



Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna ANNUAL REPORT 2003 - 2004

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) Using experience of Harsing work with closed tea gardens as well as *Khasmal*(Government lease hold land) areas to achieve people's organisations and people friendly savings and credit union.
- (2) Promote use of alternative source of energy and appropriate technology within the community Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna works with.
- (3) To undertake development and environment education with the students of educational institutions which are members of the Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna.
- (4) To provide support to other organisations.

Activities of Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna.

I. Community Development of Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties*(Villages), Darjeeling.

Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo *Busties* lie on the Lebong Spur of the Darjeeling-Jalapahar Range and form the major portion of what constituted the Harrison's Tea Estate, which closed in 1952.

Proposed *Sanjukta Vikas* Co-operative (SVC) was the outcome of the participatory survey and planning undertaken by the people and Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna in 1996. It is a people based organisation with 448 families as members. The SVC and Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna work in close collaboration with each other.

a. The oldest activity of SVC – the **milk co-operative** and the Kothi Dhura **consumer co-operative shop** continue in a decentralized, self-sufficient manner with minimal Prerna intervention.

b. One **self help group** encompassing all the 448 member families of SVC, four smaller hamlet groups and ten exclusively women's SHGs continue their activities of savings credit and economic activities based on the credit. The women's SHG have started activities beyond economic activities and are undertaking social issues.

c. 22 782 kg @ Rs. 24/- kg at the source **organic green leaf tea** was sold by SVC to Tea Promoters of India Private Limited which has been processing and selling this as the only multi-cropping, co-operative based organic tea from Darjeeling since 22nd May 1998. The Institute of Market Ecology, Switzerland has given a **Producer Organic Certificate** to 305 members, 75 members under-conversion second year under-conversion, maintaining organic farm standards under ECC 2092/91, Naturland, Bio-Swiss(EU Standards) and National Organic Program(USA standards).

d. Prerna and TPI undertook 100% **Internal Inspection** for organic farming in April and May 2003 where the **Internal Control System and Internal Regulation System of organic farming(ICS & IRS)** was reframed. This is a novel experiment which decentralizes organic farm certification and promotion at the community level. The ICS and IRS enshrines the roles and responsibilities of organic farming at the farmer, hamlet, SVC, Prerna, TPI and IMO levels. It includes individual farm documentation, farm practices, internal and external inspection procedures.

e. **Fair Trade Labeling Organization** included SVC as a partner member. FLO labeling ensures that the products sold under the label is ethically produced and marketed. A percentage of the profit is provided to the primary producers, which was invested by the SVC to buy an office space in Yangkhoo.

f. 5 farmers attended the National Seminar on Organic Farming, Dehradun.

g. Capacity Building Programmes

- i. Organic farming seminar with specific focus on the pilot use of Effective Microorganisms and Bio-dynamic Farming
- ii. Organic farming workshop including animal husbandry for 100 members of the Sanjukta Nari Sangathan (supported by DRDC, Darjeeling)
- iii. 2 days workshop on Social Analysis and Strategic Planning with executive body members 7 *Samajs*(traditional Community Based Organisations) within the geographical boundaries of SVC.

II. Community development of North Tukvar Tea Estate

North Tukvar Tea Estate is one of the oldest tea estates in Darjeeling and lies on the northernmost slopes of Darjeeling District and is 17 km from Darjeeling town. Opposite to it are the slopes of Sikkim and Chota Rangeet River in the valley.

One women's SHG continues its activities but Prerna has not been able to provide any support for expansion due to logistic limitations.

III. Community development of Chimney - Deorali

Chimney – 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 is an important catchment area for the sub-divisional headquarter of Kurseong and also is the source for the River Mahananda which flows through Siliguri, the biggest city in North Bengal.

Renewing our ties with the Megmala Gram Sudhar Samity, Prerna undertook 2 days workshop on Social Analysis and Strategic Planning with executive body members 7 *Samajs*(traditional Community Based Organisations) in the St. John's Jr. High School whose building construction Prerna had helped to raise. This workshop will be the basis of our future intervention for the Community development of Chimney – Deorali.

IV. Support to other organizations.

a. 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. In this contract, Roshan and Rohin have been appointed as the Director and Project Co-ordinator of Anugyalaya DDSSS respectively. Though the contracts have been signed by the two in their individual capacity, the understanding reached is that the Prerna will extend their support and will have the freedom to appoint the staff.

