



FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED™

FAIR TRADE TEA GARDEN PROFILE

Iyerpadi, India



About the Garden

Date Established: 1898

Number of Teaworkers: 306

Annual Production: 1.55 million kg

About the Tea

Elevation: 1,000 - 1,800m

Type of Production: conventional and organic

Tea Types: Orthodox—Black, White, Oolong; CTC—Black, White, Oolong, Green

Export Channel: Tea Group Exports

“We welcome Fair Trade and we are sure the premium will help lift our community—especially in education and healthcare. We are very happy and hopeful about this.”

—Chinupen,

Iyerpadi tea worker and member of the Fair Trade Joint Body

The Iyerpadi tea garden is located deep in the Western ghats of southern India, in a region known as the Annamallais Hills, or “The Hill of Elephants”. With strong commitments to quality and local ecosystem preservation, Iyerpadi produces a wide range of black, green, Oolong, and white teas. Iyerpadi also produces green tea extracts for a range of global markets.

Since becoming Fair Trade Certified in 2004, the worker community at Iyerpadi has been very excited by the new opportunities provided to them. Collectively, they are making decisions about which projects should be funded with the Fair Trade premiums in a manner that will improve the quality of life in the community. Some of the initiatives under consideration include:

- Improvements in the education system, such as staff training, facility upgrades, and reduced class size. Workers are also considering funding secondary school computer education, viewed as a valuable investment in providing the next generation with skills that are rapidly growing in demand.
- Scholarships in higher education. Such scholarships will facilitate and encourage higher education and will provide avenues for students to secure a brighter future.
- Improvements to health facilities at the tea garden, such as expansion of lab testing services and purchase of modern diagnostic equipment (e.g. ultrasounds, x-ray). Health education is also a potential focus area.
- Construction of a community hall for weddings and other ceremonies.
- Construction of sheltered resting places in tea fields where workers can lunch without being exposed to the elements.