



From the Director

At *trustea*, we have always believed that knowledge is power. Training forms the most important part of our activities. *trustea* is therefore very excited to have been offered the opportunity by HUL to partner in a large-scale small tea grower training programme on legally compliant usage of chemicals coupled with an introduction to the benefits of regenerative agriculture. The partnership has enabled us to embark on an ambitious programme of training across multiple locations in Assam and West Bengal in collaboration with industry associations and Bought Leaf Factories. We have also launched an app called TeaPlus which will aid farmers and estates with knowledge and live information on weather, soil as well as pest attack history for the specific location of the user. The app has an interesting feature where users can exchange updates and information on how they are managing their farming activities and combating pest infestation. This forum is expected to become a source of knowledge exchange which will be beneficial to the estates and the small farmers towards good agricultural practices for farming inputs that are compliant to the regulatory requirements.

As you may be aware, *trustea* is in the process of transitioning entities to Version 3 of the code. This work is on in full swing across the country. Currently more than 70 entities are actively working on the *trustea* code Version 3 implementation and certification to Version 3 has also started.

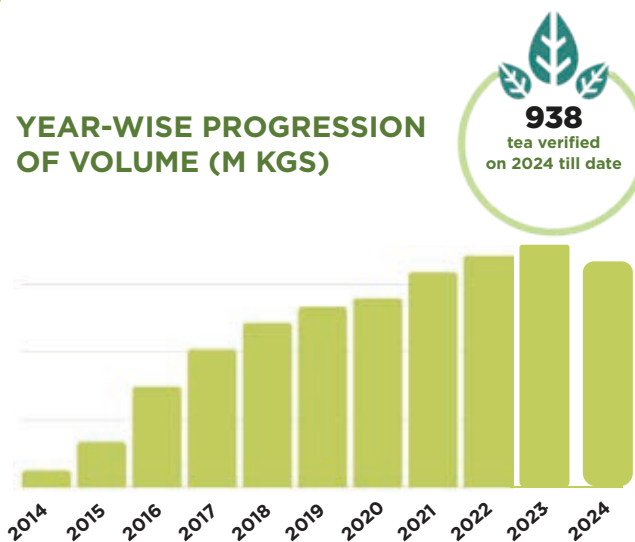
Please send in your contributions on sustainability and *trustea* related topics for publication in the newsletter. We look forward to your feedback on our activities and the newsletter.



Rajesh Bhuyan

Program Update

YEAR-WISE PROGRESSION OF VOLUME (M KGS)



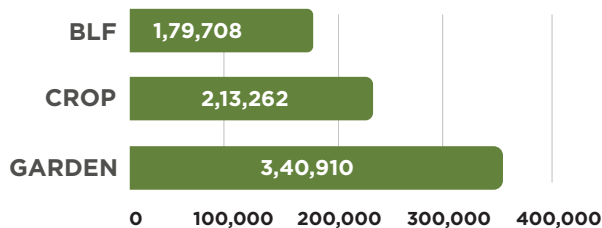
WOMEN 3,68,006 **MEN** 2,88,804

WORKERS REACHED

865 **1,30,297**

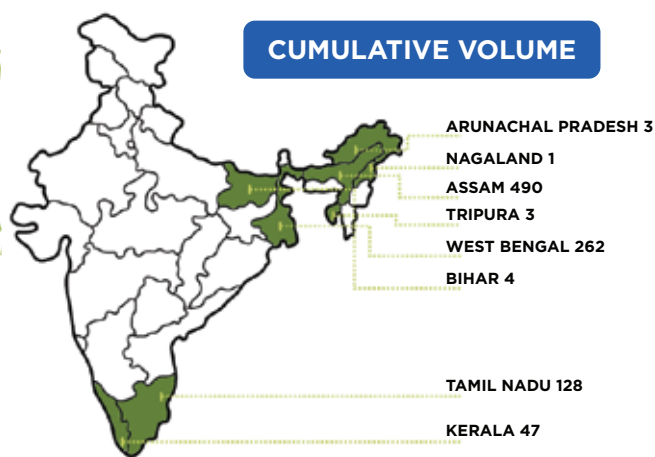
ENTITIES VERIFIED STG'S ADDED

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 - 938

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



tête-à-tête



Deepankar Kalita
Sustainability Consultant, TRA

1. What did you do with your first salary ?

With my first salary, I treated my family to some thoughtful gifts and responsibly set aside a portion for the future.

2. What is your favorite cuisine?

My favourite culinary indulgence includes savouring Garlic Naan paired with Chicken Butter Masala.

3. Who was your first crush?

My first crush, from what I can recall, might have been Sonali Bendre when I was younger.

4. What is your dream holiday destination?

My dream holiday destination is the vibrant city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

5. Who is your partner in crime at work?

When it comes to partners in crime at work, Dipankar Sharma and Rimjim Gogoi from my team are my go-to accomplices.

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

My preferred sanctuary to unwind after a taxing day at work is amidst my loved ones at home.

