



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Annual Report 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007

Vision Statement

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna believes in a world that sees the need to live as one family where the environment is preserved and protected, where conscious efforts are made to remove unjust structures while striving to build a just and humane society.

Mission statement

Our mission is to build sustainable human communities in the Darjeeling hills and the adjoining areas by promoting peoples participation, gender equality and living in harmony with the environment.

Goals

1. To promote, facilitate and strengthen people's organisations.
2. To promote organic agriculture and appropriate technology
3. To undertake Development and Environment Education with educational institutions and community based organisations.
4. To provide support to other organisations.
5. To undertake research, development and dissemination on developmental issues pertinent to the Darjeeling hills.

1. Community Development of Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties

Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties are part of the erstwhile Lebong and Mineral Tea Estate which closed down between 1050s and 60s. DLR Prerna's intervention started in 1996 and the community today is organized under the banner of Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative with 450 family members. The SVC was Certified Organic under international standards in 2001 and Fairtrade Labeled in 2003. **It is the first Certified Organic and Fairtrade small farmers collective in the Darjeeling Hills.**

The learning experience of Harsing Dabaipani and Yangkhoo is being taken to other project and partner areas.

Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative activities continued in the year 2006 - 2007:

- a. Small farmers organic green leaf being sold to TPI and through TPI in the International Market as well as locally in Products Himalaya as **small farmers organic fairtrade tea** under brand name "**Mineral Spring**". 31 958 kg of green leaf tea sold.
- b. Skall International Organic Certification inspection and the **producer organic certificate renewed**

c. Fair Trade Labeling inspection – **Fairtrade Certificate with conditions** for legal registration and documented premium utilization plans

d. **Fairtrade Premium** received and used in a decentralized manner based on the FLO fund planning

e. Training

- Finance management
- 2 days Training of Trainers on Fairtrade Labeling Organisations
- Hamlet level awareness on Fairtrade Labeling Organisations

f. **Registration** process initiated under West Bengal Societies Registration Act as Sanjukta Vikas Sanstha. Bye-laws are being developed.

Sanjukta Nari Sangathan(SNS), women’s wing of SVC activities continued in the year 2006 - 2007:

a. **SNS marketing milk and vegetables** in Darjeeling town

b. Training

- Finance management
- Planning

For the first time three women were elected to the Board of SVC this year.

Challenges:

- a. Further decentralization of the collective
- b. Gender equity
- c. Long term vision shared by all the members
- d. Further enhancement of organic farming among all members

2. Community Development of Mamring – Toryok

a. Formation of **Central Committee** with 24 community members and elected PRI representatives. The Central Committee has 8 sub-committees. The central committee is forum for community development.

b. **Training** for nursery development and distribution of start-up material with progressive farmers with 50% of the saplings being tea

c. **Social analysis**, disaster awareness and planning workshops at central committee level. This was followed by sub-committee level workshops.

d. **Exposure visits** to community based disaster preparedness steering committee meeting in Kalimpong promoted by Anugyalaya and field visit to Kankebong.

e. Blood donation camp and awareness on HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and STI undertaken by the central committee

3. Community Development of Chimney – Deorali

a. **Training** for nursery development and distribution of start-up material with progressive farmers with 50% of the saplings being tea

DLR Prerna and Anugyalaya DDSSS will be working in partnership in Mamring-Sittong and Chimney-Deorali.

Challenges:

- a. Continual support from the core team and follow-up
- b. Networking with other organizations working in the area
- c. Further enhancement of organic farming among all members

4. Joint Capacity Building Programmes of the community development programmes:**a. Marketing workshop** in association with ATREE.

Self-help group representatives of Harsing, Dabaipani, Yangkhoo, Mamring –Toryok and Chimney –Deorali along with communities ATREE is working with were facilitated with Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action tool with marketing as the focus intervention in various phases. The participants were facilitated to make an action plan for marketing which included further planning within their own communities.

b. Training on food packaging and processing for SHG representatives in association with ATREE**c. Bio-diversity conservation through organic farming for 82 progressive farmers from Mamring –Toryok and Chimney –Deorali supported by ICIMOD.**

The trainings were conducted in Aapbotay in Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties with farmers living with community members of Aapbotay.

Challenges:

- a. Partner organizations understanding of organic farming
- b. Follow-up after trainings

5. Permaculture Design Course

Rico Zook, Certified Permaculture Trainer conducted a **14 days certified Permaculture Design Course** in Aapbotay, Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties. 16 students International, SVC members, Anugyalaya, DLR Prerna participated in it.

Aapbotay was strategically chosen for its bio-diversity richness, farming intensity and the potential for eco-tourism. The lodging for the students were home-stays and the food cooked by the self-help groups.

The course was followed by physical intervention at Aapbotay as an outcome of the course. This was Audio-visually documented.

