

Note on the 13th Council Meeting

Date: 26 August 2025

Chaired by: Mr. Jagjeet Singh Kandal (IDH)

Attendees:

Representatives from HUL, TCPL, GTTP, ITA, UN Women, and Trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation, including Mr. Daleram Gulia, Mr. Vishwa Bandhu Bhattacharya, Mr. Sandeep Ghosh, Mr. Monoj Das, and members of the Trustea team — Mr. Rajesh Bhuyan, Dr. Antara Bera, Ms. Anandita Ray Mukherjee, Mr. Souvik Santra, Mr. Dipanjan Sarkar, Ms. Tulika Majumdar, Ms. Shivani Agarwal.

Leave of Absence: TRA, UPASI, CISTA, ETP, and ABLTMA representatives.

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks with the acceptance of the last council meeting minutes
2. Executive summary
3. Update on Version 3
4. MEL Study
5. Communication Update
6. IT and Data Security Update
7. V3 Key Updates on Climate Change
8. Chemical Compliance Update & Plans
9. AOB
10. Closing and Next Meeting Date

Discussion Summary:

The meeting began with an Anti-Trust compliance statement reaffirming transparency and ethical collaboration. Updates were presented on organizational restructuring, including the completion of internal team expansion and induction of new staff in finance, HR, and IT.

The certification program progress was reviewed, noting version 3 transition status, onboarding of new audit agencies, compliance challenges, and decertification cases. Discussions also covered energy audits, regenerative agriculture, and potential carbon credit projects.

Anandita presented the MEL Study progress, covering survey plans, timelines, and third-party assurance. Communication updates included enhanced social media outreach, a consumer awareness survey, and webinar engagement.

Souvik provided a detailed overview of the IT governance and data security roadmap, ISO 27001 readiness, and future initiatives like AI integration and improved data protection.

Dr. Antara Bera presented on climate change adaptation within version 3, highlighting regenerative practices and energy efficiency measures. The meeting also discussed ongoing challenges in chemical residue management and the need for stronger enforcement and farmer education.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the progress made and discussion of future directions before closing.