

Mohan Varghese Vice President, Tea Manufacture Kanan Devan Hills Plantation Company Private Limited, (KDHP) Munnar

KDHP is one of the largest tea plantations in South India, with an area of 24,000 hectares, of which about 9,000 hectares is tea plantation, 7,000 hectares of fuelwood plantations and about 6,000 hectares of pristine shola forests that are protected and preserved. KDHP produces close to 25 million kilos of tea – predominantly CTC – every year.

We have been trustea certified since 2015. As a company, we have always believed in the welfare of people and conservation. We have inherited a precious legacy of conservation. The trustea certification came in handy as a third-party to verify and validate what we are doing, and whether it falls in line with global standards, on areas such as conservation, social welfare, and gender equality. These were corroborated by the various third-party audits.

The trustea certification has come in as a recognition for the work the company was and is doing. It is also good evidence to present to consumers.

The trustea code lays a special emphasis on safety, of people and also of food. This was an area where we supplemented and enhanced our actions so that in food safety, we are on par with international standards. Safety of our people also got a thrust.

Tea plantations are located in sensitive ecological areas, and we will all be under the microscope in how we use, protect and waste resources. This is the basis for the sustainability of the planet. Certifications like trustea, to a large extent, show and measure how we meet those sustainability requirements.