



## **Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna**

### **Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

#### **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. 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 2013-2014 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. MSSVS undertook its own 100% internal inspection for organic farming.

DLR Prerna as a team is renegotiating intervention strategies in partnership with MSSVS to enable the collective to address emerging issues like climate change, solid waste management and agro-biodiversity conservation.

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



The pilot project was expanded to include these 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 undertaken looking at HWC flows, patterns, history, vulnerability and adaptations.
- ii. The data collection on Human HWC of the pilot project was expanded to all the 5 forest villages with a representative selected from each village. The cost of data collection is being shared with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Eastern Himalaya Programme (ATREE).
- iii. Each village in partnership with the project resources, undertook strengthening of bio-fence based on human wildlife conflict flow and vulnerability analysis. These bio-fences in the five forest villages were evaluated in November 2013 and they measure: Namla -550 metres; Gurdum FV - 850 metres; Bich-Gaon - 550 metres; Dara-Gaon - 800 metres and Samanden - 600 metres. The bio-fences have an average survival rate of 70% at the time of the evaluation. The vegetative material for the bio-fence was sustainable extracted from the forest with support and permission from the forest department. It was supplemented by 5000 tea saplings.
- iv. Tea nurseries have been set up in each village so that the bio-fences can be strengthened further. Along with the tea nurseries 3 nurseries have been set up for a more diverse range of saplings.
- v. Chirata (*Swertia chirata*) a crop not affected by wild life and with a high medicinal market value has been successfully planted in Samanden enabling communities to experience crop alternatives.
- vi. The team has been converging action on HWC with World Wide Fund for Nature, India-Khangchendzonga Landscape Programme (WWF-KL), and ATREE in terms of data generation in the landscape and placing the issue at various platforms like the Khangchendzonga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI), Indian Mountain Initiative(IMI) and the Forest Department. At the IMI, Sustainable Mountain Development Summit 3, Kohima, Nagaland we incorporated a section on HWC in the paper, *Forest of Darjeeling – a need for intersectoral, participatory and transboundary management*. We also incorporated HWC in the India Feasibility Report (draft) for KLCDI under the chapter Environmental Issues and Climate Change.

**3. 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



Darjeeling with an extractive tourism industry was made aware of its waste and responsibility. Innovative possibilities of waste reduction was explored for example, plastic cups and shampoo sachets. The project had a strong knowledge and capacity enhancement component.

An inception and sensitisation meeting was held with the Darjeeling Municipality elected representatives and based on the meeting took forward more awareness programmes with *samajs* in Rajbari and Old Kutchery Road and Milan Busty to promote reduction, segregation and importantly home composting. A Councillor (Ward Number 25) of the Darjeeling Municipality was also leveraged to start home composting.

**Reduction of shampoo sachets at Chitray, Lebong car wash.** Each car uses at least one shampoo/detergent sachet when it gets washed and the sachets gets thrown into the *jhora*. An average of 100 sachets are thrown everyday. Vice-Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality launched the initiative on 5 June World Environment Day 2013 to reduce the sachets with a refillable washing liquid. The car wash owners were sensitized and motivated by linking them to the supplier for refillable washing liquid in Siliguri

**Club Side Taxis with a waste bag** was launched by the Vice-Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality and Board members of DLR Prerna. This was undertaken after sensitization workshop with the Club Stand Drivers Association. Total bags distributed till date 400 bags were distributed and the Club Side Drivers Association are till date maintaining the waste bin that was distributed as part of the programme.

**Capacity enhancement of student leaders** from 9 schools from Darjeeling Municipality on managing their waste through home composting and urban gardening. The sessions were held in Loreto Convent over a period of 4 weekends and integrated a broader discussion and skills on managing waste, appropriate technology, principles of zero waste and permaculture including home composting.

There project also looked at working with mass media coverage and publishing articles.

#### 4. Electronic Waste (e-waste) Campaign – III Phase

Supported by Toxics Link, New Delhi and Nokia India



Solid waste including electronic-waste(e-waste) issues are increasingly becoming pertinent globally and the Darjeeling Hills with change in type and increase in waste. In this increasing waste world-wide, e-waste is the fastest growing waste in the industrialized nations. No longer can we roll our waste downhill but need to evolve strategies to manage our waste effectively and responsibly.

Nokia, Toxics Link New Delhi, DLR Prerna, Friends of Trees Forum, Eco-Tourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim and WWF-India, Khangchendzonga Landscape Programme, Sikkim came together to create awareness among school children on environment, focusing on e-waste and recycling. The program provided an opportunity to students increase their knowledge about waste and contribute in this environment campaign by recycling their e-waste responsibly. The awareness has interactive sessions along with an E-waste recycle bin placed in school premises for a week (or an agreed period) allowing school children to recycle mobile phones, batteries, and chargers. The collected e-waste was handed over to an authorized E-waste recycler through Nokia. Even though the project had an e-waste focus, the interaction was placed within the milieu of larger waste management issues within the Global and Darjeeling Hills perspective. 55 schools were targeted but covered only 31 schools in this phase of the project due to the political situation in Darjeeling Hills.

