



## From the Director

Globally, agri-commodity supply chains are facing an increasing challenge from the vagaries of climate change. There is a pressing need to optimise chemical usage in farming to ensure sustenance of soil quality and crop yields in order to provide food security for an ever-increasing population. Concomitant to this is the overarching goal to reduce the emission of green house gases (GHGs) to combat the impact of global warming. The Indian tea fraternity is also looking at solutions to these challenges.

The *trustea* Code version 3.0, launched in July 2013, has been structured to provide a toolkit for transition to a low carbon tea production regime. The focus is on regenerative agriculture that will lead to healthier soils, improved yields and resilient tea bushes, thereby optimising the use of agrochemicals. The implementation of *trustea* version 3.0 will also provide an action-oriented roadmap for sustainable energy management. These initiatives will give a significant impetus to the lowering of the carbon footprint of tea in India. The *trustea* team and the implementation partners are already in active engagement on the ground to work hand in hand with the tea producers to facilitate a seamless transition to the new version of the *trustea* code.

In partnership with the Indian tea supply chain, we look forward to an exciting new era of tea production in India that contributes proactively to India's net zero emission goals.

The implementation partner personnel are at the forefront of the field outreach of *trustea* across all the tea growing regions in India. In our recently held System Assurance Meet, we introduced the annual award for the Best Performing Implementation Partner. From this issue, we are presenting a new feature named tête-à-tête, offering peek into the persona of the individuals of the implementation teams.

This communication will be richer if we can carry your thoughts and feelings on the sustainability journey of *trustea*. We will be delighted to feature your feedback, ideas and contributions in this newsletter. Do write in at [comms@trustea.org](mailto:comms@trustea.org).

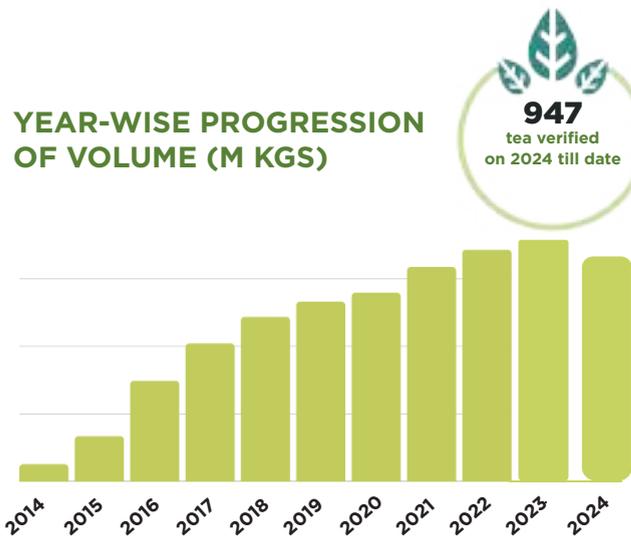
Happy reading!



**Rajesh Bhuyan**

# Program Update

## YEAR-WISE PROGRESSION OF VOLUME (M KGS)



**WOMEN 3,81,883** **MEN 2,99,590**

## WORKERS REACHED



**877**

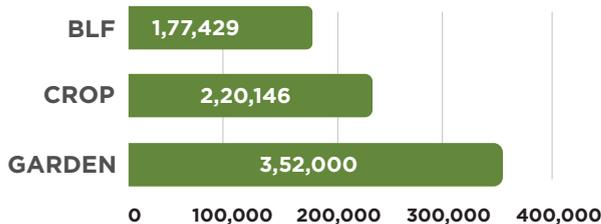
ENTITIES VERIFIED



**1,29,956**

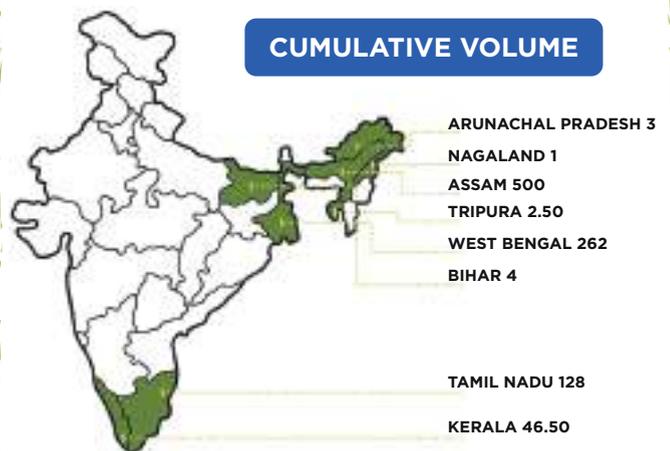
STG'S ADDED

## 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 - 947**

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



# tête-à-tête



**Yuvraj Chettri**

NSFI

**1. What did you do with your first salary ?**

Travelled to Siliguri from my hometown to watch a movie in a movie hall.

