

18 TO 21 MAY 2026

SUSTAINABILITY WEEK



KANDY & COLOMBO SRI LANKA

Organised by

Solidaridad



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Advancing Climate Resilience and Digital Innovation in Sri Lanka's Tea Smallholding Sector

On 20 May 2026, Hanthana became the meeting point for a new conversation on the future of Sri Lanka's tea industry. Solidaridad Asia supported the establishment of a Digital Resource Centre at the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority in Hanthana, Kandy. This initiative was implemented by Nucleus Foundation. The launch of the Regenagri Digital Resource Centre Network brought together government leaders, international partners, researchers, youth and tea smallholders in a shared vision for sustainable tea.

The day combined tradition with innovation. Ceremonial tree planting and the opening of the Hanthana Digital Resource Centre reflected a commitment to greener, more climate-resilient tea cultivation. At the same time, connected centres in Colombo and Galle opened new spaces for digital learning, content creation and farmer outreach.

Technology took centre stage with the unveiling of the AI-powered Regen Tea Hub platform and digital tools designed to support smarter farming, weather monitoring and tea quality analysis. New publications on climate resilience and sustainable transformation added fresh thinking to the sector's future direction.

Youth voices were equally important. Short films and the Tea Fluencer initiative showcased how storytelling, creativity and social media can inspire a new generation to engage with tea cultivation and rural livelihoods.

The conversations continued beyond Hanthana. That evening, sustainability partners gathered at the residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for a networking event that strengthened partnerships and shared commitment to a more resilient and sustainable future for Sri Lanka's tea smallholders.

The Hanthana launch was more than an event—it was a glimpse of a tea sector embracing innovation while staying rooted in community, sustainability and tradition..

Nucleus Foundation, May 2026



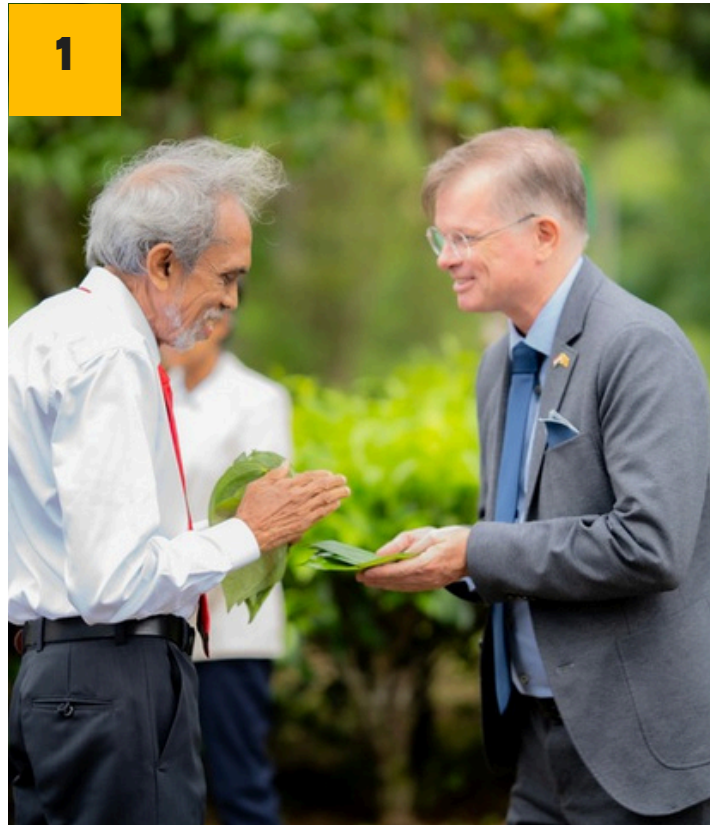
CLIMATE-SMART TRANSFORMATION OF SRI LANKA'S TEA SMALLHOLDERS

The day began with the arrival of guests and participants, The Chief Guest Mr. Iwan Rutjens, Acting Ambassador and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the guests of honour including Mr Gunadasa Samarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, Dr Shatadru Chattopadhyay, Managing Director, Solidaridad Asia, Chairman Regenagri CiC, Ms Shahamin S Zaman, Chair of International Supervisory Board, Solidaridad Network and Mr Andre de Freitas, Executive Director, Solidaridad Network were welcomed by representatives from TSHDA Solidaridad Sri Lanka and Nucleus Foundation. Participants included leaders from government, and Sri Lanka's tea sector.

