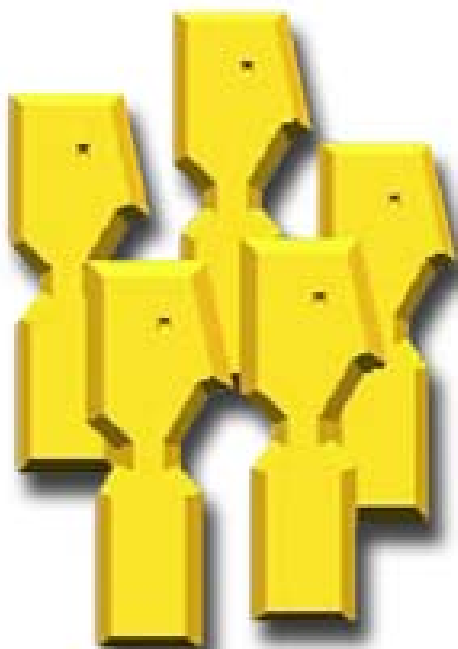


ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



Loka Kalyan Parishad

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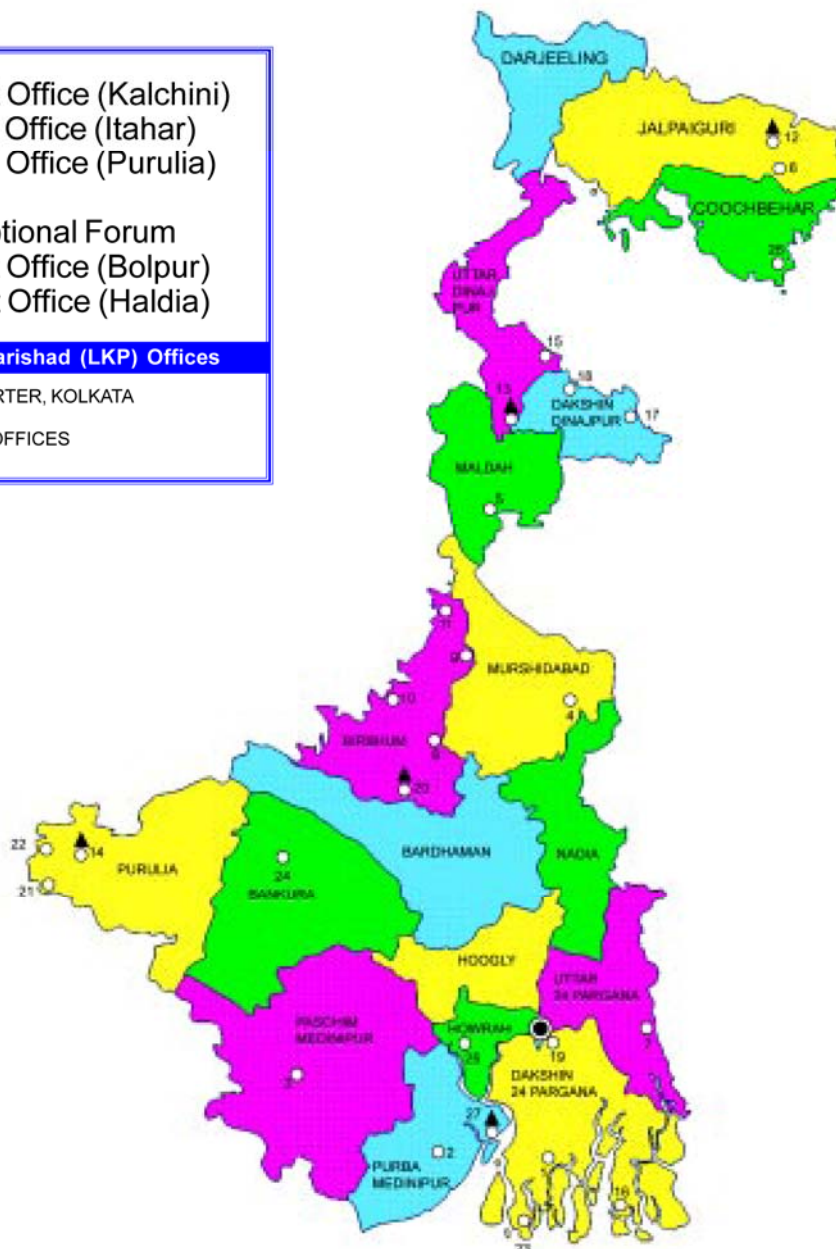
E-mail: lokakalyanparishad@gmail.com

