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பெருந்தோட்ட அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF PLANTATION



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இலங்கை தேயிலைச் சபை
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

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காலிவீதி, கொழும்பு 03, இலங்கை
GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 03, SRI LANKA

Circular No. TC/CIR/5/1/2021.

1st May 2021.

To All Registered Tea Manufacturers, including RPC managed factories!

As per the government decision on the discontinuation of importing agro- chemicals & artificial fertilizers and moving towards supply of organic manure/farming systems, we have already given instructions to all our assistant tea commissioners to assist and develop 'model composting units' in each tea Inspector region at tea factory level as well as medium sized tea plantations/ tea grower level and provide leadership to this national program by engaging all the stakeholders in the tea supply chain. We appreciate the work done by some of the stakeholders as per previous initiatives taken by the tea commissioner division and TSHDA to increase the production of organic manure.

You will agree that we all must support the 'Ceylon Tea' global promotion campaign through 'environmentally friendly' farming systems under our sustainability agenda by marketing 'naturalness' and purity of Ceylon Tea without having pesticide residues over and above the stipulated MRLs. The three USPs under the global campaign are namely; Authenticity, Wellness factor and the Premium quality of Ceylon Tea.

It has now become a necessity to come up with many innovative organic manure application systems & products, using micro-organism technology, high tech-silviculture, nanotechnology and/or modern knowhow coupled with traditional practices in order to replace the excessive usage of artificial fertilizer and chemical application of weedicide/pesticides etc.

The development of the organic manure business needs high tech inputs based on R&D, the required raw material availability and market acceptance based on different crops. We are confident that our research institutions could take action to formulate and prepare specifications of organic manure applications covering different applications such as, at nursery stage, immature, mature VP and Seedling and recommendations for small holdings etc. We believe this initiative coupled with previous guidelines on integrated soil fertility management strategies will improve our tea land soil porosity (TRI publication in October 2016).

Please take necessary action at your earliest, as we need to prepare action plans, develop databases and project management tools to fast track setting up of the de-centralized compost production units in all the ATC regions. We will discuss and agree as to how SLTB could assist in providing financial assistance and request the Registered Tea Manufacturers to liaise with the Tea Commissioner division to obtain clarifications.

(Handwritten initials)

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We will also arrange zoom meetings as and when required to exchange views and comments to finalize action plans and target dates to systematically proceed with this challenging task as per the directives issued by the President and the Cabinet of Ministers.

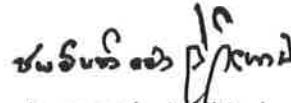
Please note this shall receive the highest priority as a national project to be regulated and governed under the Tea Control Act No 51 of 1957 as amended and Sri Lanka Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975.

We are at your disposal to provide any further assistance and clarifications on this matter.

Thanking You.



E.A.J.K. Edirisinghe
Tea Commissioner



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Jayampathy Molligoda
Chairman, SLTB

01/05/21

Copies to:

1. Secretary to His Excellency the President
2. Secretary, Ministry of Plantation
3. Chairman, Colombo Tea Traders' Association
4. Director General, SLTB
5. Chairman, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority
6. Chairman, Tea Research Institute
7. Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Factory Owners' Association
8. Chairman, Sri Lanka Federation of Tea Small Holdings Development Societies
9. Chairman, Colombo Brokers' Association
10. Chairman, Tea Exporters' Association
11. Chairman, Planters Association of Ceylon
12. Director, Tea Research Institute
13. Director, Analytical Services, SLTB
14. Deputy Tea Commissioners (Regulatory/Development/Export)
15. Asst. Tea Commissioners, (Galle/Matara/ Gampola/Bandarawela/Ratnapura/Baduraliya)