



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Annual Report 2009 - 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009

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. Promote, facilitate and strengthen people's organisations.
2. Promote organic agriculture and appropriate technology
3. Undertake Development and Environment Education with educational institutions and community based organisations.
4. Provide support to other organisations.
5. 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 1950s and 60s. DLR Prerna's intervention started in 1996 and the community today is organized with 450 family members. The collective is registered under the West Bengal Societies Act 1961 as "Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikash Sanstha" (MSSVS) S/1L/49564 of 2007 – 2008 dated 9th January 2008. The MSSVS 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.

Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikas Sanstha activities continued in the year 2008 - 2009:

- a. Small farmers organic green leaf being sold to TPI and through TPI in the International Market as well as locally in Life and Leaf as **small farmers organic fairtrade tea** under brand name "**Mineral Spring**". 48 104 kg of green leaf tea sold which made 9738 kg of made tea.
- b. **Fairtrade Premium** received and used in a decentralized manner based on the FLO fund planning. Participatory planning processes was facilitated by trained SVS members and the development plan evolved included Fairtrade premium utilization.

c. 100% internal inspections conducted by two teams of MSSVS representatives supported by Navin Tamang and Sailesh Sharma

d. **Control Union Inspection** May 2008 of MSSVS with development of Approved Farmer List and Internal Control System Control Union format – **Organic Certificate Renewed.**

e. **Fairtrade Audit** – February 2009 of MSSVS – **Producer Organisation for Tea Fairtrade labeled with corrective measures**

f. Training

- Internal Control and Regulations Systems(ICS and IRS) training of trainers. The ICS and IRS training had trainees from 3 TPI small farmers collective partners(Puttong, Subarna and Teesta) besides MSSVS. The TOT was conducted in Aap Botay homestays.

h. **Sanjukta Nari Sangathan(SNS), women's wing of SVC activities of micro-credit continued in the year 2008 - 2009**

Responses to 2007 challenges

a. Continuing support for undertaking hamlet level Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action.

b. Land measurement by Land and Land Reforms Department

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

e. Tea Board registration and registration under the Darjeeling Certified Trade Mark

f. Understanding and complying with Fairtrade Standards.

2. Strengthen civil societies for improved resource management for conservation



Time Period: 3 years

Long-term Goal Statement

Improved status of key floral and faunal species and their habitat in Singhalila National Park through conservation friendly sustainable livelihood practices.

Project Purpose/Short-term Impact

The capacity of communities in the five villages of the buffer zone of Singhalila National Park enhanced to practice sustainable livelihoods and environmentally friendly agriculture that contribute to the conservation of the national park.

Purpose Indicators

1. Change in resource use practices among at least one community group of the project site during the project period of 2 years through adoption of alternative sustainable livelihood strategies.

2. Synthetic agro-chemical use threat reduction through the adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices by 80% of the 5 communities by 3 year of the project.

Activities Undertaken

- Selection of 5 forest villages in consultation with Forest Department (Territorial) and MC member Dr. Sunita Pradhan and the community with series of meetings: (Namla, Gurdung, Daragaon, Bichgaon and Samenden)

- Selection and Training of 3 CA's for 9 days residential in the months of September 08 and February 09 along with field support each month.

- Social, resource mapping and conservation threat analysis of 5 forest village completed.

- Selection of Progressive Farmers (PF) by the community month of October 08

- Training (4 residential days) of PF in the month of November 08 first batch and second batch in the month of March 09 – Total 42 trainees. Graduation of PF had an interaction with the MC and General Body Members of DLR Prerna.
- Support visit to PF with Rico Zook on March 09
- Organic composting training at community level at all 5 villages: March 09
- Traditional knowledge workshop
- Regional coordinator Dr. Salara Khaling's visit to the project area- October 09
- Cross-border visit to Illam District (Nepal) to NGO's working in Kunchanjunga landscape along with VHA Sikkim; October 08
- Trans-boundary visit from Nepal (CEPF counter parts) interaction with forest community at Daragaon community hall; Darjeeling NGO Network members and Mineral Spring visit and interaction with members - January 09