Project Areas of Loka Kalyan Parishad

1. LKP Project Office (Kalchini)
2. LKP Project Office (Itahar)
3. LKP Project Office (Purulia)
4. SRHEDS
5. SHG Promotional Forum
6. LKP Project Office (Bolpur)
7. LKP Project Office (Haldia)

Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) Offices

-  HEAD QUARTER, KOLKATA
 PROJECT OFFICES



ABBREVIATIONS USED

ATI	-	Administrative Training Institute
CB	-	Capacity Building
CBO	-	Community Based Organisation
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
DNRM	-	Decentralised Natural Resource Management
DRCSC	-	Development Research Communication & Services Centre
DRP	-	District Resource Person
FS	-	Food Security
GP	-	Gram Panchayat
GUS	-	Gram Unnayan Parishad
HDI	-	Human Development Index
HRD	-	Human Resource Development
IGF	-	Indien Gruppen Fyn
LKP	-	Loka Kalyan Parishad
LRP	-	Livelihood Resource Person
NGO	-	Non - Governmental Organisation
NIRD	-	National Institute of Rural Development
MGNREGA-		Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act
NRM	-	Natural Resource Management
PDIS	-	Panchayat & Development Information Centre
PRDD	-	Panchayat and Rural Development Department
PRI	-	Panchayat Raj Institution
PRRC	-	Panchayat Raj Resources Centre
PS	-	Panchayat Samity
RTI	-	Right to Information
SHG	-	Self Help Group
SGSY	-	Swaarnajayanti Swarozgar Yojanas
BRAIPRD-		Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development

FOREWORD

LKP completes yet another year of its journey being by the side of the rural poor. In this report an attempt has been made to collate all relevant information relating to its activities during the last one year that is 2016-17. Members and interested readers may note that there has been a gradual change in the focus of Loka Kalyan Parishad's activities and rightly so. At the beginning of the millennium Loka Kalyan Parishad's focus was on mobilization of women of the poorest of the poor rural families in Self Help Groups and ensuring their food security and nutrition security. But the present activities focus on taking these women to a step further. Women are being empowered to venture into income generating enterprises with the support of the Government and financial institutions. Their groups are federated and capacitated to take leadership in all future activities after the closure of our projects. Water conservation, crop diversification, environment friendly agriculture practices etc. are at the centre stage of our activities. Issues like people's rights and obligation, social evils, role of local governments in rural development, as usual have remained important to our sphere of activities. We believe readers will have a glimpse of all these from this report. Any comment, query or clarification in matters dealt with in this report is welcome. We are thankful to all those who have made our journey possible.

Amalendu Ghosh
Secretary

Prof. Sankar Kumar Sanyal
President

Kolkata, September 2017

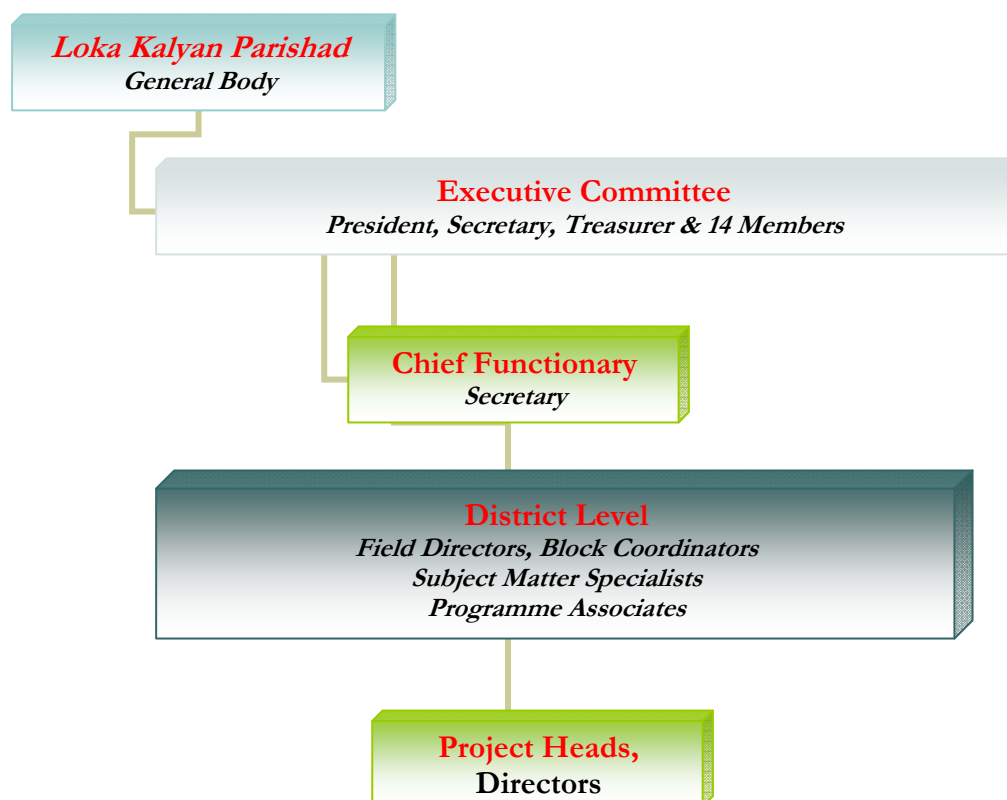
Introduction:

