

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: November 15, 2023

Report Number: CE2023-0018

Report Name: Sri Lanka Reduces Import Duty on Maize - Corn for Six-Months Effective August 2023

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Grain and Feed

Prepared By: Thilani Kankanamge, Agricultural Specialist and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies recently introduced a Special Commodity Levy for three agricultural commodities: maize (corn), black gram, and green gram, effective August 18, 2023, for a period of six-months. The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulation in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) No. 2345/64 on August 17, 2023. The introduction of the Special Commodity Levy (SCL) on maize (corn) reduces the import duty assessed on corn from Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR) 75.00 to LKR 25.00 per kilogram. Although the reduction in import duties for corn is welcomed by the international trade, U.S.-origin exports will be minimally impacted as U.S.-origin corn prices currently are higher compared to Indian-origin ones.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Sri Lanka Department of Government Printing website <http://documents.gov.lk/en/exgazette.php>. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Sri Lankan officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge].

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka’s (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies introduced a Special Commodity Levy for three agricultural commodities: maize (corn), black gram, and green gram effective August 18, 2023, for a period of six-months (see, Appendix I). The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulation in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – [Extraordinary \(official gazette\)](#) No. 2345/64 on August 17, 2023.

Table 1. Special Commodity Levy for Maize, Black Gram, and Green Gram.

	<i>H.S. Heading</i>	<i>H.S. Code</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Special Commodity Levy</i>	<i>Existing Import Control Measure</i>
1.	10.05	1005.90	Maize	Rs. 25.00 per Kg	---
2.	07.13		Black gram:		
		0713.31.22	Skinned, whether or not split	Rs. 300.00 per Kg	Licensed and Temporary Banned
		0713.31.29	Other	Rs. 300.00 per Kg	Licensed and Temporary Banned
3.	07.13	0713.31.19	Other - Green gram (Moong)	Rs. 300.00 per Kg	Temporary Suspended

Note: USD \$ 1.00 to Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 326.99 (1 LKR = USD \$0.00305819), November 13, 2023.

New Regulation’s Impact on U.S.-Origin Maize (Corn) Exports to Sri Lanka: The introduction of the Special Commodity Levy (SCL) on maize (corn) reduces the import duty assessed on corn from Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR) 75.00 to LKR 25.00 per kilogram (kg) for a six-month period effective August 18, 2023. Although the reduction in import duties for corn is welcomed by the international trade, U.S.-origin exports will be minimally impacted as U.S.-origin corn prices currently are higher compared to Indian-origin ones.

Even though the SCLs are applicable also to black gram and green gram, the import of these two commodities to Sri Lanka are currently temporary banned (black gram) and temporary suspended (green gram) to protect domestic Sri Lankan producers.

**APPENDIX I. SPECIAL COMMODITY LEVY FOR THE MAIZE, BLACK GRAM,
AND GREEN GRAM**



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ගැසට් පත්‍රය
අති විශේෂ
The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2345/64 - 2023 අගෝස්තු මස 17 වැනි මහසපතින්දා - 2023.08.17
 No. 2345/64 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

SPECIAL COMMODITY LEVY ACT, No. 48 OF 2007

Order under Section 2

01. BY virtue of the powers vested in me under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, do by this order impose in respect of the commodities specified in *Column I* of the Schedule hereto a Special Commodity Levy at the rate specified in the corresponding entries in *Column II* of that Schedule.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column I</i>				<i>Column II</i>
<i>Commodity Item</i>				<i>Special Commodity Levy</i>
	<i>H.S. Heading</i>	<i>H.S. Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	
1.	10.05	1005.90	Maize	Rs. 25.00 per Kg
2.	07.13		Black gram :	
		0713.31.22	Skinned, whether or not split	Rs. 300 per Kg
		0713.31.29	Other	Rs. 300 per Kg
3.	07.13	0713.31.19	Other - Green gram (Moong)	Rs. 300 per Kg



1A-PG 6452 - 431 (08/2023)
 This Gazette Extraordinary can be downloaded from www.documents.gov.lk

02. Importation of Maize, Black gram and Green gram as described above shall be allowed on recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture.
03. The Orders under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 and published in the following *Extraordinary Gazette Notifications* are hereby rescinded with effect from August 18, 2023.
- (i) *Extraordinary Gazette Notification* No. 2321/76 of March 04, 2023 in respect of importation of Black gram (HS Code 0713.31.22 and 0713.31.29)
- (ii) *Extraordinary Gazette Notification* No. 2301/40 of October 13, 2022 in respect of importation of Green gram (HS Code 0713.31.19)
4. The Order of the above shall be valid for a period of 6 months commencing from August 18, 2023 subject to provisions of Sub-Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007.

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and
National Policies.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,
Colombo 01,
August 17, 2023.
EOG 08 - 0207

Attachments:

No Attachments.