

DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY

SMALLHOLDER WORKSHOPS

STAKEHOLDER GROUP: Small tea growers contribute more than 30% of the total tea produced in Assam. In India, Assam has the largest number of smallholdings (average of one hectare per holding) and growers mainly contribute to the domestic tea supply. Smallholders are therefore an important stakeholder in the tea landscape of Assam.

PARTICIPANTS: Workshops were held with smallholders within the four primary tea growing regions of Assam. A total of 163 smallholder tea growers participated in the workshop.

Date	Tea Growing Region	Location	No. of participants
12 th Nov 2014	North Bank	Rangachakua, Sonitpur	47
18 th Nov 2014	South Bank	Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat	23
3 rd Dec 2014	Cachar	TRA Advisory Centre, Silcoorie	50
12 th Dec 2014	Upper Assam	TRA Advisory Centre, Dikom	43

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: The workshop commenced with an introductory session by the project personnel followed by a written survey in a predesigned questionnaire. Questions were designed to gather information on smallholder tea garden practice, tea production and livelihoods. Workshops and surveys were delivered relative to participants being conversant with the local language; Assamese in North Bank, South Bank and Upper Assam, and Bengali in Cachar. Subsequent to the initial survey, the project personnel presented an overview of the project followed by a discussion regarding environmental issues faced by smallholders, such as pest attacks, water requirements and climate change factors. The workshop concluded with a follow-up survey which asked participants to reflect upon the presentation content and the likely impact on the information on affecting their farming practices.

PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK: Participants were enthusiastic about the project, inquiring about the deliverables and how they are likely to benefit. In Cachar, the Tea Board of India officials were also present at the workshop and expressed their support for the project for overall benefit to small tea growers.

Ethical approval was granted to conduct this research by the University of Southampton Ethics and Research Governance Office: Ethics ID 11950