PRESS RELEASE

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Rajith De Mel appointed Managing Director Van Rees Group

Rajith De Mel (48) has been appointed the new Managing Director of Van Rees Group. Van Rees Group, celebrating its 200 year's anniversary this year, is one of the few leading global suppliers and processors of tea and headquartered in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). He will take up his new duties and responsibilities as per 1 July 2019. At present, Rajith De Mel is Managing Director of Van Rees Ceylon in Sri Lanka.

Rajith De Mel joined Van Rees Ceylon 25 years ago and since then he has held various managerial positions within the company. He is a seasoned manager with extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of the tea trade, its sourcing, production and marketing. Until a successor is found, Mr. De Mel will combine his current Van Rees Ceylon responsibilities with his new global role.

Allard Goldschmeding, Group managing director of Acomo, says: "We have asked Rajith to lead Van Rees Group into the next phase of development. Rajith not only brings the right trade experience and leadership skills, but also, he has the right background and sensibility to respond to leading trends in today's markets. Not only with regards to product development but also to being a truly global organisation."

Rajith De Mel succeeds Mr. Paul Ruigendijk who was Managing Director ad interim next to his CFO role. Paul Ruigendijk will continue to be the CFO of Van Rees Group.

Today Van Rees Group, with its headquarters in Rotterdam The Netherlands, has a global network that consists of 12 offices world-wide with exclusive representations in key producing countries. The supply of any tea from any origin to both private and public sectors in many consuming countries has made Van Rees' name well known and synonymous with success and reliability in the tea industry. The company is part of Amsterdam Commodities N.V. (Acomo), the Euronext Amsterdam listed Dutch trading house specialized in spices, tea, nuts, edible seeds and food ingredients.