



**Tea Small Holdings Development Authority**

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தயேிலை சிறு பங்குதாரர் மமேப்பாட்ட, ஆணையம்



# **CAPACITY BUILDING ON** **regenagri** **STANDARDS FOR** **TEA EXTENSION OFFICERS**

**23 AND 24 APRIL 2025**

**TSHDA TRAINING CENTRE  
HANTANA KANDY**

Supported by

**Solidaridad**  **regenagri**

Sponsored by

 **CONTROL UNION**

Organised by

 **Nucleus**  
FOUNDATION

## BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Tea Small Holdings Development Authority (TSHDA) has launched the national “Pivithuru” initiative to improve the quality, productivity, and sustainability of tea production across its smallholder network. This initiative adopts a value chain approach, with regenerative agriculture identified as a key strategy for enhancing soil health, increasing yields, and building climate resilience. TSHDA is working closely with smallholder societies and private tea factories to implement these practices.

As part of this effort, a two-day training program on regenerative agriculture standards has been organised to strengthen the capacity of extension officers from TSHDA and partner tea factories. These officers will play a vital role in supporting smallholders to adopt regenerative practices throughout the tea value chain and prepared themselves for regen agri certification.

The training introduces regenagri—the world’s largest regenerative agriculture certification standard—developed by Control Union and Solidaridad. Regenagri offers a science-based, economically viable framework that supports TSHDA’s long-term sustainability objectives. It also prepares the smallholder network for regen agri certification, improves access to sustainable tea value chains and enhances their competitiveness in premium market segments.

The program is supported by regenagri and Solidaridad, sponsored by Control Union Sri Lanka, and organised by the Nucleus Foundation, Colombo.

### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

**To equip extension officers from TSHDA and private tea factories with the knowledge and skills to support the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices among smallholders, in alignment with TSHDA’s sustainability goals and the RegenAgri certification framework**

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Extension officers gain a clear understanding of regenerative agriculture principles and the RegenAgri certification framework, enabling them to guide smallholders in adopting sustainable practices across the tea value chain.
2. Participants will be able to identify and assess current field-level practices in relation to regenerative agriculture, and implement targeted improvements that align with certification requirements.
3. Plans for rolling out regenerative practices will be developed during the training, and participants will be prepared to disseminate key practices and knowledge among fellow extension staff and smallholder groups.



## RESOURCE PANEL



**Dr Rajesh Dubey**

*Regional Representative regenagri*



**Mr Oshada Kumarasiri**

*Senior Manager Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility/ Senior Lead Auditor*



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இலங்கை தேயிலை ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனம்  
TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA



**Dr Priyanthi Tennakoon**

*Tea Research Institute*



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பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA



**Professor S P Nissanka**

*Professor of Crop Science*



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தேயிலை சிறு பங்குதாரர் மேம்பாட்ட, ஆணையம்



**Mr Saman Rathnayaka**

*Deputy General Manager – Extension  
Tea Smallholdings Development Authority*



**Mr Yajith De Silva**

*Senior Consultant – Plantations Sector*

## PARTICIPANTS



- 26 TSHDA Tea Inspectors,
- Up to 16 extension officers of private tea factories
- Up to 5 progressive smallholders

# AGENDA

## Day 1 - 23 April 2025

- 8.30 am **Welcome and introduction**  
Welcome address – Mr Saman Ratnayake, Dty General Manager Ext. TSHDA  
Opening Remarks – Dr Rajesh Dubey, Regional Representative regenagri  
Opening Remarks – Mr Roshan Ranawake, Managing Director, Control Union Sri Lanka  
Speech by Mr Nimal Udugampola – Chairman TSHDA
- 9.00 am **Session 1 - Brief Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture**
  - Overview of regenerative agriculture: what it is, why it matters
  - Its significance for sustainable farming and climate resilience
- 9.30 am **Session 2 - Understanding the regenagri farm standard**
  - In-depth look at the key modules of the farm standard
  - Understanding the structure and purpose of each module*(Includes Tea/ Coffee break)*
- 12.45 pm Lunch break
- 1.30 pm **Session 2 - Understanding the regenagri farm standard**
  - Continues
- 3.00 pm **Session 3 - Setting up group management system/ Internal Control System**
  - Practical guidance on how to meet the standard's requirements
  - Strategies for adoption across different farming contexts*(Includes Tea/ Coffee break)*
- 6.00 pm End of Day 1



This is a residential training. Accommodation is provided at TSHDA Training Centre, Hantana from 22 April (check-in after 4pm) to 24 April – (check-out at 2.30pm)  
Contact: Mr Isuru +94 76 683 3179

## Day 2 - 24 April 2025

- 8.30 am **Session 4: Contracting, Audit methodologies and certification: Case of Tea Value Chain**
  - Detailed explanation of contracting, audit processes and compliance checks
  - Real-world examples from factories and smallholder farms
  - Mapping value chain actors in alignment with TSHDA's strategy*(Includes Tea/ Coffee break)*
- 11.00 am **Session 5 - Open session**
  - Q&A
- 12 noon Lunch break
- 1.30 pm **Session 6 - Planning for rollout (Region-wise group work)**
  - Group Work: Developing extension and certification support plans
  - Presentations & Discussion: Sharing group outputs and building consensus on next steps
- 3.00 pm **Closing session**
  - Certificate distribution
  - Evaluation
  - Closing remarks*(Includes Tea/ Coffee break)*
- 3.30 pm End of Day 2  
Departure

## WORKSHOP SECRETARIAT

+94 70 355 9474 (Sushila)  
+94 72 880 7035 (Kavindu)  
info@nucleus.lk



www.nucleus.lk  
facebook.com/nucleus.lk