

## Misuse of weedicides and their effects on tea

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Tea industry emerged as one of the most important economic activity of the country. To get higher yield from unit extent of land, intensive cultural practices should be adopted. Among the various cultural practices, weed control is one of the most important cultural practices in tea cultivation. Because of the labour problem, among the various weed control methods, chemical weed control is the most common method. Hence the objective of this study was to investigate misuse of weedicides and its effects on tea. A field survey was carried out in *Galle* district, one of the leading low country tea areas of Sri Lanka. The study reveals that at the very beginning farmers used Arsanite based weedicides to control weeds in their fields. When Arsanite based weedicides were banned, farmers shifted to Paraquat and Glyphosate based weedicides. With the time they, shifted to lower toxicity weedicide. Most of the farmers responded to recent developments made in the pesticide industry. How ever farmers apply weedicides more than the recommended quantity to control weeds effectively. According to the regression analysis it reveals that there is a significant relationship between number of applications (frequency) and quantity applied on yield. Hence extension programmes should be oriented to transfer knowledge pertaining to recommended dose, time, and frequency.