Challenges:

- a. A need for a demo-area

6. Organic Inspections

- i. Ambootia homesteads, Kurseong, Darjeeling 100% inspection – small holders growing ginger
- ii. Terai Organic Farmers Association, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal 100% inspection – individual farms growing basmati rice, orange, mentha, peppermint, sugarcane, wheat, basil and methi
- iii. RT Aromatics Pvt. Ltd, Hosiarpur, Punjab 100% inspection and processing factory – individual farms with rose and rose extracts

- iv. J&P Organic Farms, Jalandhar, Punjab 100% inspection – individual farms growing basmati rice, sugarcane, wheat, mustard
- v. Uttaranchal Tea Development Board (Nauti, Ghorakhal and Champawati Tea Estates) – small farmers with lease lands growing tea
- vi. Sutlej Agriculture Pvt. Ltd, Navalgarh, Rajasthan – small farmers with Internal Control Systems growing sesame
- vii. Sutlej Agriculture Pvt. Ltd, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab 100 % inspection – small farmers with basmati rice and sugarcane
- viii. Earthoil Plantation Ltd(Australia) Baraily, Uttar Pradesh – initial project feasibility inspection and ICS training for project staff and lead farmers growing *Mentha arvensis* and Piperetta
- ix. Ambootia homesteads, Mullootar Tea Estate, Kurseong, Darjeeling 100% inspection – small farmers growing ginger
- x. Ambootia homesteads, Kurseong, Darjeeling – Ginger Purchase inspection
- xi. Nagaland – Aloe vera farm inspection
- Passion fruit and tea small farmer growers – project initial inspection

Challenges:

- a. Short notice commitments with strong deadlines

7. Support to Other Organisations

Anugyalaya Darjeeling DSSS

Fr. Valentine Rai took over the Directorship of Anugyalaya from 1st December 2006. The **phase over** would continue till this financial year. DLR Prerna has been given a **Chief Consultant** status by the management of Anugyalaya DDSSS

Challenges:

- a. Phase over from an implementer to a technical partner – roles and responsibilities clarification

Capacity Building support

- a. 4 days Organic farming training for farmers from forest villages of areas where ATREE at Aapbotay
- b. Organisational development for Shanker Foundation Darjeeling Network of Positive People.

Challenges:

- a. Need to develop strategy for structured capacity building support in terms of modules and marketing

8. Development and Environment Education

- a. Organic farming Career Oriented Programme – St. Joseph’s College North Point 15 days
- b. Social Analysis – 3rd Year students of Salesian College, Sonada – 5 days
- c. Social Analysis, Environment and Development, Effective Communication – CICAC
- d. Pitzer College - Darjeeling Issues Profile and Mineral Spring exposure visit.
- e. Where there be Dragons - Darjeeling Issues Profile
- f. Vidya Vikas Academy visit to Mineral Spring

Challenges:

- a. Sustained focused intervention

9. Organisational Developments**Staff:**

- a. Rohin Dsouza has re-joined as of September 2006
- b. Mashqura Fareedi has left us as of 1st December 2006.
- c. Pasang D. Lepcha has left us as of 1st January 2007

Our website is ready <www.darjeelingprerna.org>

Challenges:

- a. Attrition rate high in the past year of core staff

Projects proposals:

- a. The Gates Foundation project proposal has been rejected
- b. The Critical Ecosystems Project Fund proposal submitted and has reached the final stage

Challenges:

- a. Need to network to access larger proposal calls
- b. Short deadlines with a high demand on quality investment on project proposals

9. Papers presented

Mineral Spring, Darjeeling, India, an alternative to closed and abandoned tea gardens – a case study. Regional Workshop on “Exploring Alternatives in Closed and Abandoned Tea Gardens in India” Siliguri, 2 April 2007

10. Future Action Plan

- a. Marketing of Green Vegetables in partnership with ATREE and Anugyalaya DDSSS under the brand name Products Himalaya
- b. Strengthening community development programmes on organics, equity and governance
- c. Develop eco-tourism concept for SVC
- d. Natural Resources Management for Association of Bengal Collaborators for Development as consultants
- e. DEE with focus on Solid Waste Management
- f. Support to Organisations especially Anugyalaya and Shanker Foundation Darjeeling Network of Positive People

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna was instituted by the Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal (DJNB) as Region Community Development Committee (RCDC) to cater to its 'Development Apostolate' after a regional evaluation in 1993.

The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna, though a Jesuit Organisation at inception, has been registered as a secular organisation under the Societies Registration Act of West Bengal XXVI of 1961 as Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna dated 13th March 2001, Registration Number S/IL/2639.

The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has an administrative staff, since 1996, of a Programme Officer, **Roshan Rai**, an Office Co-ordinator, **Ashesh Rai**, a Programme Manager, **Navin Tamang** and **Rohin Dsouza**

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna is a member of the **Darjeeling NGO Network**.

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