The celebrations opened with the unveiling of the Regenagri Digital Resource Centre name board and a ceremonial tree planting, bringing together dignitaries, development partners and tea-sector stakeholders in a shared commitment to sustainability and renewal.

The programme also marked the handover of the AgriMet Advanced Agricultural Weather Monitoring System to TSHDA, highlighting the growing role of climate-smart technology in supporting tea smallholders.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opened the Regenagri Digital Resource Centre, where guests explored the new digital content studio and recorded messages of encouragement for Sri Lanka's tea-growing communities. The moment extended beyond Hanthana, with the simultaneous launch of digital resource centres in Colombo and Galle, connected through livestreaming and satellite-enabled digital infrastructure.



CHAIRMAN OF TSHDA WELCOMES THE ACTING AMBASSADOR



CHAIRMAN OF TSHDA WELCOMES THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PLANTATION



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
SOLIDARIDAD ASIA BEING WELCOMED
TO THE EVENT**



**TREES FOR SUSTAINABILITY, TO MARK
THE OCCASION**



**UNVEILING OF THE RESOURCE CENTRE,
A DIGITAL FUTURE OF TEA
SMALLHOLDERS**



**A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOLIDARIDAD
ASIA**

LAUNCH OF THE REGEN TEA HUB – AI-ENABLED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR TEA FARMING

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INTRODUCING THE EQUIPMENT TO STAKEHOLDERS

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PRESENTATION BY PRAMOD JOHN CEO OF DEMATRIX

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PRESENTATION BY ROSMIN VARGHESE, COO OF DEMATRIX

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LAUNCH OF THE NEW APP FOR SRI LANKAN SMALLHOLDERS

The Regen Tea Hub, an AI-enabled digital platform for regenerative tea farming, was officially launched at Hanthana, marking a major step toward digital transformation in Sri Lanka's tea sector. Developed by Demetrix Infotech with support from Solidaridad Asia, and introduced to Sri Lanka by Nucleus Foundation via the TSHDA, the platform strengthens regenerative agriculture practices, improves farm management, and enhances supply chain resilience.

The launch also featured the handover of smart agricultural tools including the Ballotronix Tea Leaf Reader and SoilProbe Instant Soil Analyser, alongside demonstrations of the Regen Tea Hub App and AgriMet system. The platform and tools were handed over to key tea sector institutions for field-level adoption, followed by a live demonstration and training session by the Demetrix Infotech team.

LAUNCH OF PUBLICATIONS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SRI LANKA'S TEA SMALLHOLDER SECTOR



Two important publications were launched to strengthen climate resilience, sustainability, and long-term transformation of Sri Lanka's tea smallholding sector.

1. Resilient Roots Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sri Lanka's Tea Smallholdings: A collection of independently authored technical contributions and
2. Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sri Lanka's Tea Smallholdings: Strategic Pathways for Sustainable Sector Transformation, a policy paper.

Together, these publications aim to inform policy, guide practice, and support collective action for long-term sector resilience. They reflect a shared commitment to evidence-based policymaking and collaborative action to strengthen the resilience of Sri Lanka's tea smallholders in the face of climate change. The publications were formally presented by representatives of Solidaridad, Nucleus and TSHDA/ATA, to a distinguished group of national and international stakeholders.

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COUNTRY MANAGER OF SOLIDARIDAD SRI LANKA PRESENTING THE PUBLICATION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOLIDARIDAD NETWORK

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT,
INNOVATION & LEADERSHIP IN
SRI LANKA'S TEA SMALLHOLDER
SECTOR**

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BY THE DEPUTY AMBASSADOR**

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**MEMBERS OF THE SOLIDARIDAD ASIA
CONTINENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

The session commenced with the welcome address TSHDA, setting the stage for a day of inspiration and collaboration. A key highlight was the premiere screening of the short film “BatTea”, directed by Wasantha Duggannarala, an independent awareness initiative supported by Solidaridad Asia and Nucleus Foundation. The film highlights youth engagement in tea cultivation, sustainable practices, and the role of digital media in strengthening rural livelihoods. The programme also showcased inspiring contributions from the Tea Fluencer Initiative, a youth-led platform promoting regenerative agriculture, good agricultural practices, and digital storytelling for the tea sector.

