

Statement of our tea buying practices Ostfriesische Tee Gesellschaft (OTG)

The OTG is an active and committed member of the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP). We are a family business – part of our identity embodies a sense of responsibility for the next generation and sustainable business management. Values such as family, transparency, foresight, and humanity form the foundation for our staff's daily actions. Our efforts and activities rest on three principles derived from these same values: supporting people, protecting nature and maintaining quality.

Supporting people with holistic engagement at the source.

We do not maintain our own tea gardens and source green and black tea directly from the countries of origin. To offer a diverse product range and continuous new taste experiences, we are dependent on raw ingredients originating from all over the world. This is where our commitment begins: with the people growing and harvesting our tea.

We aim to sustainably improve the living and working conditions for the people at our tea's origin through aid projects and strong partnerships with local producers and suppliers we select according to strict criteria. Based on our social and environmental standards, we establish concrete guidelines and provide support to ensure their implementation.

We also strive to make sure we exclusively use raw ingredients and materials that have been cultivated, collected and produced without any human rights violations. We are aware that protecting human rights at our teas' source is of paramount importance. In our [Declaration of Principles on Respecting Human Rights](#), we commit to fundamental governing principles and define how we fulfill our human rights due diligence. These principles are also reflected in our Code of Conduct, which outlines the requirements to our suppliers, as well as in the superordinate frame work of our parent company, Laurens Spethmann Holding Aktiengesellschaft & Co. KG (LSH) that specifies rules for our own employees.

Protecting nature with certified products.

To ensure that the production of our raw ingredients are produced responsibly, we rely on proven certification organisations such as Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade and their standards. Over the last ten years, these cooperations have enabled us to clearly and continuously increase the share of sustainable raw ingredients for our black, green, herbal and fruit teas, from 10% initially to 70% today. We have our sights firmly set on achieving 100 per cent by 2030.

To achieve even more influence, we combine forces with the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) which we joined as the first large German company in 2012. Today we actively steer the ETP's strategic direction through our participation on the board.



Maintaining quality with thorough auditing and transparent processes.

We stand for transparency throughout the entire production process, high product safety and exceptional quality. Our quality assurance begins at the source. We maintain close contact with our raw ingredient partners and jointly develop methods for them to meet our high quality standards. Once these ingredients enter the laboratory, we rely on state-of-the-art technology. Our products only enter the market once they have fulfilled all of our quality criteria.

With OptiPro, our quality assurance system, we conduct extensive, multi-step monitoring and analyses of raw materials, ingredients and packaging materials. Regular random sampling already occurs during the cultivation stage to ensure the best possible quality of the raw ingredients. With this holistic view of the products, we not only guarantee adherence to German and European standards – we go above and beyond them.

Fostering sustainable change with long-term commitment.

While this statement provides a brief overview of our activities, our efforts extend much further. Detailed information about the different dimensions of our sustainability approach, our work and our projects can be found [here](#).

We are committed to keep on promoting responsible trade throughout the tea market, improve our own practices every day and foster sustainable change along the value chain around the world.

Seevetal, July 2024



Annemarie Leniger, Managing Director

