

Local Initiatives for SDGs – connecting tea consumer community of Japan and tea producer community of Sri Lanka

Dr.Shunsuke Kurihara
Faculty of International Studies,
Utsunomiya niversity

Date and time

17 December 2021 16:00-17:30 pm

Outline of the lecture

- Introduction
- SDGs
- Sri Lanka and tea
- Our initiatives for SDG-12
- Group Discussion
- Wrap-up/closing

Main issues

- Most famous product of Sri Lanka is Ceylon tea. We are known that Sri Lanka is world's second largest tea importer. Tea and plantations were introduced by British and Established in 1867. Colombo Auction is one of the most influential tea auctions in the world.
- Purpose of UU-TEA Project is to understand producer country's situation to seek the right connection between the producer community and consumer community. Consequently, Estate youth will be capable of conducting after-school programs for the project estate children, with a clear understanding of the estate situation of education.
- Group Discussion: Think about your responsibilities for the situation of tea plantation community

Local Initiatives for SDGs - connecting tea consumer community of Japan and tea producer community of Sri Lanka

DR. SHUNSUKE KURIHARA
FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,
UTSUNOMIYA UNIVERSITY



Outline

- Introduction
- SDGs
- Sri Lanka and tea
- Our initiatives for SDG-12
- Group Discussion
- Wrap-up/ Closing



宇都宮大学
UTSUNOMIYA UNIVERSITY

- Faculty of International Studies (国際学部)
- Faculty of Education (教育学部)
- Faculty of Engineering (工学部)
- Faculty of Agriculture (農学部)
- Faculty of Regional Design (地域デザイン学部)

(Funchi Garden in front of Faculty of Agriculture)



Today's focus



SDG-12 water, energy, food, environment for you!

- 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.A Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.B Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 12.C Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities



In focus

Ceylon Tea and People of Sri Lanka

Something in your day-to-day life, but you are not so aware of

Sri Lanka and Tea Plantations, and Its People

- **Area** 65,607km² (¼ of Japan)
- **Population** 20 million
- **Ethnic mix** Sinhalese (72.9%) , Tamils (18.0%) Muslim (8.0%) , Other
- **Religion** Buddhist (70.0%) , Hinduist (10.0%) Muslim (8.5%) , Catholic (11.3%)
- **Literacy Rate** 90%
- **GDP per capita** 4,500USD



Most famous product of Sri Lanka!

Ceylon Tea

- World's second largest tea importer
- Tea and plantations were introduced by British
- More than 400 plantation estates in the country
- Colombo Auction is one of the most influential tea auctions in the world
- World famous tea grade: Uva, Dimbula, Nuwara Eliya
- Tea tree is only ONE species! Green Tea, Black Tea and Oolong Tea are all from the same tea tree. What's different?



Tea Flower

History of Plantations in Sri Lanka

- Established in 1867 by British
- Labors from south India (Estate Tamils)
- Settled in the housing unit called "line rooms" (3x4m)
- Basic necessities provided to the plantation residents like dispensary, crèche
- Outsiders not allowed to enter



Socio-economic Parameters of Estate Tamils

• Basic Social Infrastructure

	Urban	Rural	Estate
Electricity %	87.8	55.5	12.3
HH without latrines%	1.9	6.1	22.9
Pipe water supply%	85.7	20.0	74.9

• Mean Income

	Urban	Rural	Estate
Sri Lankan Rupees	11,623	6,491	3,386







Life with no choice?



From the field survey

Survey Summary

- The majority is **not** satisfied with their life on tea estates
- More than a half of the respondents feel their work is **not** rewarded properly
- 60% of the respondent workers feel there is **no dignity** for their work by management
- Half of the worker respondents have no idea of export countries of their tea
- **None of the respondents** want their children to be estate workers
- Those with **lower income are relatively satisfied** with their life on estates
- **Job security** is the largest concern

Imagine the life with no choice

- You went to junior high and became plantation labor, because there is no high school nor other options for work either
- You have become used your current life, but you don't feel you have chosen the job, but nobody forced you to work for tea plantations
- You have no high schools for your children to send in your neighborhood
- You now have a feeling that your children will become plantation labors if they spend the same quality of life as you have
- You have given up on other options, because you have no skills or knowledge
- You have no idea where tea leaves are exported – even haven't thought about it!!

