**Wild Tea Production and Quality Improvement with Natural Tea Bags. W.G.C.D.K.Wedage, Buddhika Dissanayake**

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**Abstract**

Wild tea production is a technique used to produce tea from deep-rooted tea trees from wild sources without pruning. The tea leaves are plucked from 30- to 40-foot-tall tea trees, and the tea leaves are processed without using machinery as an artisanal wild tea. The wild tea production is significant in an area of tropical forest coverage. The wild-plucked tea leaves are served in a natural tea bag, which enhances the quality of the tea and resolves the health issues associated with the use of artificial tea bags. The compacted tea leaves themselves act as a tea bag with less technical processing and less manual handling. The end product of artisanal wild tea is composed of handcrafted cloth packaging that is developed by the Sri Lankan rural community.

The natural tea bag was able to build up a loyal customer base as a unique product in the artisanal tea world. Ceylon artisanal wild tea production was found to be a remedy for the current economic crisis with limited access to fertilizer, packaging barriers, raw material importation barriers, and the poor living status of the Sri Lankan village community. The research found that the wild tea production technique ensures the quality of the end product by overriding quality deterioration in manual handling. The quality of the tea is proven to be higher than that of normal pruned tea sources, where the mineral absorption from the deep roots of wild tea is high enough to produce quality buds.

Key words: Tea, Wild, Quality, Artisanal, Natural, Bags, Trees