



IN LOVING MEMORY OF **DEBASISH DUTTA**

JUL 21, 1979-OCT 14, 2024

Our colleague, Debasish, passed away after a valiant battle with critical illness. He was our Head of IT and Chief Security Information Officer but more than that, he was a beloved and respected colleague. He joined trustea in 2019 to lead our tech efforts after about two decades spent working in IT. Within a short span of time, he made significant contributions; several of the applications and tools he has created are pathbreaking in the Indian tea sector. Generous and full of life he was always ready to help others, gently guiding younger colleagues as a mentor and role model. Those who knew him well remember his talent in music he was a lyricist, composer and lent his voice as a playback singer in Bengali cinema. He leaves behind his wife, Ekata Dutta. We miss him deeply and cherish the time we had with him.





"I vividly remember the day in December 2018 when I met Debasish for the first time. He walked in confidently for his scheduled interview. What struck me immediately was his down to earth demeanor and amiable personality. As we spoke about his work journey, we realised that he will be able to bring in a rich and relevant experience fit for the organisation. Thus, he was quickly onboard from January of 2019.

Trustea was then on the cusp of embarking on an ambitious digital transformation. He was the man of the moment-delivering all innovative and operational solutions in a technically sound manner powered by his years of experience in digitisation of systems across various fields.

During his successful stint, he was an active collaborator and prime mover in the teams that worked on number of successful digital assets of trustea as well as the certification to ISO 27001 Information Security and Management Systems.

As all the trustea digital tools required lot of interaction and support for the various end-users like certified entities, certification bodies and implementation partners, he was always on call for operational support and receptive to feedback.

He leaves behind big shoes to fill.

From all of us at trustea, we wish eternal peace for his departed soul. Farewell, Debasish, these few years that we, were acquainted will always be remembered fondly."

Rajesh Bhuyan

“

Debasish Da.. The first thing comes to my mind that now there will be no fun around.. And then no music sharing, no tiffin sharing, no more joking, no brotherly advice, no more friendly fighting, no more philosophical guidance... And so many more 'NO's.. Now only the silence and emptiness prevail.

Anandita Ray Mukherjee

“

Debasish - It was heartening to see his zeal to take up new projects and deliver them successfully, whether it was concerning his office work or the cultural space that consumed a significant part of his life.

Though I have known him for only a short time span we bonded quite well.

Dr. Antara Bera

“

Debasish da was like an elder brother. He had a wicked sense of humor & was a sounding board for a lot of my creative ideas. We connected deeply due to our shared love for music & creativity. It's difficult to fathom his absence & he has left a void impossible to fill. Will miss you dada.

Dipanjjan Sarkar

“

He fought until the very end with a strength that few could ever match. His unwavering willpower and ability to stay strong, even in the most difficult times, taught all of us what true courage looks like.

Muktajyoti Baruah

“

I have been knowing Debasish since 2018 and I found Debasish was a gem of a person. It's a great loss to us, his family and friends.

Avimanyu Kundu

“

I recall how much time we spent together in the last 5 years. You were virtually inseparable. May all your wonderful memories comfort me during this heartbreaking time.

AB Sivakumar

“

Debasish was a truly down-to-earth person with an incredible depth of technical knowledge. He had a unique way of making complex topics seem simple and approachable. Whenever he needed help or wanted to collaborate, he would always reach out with no formality, just a friendly and genuine nature that made him easy to work with. His presence and warmth will surely be missed by everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

May he rest in peace.

Karanpreet Singh Bedi

“

Debasish Da was a wonderful colleague and friend whose kindness and dedication touched everyone around him. Thank you for the countless ways you enriched our lives. You will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

Dipankar Sharma

“

Dear Friend Debasish, Some truths in life are hard to accept. Your memories will never be forgotten !
Rest in eternal peace

Pinkoo Neog

“

Debasish da- I will remember him as a person who always and at any time of the day provides prompt help. His wide energetic smile will always be remembered. Socially active and a talented singer. He will be deeply missed.