Ceylon Tea and Japan (and a bit of Thailand)

Total black tea import to Japan

- Direct package 179,272Kg (JPY 327,535,000)
- Bulk 821,672Kg (JPY 436,173,000)

Black tea to Japan from Sri Lanka

- Direct package 107,322Kg (60%)
- Bulk 618,442Kg (75%)
- The largest exporter to Japan



Domestic tea production is less in Thailand as well, and "Chub Ace" is mostly with Ceylon Tea!

Tea production in Thailand 2004
43,933 tons in total, mainly in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hongson

* Green Tea in Japan is almost 100% domestic production

(Source: Trade Statistics of Japan 2014, Ministry of Finance)

Source: Teiry Coonara and Sathya Kumaranaswathi, "Development of the tea industry in Thailand, Asian Journal of Food and Agro-Industry" 2008

Context behind

Utsunomiya, Japan

- 65% - 70% of black tea exported to Japan is from Sri Lanka¹ – who are aware of this fact in Japan?
- Utsunomiya is **one of the most black tea drinking cities** in Japan²
- There are some civil society groups, promoting black tea to make the residents more proactive and add new values to Utsunomiya
- Utsunomiya would like to extend their international/ cultural exchange



¹ Source: Trade Statistics of Japan 2014, Ministry of Finance
² Average from 2008 – 2010 is on top of the list, Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance



UU-TEA Project

Utsunomiya University for Tea Estate Assistance



Supporting Program on Activation of Child Education through Collaboration with Youth Generation in Tea Plantation of Sri Lanka



- Target Estates: Darawala, Tillyrie & Ingestre
- Project Duration: Feb, 2018 - Jan, 2022 (4 years)



- Selected Schools: Darawala, Tillyrie & Ingestre
- No. of Students: 160 students
- Selected grades: Grade 2 and 3
- No. of Youths: 45 estate youths



Basic Info.

Children of tea plantation estates of Nuwara Eliya District, Sri Lanka, enjoy quality environment* of education, through after-school activity and social events organized by the estate youth

Project Purpose



*Quality environment of education is defined as there is a system that supports educational activities initiated by the local community, which supplements to poor education situation of the tea plantation estates

Output and activities

1. Estate youth will be capable of conducting after-school programs for the project estate children, with a clear understanding of the estate situation of education
2. Estate children are accustomed with regularly going to after-school programs
3. Constituency for after-school programs and social events is established and strengthened among the major stakeholders

Output



Orientation to Estate Youth



PRA to Estate Youth



Activities



Parents Meeting



Meeting for Baseline survey



After-school program for tea estate kids – grade 2 & 3

Teaching English, Tamil, Drawing and community events



Project Participants



Utsunomiya University Tea Estate Assistance (UU-TEA)



- Interactive exchange with children in the tea plantation community
- Dissemination initiatives in collaboration with Utsunomiya MC, University and media
- Field visit to the project estates

Understand producer country's situation to seek the right connection between the producer community and consumer community





Group Discussion SDG-12

Discussion Topic

1. Share your comment with your group members
2. Think about your RESPONSIBILITIES for the situation of tea plantation community in the following ways:
 - a. What if you were in the same situation, would you think you had ways of getting to know outside of your community?
 - b. If you learned of the gaps between your community and consumer community (countries that purchase your productions), how would you feel about the consumers?
 - c. Would you think the consumer countries have responsibility for improving your community in some ways?
3. A group member represents to write down your group's discussion result in CHAT



<https://www.instagram.com/uu tea srilanka/>



Follow us on Instagram!