1. Origin of the Organization—

Established in 1977, Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP), started its journey as a voluntary organization under the leadership of Sri Shankar Prasad Mitra, former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court; Sri Sudhangshu Kr. Chakraborty, a renowned civil servant, former Vice Chancellor of the Rajendra Agricultural University and recipient of the 'Padmashree' award for his work with small farmers in the Gandak / Kosi project in Bihar, Sri Narendra Nath Sen, Member-Secretary of the West Bengal State Planning Board; Sri Akshay Kumar Koley, eminent industrialist, Smt. Sumana Chakraborty a well-known social worker and 13 other respected educationists and social workers. The organization was committed from the beginning to standby the most disadvantaged section of the people living in the rural Bengal.

Loka Kalyan Parishad was registered under the *Societies Registration Act 1961*. Subsequently it obtained registration under the *Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976* and obtained exemptions under Sections 12A and 80G of the *Income tax Act*. It obtained the unique ID Registration No. - **WB/2009/0015010** from Planning Commission, Govt. of India.

2. The Organizational Structure



3. Loka Kalyan Parishad's VISION, MISSION and STRATEGIES

3.1 Our Vision:

Loka Kalyan Parishad envisages a world where people are at the centre of governance and development. Powers, responsibilities and functions move from the community outwards only on the basis of necessity through concentric circles of tiers of governance, from the local through the state to the national.

3.2 Our Mission:

Loka Kalyan Parishad believes that the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution provide the pathway to achieve its vision. Therefore LKP strives to **strengthen local self governance institutions** as **catalysts** to become inclusive, participatory, just and efficient institution of people to provide basic infrastructure that supports the production and distribution of food, primary health facilities and basic education (including other infrastructures) and provide a forum for community groups (SHGs; farmer cooperatives).

3.3 Our Objectives & Strategies:

- Ensure food and livelihood security to the underprivileged families of the rural areas by empowering them through decentralized natural resource management.
- Community development in the areas of poor physical and economic condition and improving community based service provision that will eventually upgrade people's lives and opportunity..
- 'Capacity Building' of Panchayati Raj Institutions and their Functionaries, so that they can serve the people better and also continue the kind of assistance given by LKP after its withdrawal.
- Persuasion of Advocacy, Gender and Human Resource development policies.

With these objectives in view our strategies have been:

- **Mutual cooperation** is developed **with Panchayats** in the project areas.
- **Project areas** are chosen from the most backward and disadvantaged zones in West Bengal,
- Most **poor families** are identified
- One member, generally female, from each of the selected families is encouraged to form **SELF HELP GROUPs** (SHG).
- Identification of **local natural resources**.
- Determination of the best **method to use** the local natural resources.
- To build up a **mutual bonding between these natural resources and individual SHG with the help of the Panchayats**.

- Similarly SHGs are tied up with the private owners of these natural resources, wherever available.
- **Capacity Building** of individual members of SHGs to raise production level.
- Panchayats are associated with these initiatives.
- Assist in institutional development of Panchayats
- Spread awareness among the underprivileged people on their rights and entitlements under different government plans and schemes.
- **Orientation and Capacity building of Local CSOs** for securing their support in similar activities.
- **Documentation, Publication and Circulation of the BEST PRACTICES** for the benefit of the people.

