

D-41: A survey of timber and fuelwood plantations in privately-owned tea and tobacco plantations in Sri Lanka

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A survey of timber and fuelwood plantations established by the private sector in 3 selected estates in Bandarawela and in forest plots of Ceylon Tobacco Company in Naula was undertaken to assess the status and extent of species planted, their use and the cost of establishment and revenues collected/expected.

The results of the survey revealed that two estates had about 16% of the estate under forest plantation while the third had none. Ceylon Tobacco Company had 320 ha of forest plantations. *E. ucalyptus saligna*, *E. grandis* were the major tree species in tea plantations while *E. camaldulensis* was the major tree species in Ceylon Tobacco Company plantations. Tea estates use them as fuelwood in curing tea while Ceylon Tobacco Company sells them as electricity transmission poles, having changed the tobacco curing process to use paddy husks.

The cost of establishment of forest plantations in tea plantations was Rs.18,000/ha in the first year, followed by Rs.10,000 in the second year and Rs. 7,000 in the third year. The cost of the Ceylon Tobacco Company Plantations was Rs.26,000/ha, Rs.17,000 and Rs.15,000 for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd

years respectively. The higher cost incurred by the Ceylon Tobacco Company was due to the frequent management interventions. Of the total fuelwood requirement of the tea estates, only 46% is hitherto satisfied by forest plantations. The saving from the cost of production by using self grown fuelwood will be Rs. 9.00/kg of made tea in year 2008. The Ceylon Tobacco Company does not use the forest trees for curing purposes but earns a revenue of about Rs. 437,500/ha from transmission poles on a 10 year rotation. Lack of forest management skills and restrictions on timber transport are drawbacks observed.