**2. What is your favorite cuisine?**

Indian

**3. Who was your first crush?**

Honestly I dont recall

**4. What is your dream holiday destination?**

Dont have a specific destination but want to travel everywhere.

**5. Who is your partner in crime at work?**

Wish had one.

**6. Your favorite place to unwind after a stressful day at work?**

A quiet time by the riverside.

**7. Your biggest achievement in life?**

Yet to come.

**8. Mention one thing that few people know about you?**

I love to sing and play the guitar though I am not very good at it.

# Events calendar

## Training on the Importance of Sustainable Farming



Programme Implementation Manager Mr Sivakumar from South India recently conducted a training on the Importance of Sustainable Farming at **Muttinadu** village in **Coonoor** as part of our GAP and GMP training. The session included information on the framework of sustainable management of tea production, with an emphasis on soil fertility, nutrients, renewable energy resources, carbon credits. Nearly 50 small tea growers from the region attended the session.

## Key changes in Standard Ver 3.0 webinar

On 16 Feb we introduced our members to the key changes in trusteea Standard Ver 3.0. The session was attended by more than 130 participants and it was heartening to see the keen interest shown by them to adopt new practices towards greater sustainability. The link to the webinar is **Key changes in Standard Ver 3.0 webinar**



## STG training



Muktajyoti Baruah, Deputy Manager Program Implementation, North-East India, led the STG training at Shree Shyam Tea Factory, Rupai, Tinsukia. The focus was on the use of fertilisers, the Plant Protection Code, and minimising the use of banned chemicals. This training also included tracetea and its features and how it can benefit small tea growers.

# Events calendar

## Annual Assurance System Review

Our Annual Assurance System Review was held between Feb 28 to Mar 1, 2024 where we hosted all our Implementation and Certification Partners. The 3-day event saw panel discussions, workshops on presentations about the new Code, case studies, quiz, the current needs of the industry and address by our commercial partners. We were happy to present the annual awards to our partners:

Best Implementation Partner 2023: **National Skills Foundation of India**

Runner-up Certification Body 2023: **DNV Business Assurance India Pvt Ltd**

Best Certification Body 2023: **TUV India Pvt Ltd (3rd year in a row)**

Best Auditor 2023: **Mr. Shakeel Jahan from TUV India Pvt Ltd**

**Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all our partners!**



# Events calendar



## A Siliguri press conference

We are pleased to announce our collaboration with CISTA (Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Association) to train small tea growers in North Bengal on sustainable agricultural practices. A press conference was held at Siliguri on 5th March 2024. The joint initiative is towards helping small tea growers to understand environment-friendly agri practices, prioritizing soil regeneration, Integrated Pest Management, use of approved agro chemicals, optimization of chemical input by increasing on-farm production of nature-based inputs. The training will be led by *trustea* experts. The link to the press conference is [Press Conference on sustainable agriculture practices for STGs](#)

## Sustainable agriculture practices workshop



Our first training session for small tea growers in North Bengal was held last week. Over 3 days and 3 locations in the region, we were able to connect with 275 small tea growers. Dr Antara Bera, Sr. Manager, Regenerative Agriculture and Anandita Ray Mukherjee, Sr. Manager, System Assurance, led the training on sustainable agriculture practices focusing on soil health management and pest control. This session was part of the series under the partnership between *trustea* and CISTA to build capability among small tea growers in North Bengal.



# Announcement

Craigmore Plantations Pvt Ltd. in Nilgiris becomes the first estate to initiate implementation of Standard Ver 3.0. Spread over 798 hectares, the company produces about 2.4 Mn kilos of tea and employs 1400 people. Our congratulations to the estate management for their commitment to the welfare of the environment and people while ensuring that their tea meets all the necessary expectations of our Code in safety, cleanliness and quality.





# trustea at work



For more details on the program get in touch at [support@trustea.org](mailto:support@trustea.org).  
To share your contributions for the upcoming newsletter issue drop us a mail at [comms@trustea.org](mailto:comms@trustea.org) or [sarkar@trustea.org](mailto:sarkar@trustea.org).

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