

## **A study on the potential for the Celon tea industry to be conserved and developed as an agricultural heritage**

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Sri Lanka has a nearly two-hundred-year-old tea tradition. The country's tea lands include 996 main tea estates in eight major districts of Sri Lanka, which were founded first in 1867 on the 19-acre Lookandura tea estate by James Taylor. This paper discusses basic concepts such as agriculture as a heritage, value-added through future conservation, and development procedures. Also, the study focuses on the cultural landscapes of Sri Lanka's tea plantations, their historical context, and their approach to implementation. The objective of this study was to examine the socio-cultural and economic implications of preserving Sri Lanka's tea lands as a cultural heritage. Obtained the required secondary data from Hanthana Tea Museum and literature analysis provided the information to examine past and present circumstances. A survey of the current state of Sri Lanka's tea plantations was conducted at the Lookkadura tea estate, which was Sri Lanka's first tea estate. According to the literature review, the tea estate is the primary building unit of tea heritage. The second link in the chain is the tea estate bungalows. The main tea estates in the country's upper and middle regions are over 100 years old and contain cultural, social, and environmental values. According to the findings of this study, many of Sri Lanka's oldest tea estates, including Sri Lanka's first tea estate, the highly biodiverse Lookkadura Estate in Kandy, and other 150-year-old tea estates, can be named as agricultural heritage. In terms of tea flavor and aroma, in mountain areas, it has been discovered to be more important; Dimbula and Nuwara Eliya are the primary areas, according to the study. And all these factors contribute to the Ceylon tea heritage's culinary tradition, which has a unique taste and aroma as a Ceylon tea tradition. It was discovered that those values could be given commercial value by incorporating them into the tourism industry and preserving them as an agricultural heritage. It also recommends preserving the heritage for future generations by gaining widespread attention as an agro-heritage and expanding Sri Lanka's tea-related tourism industry to attract expats.

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