

NEWSLETTER

VOL-23 / JAN-MARCH, 2026

FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

The year 2026 started on a mixed note. The figures released by the Tea Board of India indicated that India produced 1369.98 million kgs of tea in 2025, as compared to 1303.63 million kgs in 2024, an increase of 5% over 2024. What is significant is that the contribution from small tea growers was at 56.7%, up from 54.3% in the previous year, reflecting the pattern of steady rise of their share in Indian tea production.

However, this was also somewhat dampened by the news of severe drought in Assam and West Bengal in the beginning of the year, an indication of the continued impact of climate change. The provisional figures released by the Tea Board of India indicate a 26.8% fall in production in the period Jan - Feb, 2026 compared to the same period in the previous year. It is early days yet and good rainfall in March provided a much needed relief but severe weather events and shift in weather patterns are now being frequently experienced across the tea growing regions in India.

This brings to focus the need for expanding mitigation actions for climate change. It is imperative that Indian tea producers adopt climate friendly strategies like regenerative agriculture and biodiversity preservation and enhancement to improve soil health, strengthen bush resilience and sustain crop yields across large tea estates as well as small tea grower farms.



Rajesh Bhuyan

In Jan we conducted awareness outreach initiatives in collaboration with HUL at Megha Tea Estate (Moran) & Sewujpur Tea Co (Charaideo) where we empowered 51 small holder farmers across Assam. Aside MRL awareness, discussion on banned chemicals, GAP, teaplus and its core features were an integral part of the training.



In Feb across Assam awareness workshops partnered by HUL were conducted at Varun Tradelink Pvt Ltd (Makum) & Salasar Tea Co (Tinsukia) where we reached out to 122 small tea growers. Across Jalpaiguri in West Bengal we interacted with 89 small holder farmers from Unique Born, Tea Tops & Vinayak Leaf. MRL awareness, approved & banned chemicals discussion, PHI cycle compliance, GAP, teaplus constituted key talking points.



In Feb we collaborated with Tata Consumer Products to conduct small tea grower's workshop across West Bengal. We reached out to 257 small holder farmers from Roybari Tea Factory (Roybari), Bajrang Tea Factory (Bidhannagar) & Uttorayon Tea Factory (Jalpaiguri). In Assam we trained 279 small tea growers collectively from Team Afco Pvt Ltd (Dibrugarh), Powai Tea Estate (Tinsukia), Bhadra Tea Factory & Lattakoojan Tea Estate across Golaghat. GAP, MRL awareness, teaplus & its functionality, knowledge on banned chemicals were the key training agenda.

Training for small tea growers

DIBRUGARH, Feb 18: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Tuesday organised a specialised training programme on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and sustainable tea cultivation for small tea growers, at the premises of Teamafco Pvt Ltd in Lahoal. The initiative was coordinated by the Assam Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturers' Association (ABLTMA), with technical support provided by Trustea.

The programme witnessed the participation of over 100 small tea growers, underscoring a growing commitment within the sector to adopt responsible and sustainable agricultural practices. – Staff Correspondent





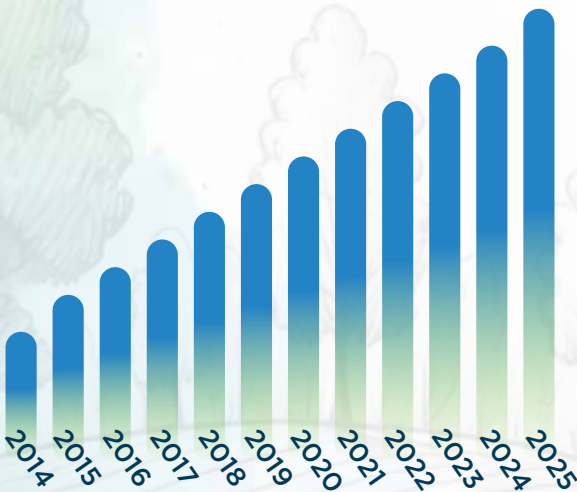
In March we associated with HUL to conduct MRL awareness workshop at Centurion Tea Factory (Chopra) in West Bengal covering 24 small holder farmers. In Assam we trained 153 small holders from Shivani Tea Ind (Dibrugarh), Selengbari Raj Associates (Dhemaji), Hunjyoti Tea Ind (Dibrugarh) & Camellia Tea Ind (Golaghat). GAP, approved & banned chemicals discussion & teaplus demonstration were key training agendas.



In March we conducted an extensive 3-day workshop on standard implementation for our implementation & training officers in Kolkata. The workshop commenced with a team address by Mr. Daleram Gulia from Unilever. The sessions covered deep dive into General Management, livelihoods & safety, climate change management, Monitoring and evaluation, IT & Data Security awareness, legal compliance, group case study, concluding with case study evaluation and felicitation for the top performers. The final day was graced by Mr. CP Navneet from Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Ltd who discussed the challenges faced by the Indian Tea Industry.



1015 MN KGS (Rounded off)
of tea verified till Mar '26



WORKERS REACHED



WOMEN
355,976



MEN
273,942

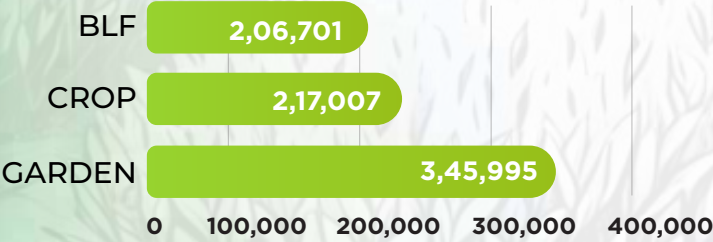
ENTITIES
VERIFIED

907

STG'S
COVERED

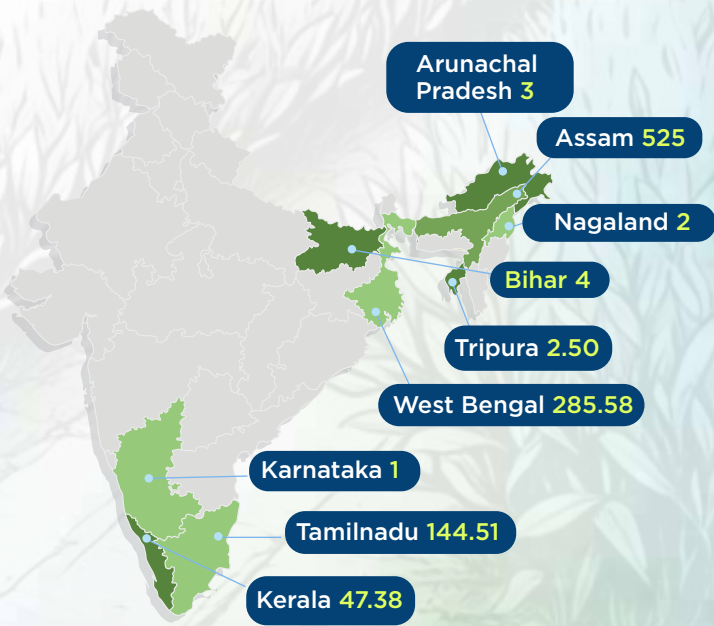
1,52,600

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 - 1015 Mn Kgs (Rounded off)

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



For more details on the program get in touch at support@trustea.org.

To share your contributions for the upcoming newsletter issue drop us a mail at comms@trustea.org or sarkar@trustea.org.