3A. Functional areas of LKP under different projects:

District	Block	No of GPs
Uttar Dinajpur	Itahar	12
	Goalpukur-I	1
	Kaliaganj	1
	Hemtabad	5
Dakshin Dinajpur	Harirampur	6
	Kushmundi	1
	Banshihari	5
Birbhum	Lavpur	10
	Illambazar	9
	Maureshwar-I	1
	Maureshwar-II	1
	Nanoor	1
	Khoirashole	11
	Md. Bazar	11
	Rajnagar	4
Purulia	Jhalda –II	9
	Joypur	7
	Saturi	1
Alipurduar	Kalchini	11
	Alipurduar II	1
Paschim Medinipur	Gopiballavpur-I	7
South 24 Parganas	Pathar Pratima	3
Paschim Medinipur	Kharagpur	1
Jharkhand	Sindri	2
TOTAL	24	121

4. Report on Programmes Implemented by Loka Kalyan Parishad:

Major programmes which are now being implemented

- 4.1 Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)/Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchon Yojana**
- 4.2 Mahila Kishan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub-component of NRLM.**
- 4.3 Model Partnership Project**
- 4.4 Project for convergence of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)-National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and CFT Strategy.**
- 4.5 Empowerment of the Elected Women Leaders and Story Telling Project:**
- 4.6 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project**

4.1 PMKSY-WD (erstwhile IWMP), West Bengal

Objectives of the Project:

Conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources including resources including their use. Enhancement of agriculture productivity and production in a sustainable manner. Restoration of ecological balance in degraded and fragile rain fed eco-system. Development of waste land, creation of sustained employment opportunities for rural community including landless. Water harvesting by constructing appropriate structures, Soil health improvement & enhancement for livelihood and all round socio economic development of the project area which bring about improvement of quality of lives of watershed users.



4.1.1 Project Area:

Following three Projects have been sanctioned by the State Government to be implemented in five years.

Sl No.	Name of the Project	Year of sanction by State Government	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in Crore)	Treatable Area (In Ha)	Nos. of Moujas
1.	IWMP-3, Tantipara, (Batch-III), Rajnagar Block, Birbhum District	2012-13	4.80	4000	24
2.	IWMP-5, Rajnagar, (Batch-IV), Rajnagar Block, Birbhum District	2013-14	4.80	4000	17
3.	IWMP-14, Garaphushara, (Batch-IV), Joypur Block, Purulia District	2013-14	5.85	3900	37

4.1.2 IWMP-3/ 2011-12 (Batch-III), Tantipara, Birbhum:

24 moujas of Rajnagar block spread over three GPs. About 19244 peoples and 4000 Ha treatable area are to be covered in this project.

Financial Report: up to 2016-17

Total amount received as on 31.03.2017 was Rs. 157.37590 Lakh (32.78% of the Project Cost) and budget utilized Rs. 154.26790 Lakh (95.84% of fund received).

Audit of Accounts: during 2016-17

Audit of Accounts have been done by the State appointed Audit Firm M/S. Mookherjee. Biswas & Pathak.

M/S. A.C. Chowdhury & Co. conducted the same as appointed by LKP. The Audit of 4 Micro Watershed Committees have been done by M/S A.C. Chowdhury being appointed by LKP as per the IWMP State Guideline.



Sl. No.	Success Indicator	Unit	Achievement up to March 31, 2014	Achievement during 2014-15	Achievement during 2015-16	Achievement during 2016-17 as on 31.03.2017	Total Achievement since inception as on 31.03.2017
1	Creation of new Rainwater Harvesting Structures	Number	0	9	0	0	9
2	Renovation/ restoration of old rain water harvesting structures	Number	0	13	5	4	22
3	Additional area brought under irrigation	Ha	0	74.5	20.66	17.07	112.23
4	Plantation including afforestation & horticulture*	Ha	0	15	0	0	15
5	Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)	Number	31	0	2	1	34
6	Formation of Users Group (UGs)	Number	0	55	3	5	63
7	Providing livelihoods to households	Number	0	0	11	1	12
8	Providing support under PSME	Number	0	0	5	69	74
9	Providing support under PSME	ha	0	0	8	91.1	99.1
10	Number of training conducted including exposure visit	Number	172	109	129	59	469
11	Persons trained	Number	4204	2404	2563	753	9924
12	Employment Generation (also indicate SC/ ST/ Women/ Men)	Person days	452	1204	4256	3670	9582

4.1.3 IWMP-5/ 2012-13 (Batch-IV), Rajnagar, Birbhum:

17 moujas of Rajnagar block spread over two GPs. About 22183 peoples (5544 household) and 4000 Ha treatable area are to be covered in this project.