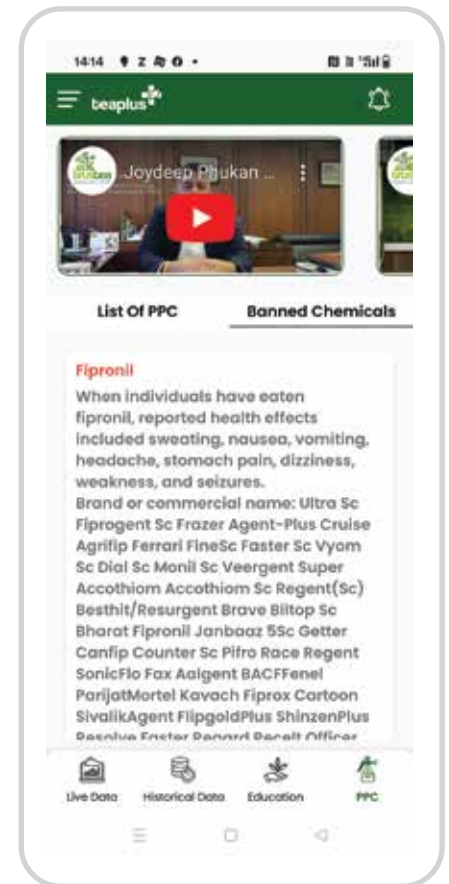
Anuj Bordoloi

“

Mr. Debasish was more than a colleague at trustea; he was a mentor, a true friend, and a constant source of guidance. I deeply miss his presence, and he has left an indelible mark on my heart. I pray that the Almighty grants peace to his kind and loving soul.

Arul Durai S

IT Update



We recently added another tool to our technology interventions for the tea supply chain. teaplus+ is an app which empowers estates and farmers to make informed agricultural decisions. This information is based on geo-location. Farmers can access weather forecast & soil information, change location to see climate & soil data of any location, pest attack history, educational content, annual plantation calendar, PPC guidelines with PHI list, banned chemicals list & it's subsequent adverse effects and utilise the forum to exchange and share experience.

The app is available in **English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali and Tamil**. It is free and **available on Google Playstore and Apple Store** with a one-click registration.

For more information, visit <https://www.teaplusapp.com>

tête-à-tête

1. What did you do with your first salary ?

As much as I remember I gave a treat to my close friends and bought something for my dad.

2. What is your favorite cuisine?

South Indian food specially Biryani.

3. Who was your first crush?

To be very frank she was my classmate in 6th grade and I forgot her name. The next I remember is film star Trisha Krishnan.

4. What is your dream holiday destination?

Road trip in Europe specially in Spain and Italy.

5. Who is your partner in crime at work?

Siva Kumar.

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

Hanging out with friends at home.

7. Your biggest achievement in life?

The way we term achievement is yet to come. However, keeping people's trust on me forever I see as an achievement in today's world.

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

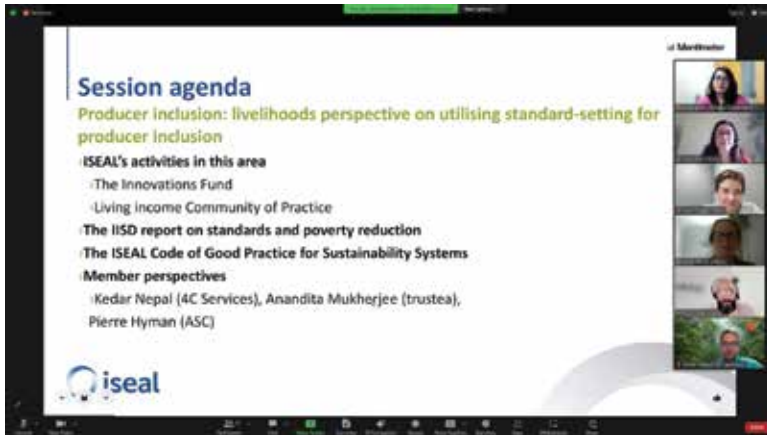
Am a traveller and I love long drives.