Challenges

- a. Partner with Forest Department
- b. Develop sustainable livelihoods and conservation model
- c. Access to community

5. Organic Inspections with Institute of Marketecology Control, India

- a. Tukdha Tea Estate organic inspection – December 08 (one day)
- b. Nepal Small farmers Tea inspection – April 09 (seven days)
- c. Sikkim organic IMO contract signing with the Sikkim horticultural department – March 09 (one day) May 09 (one day)

Challenges:

- a. Short notice commitments with strong deadlines

6. Support to Other Organisations

Anugyalaya Darjeeling DSSS

Fr. Valentine Rai took over the Directorship of Anugyalaya from 1st December 2006. DLR Prerna has been given a **Chief Consultant** status by the management of Anugyalaya DDSSS. Ashesh continued taking a more direct support role by overseeing the newly appointed Finance Manager Divya Gurung as well as facilitating the monthly meeting and phasing over with funding agencies. DLR Prerna facilitated a development retreat for the core staff.

Challenges:

- a. Phase over from an implementer to a partner

Capacity Building Support

I. JB Continuing Capacity Enhancement Programme

Revisiting Participatory Planning and developing Monitoring and Evaluations Systems workshop facilitated by DLR Prerna.
5th to 9th January 2009 – Singel Tea Garden

Participants from:

Seeyok; Selimbong; Singell; Puttharjhora; Samabeong; Snow View; Banaspaty - Tea Gardens

Puttong Tea Workers Welfare Committee; Subarna Small Farmers Tea Society; Teesta Tea Co-operative - Small Farmers Collectives' Partners

II. Continuing Organisational development for Shanker Foundation Darjeeling Network of Positive People.

III. Team member of “**An assessment of the Regional Forums – CARITAS India**”. Direct assessment of Delhi, Agra, Bhopal and Mumbai Forums and development of the reports.

Challenges:

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

7. Development and Environment Education

a. World Environment Day

The Darjeeling NGO Network in collaboration with Darjeeling Municipality celebrated World Environment Day 2008 in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Mirik with the theme “**Conserve Water, Reduce Your Waste**”

The celebration had a number of thematic discussions, display of information education and communication materials, exposure trips, screening of educational movies and signature campaigns.

5th June 2008

Thematic Discussion – Environmental Science Teachers, Students and Parents.
“Challenges of teaching environmental sciences in the Darjeeling Hills”

6th June 2008

Presentation: **Save the Hills** Campaign – Landslide focus – Retd. Wing Commander Praful Rao

Signature Campaign highlighting need for landslide mitigation measures

7th June 2008

Presentation: **Red Panda and Wildlife Management in Captivity** – Dr. Sunita Pradhan, Senior Scientific Officer, Darjeeling Zoo

Exposure visit to the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.

8th, 9th, 10th June 2008

Solid Waste Management and Walk to the Dumping Chute with demonstration of composting as one of the solutions to solid waste management in the Darjeeling Hills

Environmental Movies were shown

Signature Campaign highlighting need for landslide mitigation measures

Signature Campaign for Save the Mirik Lake

Photo Exhibition on the World Environmental 2008 Celebrations theme

Teaching Learning Materials on the World Environmental 2008 Celebrations theme

Challenges:

a. Sustained focused intervention

Projects proposals:

a. The DM 2009 Climate Change risk reduction proposal has been submitted.

Challenges:

DLR Prerna – Annual Report 2009 <Societies Registration Act of West Bengal XXVI of 1961 as Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna dated 13th March 2001, Registration Number S/IL/2639> www.darjeelingprerna.org

- b. High demand on quality investment on project proposals

10. Future Action Plan

- a. Strengthening community development programmes on organics, equity and governance and conservation
- b. DEE with focus on Solid Waste Management
- c. Support to Organisations especially Anugyalaya and Shanker Foundation Darjeeling Network of Positive People
- d. Increase intervention with forest villages on conservation and development
- e. Fairtrade Standards and Tea Garden Workers and Small Farmers especially TPI group gardens and small farmer partners

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