



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

ANNUAL REPORT 2005 – 2006

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.

Activities of Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna.

I. Community Development of Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties*

Proposed Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative (SVC), Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties*, an outcome of planning by the people and DLR Prerna in 1996 is an organisation with 455 families as members. Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties* lie on the Lebong Spur of the Darjeeling-Jalapahar Range, of Bijanbari Block, Darjeeling.

ACTIVITIES:

- a. **Milk co-operative and consumer co-operative shop**
- b. **Self help groups** with bank linkage for savings and credit
- c. 24 452 kg @ Rs. 27/- kg at the source, **organic green leaf tea** was sold by SVC to Tea Promoters of India Private Limited. The only multi-cropping, co-operative based organic tea sold internationally from Darjeeling since 22nd May 1998.
- d. 10% of farmer members of SVC inspected by IMO India in July 2005. **Producer Organic Certificate** given. **Skal International** inspected SVC in March 2006 and

has been granted **Producer Organic** for tea(green leaves), cardamom, ginger, orange and turmeric.

SVC maintaining organic farm standards under ECC 2092/91, Naturland, Bio-Swiss (EU Standards), National Organic Program (USA standards), and National Program for Organic Production (Indian standards).

e. Fair Trade Labeling Organization included SVC as a partner member, which ensures that the products sold under the label is ethically produced and marketed. The various hamlet committees used Rs. 2,20,000/ of FLO fund for water project maintenance, building of *Tawwa* cum community hall, utensils for *Samaj*, distribution of tea sapling.

g. Capacity Enhancement Programmes

- i. Progressive Farmers - 14 Progressive Farmers
- ii. Peer Educators– 11 Peer Educators
- iii. A training of village heads, including heads of SVC units, representatives of Sanjukta Nari Sangathan (SVC's women's wing) and the community based organizations (samajs), Social analysis focusing on the need for planned development based on empowerment and not just welfare.
- iv. Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (concept and tools).

h. During the strategic planning meeting held in May 2005, the IHD Framework on the proposed Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative was reviewed. On the basis of the review, an evaluation of the proposed Co-operative was held in each individual village unit between the 9th and the 17th of June 2005.

On the basis of the findings of the evaluation, a planning meeting of the Board members of the proposed Co-operative was held on the 13th of September 2005 and a follow up for consolidation was held on the 29th September 2005.

The outcome is that the SVC has fulltime paid secretary and is working towards its registration. TPI and SVC have signed a 5 years agreement.

II. Community development of Chimney – Deorali.

Chimney and Deorali lies on either side of the Old Military Road on the Senchel-Maldhiram Range, one of the great hill ranges, radiating southwards towards Kurseong from the central point, a saddle at Ghoom. Chimney – Deorali comprises of 7 villages in the Kurseong Block.

Activities:

- i. Progressive farmers – 3 Progressive Farmers
- ii. Peer Educators – 7 Peer Educators
- iii. Networking and Linkage building with the BDO office, Kurseong

III. Community development of Mamring- Toryok

Mamring and Toryok lies in the Senchel-Maldhiram Range but more in proximity towards Ghoom. Mamring- Toryok comprises of 7 villages in the Kurseong Block.

Activities:

- i. Formation of a central committee and sub-committees, comprising of representatives of all the CBOs in the area. They form the development co-ordination committee of the area.

- ii. Social Analysis and Appreciative Participatory Planning in Action with the central committee members.
- iii. Selection and training of 2 community animators
- iv. Progressive farmers – 14 Progressive Farmers
- v. Peer Educators – 4 Peer Educators
- vi. Networking and Linkage building with the BDO office, Kurseong

IV. Development and Environment Education

a. Social Analysis in Salesian College 20 X 40 minute classes

Social Analysis theory and practical classes for the IIIrd year students. The contents of the curriculum were partly based on the interest of the students, requests made by the administration and the decision of the organization.

