



#BehindTheCup

Joe Bajar Senior Manager, Leesh River Tea Garden Goodricke Group

At Leesh River, we produce around 15,00,000 kilos of CTC annually. We have a very good reputation in the market.

There are various certifications available, but we chose trustea as it's an Indian certification code, and understands the functioning of the Indian tea industry well. trustea has been helpful in focussing on sustainability and enabling many training programmes.

Some of the key changes we have introduced are:

1. As a company, we are aligned with trustea in areas such as environment protection and people welfare. We have set a target for planting shade trees and fuel trees every year. There are three rivers here and we educate our people to keep the rivers clean, and not contaminate it. Hedges have been planted along the roads so that people are not affected by the drift from spraying. There is no spraying done on the roadsides used by people. We have marked buffer zones between the field and the road. These paths are blocked for 24 hours after spraying so that people are not affected by it.

2. Training has been a significant intervention because of trustea. We have trained out factory workers in safety procedures and conduct regular mock drills.

We have formed a Mother's Club which is made up of women from the estate who are trained by our team to in turn, train women on cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation, health, and workplace rights. Our Blue Angels network teaches women on menstrual hygiene and makes sanitary napkins accessible to women.

3. We have trained and advised our transportation partners in following our garden protocols which includes clean vehicles to avoid any contamination of the tea during transport. We have worked closely with our warehouses so that there is no contamination of our tea while it is stored in the warehouse.

A certification such as trustea is very important as consumers today want a safe cup of tea, which is produced in a garden that takes care of its workers and gives back to the environment. For us, these are just some of the reasons why it's important to be a part of trustea.