

# NEWSLETTER

April-June 2021 • Volume 9

## From the Director:

We are pleased to announce that Trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation has now been accepted as a community member of the prestigious ISEAL Alliance, “the global membership organisation for ambitious, collaborative and transparent sustainability systems”. This is a very cherished milestone for us. trustea now becomes a part of a global platform of the leading sustainability standards. This marks the beginning of the journey that is concomitant with the ISEAL membership process. Going forward, this will also bring in a sharper focus on our continuing efforts to make trustea a future ready and globally benchmarked sustainability program. Together with the program partners, trustea will strive to live up to the expectations that this membership entails.

The COVID situation remains a cause of concern, somewhat easing off in certain tea growing areas while still continuing to have an impact in others. trustea has been focussing on measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the trustea program's on-ground personnel by ensuring all preventive measures, including vaccination. Further, these measures will provide a sense of confidence to the entities during the visits, whenever the situation provides opportunities for on-site handholding activities.

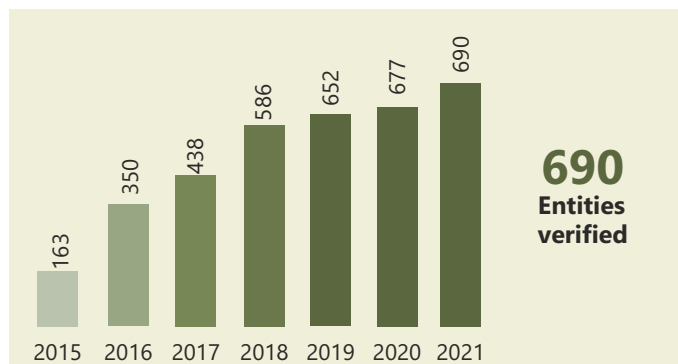
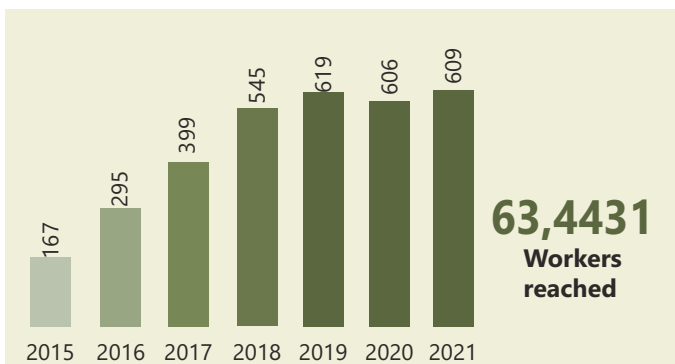
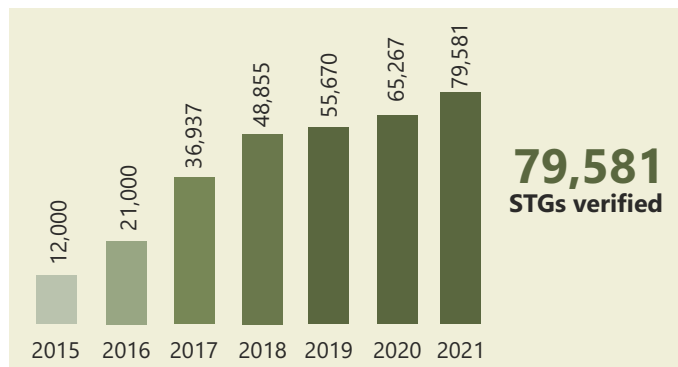
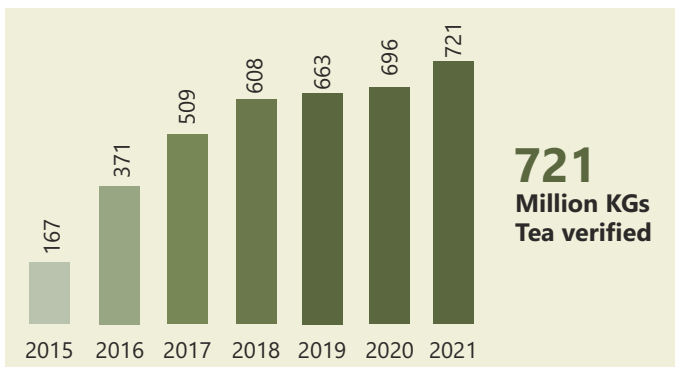
It is encouraging to see that an increasing number of trustea members have opted for the remote audit process that we have launched towards providing continuity of certification for mitigating the adverse impact of COVID restrictions. The implementing and audit agencies have played a proactive role in making this process a success. trustea will continue to look at opportunities providing innovative solutions to facilitate the sustainability journey of the tea industry.

