



FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED™

FAIR TRADE TEA GARDEN PROFILE

Koslanda, Sri Lanka



About the Garden

Date Established: 1997

Number of Teaworkers: 596

Annual Production: 80,000 - 85,000kg

About the Tea

Elevation: 670 - 1,158m

Type of Production: 100% certified organic and biodynamic

Land Under Cultivation: 220 hectares

Tea Type: Black

Tea Grades: Pekoe, FP, FBOP, FBOPF, BOP, BOP1, BOPF, OP1, Dust, Fannings, Silver

Export Channel: Maskeliya Plantations Ltd.

The Koslanda Organic Tea Gardens are located in the cool, misty mountains of Sri Lanka's Uva District. This estate, home to 596 workers and their families, has been producing "the green gold of the mountains" since the mid-twentieth century and began selling to the Fair Trade market in 1998.

Koslanda transitioned to 100% organic and biodynamic production in 1992. The estate promotes the recycling of resources through the use of cover crops, inter-cropping, and animal and plant waste recycling. Koslanda not only implements environmentally sustainable methods of production, but also encourages bio-diversity by re-introducing indigenous flora and planting a variety of native products such as spices, coffee, and nuts.

The Koslanda Tea Estate is also committed to building a clean and healthy community for its workers. The plantation has provided transportation to the hospital, new latrines, re-roofing, and scholarships for higher education.

With the premium received from Fair Trade tea sales, Koslanda has continued its community development goals. Koslanda's revenue from Fair Trade sales has been used for:

- The creation of a microlending program. In 2001 and 2002 workers were given loans at 5% interest per year (as opposed to 15% from local banks) in order to purchase 20 gas cookers for the community.
- The purchase of 20 sewing machines in December, 2003. Koslanda expects to have 150 sewing machines issued to workers by the end of 2004.

"Without Fair Trade, nobody would be able to buy sewing machines, gas cookers, and other things that improve our daily lives."

—M. Wimalawathy,
Koslanda worker