

This book, an interdisciplinary study of human environment and spatial organization in agriculture, covers the historical development of the tea industry and analyzes a set of intriguing relationships among estate size, management, and environmental factors of tea production in Sri Lanka. It applies a host of geographic and economic data to a production function analysis in order to examine returns to scale, intensity of land use, and relationships between yield and factors of tea production. These results are compared with other findings from major tea and coffee producing countries as well as selected crops from developed and developing countries. Finally, this study provides a framework for spatially and environmentally sensitive policy options to optimize efficiency and equity considerations of the tea sector in Sri Lanka.

“A skillful blending of economics and geography resulting in a multidisciplinary analysis of the Sri Lanka tea economy.” *Willis Peterson, University of Minnesota*

“This is a technically sophisticated and well-written study of an industry which is of considerable importance for Sri Lanka, providing a model for similar studies elsewhere, and taking full account of both geographical and economic considerations.” *Michael Chisholm, University of Cambridge*

“For the first time, this study provides a fascinating multidisciplinary approach in order to find answers to many questions, especially returns to scale, raised by tea researchers and policy-makers in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. This book is a very useful addition to the development literature and deserves to be in all research institutions.” *Jagath Bandaranayake, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka*

“An innovative analysis of the interaction between resource endowments and economic forces on the development and prospect for the Sri Lanka tea sector.” *Vernon Ruttan, University of Minnesota*

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