



That's Bitter,  
That's terrible!





**T**etley tea, one of the biggest global tea brands, is present in 40 countries and well known for its advertising slogan “That’s Better That’s Tetley”. It is a household name in the U.K through its popular animated characters Tetley Tea Folk.

The harsh reality behind the brand is that workers and their families on tea estates in India owned and operated by Amalgamated Plantation Private Limited that supplies Tetley tea have limited access to potable drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. Their living and working conditions pose serious risks to their health and violate an internationally recognized human right: the right to water.

Seventy years ago, the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights established the right to water as a fundamental and universal human right.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights has included the right to sanitation as forming part of the right to water and the related rights to food and an adequate standard of living.

Workers who pluck the tea that goes into Tetley tea bags do not have access to these rights. These abuses on the plantations from which they source have been brought to Tetley’s attention many times. They have not taken the necessary measures to remedy these rights violations, which makes them complicit.

### **ACCESS TO WATER**

Limited availability of water on Nowera Nuddy, Rungamuttee, Batabari, Achabam, Nahorkutia and Borhat tea estates.

- Where water is provided through taps it is limited to 4 hours a day for over 2 dozen people per tap
- Where wells are provided over 8 families collect water from one well
- Women workers have to wait in queues for up to 4 hours to fill water vessels. This is a terrible hardship for women workers on the estates.
- When women workers arrive late for work because they were collecting water for the family, they are denied work for the day by supervisors. This is a substantial loss of income for the women and their families.

### **HEALTH**

Poor quality of water, polluted water & health risks

- Water provided to workers at the place of work is provided in tanks which are open water sources
- Water collects around the wells and taps and leads to contaminated cesspools for breeding mosquitoes and insects
- Lack of closed drainage in the housing area likewise leads to breeding mosquitoes causing health risks including dengue and malaria

Certification by Rainforest Alliance ignores these realities and allows Tetley to make claims that do not stand up to the reality.

Workers, especially women workers, have formed committees in each plantation. For the past 2 years the committees have held meetings to educate workers on the human right to water and sanitation. Through consultation with workers they have formulated a concrete plan to put to the management and collectively negotiate solutions.

### **WE CALL ON TETLEY**

1. To recognize their responsibility and act to ensure that all tea plantation workers in their supply chain can effectively access their right to water and sanitation.
2. To guarantee that the plantation management engages with the water and sanitation teams in good faith to resolve the human rights violations



N is a tea picker. Before going to the plantation, she spends over an hour standing in queues collecting water for her family and walks for 20 minutes to report for work. If she is 5 minutes late she is denied work and loses the day's income.



A is a tea picker. Before going to the plantation to work for 9 hours A spends 2 hours filling water vessels. After she returns from work she spends another 2 hours collecting water before she has to do other household work.



Rangamattee tea estate: Workers from 8 families collect water from the same tap that supplies water for only 4 hours daily. Women workers have to wait in queues and it takes them 2 hours daily to fill water for the family before going to work and 2 hours after coming from work.

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Achabam Tea Estate: Workers from 4 families collect water from the same tap that supplies water for only 4 hours in a day. Women workers have to wait in queues and it takes them 1.5 hours every day to collect water for the family before going to work and 1.5 hours after coming from work.



Nowera Nuddy Tea Estate: Water is supplied by the company through this tap for 4 hours a day for 6 families. This water is used for drinking and all other uses. Due to lack of drainage water collects around the tap and leads to contaminated cesspools for breeding mosquitoes and insects causing health risks including dengue and malaria

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Borhat Tea Estate: Workers from 4 families fill water from the tap that supplies water for 4 hours in a day. Women workers have to wait in queues and it takes them 1.5 hours every day to collect water for the family before going to work and 1.5 hours after coming from work.

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## **INGREDIENTS:**

- ✓ Poverty wages
- ✓ Abusive working conditions
- ✓ Broken, unsafe toilets
- ✓ Filthy, undrinkable water

## **WARNING:**

**Contains Human Rights  
Violations**