

3.2 TEA IN PAKISTAN BY F.S. Hamid*

Pakistan has a long tradition of tea drinking that has now become an integral part of the country's social life. The first tea experiments were initiated in the then West Pakistan (present Pakistan) in village Baffa (district Mansehra, NWFP) under the auspices of Pakistan Tea Board in 1958. These efforts were not followed up because tea production in the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) met the needs of the Nation. Subsequently, efforts to grow tea were reinitiated in 1964 at Misriot Dam near Rawalpindi but due to unfavorable soil and climatic conditions could not achieve the desired results (Annual Report PARC-1996). After the delinking of East Pakistan the entire requirement of tea is imported by Pakistan (Refer Tea imports by Pakistan, Hanif Janoo, IJTS 1:4, 2002). Pakistan is the 3rd largest importer of tea after England and Russia and the consumption is increasing day by day with the increase in population. The quantity and cost of black tea imported during the past ten years is given in Table 1. Tea ranks 8th in the major

Table 1: COST AND QUANTITY OF BLACK TEA IMPORTED IN PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	Quantity (000 kg)	Rs./kg	Value (Rs. In Billion)
1990-91	104,056	35.92	3.729
1991-92	110,235	39.06	4.306
1992-93	125,651	42.87	5.386
1993-94	116,140	48.39	5.619
1994-95	116,629	49.68	5.794
1995-96	114,760	49.73	5.707
1996-97	85,426	61.09	5.218
1997-98	98,649	99.52	9.818
1998-99	119,695	93.15	11.150
1999-00	108,644	100.27	10.895
2000-01	111,867	101.57	12.030

Source: Economic Survey 2001-02, Govt. of Pakistan

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items imported by Pakistan and its percentage share among the imports during the past ten years is shown in Table 2. Pakistan is importing black tea from nineteen different tea-producing countries of the world. The quantity, cost and percent share of the imported black tea during the last three years is shown in Table 3. Consumption of green tea in Pakistan is very small: it is imported from four different countries. The quantity, cost and percent share of the imported green tea during the last three years is shown in Table 4.

The annual per capita consumption of tea in Pakistan is about 1 kg. In order to conserve valuable foreign exchange spent on importing tea the Govt. of Pakistan created a cell for special crops in 1973 and initiated a project called "Research and Introduction of Tea in Pakistan". A soil survey of the prospective tea growing areas of NWFP was carried out in 1982 and was followed up again in and was followed up again in 1989 by Chinese tea experts. About 60,000 ha of land was identified suitable for tea growing in Mansehra and Swat districts based

TABLE- 2 PERCENTAGE SHARE OF TEA AMONG THE MAJOR IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN IN THE PAST TEN YEARS

Commodities	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Machinery*	27.0	24.3	22.0	22.8	21.6	23.1	18.9	17.9	13.9	19.3
Petroleum & Products	15.0	15.5	16.1	15.3	16.8	19.0	15.5	15.5	27.2	31.3
Chemicals**	13.1	12.5	14.4	14	15.6	13.4	15.7	16.6	17.5	20.0
Transport Equipments	9.0	12.5	9.7	5.9	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.7	5.5	4.0
Edible oil	4.4	5.9	5.7	9.6	7.3	5.1	7.6	8.7	4.0	3.1
Iron & Steel	3.5	3.2	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.6
Fertilizers	2.8	2.5	3.1	1.2	2.9	3.2	2.1	2.8	1.9	1.6
Tea	1.9	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.1	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.9
Sub Total	76.7	78.5	77.0	74.2	74.4	73.5	70	72.7	75.0	83.8
Other	23.3	21.5	23.0	25.8	25.6	26.5	30	27.3	25.0	16.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Excluding transport equipment

**Excluding fertilizer

Source: Economic Survey 2001-2002, Govt. of Pakistan.