Sunil Kumar Devaraj

Field Officer
RGR cell



Events calendar



Anandita Ray Mukherjee, Sr. Manager, System Assurance was invited as a speaker at an ISEAL webinar on Standard Setting Community of Practice. The webinar focused on producer inclusion from a livelihood perspective.

We continue our small tea growers' community support in partnership with **HUL** with focused training programmes in cultivation practices, awareness & responsible application of PPC-compliant chemicals, info on banned chemicals, and introduction to teaplus + & its features. In August, we held workshops & reached out to 263 STG's across Bora & Sona Tea Ind in Hapjan, Tinsukia, Santiprova & Katyani Bev & Agro Products (P) Ltd in Noropara, Jalpaiguri, Srikrishnapur Tea Co (P) Ltd in Islampur, Himalayan Tea & Agro (P) Ltd and Neelkant Tea Co Ltd in Bidhannagar and Kailashgiri Consultants (P) Ltd in Sonapurhat, Uttar Dinajpur.



Events calendar

Similarly in Sept we directly impacted 262 STG's across Vitco Tea & Allied Pvt Ltd, Sukumar Agro Pvt Ltd, Soni Tea Factory, PB Ghosh & Sons Tea Factory, Paragon Growers & Tea Planters Pvt Ltd, Mansarovar Tea Pvt Ltd, Jagshakti Tea & Agro Pvt Ltd and Annapurna Vyapaar Pvt Ltd in North Bengal.



trustea was in focus at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi between 19 & 22 Sept where **HUL** and *trustea*'s sustainability, regenerative agriculture and legal chemical usage training programme partnerships were showcased by **Hindustan Unilever Ltd** in their stall.



Guest Column

Energy Audit: A Path to Sustainability trustea's Call to Action

- S. Arul Durai, Program Manager, RGR

Owners of tea factories often ask, "What are the benefits of conducting an energy audit in our tea factory?" This question, focused on financial and operational advantages, is common among factory owners.

Despite the efforts of *trustea* Sustainable Tea Foundation (tSTF) and its implementation partners to highlight the importance of energy audits, many tea factories remain hesitant and fail to fully understand the sustainability benefits for their operations, society, and the broader community.



trustea, which collaborates with industry stakeholders to elevate the standards of tea producers across the country by working with small tea growers, bought leaf factories, estates, and packers, highlights the following key benefits of energy audits:

- **Cost savings for tea factories:** Identifying areas where energy is wasted helps factories reduce their energy consumption, leading to significant cost savings.
- **Improved efficiencies in the factories:** Energy audits pinpoint inefficiencies in machinery and processes, optimizing production and reducing operational costs.
- **Reduced carbon footprint:** Energy audit in a tea factory can effectively measure and reduce its carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency.
- **Improved environmental impact:** Reducing energy consumption lowers greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to environmental sustainability.
- **Compliance with worldwide regulations:** Many regions have regulations regarding energy use and emissions. An energy audit ensures that factories comply with these regulations.
- **Increased equipment longevity:** Regular audits can identify issues early, preventing machinery breakdowns and extending the lifespan of equipment.
- **Decreased expenses and increased competitiveness:** Energy-efficient operations can lower production costs, making a factory more competitive in the market.

Energy audits are a proactive step towards sustainable and efficient manufacturing in tea factories. As a sustainability certification body, *trustea* ensures that the tea industry contributes to a better world.

In focus



We are pleased to announce that the first certificate for trustea Code Ver. 3 has been issued to Dhandharia Tea Company (Banwaripur Tea Estate). This effort was ably supported by our implementation partner, Tea Research Association (TRA Tocklai) and Certification body, Cotecna. Our congratulations to the staff and management of Dhandharia group.





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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