

# Apeejay Tea, WWF announce impact on HEC management in Sonitpur

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

**GUWAHATI:** Apeejay Tea and World Wide Fund (WWF) India on Friday announced the outcomes of their successful partnership (2015-18) to prevent and manage Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) at select areas in Assam.

It is to be mentioned that the three-year partnership between Apeejay Tea and WWF-India was a first of its kind to support HEC management measures in Assam's Sonitpur district, particularly in the tea plantations.

Announcing the outcomes of the successful partnership with Apeejay Tea, Dr. Dipankar Ghose, Director, Species and Landscapes, WWF-India said, "WWF-India's 3-year long partnership with Apeejay Tea has yielded positive impacts for managing human-elephant conflict in Sonitpur district."

"Through intensive conflict management strategy in the conflict prone plantations, a range of initiatives have been implemented which were found to be successful in reducing losses related to human-elephant conflict," added Ghose.

The result of this three-year partnership has long term significance for both WWF-India as a conservation organisation and for Apeejay Tea as a corporate



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**DR. DIPANKAR GHOSE**

**DIRECTOR, SPECIES AND LANDSCAPES, WWF-INDIA**

partner, an important stakeholder in human-elephant conflict management in Assam. They worked closely in the areas including, Borjuli, Ghoirallie, Dhulapadung and Sessa tea estates located in Sonitpur district.

Low cost solar power fences installed across the Apeejay Tea estates have demonstrated effectiveness in minimizing HEC related loss to human life and property, a concept that has already been adopted by many government and non-government agencies in the state. A scalable bio fence, using thorny bamboo, was

also introduced to prevent the entry of wild elephants into vulnerable areas of the tea garden when ready.

Regular village level meetings and interactions, Anti Depredation Squad orientations and street plays were held to create awareness on elephants and HEC management.

One of the key project outcomes from the 3-year partnership included the reduction in number of human and elephant deaths as 3 elephants and 11 humans died in 2017 as compared to 8 and 16 respectively in the year 2013, in Sonitpur.