



**Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna**  
**A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 0 4 - 2 0 0 5**

**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* (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 455 families as members. The SVC and Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna work in close collaboration with each other.

**SVC ACTIVITIES:**

**a. Milk co-operative and consumer co-operative shop**

**b.** One **self help group** encompassing all member families of SVC and ten exclusively women's SHGs continue their activities

**c.** 18,608 kg @ Rs. 24/- 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1998. From March 2005, price of green leaf tea has been increased to Rs. 27/- kg.

d. 100% of farmer members of SVC were inspected by DLR Prerna and TPI. 10% of farmer members of SVC inspected by IMO India. **Producer Organic Certificate** given to 390 members, 5 members under-conversion first year, 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. 1 lakh FLO fund in a decentralized manner.

**g. Capacity Building Programmes**

- i. In-field training of 15 farmers with specific focus on EM and BD Compost preparation and application.
- ii. An experiment with a marginal farmer, Ms. Binita Rai, with 35 decimal land holding, is being undertaken to improve the soil nutrition with BD, EM composting to promote intensive farming.
- iii. An experiment with a medium farmer, Mr. Thulay Tamang, with 1.2 hectares land, in all types of BD preparation application is being undertaken. Mr. Tamang has all the crops that are grown in the area.

**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. Village level planning in the Transboundary Conservation Landscape in the Kangchenjunga Complex.**

Kangchenjunga landscape in the Eastern Himalayan region spreads over a wide spectrum of ecological zones in eastern Nepal, Darjeeling and Sikkim of India and western Bhutan. The Transboundary landscape comprises of twelve protected areas covering about 6,000 sq km, however missing connectivity between majorities of them. It forms a part of one of the 25 Biodiversity Hotspots of the world. The landscape is subjected to great stress of land-use transformation and continues to face multiple threats.

The concept of Transboundary protected area management gained international impetus when managers and researchers began to realize that the existing parks and protected areas **'cannot exist in isolation as islands' and development and conservation must go hand in hand.**

DLR Prerna was the co-coordinating and nodal agency for the village level planning in the Transboundary Conservation Landscape in the Kangchenjunga Complex in the Darjeeling Hills with 9 NGO partners. Specifically, DLR Prerna, Darjeeling Earth Group and Project SERVE, WWF-India undertook the village level planning between the Sanchel Wildlife Sanctuary and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in the villages of Chimney, Deorali, Mamring, Sittong I, II and III.

#### IV. Development and Environment Education

Development and environment education programme is being conducted since May 2004 with specific intervention focus on solid waste management with the schools within the Darjeeling Municipality. The intervention methodology is the use of an AV Documentary titled, 'A New Beginning...' a documentary on waste management in the Darjeeling Municipality area. The documentary is followed by a discussion, which is facilitated towards an action plan. The action plan focussing on individual, school and community action. The action is based on primary segregation and storage followed by recycling or composting. Till date 15 educational institutions 1 Samaj, Community Based Organisation, have been covered with 57 screenings.

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2004 7 schools, Project SERVE WWF India, Darjeeling Earth Group and DLR Prerna, jointly celebrated World Environment Day.** The day was marked by open debates and theatre amongst participating schools in the town square – Chowrastra, 1<sup>st</sup> screening of 'A New Beginning ...' for Heads of Educational Institutions and Tree Plantation in Senchel, the catchment of Darjeeling Town.

#### V. 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.

#### VI. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2000, Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna has been given a contract to co-ordinate the Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society.

#### Activities undertaken through Anugyalaya DDSSS

##### a. Animation for Community Development

##### i. Geographical Location:

##### Rural: - 2000 onwards – CARITAS India supported

- Nimbong, Pabringtar, Suruk, Samthar, Yangamakhum, Kankebond, Pringtam, Lolay, Gitdubling, Tanyang, Mirik (Algarah), Maria Busty, Todey and Pudung. – Kalimpong Sub-Division

##### Urban: - 2001 onwards – CARITAS India Supported

- Darjeeling Municipality

##### ii. General Activities:

- Facilitate, promote and strengthen **people's organisation** including promotion of **SHGs**.
- Community **socio-economic development** initiatives

- **HIV/AIDs awareness and stigma reduction – 2004 onwards CRS India Supported**

### **iii. Specific Activities:**

#### **Rural:**

- **Community Based Disaster Preparedness – 2004 onwards CARITAS India supported**
- **Organic Agriculture Promotion - 2004 onwards CRS India Supported**

#### **Urban:**

- **Solid Waste Management**

### **b. Education – 2003 onwards CRS India Supported**

#### **Goal:**

Promote quality education, which is joyful, based on activity oriented teaching learning methods and on the local environment.

#### **Activities:**

- Trained 50 primary school teachers form 24 schools
- Clusterisation of primary schools and formation of 3 clusters with 3 resource centres

### **VI. Papers Presented**

**i. Relevance of Organic Farming in the Darjeeling Hills - an overview**

**ii. Panchayat Raj and Development – A Darjeeling Perspective.**

**iii. Rural Credit and Development in Darjeeling**

The three papers were presented in the Darjeeling NGO Exposition with the theme **“Participatory development process in the Darjeeling Hills”** 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004, Gymkhana Club Complex, Darjeeling organised by the Darjeeling NGO Network

### **VII. Capacity Building programmes attended**

**i. Bio-Dynamic Basic and Advance Course, Kodaikanal – Bio Dynamic Association of India and New Zealand, attended by Navin Tamang and Rohin Dsouza**

**ii. Rain Water Harvesting – Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, attended by Pasang D. Lepcha.**

## **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 13<sup>th</sup> 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** and three Project Officers **Pasang Dorjee Lepcha**, **Priyanka Pradhan** and **Mashqura Fareedi**.

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

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