Institution Building: during 2016-17

New SHG formed: 16 Nos.

Nos. of members: 179 Nos.

Financial Report: up to 2016-17

Total amount received as on 31.03.2017 was Rs. 67.00 Lakh (13.95% of the Project Cost) and budget utilized Rs. 63.16851 Lakh (92.86% of fund received).



Audit of Accounts: during 2016-17

Audit of Accounts have been done by the State appointed Audit Firm M/S. Mookherjee. Biswas & Pathak.

Sl. No.	Success Indicator	Unit	Achievement up to March 31, 2014	Achievement during 2014-15	Achievement during 2015-16	Achievement during 2016-17 as on 31.03.2017	Total Achievement since inception as on 31.03.2017
1	Creation of new Rainwater Harvesting Structures	Number	0	0	0	1	1
2	Renovation/ restoration of old rain water harvesting structures	Number	0	0	0	4	4
3	Additional area brought under irrigation	Ha	0	0	0	14	14
4	Plantation including afforestation & horticulture	Ha	0	0	0	0	0
5	Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)	Number	0	16	8	16	40
6	Formation of Users Group (UGs)	Number	0	2	1	8	11
7	Providing livelihoods to households	Number	0	0	0	0	0
8	Providing support under PSME	Number	0	0	0	0	0
9	Providing support under PSME	ha	0	0	0	0	0
10	Number of training conducted including exposure visit	Number	0	32	116	52	200
11	Persons trained		0	516	1748	727	2991
12	Employment Generation (also indicate SC/ ST/ Women/ Men)	Person days	0	0	447	2263	2710

4.1.4 IWMP-14/ 2012-13 (Batch-IV), Garaphushara, Joypur, Purulia:

Financial Report: during 2016-17

Total amount received as on 31.03.2017 was Rs. 68.96 Lakh (11.78% of the Project Cost) and budget utilized Rs. 41.98171 Lakh (60.87% of fund received).

Audit of Accounts: during 2016-17

Audit of Accounts have been done by the State appointed Audit Firm M/S. Mookherjee. Biswas & Pathak.

Sl. No.	Success Indicator	Unit	Achievement up to March 31, 2014	Achievement during 2014-15	Achievement during 2015-16	Achievement during 2016-17 as on 31.03.2017	Total Achievement since inception as on 31.03.2017
1	Creation of new Rainwater Harvesting Structures	Number	0	0	0	0	0
2	Renovation/ restoration of old rain water harvesting structures	Number	0	0	0	11	11
3	Additional area brought under irrigation	Ha	0	0	0	7.5	7.5
4	Plantation including afforestation & horticulture	Ha	0	0	0	0	0
5	Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)	Number	0	26	5	0	31
6	Formation of Users Group (UGs)	Number	0	0	4	10	14
7	Providing livelihoods to households	Number	0	0	0	0	0
8	Providing support under PSME	Number	0	0	0	0	0
9	Providing support under PSME	ha	0	0	0	0	0
10	Number of training conducted including exposure visit	Number	0	163	397	270	830
11	Persons trained	Number	0	3135	7146	4433	14714
12	Employment Generation (also indicate SC/ ST/ Women/ Men)	Person days	0	20	4204	1076	5300



4.2 MAHILA KISHAN SASHAKTIKARAN PROJECT- A SUB COMPONENT OF NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION

Objectives of the project:

In India, contribution of women labourers in agriculture is enormous, yet they are hardly recognized as farmers. Their labour often goes unrewarded and agriculture policies or interventions rarely address the particular needs of the women farmers. MKSP was launched as a special initiative under NRLM to address the issues of women farmers, mobilising and empowering them to take up Natural Resource Based livelihood activities, particularly sustainable agricultural practices aiming at increase in production and productivity, initiating them into microenterprises etc. ensuring enhancement of their income and rightful place in the society. The Project was officially launched in 2013 and is now in its final stage.