#### 5. DLR Prerna - CHAI Project

Report is attached as Annexure I.

#### 6. Organic Inspections

##### **Rohin and Sailesh inspected:**

- a. Gorkha, Nepal
- b. Himali Vikash Sanstha, Sikkim
- c. Mevdir Sikkim Organic Mission II, Small Holders Horticulture
- d. One World Wild (Himalayan Bio-Dynamic Trust)
- e. Jayshree Spot Check, Kolkata Packaging and Blending Unit
- f. Ganges, Jute Factory, Kolkata

**Total Number of Days: 41 Days**

## 7. Development and Environment Education

### a. World Environment Day June 5 2013

With the members of the Darjeeling NGO Network, World Environment Day was observed with these three events:

- i. Reduction of shampoo sachets at Chitray, Lebong car wash, launched by Vice-Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality to reduce the sachets with a refillable washing liquid.
- ii. Club Side Taxis with a waste bag was launched by the Vice-Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality and Board members of DLR Prerna.
- iii. A discussion was organised on, *De-mystifying “Chokho Pani” as the interface between Society, Religion and Environment in Darjeeling*, at Darjeeling Goodwill Centre with Faith Based, Community Based Leaders and Civil Society Representatives.

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

### c. Internal Control Systems for organic farming training

Sailesh and Rohin facilitated a capacity enhancement workshop for Beautiful Coffee, Nepal on Internal Control Systems(ICS) for organic farming training from 9 to 15 October 2013. The workshop was availed by members of MSSVS too.

### d. Permaculture Design Course

Rico Zook, Certified Permaculture Trainer conducted a **14 days certified Permaculture Design Course** from 7 to 21 November 2014 in Aapbotay, Harsing, Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties, out of total 19 students; 8 International, 11 Indian Nationals participated in it. Sailesh and Rohin worked with Rico as under-trainee teachers.

### e. Leadership capacity enhancement

Participatory leadership capacity enhancement workshops were facilitated for the leaders of Farmers Club from Kurseong and Darjeeling Units under the aegis of Krishak Kalyan Sangathan, Kalimpong on 20 and 27 March 2014 at Kurseong and Darjeeling respectively. The workshops focused on interactive sessions on principles, practices and skills of participatory leadership. Ashesh and Roshan facilitated these sessions along with Wing Commander Praful Rao, Save the Hills.

### f. Slow-Food conversations, Darjeeling, 2 July 2013, Glenary’s Darjeeling

Ms. Anandi Soans, Coordinator Slow Food International, South Asia and India presented on Slow Food International the movement, the initiative and the organization. Slow Food is an international movement founded by Carlo Petrini in 1986 in Italy and has over 100,000 members in 160 countries. Slow food was fundamentally setup with an aim to preserve and celebrate

traditional and regional cuisines and encourage farming of crops and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem with a strong commitment to the communities and their environment. It further encourages fair and accessible prices for consumers and small scale producers. After the presentation ATREE and DLR Prerna organized a tasting session of a range of local honeys and bananas. The event had participants from the food industry, interested individuals, teachers and civil society.

## **8. Everyday religion and sustainable environments in the Himalaya**

Everyday Religion and Sustainable Environments in the Himalayas was a multi-stakeholder research project lead by India China Institute, New York. DLR Prerna was attached to the project under Dr. Mahendra P. Lama along with Sikkim University and looked into Everyday Religion and Sustainable Environments in Darjeeling Town with focus on water. The paper has been submitted for publishing in Himalaya.

**9. Human Wildlife conflict redressal - WWF-KL.** DLR Prerna partnering with WWF-KL where we provide technical support on HWC and sustainable agriculture primarily for WWF KL community programmes in Sikkim.

**10. 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 was part of the India team to draft the India Feasibility Assessment Report with focus on Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri.

## **11. Workshops/Trainings Attended:**

- a. Indian Mountain Initiative, Sustainable Mountain Development Summit III, September 25 – 27, 2013, Kohima Nagaland. DLR Prerna was the lead author for the forest paper *Forest of Darjeeling – a need for intersectoral, participatory and transboundary management* along with ATREE and Darjeeling Earth Group as well as the core team member for the paper on Agriculture. Sailesh and Roshan participated in Kohima. DLR Prerna was the co-ordinator of the Darjeeling Team and post Nagaland, is the secretary for the IMI Darjeeling Group.
- b. National Conference on Tea Culture and Science with special reference to present scenario of Indian Tea on APRIL 9th, 2013 Sikkim University. Presented - *Darjeeling Tea the champagne of teas and its socio-ecological costs* – Roshan
- c. Trust Tea Audit Training, Kolkata from 2 to 7 March 2014 – Rohin
- d. Department of Horticulture, Government of Sikkim, Organic Sikkim Mission workshop 12 March 2014 - Sailesh

## 12. Felicitation

DLR Prerna was felicitated by the West Bengal Forest Rangers Forum at Siliguri for the conservation efforts in the Darjeeling Hills.

## 13. Future Action Plan

- 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
- g. Support to Organisations

## 14. Note of appreciation

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



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