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Unilever Commissions Phase II of Research in India on the Feasibility of Non-Pesticide Methods of Plant Protection of Tea Crops

Unilever announced on August 4, 2014 that it had commissioned CABI, an inter-governmental, not-for-profit organization, to conduct an independent scientific study to evaluate the environmental and economic feasibility of applying biological or non-pesticide methods for plant protection of tea crops in India.

We are now pleased to confirm that CABI have developed the field trial protocols after reviewing expert input from literature sources, a wide range of stakeholders and conducting extensive field surveys and are now commencing field work in Assam (Phase II).

Phase II will be led by CABI in partnership with the Tocklai Tea Research Institute (TTRI) and will be conducted on commercial tea estates in Assam, North India and will investigate the effects of novel ecological cultivation practices on the management of pests and impact on the eco system and the tea crop.

The ultimate aim of this work is to develop a toolkit of best practices for the ecological production of tea which will lay down a template for industry-wide application. This is part of Unilever's journey on the Sustainable Living Plan and we will share progress and next steps in due course.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with CABI, the Tea Board of India as well as the wider tea industry to raise the bar on the sustainable production of tea.