7. Your biggest achievement in life?

One of my greatest achievements in life is the day I achieved the ability to provide and support my family.

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

A lesser-known fact about me is my talent for singing, which I hold with pride.

Events calendar

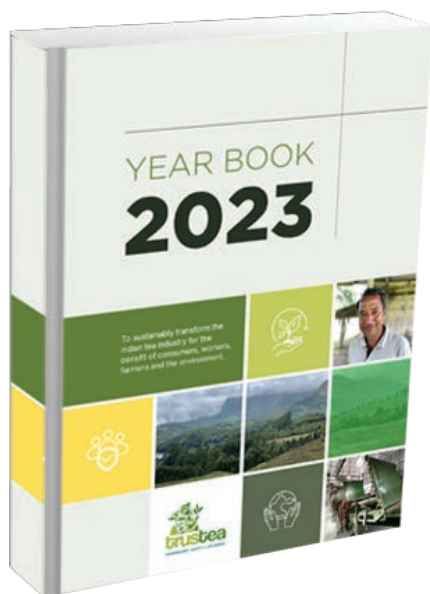


We conducted a day-long virtual interactive transition training on Ver. 3 for gardens in the McLeod Russell Group.

Earlier this month, we were part of a workshop organised by the Assam Bought Leaf Manufacturer's Association in collaboration with the Tea Board of India. They were held on 9th and 10th April at Udaipur near Lekhapani and Pengeri near Tinsukia with 175+ small tea growers from the local community in attendance. The focus was on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices with minimal use of Plant Protection Formulas (PPFs). Among the topics discussed were PPFs that are safer to use in the tea plantations as prescribed in the Plant Protection Code (PPC) and by the FSSAI, along with latest updates on banned chemicals in tea. We provided insights on climate change impact on tea plantations, adoption of regenerative and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) towards sustainable tea farming.



Events calendar



For the last four years, our tradition for International Tea Day includes the launch of our Year Book. This year too, we are happy to announce the launch of **Year Book 2023**. A momentous year, for we completed 10 years since our inception. We have also responded to new challenges and needs of the Indian tea industry and adapted our code to address them. We invite you to read our report and keep up with our activities, as we work with the stakeholders for greater sustainability.

A Happy International Tea Day to all!

We thank ISEAL for inviting us to be a part of the Data Cop webinar hosted on 15 May. It was a great opportunity for us to talk about our tracetea app, built for the Indian tea industry. Our colleagues, Debasish Dutta, IT and Chief Information Security Manager and Anandita Ray Mukherjee, Senior Manager, System Assurance, were presenters.



Events calendar

Anandita Ray Mukherjee, Sr. Manager, System Assurance was invited as a guest speaker in a webinar jointly hosted by Consultants Consortium of Chennai - CCC and Management Systems Consultants Consortium (MSCC), on land restoration, desertification & drought resilience.



We thank the ISEAL Global Sustainability Symposium for their invitation to Rajesh Bhuyan, Director, to speak at the final plenary session, titled Leading the way forward: opportunities for collective action.

Speaking at the event, Mr Bhuyan said, "If those at the bottom of the pyramid feel threatened, they will move out of the system. Where does the value of socially responsible companies come from? We listen to other voices, we listen to voices on the ground, and adjust our strategies."

Events calendar



trustea has embarked on a large-scale training program for small tea growers on the use of approved chemicals in tea cultivation. The program will cover the use of approved chemicals, awareness of banned chemicals, and adoption of integrated pest management solutions. The participants will also be introduced to regenerative agricultural practices which is considered the path ahead towards optimum agrochemical use.

The training program is being supported by Hindustan Unilever Ltd and has been launched in Assam at Ranjuli Tea Co. (19th June), Lakheshwari Tea Factory (20 June) and Hun jyoti Tea Factory (21 June), BL Tea at Golaghat (24 June) and Rajakhat Tea Industries (24 June).

In North Bengal, the training was held at the Uttorayon Tea Factory (24 June) where it was being organized in collaboration with the North Bengal Tea Producers Welfare Association (NBTPWA).

We expect to continue this training series across North Bengal & North East India in the coming months towards raising the standards of tea production.

In focus



Rousdon Mullai Estate in Gudalur is a trailblazer in terms of providing proper sanitation facilities for female workers. They have constructed pink toilets in the plucking areas, equipped with vending machines for sanitary napkins. Having lavatory facilities in plucking areas is a mandatory criterion in Code Ver. 3, aligning with the compliance requirements of the Plantation Labour Act (PLA). This measure is essential to protect the honour and dignity of workers, particularly the female workforce, who start their day early and continue working in the plantation throughout the day.

We appreciate the effort taken by the garden management to provide such arrangements for their workers. This initiative creates a better environment by reducing the negative effects of open defecation in plantations and preventing soil and water contamination.



Achievement

Thank You
10K
followers

We are deeply grateful & thank all our community members in helping us reach a milestone of 10K followers in Meta since its re launch.

trustea at work



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.

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