

# NEWSLETTER

April-June 2019 • Volume 1

## From the Director:

It gives me great pleasure to present the first edition of the *trustea* quarterly newsletter. Since the first *trustea* certification event in 2013, this unique sustainability code for the Indian tea industry has indeed come a long way. This successful journey would not have been possible without the support of all stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contribution and belief in our work.

We are committed to uphold the core values of the Code. Going forward, we will share key highlights of the program through this 'Quarterly' to keep you updated on our activities.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request you to visit our website [www.trustea.org](http://www.trustea.org) for more updates about the program, implementation resources and field-level success stories.

We would appreciate contributions from the program members, for the various sections of the newsletter. Send in your comments and submissions for upcoming newsletters to [comms@trustea.org](mailto:comms@trustea.org).

Hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter!

**Rajesh Bhuyan**  
Director, *trustea*

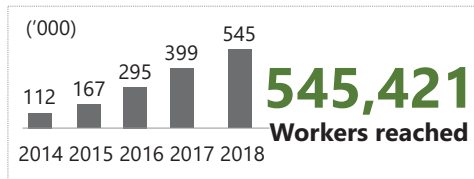
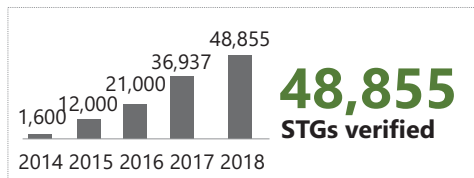
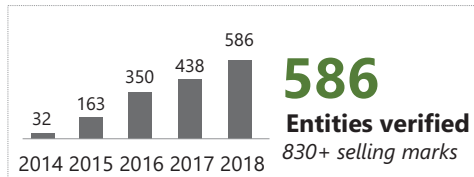
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## PROGRAM UPDATE

*trustea* has verified 608 million kgs of tea till February 2019, which is almost half (46%) of the total tea produced in the country annually. *trustea* has been creating a positive impact by engaging with nearly 49,000 smallholder tea growers, 3 lakh female workers and 2.5 lakh male tea workers, and certifying over 460 estates and bought leaf factories for demonstrating progress and improvements under the good agricultural and manufacturing practices of the *trustea* Code. The Code has reported an 38% year-on-year increase in 2018, indicating a clear transition towards changing production and business practices in the industry.



Total Volume (Mn Kgs)	2018	608	38%
	2017	441	
Total Entities	2018	586	34%
	2017	438	
Total Smallholders	2018	48,855	32%
	2017	36,937	
Total Hectares	2018	2,64,362	16%
	2017	2,27,821	
Total Marks	2018	838	25%
	2017	668	
Male workers	2018	2,41,470	39%
	2017	1,73,590	
Female workers	2018	3,03,951	35%
	2017	2,25,781	
System Assurance Audits	2018	25	05%
	2017	23	

## NEWS AND UPDATES



*trustea* auditors' training program for introducing new auditors  
4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 | Kolkata, West Bengal



Review and Reorientation Program with participation of empaneled CBs  
and representatives from the Commercial Partners and Implementation  
Partners, 4th to 6th February 2019 | Kolkata, West Bengal

### Empanelment Training



*trustea* organized empanelment trainings for the Implementing Partners of the program from April 9-11, 2019. The participants were trained on the *trustea* code and its implementation, along with the evaluation process.

Seven IPs including Tata Trusts, APPL Foundation, EUWS, Food Print, Social Accountability International, AAF India and TRA attended the training and actively participated in the discussions. The training was followed by a visit to a bought leaf factory and some small tea growers' gardens for on-ground understanding of the code implementation.





## EVENT CALENDAR

**09-11**

APRIL 2019

KOLKATA

Interactive Session for  
Empanelment with  
Implementation Partners

**04-06**

FEBRUARY 2019

KOLKATA

Review and Reorientation  
Programme

**04-05**

OCTOBER 2018

KOLKATA

*trustea* Auditors' training  
Programme

## REGULATORY UPDATE

The PPC Code (December 2018, Ver. 10.0) has been revised and can be accessed on [https://trustea.org/pdf/PPC\\_Version\\_10\\_17-01-2019.pdf](https://trustea.org/pdf/PPC_Version_10_17-01-2019.pdf)

The Gazette notification on Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulation related to MRL of pesticide has been uploaded by FSSAI website on 3rd January, 2019. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/home/fss-legislation/notifications/gazette-notification.html>

## CODE CORNER

Committed to continuous improvement, *trustea* constantly reviews the codes to enhance field-level implementation. Most recently, the Code Criterion for Housing and Sanitation has been revised. As per the 9.15 *trustea* Code Criterion, the plantation should provide (permanent) worker (including his family) housing accommodation as per the state or central government guidelines. When a worker (whether staying inside or outside a plantation or a successor of deceased worker residing within the plantation) after six months of continuous service expresses a desire in writing to live in the plantation, he/she shall be provided with housing accommodation. There should be timebound action plan available with the plantations to meet shortfalls, if any.

In the latest revision, the following sub-points in the Code have now been made mandatory:

1. A measurable time-bound auditable plan for the entity on the shortfall of housing with defined annual goals.
2. A measurable time-bound auditable plan for the entity on the maintenance & repairing of the existing houses (annual plan)
3. All families residing in the garden provided quarters should have access to the toilet facilities as per legal requirement in the absence of this the entity should provide an auditable plan with 100% completion with an auditable 3 years' timeline.

The Code can be accessed at: <https://trustea.org/upload/Code Book 2019 v2.pdf>



## PERSPECTIVES

I have been associated with the Tea Industry since 1973 and in these 45 years, the industry has seen a paradigm shift in production yield and quality of tea. While the consumption increased by around 2% annually, effects of climatic changes and increase in pest incidence and diseases lead to a decrease in yields and quality. It became very important for the sector to move forward in a sustainable way – which includes a holistic approach towards creating a positive social, economic and environmental impact in the sector.

I joined IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative in 2013 to support the trustea program, which was launched and co-funded by IDH as the Indian Tea Sustainability program, along with support from the government, industry and supply chain partners, to work with smallholder tea growers, bought leaf factories, estates and packers to address some of the key challenges in the industry including poor working conditions, health and safety of tea workers, water pollution, food safety, soil erosion and contamination. It has been a privilege to be associated with the program for the past 5 years, which has benefited and impacted almost 50% of the Indian producers. More importantly, the behavioral and commercial benefits accruing to small growers and women in particular, that contribute over 50% of the tea industry work force in the most remote parts of our country, has been inspirational.

### **Rohinton Kurus Babaycon**

Local Tea Coordinator

IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative



## TRUSTEA TEAM



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