

NEWSLETTER



From the *Director*

The year has started in right earnest with the setting up the framework to take forward our focus on the assurance system, strengthening capacity building on legally approved chemical usage and demonstrating impact of the program.

Keeping with this, four new certification agencies were onboarded and a batch of new auditors were taken through a face to face three-day long training. This will be followed by a field training to ensure a structured learning prior to actual field audits. In addition, *trustea* has augmented the field training team by coopting experienced personnel to implement a structured and credible assurance system keeping with the values of the program.

On the impact front, *trustea* has commissioned a countrywide Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) exercise by a globally reputed organization. We look forward to an independent evaluation of the program impact with improvement opportunities. We will be reaching out to a broad spectrum of stakeholders as a part of this process to make this study inclusive and representative.

The year gone by saw the launch of climate change focused actions through the implementation of version 3 of the code and this will be taken forward further as more and more entities transition the latest version of the code.

trustea is also intensifying its training and outreach activities on legally compliant use of chemicals in tea. We look forward to the cooperation of the tea production fraternity in this initiative.

Rajesh Bhuyan



Events Calendar

We continue our training programmes in collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) towards responsible pesticide usage, adherence to approved chemicals compliance, usage of chemicals safely for workers and the environment. In January, we trained 346 small tea growers attached to Bought Leaf Factories in Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri (North Bengal) and Biswanath Chariali, Tirap and Tinsukia. (Assam).



Events Calendar

Earlier this month, we introduced a webinar on changes to the *trustea* Standard 3.1.0 which was attended by 140+ of our members & key program stakeholders. Among these, the key takeaways are in the following areas:

1. Improved communication

Members must create an SOP that demonstrates how trade union representatives are engaged in the new policy rollout. Additionally, all new policies must be made available to workers in their language - which is not limited to the state or regional language. This ensures that migrant workers are not excluded from communication.

2. Business ethics

Members have to create a Risk to Business Ethics policy to improve transparency, by disclosing gifts and hospitality, and by stating potential conflicts of interest in vendor relationships, and any breach of ethics.

3. Data Protection

A new policy on data retention and safe and responsible data disposal - for both physical and digital documentation is now required.

4. Livelihoods

All workers - permanent and migrant - must be issued appointment letters with information on working hours, wages, overtime, benefits etc.

Webinar link: [Key changes & insights in Standard Ver 3.1.0 webinar](#)



Events Calendar



Our Feb training calendar reached 284 small tea growers attached to the Jai Jalpesh STG Society. We were able to raise awareness on pesticide use, banned and allowed pesticides and MRL concerns. This training was done with the support of Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Ltd. and was held in Jalpaiguri.

Our training on MRL & responsible pesticide usage in collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Limited extended to 223 small tea growers in Tinsukia, Makum and Moran in Assam, attached to our Bought Leaf Factory members, Deodarshan Tea Co Pvt Ltd., Inthame Tea Co, Lekhapani Tea Co Pvt Ltd., Pengree TE & Pengreegarh Tea Co, Dhansri Tea Ind, Teloiyan Tea Estate and Padumani TE. In North Bengal, we trained 230 small tea growers attached to the Kunta Agro and Evergreen Dooars Tea Pvt. Ltd., in Jadabpur and Jogopur Tea Factory in Jalpaiguri.



Events Calendar

Our Mar training workshops reached out to 105 small tea growers across Chaibari Tea Factory & Swarnalata Farmer Producer Co in Assam. Key discussions were centred around pesticide usage awareness, banned & allowed pesticides and MRL issues. Training was conducted in association with Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Ltd.

Training initiatives on MRL & responsible pesticide usage in collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) extended to 204 small farmers across Assam attached to BLF members, Sewujpur Tea Co Pvt Ltd, Nagahat TE Pvt Ltd, Ananda TE, Keshan Tea Ind & Durga Tea Factory. In Jalpaiguri we trained 147 small tea farmers attached to Kukurjan Tea Factory, Kawagub & Panbari self help group.



Events Calendar

Dr. Antara Bera, Senior Manager, Regenerative Agriculture, *trustea*, was invited to speak in the parallel session at the 8th India Biodiversity Meet. This was held on 24th March at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata (ISI). Dr. Bera spoke about the Trustea Emission Calculator (TEC) funded by Hindustan Unilever Ltd. and developed with in hana Organic Research Foundation (IORF), Kolkata.

The TEC seeks to empower the Indian tea sector by evaluating its sustainability, fostering awareness of critical issues, and establishing a robust framework for assessing the impact of regenerative agriculture practices tailored to tea cultivation. It's the first carbon computing tool designed for the Indian tea sector and acknowledges its diverse agro-ecological zones, varied management practices, and the use of alternative inputs.

This free tool offers a standardised platform for calculating emissions and pinpointing reduction strategies in regenerative tea practices. It accelerates the adoption of sustainable pathways in the agri-food sector, while actively supporting climate change mitigation.

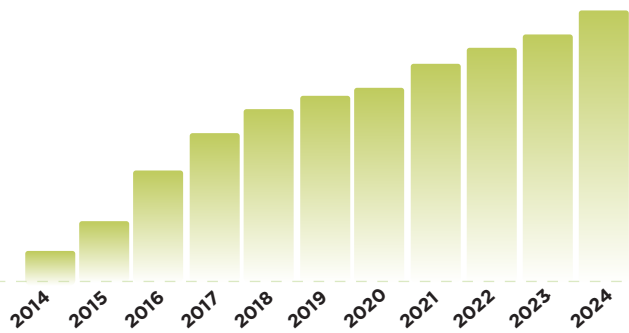


PROGRAM UPDATE



of tea verified on exit Mar '25

YEAR-WISE PROGRESSION OF VOLUME (M KGS)



WOMEN

3,67,178



MEN

2,88,024

WORKERS REACHED



882

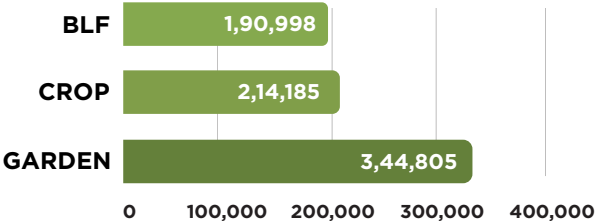
ENTITIES VERIFIED



1,39,937

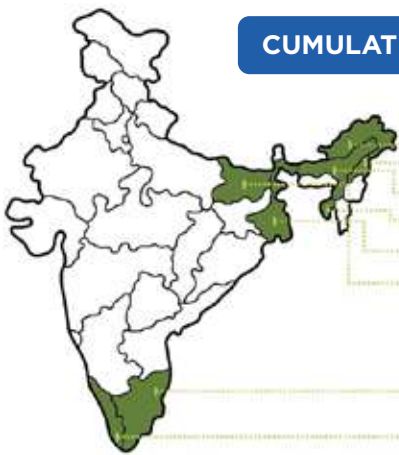
STG'S ADDED

AREA COVERED (in hectares)



Note: The tea garden area include the crop area of the garden and they are not mutually exclusive

CUMULATIVE VOLUME



TOTAL - 970

Note: The depiction of the boundaries in the map is for general illustration purpose only



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helping us reach yet another
milestone on Facebook.**

20K

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