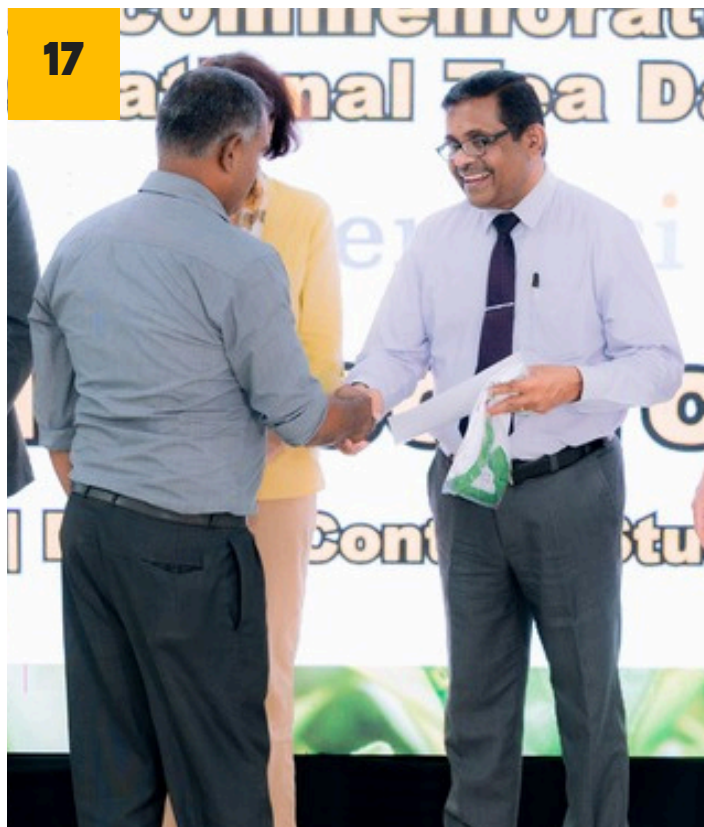
A special segment also introduced the Pivithuru Tea Initiative and Cluster Leaders Programme, strengthening grassroots leadership to promote regenerative agriculture, climate resilience, and digital adoption across tea-growing communities. The event concluded with certificate distribution to Tea Fluencer trainees and recognition of key partners and stakeholders supporting the transformation of Sri Lanka’s tea smallholder sector.

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POPULAR FILM MAKER "DUKA", WHO TRAINED THE TEA FLUENCERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES FOR TEA FLUENCERS

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A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR THE DEPUTY AMBASSADOR

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A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR THE CHAIR INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY BOARD SOLIDARIDAD NETWORK

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS NETWORKING EVENING



Jointly hosted by the Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands and, and Solidaridad Sri
Lanka and Organised by Nucleus Foundation on
20 May 2026



As the day's celebrations drew to a close, the conversations continued in Colombo at the Sustainability Partners Networking Evening. Bringing together partners from government, development organisations, business and the sustainability community, the evening created a welcoming space for connection and exchange.

Against a backdrop of shared purpose, guests reflected on the day's milestones while exploring new ideas and opportunities for collaboration.

More than a networking gathering, the evening celebrated the relationships that make lasting change possible. Conversations centred on sustainability, innovation and collective action, reinforcing a shared commitment to building stronger partnerships and a more resilient future.

The gathering also marked an important moment in strengthening existing partnerships and opening doors to new ones, particularly in support of the re-launch of Solidaridad in Sri Lanka. It highlighted the organisation's continuing collaboration with Nucleus Foundation and the shared commitment of partners to advancing sustainable development and long-term impact in Sri Lanka.



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SOLIDARDAD ASIA CONTINENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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SOLIDARDAD AND NUCLEUS SRI LANKA REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORKING AT THE EVENT



Compiled by

Solidaridad