The main topics covered through the theory classes were:

- Globalization (history and impact)
- Evolution of the concept of development/Birth of the NGO Sector
- Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action methodology
- Analysis of local scenario

As part of fieldwork, the students conducted a Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice Survey on HIV/AIDS and STIs in the communities the college is already working in.

b. Career Information and Counseling Centre, Darjeeling

Inputs were given to students preparing for civil services examinations on the following topics:

- Globalisation
- Environment
- Community based disaster preparedness
- HIV/AIDs
- Effective Communication

c. JPIC – Loreto Covent, Darjeeling

The JPIC movement was supported with technical inputs on solid waste management.

d. World Environment Day - 5th June 2005

DLR Prerna along with the district administration, 5 educational institutions and the NGO network members working on the issue of environment celebrated the World Environment Day with solid waste management as the focus. Educational institutions took part with debates; cleanliness drive, signature campaign and awareness walk in town. DLR Prerna's specific activity was in designing the concept note, IEC material and exhibition on waste management including composting/vermi-composting.

e. Internal Control System training - Nepal

Navin conducted an **Internal Control System training** for small farmers co-operative under the Gulmi Coffee Federation, Gulmi District, Nepal from 28th to 31st July 2005. Internal Control System is an internal mechanism for organic farming for small farmers, which is necessary for organic certification.

f. Permaculture Design Course

Rico and Josho, Certified Permaculture Trainers conducted a 14 days Permaculture Design Course in Agri Horti Demo Farm, Pudung. 18 students International, National and Darjeeling students participated in it.

Rico, Josho and Kasey conducted the PDC in Dhanbari, Sikkim for people from Sikkim. This training was unique as the participants stayed with the families of Dhanbari. The Sikkim PDC was financed partly by the Sikkim Government.

g. Pitzer College

Graduate students, from various colleges from the United States of America, who are undergoing a semester in Pitzer College were given an overview of the development history and issues of Darjeeling. They were then taken for an interactive session with SVC, Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo.

h. Where Dragons Be

High School students, from various schools from the United States of America, were given an overview of the development history and issues of Darjeeling.

V. Community planning of Peshok Tea Garden support from SERRV International

Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action (APPA) was undertaken with six communities of Peshok Upper Division.

The process resulted in:

- Identification and Documentation of **baseline information** useful for planning.
- Identification of community **resources and strengths** from the perspective of the community.
- Identification and **prioritization of issues** by the community.
- Formulation of **prioritized action plans** by the community based on existing resources and priority of needs of the community.
- **Delineation of roles and responsibilities** of various members of the communities and external agencies in the prioritized action plans.

Thus, the research was undertaken not only with the objective of providing a field scenario from the perspective of the CBOs to SERRV International to guide its developmental initiatives in the area, but to also help mobilize the CBOs on their own initiative and capacities, towards developmental action through a process of inquiry and planning.

VI. Organic inspection

As an inspector of Institute of Marketecology, India, Navin undertook organic certification inspection in the following areas:

- a. Small farmers of Gujarat growing Senna – 17th to 23rd September 2005
- b. Group certification holders of Punjab, Harayana, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh growing Basmati Rice and Sugarcane – 24th September to 1st October 2005

- c. Small farmers promoted by Uttaranchal Organic Commodity Board at Uttaranchal growing Basmati Rice and Rajma – 17th October to 26th October 2005
- d. Ambootia, Darjeeling – Ambootia small farmers growing Ginger – 19th to 21st December 2005.

VII. DLR Prerna CHAI Project

DLR Prerna is implementing the **Collaboration for Hope and Advancement in India** through a separate set of CHAI Project staff. The CHAI Project works with 24 rural communities in the Darjeeling Hills. The activities are focussed on Community Health, Open Initiatives Projects and have a Youth Component.

VIII. Support to other organizations.

The Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has been providing support services to other organisations especially the Diocese of Darjeeling setting up of the **Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society** and implementing its activities. As of November 1st 2000, Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has been given a contract to co-ordinate the Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society.

Activities with Anugyalaya Darjeeling DSSS attached separately.

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 two Project Officers **Pasang Dorjee Lepcha** and **Mashqura Fareedi**.

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

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