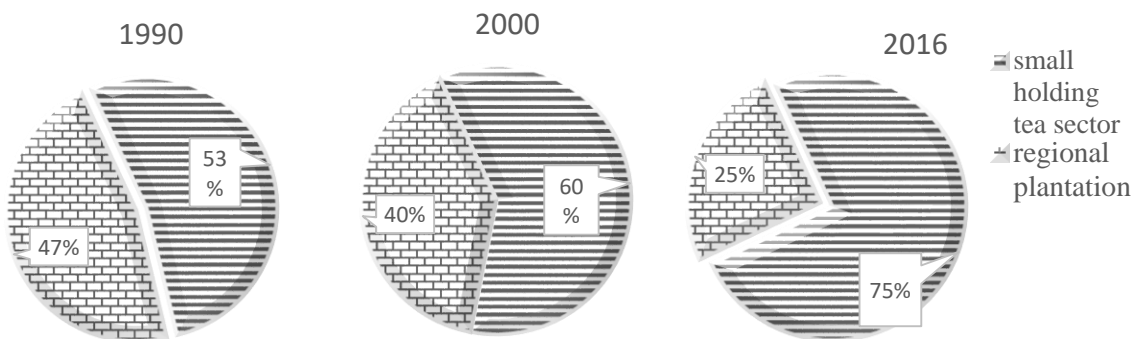


## Results and discussion

According to primary data, the findings showed that 98% the respondents who was mainly Income source of cultivating tea in the study area. 48% tea smallholders have had tea land less than acre of the area. As well as 88% farmers cultivated tea variety of TRI2026. But new variety of tea had not grown in study area. The farmers were able to produce between 100kg and 1000kg per month. High number of farmers in Matara district had basic formal knowledge and knowledge of tea cultivation. 52% tea smallholders applied fertilizer variety of U709. Majority of farmers were used labour own his family. The study results indicated that fertilizer and labour inputs are important resources in increased tea production.

Secondary data were used to examine the present scenario of small scale tea plantation sector in Sri Lanka. Total tea lands in Sri Lanka amounted to 221,968 hectares including 132,329 hectares of tea small holdings as per the census of tea small holdings in year 2005. Accordingly, 59% of the total tea lands in Sri Lanka belong to tea smallholdings sector. Number of tea small holders was 393,420 by year 2015.

Figure 01: National production contribution percentage-1990-2016



Source: Tea Small Holdings Development Authority 2016

Figure 01 illustrated that the Contribution of the tea small holdings to the national economy in year 1991 was 50.3% and it developed gradually until it reached up to 74.5% in year 2016.

National tea production in year 2016 is 292.57 million kilo grams. Compared to the previous year this is a deduction of 36.39 million kilo grams or 11% from the national production. Moreover, the total tea production of tea smallholdings sector has been declined by 21.8% million kilograms that is 9% of the production.