could limit further gains.

A survey of 42 economists and analysts forecast benchmark Brent crude would average $101.10 a barrel this year, and $95.74 in 2023, up from estimates of $100.45 and $93.70 respectively in September.

U.S. crude forecasts were raised slightly to $96.23 a barrel in 2022 and $90.39 next year, from the $95.73 and $88.70 consensus last month.

However, on a quarterly basis, the Brent forecasts indicated a gradual trend downward next year, with the second quarter consensus at $96.38 a barrel versus $98.01 in the first, and a further dip to $94.70 in the third quarter.

UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said under-investment, the European ban on Russian oil, OPEC+ production cuts and the end of strategic sales of inventories in OECD countries will keep the market tight and prices higher.
Some respondents said Russia might be able to largely keep exports flowing but still expected some of its oil to be taken off the market due to EU sanctions.

OPEC+ early this month agreed to the largest output cut since 2020 in an already tight market, which the International Energy Agency said could help push the economy into recession.

The cut prompted Goldman Sachs to raise its 2022 Brent forecast to $104 per barrel and 2023 forecast to $110.

Goldman also said the U.S. plan to continue releasing Strategic Petroleum Reserves would lead to "limited downside from current crude price levels".

However, "with dim perspectives for the world economy and the possibility of new COVID lockdowns in China, there won’t be much demand growth in 2023," said Frank Schallenberger, head of commodity research at LBBW.

OPEC has cut its 2022 oil demand growth forecast for a fourth time since April and also trimmed next year’s figure.

"We expect a short and shallow recession sometime early in 2024 to put a small spanner in the works of what we believe to be a generally constructive medium-term outlook for the oil markets," said Societe Generale analyst Florent Pele.

(Reuters)

**Late arrivals**

**Tea Factories In Africa Urged To Adopt Green, Renewal Energy**

Chairperson of the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) Arthur Sewe has urged tea factories in Eastern and Southern African countries to adopt green and renewable energy as a solution to managing climate change.

Sewe said that climate change is a big threat to the tea sub sector and required urgent shifts if the industry is to survive in the coming years.

The chairperson was speaking during the closing of the Reclaim Sustainability Tea Project, Malawi Regional Multi Stakeholder platform which was convened by Tea Trade Association (EATTA) at the Sunbird Mount Soche hotel.

“There is an urgent need to embrace small hydro power stations, wind and solar energy to bring down energy costs,” he said.

The official noted that climate change effects on the tea industry can be seen by the reduced yield per fixed acreage as a result of poor precipitation and erratic distribution of rain.

He added that afforestation is also very welcome as will provide a source of wood fuel that is an important ingredient in tea processing and also contributes to resiliency in combating the effects of environmental degradation.
The Chairperson observed that the tea industry plays a significant role in shaping and sustaining the growing economies of the countries in east and southern Africa.

Programs Director for Reclaim Sustainability on tea at Trust Africa Dr. Bethule Nyamambi, urged stakeholders in the tea value chain to set the agenda in ensuring that tea contributes to the continent’s development.

Dr. Nyamambi told policy makers to ensure that forces that disrupt tea production in the continent such as climate change, trade restrictions and Covid-19 are dealt with to enable farmers to reap maximum benefit from the industry.

She urged farmers to adhere to climate adaptation measures adding that climate change is real and stand to destroy their tea if they fail to listen to climate change experts.

The officials called for a comprehensive policy framework that clearly delineates the role of government and that of the private sector to bring together an integrated policy range of directives and procedures in the tea sub sector.

They noted that such a policy framework will encourage a coherent approach to development and investment in the tea sub sector.

The initial outcomes of the countries Multi stakeholder platform policy engagements held earlier in Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique and Malawi emphasized the need for coordinated efforts in addressing bottlenecks in market access, influencing creation of a conducive policy and regulatory environment and creation of a community of practice for cross learning and sharing of knowledge amongst actors within the value chain at regional level.

(Kenya News Agency)

Members Evening - 2022

The “Members Evening” of Tea Exporters Association will take place on Saturday, 3rd December 2022 at the Colombo Golf Club. The event is open for other tea industry stakeholders as well. For information please contact the secretariat (011- 2433308 or admin@teasrilanka.org). An evening to enjoy and interact with tea industry stakeholders.

Partner Organizations: