



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Annual Report 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

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. Revisiting DLR Prerna strategic plan. 13 December 2014.

The vision and mission was revisited and was retained the way it is. With organisaitonal learnings in conservation and issues of climate change the organizational goals would be restructured to include conservation and climate change. With increasing complexity of the term organic, the strategy should read sustainable agro-ecology.

Revisited Goals

1. Promote, facilitate and strengthen people's organisations.
2. Promote sustainable agro-ecology 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 with special focus on conservation and climate change.

2. Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikash Sanstha(MSSVS) - Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties

“Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikash Sanstha” (MSSVS) the first Certified Organic and Fairtrade small farmers collective in the Darjeeling Hills, facilitated by DLR Prerna, continued its activities in the year 2014-2015 with the sale of green leaf tea to Selimbong Tea Garden, Tea Promoters India Pvt. Ltd. With the Fairtrade Premium, MSSVS undertook developmental programmes. The Organic and Fairtrade Certificates have been renewed for the financial year based on external audits. DLR Prerna supported in auditing MSSVS finances.

DLR Prerna renewed intervention in partnership with MSSVS:

Pur Project supported plantation of 7500 saplings of fodder, fuelwood species of trees with members of MSSVS.

One World We Share supported agro-biodiversity conservation and increasing environmental consciousness, reintroduced *Uwa*, naked barley; two types of soyabean and coffee. Had one hamlet inception meeting and a board level waste awareness programme.

3. ‘Community-based mitigation of human-wildlife conflict around the Singalila National Park, India’ – 2nd Phase project support from Rufford Small Grants Foundation, UK.



The project partners included five forest villages in the fringe of Singalila National Park: i. Samanden Forest Village, ii. Bich Gaon Forest Village, iii. Dara Gaon Forest Village, iv. Gurdum Forest Village, v. Namla Forest Village

Activities undertaken:

i. Human wildlife conflict (HWC) mapping was continued looking at HWC flows, patterns, history, vulnerability and adaptations.

ii. The data collection on HWC in all the 5 forest villages with a representative selected from each village continued. The cost of data collection was shared with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Eastern Himalaya Programme (ATREE). The 5 representatives continued data collection voluntarily with the Rufford support of this phase ending in the financial year.

iii. Each village strengthened their bio-fences with saplings from tea nurseries.

iv. The forest department supported the bio-fence initiative of Bich Gaon.

Human Wildlife Conflict in the Mountains:

With increasing focus on mountain HWC and the need for collaborative effort brought DLR Prerna and WWF India to address the issue jointly in the Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya

- a. Exposure visit from Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve, Sikkim villages to Singalila National Park and Mineral Spring
- b. Support to HWC consultation in Utteray and Sangkhola, Sikkim
- c. Support to communities of Utteray and Barsey to develop a proposal for inclusion of HWC management intervention under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The interventions included strengthening and developing wire mesh fencing and strengthening them with bio-fences.
- d. The HWC partnership also included sustainable agriculture support to the communities of Sangkhola and Chongri by Sailesh.
- e. Roshan presented 'Narrating human wildlife conflict in the Darjeeling Himalaya - emerging issues and challenges' under Re-imagining the Human-Nature Relationship: focusing North Bengal, National Seminar, 21—22 November 2014, Salesian College, Siliguri Campus

4. Promote zero-waste amongst key drivers of change in Darjeeling Municipality and its immediate neighbourhood with proactive community based organisations January 2013 to June 2014 Supported by Global Greengrants Fund USA



Continued working with the samajs in Rajbari to promote reduction, segregation and importantly home composting. Focussed on an intervention process of door to door promotion of home composting.

World Environment Day June 5 2014

Waste management awareness and action presentations, including community and individual roles, responsibilities and solutions:

- a. CARE, Sonada with Educational Institutions including a rally – Ashesh
- b. Singel Tea Plantation workers– Sailesh
- c. Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikash Sanstha Board and Hamlet Committees– Roshan

With the members of the Darjeeling NGO Network, Representatives of Educational Institutions World Environment Day was observed by watching Annie Leonard's 'Story of Stuff and Story of Solutions' and then discussing a way forward on the solutions bit. Participants were presented the Guide to Zero Waste Events, a work in progress.

Partnered with Darjeeling House of Montessori to develop school gardens for food and flowers.

5. DLR Prerna - CHAI Project

Report is attached as Annexure I.

6. Organic Inspections

Sailesh and Rohin D'souza inspected:

- a. Ambootia and Mallutar Homesteads, Darjeeling-
- b. Shaktikhor, Chitwan, One World Wild, Nepal, Herbs and wild harvest
- c. Sikkim Organic Mission
- d. Gorkha, Nepal

7. Development and Environment Education

a. Resource person for Organic Agriculture and Fairtrade under Food and Agriculture module for Masters in Sustainable Development Practices, TERI University, New Delhi – 7, 8, 9 October 2013 in Mukteswar, TERI Campus with additional field visit to farmers around the campus.

b. Permaculture Design Course

This year, Rico Zook, Certified Permaculture Trainer conducted two, **14 days certified Permaculture Design Course** from 3 to 18 May and from 1 to 16 November 2014 in Aapbotay, Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties. Out of total 28 students; 10 International, 16 Indian Nationals and 2 Darjeeling residents participated in it. Sailesh worked with Rico as under-trainee teacher.

c. Visit by Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Ananda Lee Tan, US and Canada Co-ordinator and Prathiba Sharma, India Co-ordinator, 18 to 20 March 2014 where discussions were held at District Rural Development Cell, SWACH Bharat Abhiyan Team(all 8 Blocks); walk to the Chute and a conversation with MSSVS.

d. World Water Day 22 March 2014.

DLR Prerna collaborated with WWF India and District Rural Development Cell, Darjeeling to observe World Water Day at Chowrasta through presentations, posters and street plays with educational institutions and members of the Darjeeling NGO Network.

8. Khangchendzonga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI)

led by ICIMOD, Nepal, has partnered with a number of organizations in the Indian part of the landscape which includes Sikkim, Darjeeling and part of Jalpaiguri. DLR Prerna continued being part of the India team to draft the India Feasibility Assessment Report and Action Plan with focus on Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. Besides working on the reports, attended a series of workshops and consultations in Nepal, Gangtok and Sikkim. Sailesh and Roshan were part of the DLR Prerna team.

9. Workshops/Trainings Attended:

- a. Zero Waste Himalaya review and plan meeting 1 to 3 May 2014 at Deer Park Institute, Bir, Himachal Pradesh with participants from Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- b. International Terra Madre and Salone del Gusto, Turin Italy. Slow Food Conference from 22 to 27 October 2014. Roshan attended the programme and nominated *Hatey Chia, Gundruk* to the Ark of Taste.
- c. Indian Mountain Initiative, Meeting of Mountain States, Third Edition, New Delhi, 10-11 December 2014, Roshan, presented “Cultivating in uncertainty: small farmer innovation and adaptation in the Darjeeling Himalaya” jointly developed by ATREE, DLR Prerna, Krishak Kalyan Sangathan, Darjeeling Mountain Initiative
DLR Prerna is the secretary of Darjeeling Mountain Initiative.
- d. ‘Conservation and Development Strategy’ and ‘Regional Cooperation Framework’ for Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative - 3 - 4 January 2015 in Chalsa, Jalpaiguri, India organised by The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in collaboration with the Forest Departments of West Bengal and Sikkim, India, and GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) Sailesh represented DLR Prerna.
- e. Workshop for Development of Theory of Change for KLCDI (18-20 February 2015) and the Third Regional Strategic Consultative Meeting on KLCDI (23-24 February 2015) in Kathmandu, Nepal, The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Sailesh attended the workshop and represented DLR Prerna in the consultation.
- f. Regional Consultation on Development Co-operation, Institute of Foreign Policy, University of Kolkata, RIS, FIDC and Ministry of External Affairs Ministry – Kolkata 23 24 March 2015.

10. Future Action Plans

- a. Strengthening community development programmes on organics, equity and governance
- b. DEE with focus on Solid Waste Management, e-waste, zero waste strengthening innovation and expansion into rural Darjeeling
- c. Strengthen conservation and sustainable livelihoods programme
- d. Expand community based HWC management as well as advocacy initiatives through: networking and linkages; lobbying; publishing
- e. Strengthen capacity enhancement programmes on Fairtrade, Permaculture and Participatory Planning.

- f. Climate change adaptation
- g. Agro-biodiversity conservation and slow food
- h. Support to Organisations

11. Note of appreciation

DLR Prerna extends its **gratitude to Rufford Small Grants Foundation UK; Global Greengrants Fund USA; Darjeeling Municipality; District Rural Development Cell, GTA; Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, Slow Food International, ATREE and WWF India** for their solidarity and partnership.

DLR Prerna thanks Rohin Dsouza for his long years of service with the organization and wishes him well for his future endeavors.



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