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## Program Update\*



\*Data as of June'21

## Events

### Trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation Fifth Council meeting **30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

trustea organized a day-long virtual meeting for the multi-stakeholder council. The council was apprised about the progress made by the program. Certain approvals were granted by the council to the program.



### trustea auditors training **18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The 2 days' training program for trustea auditors witnessed 24 valued participations from 8 organisations. The empanelled implementation partners Ambuja Cement Foundation, National Skills Foundation of India (NSFI), TRA and certification bodies Cotecna, IMO, CUC, DNV and OneCert took part in this training.



## Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training for the employee 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

An instructor-led virtual training was organised for trustea employees on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH)'. The session was interactive and it included deliberations on various real-life scenarios.



### Code Corner

Traceability is a critical and mandatory tool for meeting the expectations of buyers and end users towards assuring them that a trustea certified entity is indeed meeting the requirements of the sustainability program. Changes have been brought in to the trustea code to ensure a sharper focus on traceability related requirements and compliances, especially in managing the daily small tea grower green leaf procurement process.

The changes are as follows -

#### 1.6 - Mandatory Criteria

The verified facility shall maintain a list of personnel with designated responsibilities to manage different areas of compliance under the code and other applicable laws and regulations. There shall be one coordinator with trustea approved code training qualification for the entire verification process for the holder of verification certificate who will coordinate with other personnel

#### 2.2 - Mandatory Criteria

Records of volume of verified and non-verified green leaves sold / bought are available and regularly maintained. (The daily records have to be maintained for each individual STG in case of both fully verified or partially verified bought leaf factory)

#### 2.4 - Mandatory Criteria

There shall be one person available at the verified facility who shall be made responsible for traceability and will provide a list of verified tea packed and sold by the facility. The organization shall be responsible for traceability and the manufacturing unit should be able to demonstrate the traceability of the green leaf source for the verified tea manufactured by the facility through its actual practices and record keeping – Mandatory criteria point

## Latest Update

### Trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation partnered with Hindustan Unilever (HUL) in the execution of the 'Mission HO<sub>2</sub>PE'; distribution of oxygen concentrators to tea estates' hospitals



In the prevailing scenario of COVID-19, the health and safety of those associated with the tea supply chain is a critical priority. The staff and the workers who keep the wheels of the tea industry moving, small tea growers and the communities adjoining the tea growing areas are exposed to the vulnerabilities of the pandemic. Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), under its project 'Mission HO<sub>2</sub>PE', endeavours saving the lives of people by addressing the requirements of oxygen for those who are affected by COVID. The Mission HO<sub>2</sub>PE initiative of HUL has been extended to the tea growing areas in Assam and West Bengal in partnership with trustea. Being a part of the tea fraternity, trustea is happy to be able to play a partnership role in the execution of the 'Mission HO<sub>2</sub>PE' in the tea industry.

The effort is an enriching one and trustea is blessed to have the opportunity to support a worthy cause, with the support from our partner AFPRO. This initiative covered almost 30% of tea gardens in Assam and around ten thousand beneficiaries (STGs and tea workers) in West Bengal.

## Development and dissemination of animated learning videos in 5 vernacular languages

To facilitate effective learning for Small Tea Growers (STGs), trustea created animated videos in 5 vernacular languages (Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Tamil and Malayalam) on the following topics and disseminated it to the implementation partners, commercial partners, workers, entities including STGs:



These learning materials would strengthen the trustea ecosystem, especially the Small Tea Growers (STGs) by facilitating their comprehension.

[Click here to view and download the respective modules](#)

### trustea's 'Year Book 2020'

trustea is pleased to unveil 'trustea Year Book 2020', depicting the key milestones and events during the year.

Click this link

<https://trustea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/trustea-Yearbook-2020-1.pdf>

to download 'trustea's Year Book 2020'. Thanking you for your valued contributions in the trustea journey!



For more details on the Program, contact: [support@trustea.org](mailto:support@trustea.org)

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