

Building in-House Capacity of the Technical Staff of Tea Sector on Energy conservation and Management – (from 23rd March to 25th march 2009 at TRI, Talawakelle)

The SLSEA conducted a three-day comprehensive training programme (23-25 March 2009) at the Tea Research Institute (TRI) in Talawakelle to train factory officers in energy conservation. The programme was carried out under the series of sector-specific training where in-house staffs of various establishments are trained in improved energy utilization, an important initiative towards conserving energy in national context. The programme consisted of a theoretical component by way of lectures and a practical component which included an energy audit carried out at the St.Coombs Tea Factory, based in the TRI.



St.Coombs Tea Factory

This programme was attended by 32 factory officers representing plantation companies and State Plantation Corporation. The detailed energy survey carried out to identify energy consumption patterns of various utilities, important processes and machinery provided opportunity to the participants to have an in-depth knowledge of the factory process in the energy perspective.

Organization	No.of Participants
Agalawatta Plantations PLC	3
BPL	4
Horana Plantations PLC	1
Kalubowitiyana Plantations PLC	2
Kotagala Plantations PLC	2
Maskeliya Plantations PLC	1
Mathurata Plantations PLC	3
Sri Lanka Plantation Cooperation	5
Talawakelle Plantations PLC	2
Tea Research Institute	3
TSF	2
Watawala Plantations PLC	4



The energy audit revealed that the main energy sources of the St,Coombs factory are electricity and thermal energy. The primary source of thermal energy was firewood. St Coombs consumes approximately 0.8 kg of firewood per one kg of made tea. The best tea practices in the country consume only one kg of firewood per kg of made tea. If the tea production process was operated more efficiently, the annual saving that could be achieved will be 1.7 million.

The total annual electricity consumption of the factory is around 286 MWh. and the withering process accounts for the highest electricity consumption. Many measures were identified to reduce the electricity consumption. If these were implemented the annual saving would be 92304 kWh and 560 m³ Firewood.