TABLE – 3 COST, QUANTITY AND PERCENTAGE SHARE OF BLACK TEA IMPORTED DURING PAST THREE YEARS FROM TEA PRODUCING COUNTRIES

S. #	Name of country	Quantity in Tons			Cost (Rs. in Millions)			Percentage Black Tea Imports		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	BANGLADESH	5,628	9,830	8,453	399.658	738.46	635.40	5.35	8.41	6.50
2.	BURUNDI	2,697	2,687	3,244	246.337	265.68	285.49	2.56	2.30	2.49
3.	CHINA	1,007	791	3,012	19.641	16.63	101.71	0.96	0.68	2.32
4.	CONGO	15	89	72	-	8.08	5.69	0.01	0.08	0.06
5.	ETHIOPIA	-	681	567	-	51.41	48.69	-	0.58	0.44
6.	INDIA	3,783	6,873	4,991	281.045	445.69	333.58	3.59	5.98	3.84
7.	INDONESIA	8,074	9,258	9,395	533.365	663.61	718.58	7.67	7.92	7.23
8.	KENYA	63,881	65,857	83,176	6368.591	7148.36	8641.36	60.70	57.00	63.95
9.	MADAGASCAR	20	5	23	1.303	0.30	1.76	0.02	0.00	0.02
10.	MALAWI	1,463	1,307	1,434	109.871	103.99	119.17	1.39	0.12	1.10
11.	MOZAMBIQUE	157	2	-	6.689	0.14	-	0.15	0.00	-
12.	NEPAL	-	927	392	1.632	6.47	30.15	-	0.79	0.30
13.	P.N.GUINEA	52	203	153	625.767	9.40	8.47	0.05	4.76	0.12
14.	RWANDA	6,302	5,567	4,752	-	603.51	508.53	5.99	0.17	3.65
15.	SRILANKA	3,338	3,121	29.7	361.477	389.65	375.70	3.17	2.67	2.23
16.	S.AFRICA	-	11	147	-	1.17	13.01	-	0.01	0.11
17.	TANZANIA	3,073	3,340	2,573	246.519	305.17	216.49	2.92	2.86	1.98
18.	UGANDA	1,840	1,767	2,078	141.085	166.25	180.50	1.75	1.62	1.60
19.	VIETNAM	2,936	3,812	2,029	143.545	220.66	142.14	2.79	3.36	1.54
20.	ZAIRE	12	-	-	0.800	-	-	0.01	-	-
21.	ZIMBABWE	968	812	671	61.403	55.26	48.92	0.92	0.69	0.52
	Total	105,246	116,940	127,191.7	9548.728	11199.89	12415.34	100	100	100.00

Source: Pakistan Tea Association Karachi, Pakistan

TABLE - 4 COST, QUANTITY AND PERCENTAGE SHARE OF GREEN TEA IMPORTED DURING PAST THREE YEARS FROM TEA PRODUCING COUNTRIES

S.#	Name of country	Quantity In tons			Cost (Rs. in Millions)			Percentage of Green Tea Imports		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2002-03	1999-2000	2000-01	2002-03	1999-2000	2000-01	2002-03
1.	BANGLADESH	-	94	115	-	9.736	12.190	-	4.82	5.10
2.	CHINA	189	1048	965	6.000	49.474	32.191	80.66	53.71	42.82
3.	INDONESIA	27	204	202	1.390	10.591	10.323	11.65	10.44	8.97
4.	VIETNAM	18	605	972	0.400	22.466	44.202	7.69	31.03	43.11
	TOTAL	234	1951	2154	7.790	92.268	98.906	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Pakistan Tea Association Karachi - Pakistan

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on topography, soil and climatic data. On the recommendation of Chinese tea experts National Tea Research Station was set up with their technical assistance on 50 acres (20 ha) of land at Shinkiari, District Mansehra (NWFP) under the auspices of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Islamabad. The Station has been upgraded to the level of institute in 1996. The first black tea processing plant with the capacity of one ton made tea per day was established at NTRI by PARC with the technical assistance of Chinese Engineers during 2001. NTRI planted tea on 550 acres (220 ha) in small pockets on private land in addition to its 33 acres (7 ha) at the Institute. Meanwhile, the Unilever Pvt. Ltd. also entered in tea plantation business in the same area and established Unilever Tea Experimental Station during 1986. The Company planted tea on 1060 acres (420 ha) on farmers' land and installed a black tea processing plant with the capacity of one ton made tea. Simultaneously, a pilot green tea processing plant with the capacity of 100 kg made tea has also procured from China and installed with the financial assistance of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Islamabad. Now the Government of Pakistan is planning to commercialize tea plantation through Public- Private Sector in prospective tea growing areas.

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