Activities Undertaken through Anugyalaya Darjeeling DSSS.

i. Consultations with lay leaders in the Diocese of Darjeeling (CARITAS India – supported).

Goal: To co-ordinate and collaborate development activities of the diocese.

ii. Animation for Community Development (CARITAS India – supported).

Based on the experiences of Prerna in Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo the projects envisages to improve the socio-economic conditions of the communities, Maria Busty; Gitdubling; Kankebong-Pringtam of Kalimpong sub-division, Mamring-Sittong of Kurseong sub-division and Martam of Sikkim, through animation towards people's organisation. 36 Self Help Groups have been formed. SHGs linked with financial institutions, undertaking activities beyond savings and credit.

iii. Primary School Teachers Training of CRS supported schools (CRS India – supported)

Goal: To promote quality education which is joyful based on activity oriented teaching learning methods and on the local environment.

Activities:

- Formation and Capacity building of Local Resource Team.

- 50 primary school teachers from 24 schools participated in the first phase 10 days training. The local resource team facilitated the training in Nepali.

- Three cluster resource centres with 18 schools formed in Darjeeling, Gitdubling and Kalimpong.

iv. Animation of Community Based Organisations of Darjeeling Municipality Area (CARITAS India supported)

Goal: Animate the CBOs of Darjeeling Municipality towards self sufficiency and unity.

- Additional activities initiated by the CBOs with activities being savings and credit, consumer co-operative, water co-operative, solid waste management (composting, vegetable gardening, bio-gas and blood meal production)

v. Relief and Reconstruction of Mirik (CARITAS India and CRS Kolkata supported)

- This was part of the relief and reconstruction project at Mirik in which basic home amenities to restart the lives were given to 98 families and 11 houses reconstructed. In this project Anugyalaya worked jointly with the Central Relief Committee, Mirik and the Mirik Block Office who have ensured that the major part of the reconstruction process is complete.

vi. Eco-Watch Group, Darjeeling (US-AEP supported)

Goal: To promote a clean green and healthy Darjeeling Town.

Objectives: To act as a forum for voicing concerns and suggestions of the citizens on critical environmental issues and to promote constructive dialogue with the administration and initiate public awareness campaigns.

b. Capacity Building Support

1. Prerna and Anugyalaya undertook block level capacity building programmes for Block Officials and Panchayat Pradhans on Self Help Groups at all the Blocks within the Darjeeling Gorkha Autonomous Hill Council in partnership with the District Rural Development Cell.

2. Prerna developed teaching learning materials on Self Help Groups which were used in the training programmes. They are: SHG conceptual background, SHG promoters manual, SHG promoters manual for facilitation. A SHG self-evaluation chart was also contextualised and improved for the Darjeeling Hill context. The SHG conceptual background is in English while the rest are in Nepali with pictorial representations which can be used as flip charts.

3. Prerna developed a basic training programme on organic farming. It covers basic skills of soil management, compost making, pest and disease management, use of effective micro-organisms, bio-dynamic farming and animal husbandry. The content also has systems of organic farming: farm diary, agricultural calendar, Internal Control and Regulations Systems for organic certification.

Papers presented:

1. Small Farmers Organic Tea, Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative – A Case Study on Equity And Rights in the Management of Common Property Resources. Paper presented in "Policy advocacy for enhancing equity and rights in the management of common property resources in the Hindu Kush Himalayas ". ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal- 5th to 7th August 2003
2. Small Farmers Organic Tea, Sanjukta Vikas Co-operative – A Case Study Organic Farming in Hills. - Initiative from Darjeeling, West Bengal. National Seminar on Organic farming for Indian Mountain States 24th-26th Nov,2003 at IGNFA, Auditorium, FRI Campus, Dehradun.
3. 73rd and 74th amendments and the environment in the Darjeeling Hills – a Qualitative Perspective. Paper presented on “Sensitisation of Local Self Government Representatives and Officials on Environmental Law” organized by Law Department, North Bengal University, 24th May 2003

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. RCDC’s mandate was to evolve and help implement suitable strategy for human development in the Darjeeling Region. Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna will work with the Jesuits and its partners, religious and lay though not exclusively.

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**, two Programme Managers, **Navin Tamang** and **Rohin D’souza**.

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

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