4.2.1 Area under intervention and target:

<i>Intensive area of action</i>					
<i>District</i>	<i>Block</i>	<i>No. of GPs</i>	<i>No. of villages</i>	<i>SHGs</i>	<i>Mahila Kisans</i>
Birbhum	Illambazar	9	134	1000	10000
	Labpur	11	180	1000	10000
Purulia	Jhalda II	5	53	700	7000
Uttar Dinajpur	Itahar	9	175	700	7000
Dakshin Dinajpur	Harirampur	6	152	600	6000
Jalpaiguri	Kalchini	5	23	600	6000
Sub total (A)	6 blocks	45	717	4600	46000
<i>Extensive area of action</i>					
Birbhum	Md. Bazar	1	12	200	2000
	Khoirasole	1	21	400	4000
Purulia	Joypur	1	13	200	2000
Uttar Dinajpur	Goalpokhor I	1	15	300	3000
Dakshin Dinajpur	Banshihari	1	36	300	3000
Sub total (B)	5 blocks	5	97	1400	14000
Grand total (A+ B)	11	50	814	6000	60000

4.2.2 The progress at a glance under the project for the reporting period is enumerated as below:

A. Institution building:

The main strategy for this project is mobilization of women farmers into Self Help Groups and consolidate the SHGs into Village Level, Gram Panchayat Level and Block Level Federations (Sub-cluster, Cluster and Federations as they are called in our state. The federations are being empowered to enable them to manage their own affairs in future like preparation of the need based bottom up plans for livelihood development and management of funds and functions on behalf of their institutions.

The present status of community institutions in our project area:

No. SHG covered: 5697

No. of MKs covered: 60743

No. Sub cluster/Village Level Federation: 655

No. of Cluster/GP Level Federation: 49

No. of Block Level Federation: 5

B. Sustainable agriculture based livelihood activities:

Consistent efforts on the part of the LKP have encouraged the Mahila Kishans to adopt environment friendly sustainable agriculture practices and allied activities for their livelihood. Given below in the table a picture of Mahila Kishans adopting different activities



Sal Leaf utensil making by ST Women SHG, Khairasole,

Sl. No.	Name of activity	No. of Mahila Kisan (MKs) involved
1	Home Nutrition Garden	53641
2	Community Nutrition Garden	11851
3	Group based grain bank	6265
4	Group based seed bank	11532
5	School nutrition garden	2035
6	Soil Health Improvement	
	Farm Yard manure/Vermi Compost	40434
	Liquid & semi liquid bio fertilizers	42525
	Green manure/Dhoincha	4338
	Popularization of legumes	22487
7	Soil moisture conservation	
	Bio mulch	3822
	Pitcher irrigation	5973
	Poira/relay cropping	4476
8	Bio pest management	40242
9	Bio diversity enhancement	
	Introduction of new crop	4564
	CPR management- agro forestry	3292
	Fruit vegetable nursery	5477
10	Pond based Integrated farming	7926
11	Livestock/small ruminant development	47222
12	System approach	
	Paddy	6110
	Wheat	550
14	Mushroom cultivation	7737

C. Access to land and water bodies:

The unique feature of this Project is that though the target Mahila Kishans are landless and amongst the poorest in the society, they have learnt to use whatever small area of land they have in their court-yard or small patches of land surrounding their dwelling houses. They have earned the confidence of the government or semi-government authorities and even of the private individuals and often take on seasonal lease and utilize any fallow land or ponds that is available. About 19000 ha. of land are now cultivated by our Mahila Kishans. They use these lands for individual and community vegetable gardens, production pulses and cereals, agro-forestry, integrated pond management, social forestry etc.

D. Bottom up planning and convergence with GP action plan

One important aspect of this project has been that Mahila Kishans prepare their own livelihood plans which are summed up as SHG plans. These livelihood SHG plans are then collated at the sub-cluster level and finally at the cluster level (Gram Panchayat level). These are to a great extent incorporated in the Gram Panchayats' annual plan



which facilitates convergence with the activities of different line departments of the government, specially, Agriculture. Animal Resource Development, Fisheries, Horticulture Departments, DRDC, MGNREGS, NRLM etc. This is practiced in all 50 Gram Panchayats where this MKSP is being implemented. **(Pic Bottom of planning in Kalchini)**

E. Fund Leveraged from other departments

SL	Department	Amount (Rs.)
1	Agriculture department Govt. of WB	45,82,450.00
2	Horticulture department	60,86,274.00
3	MGNAREGA	2,16,57,874.00
4.	CADC	1,20,34,000.00
	TOTAL	4,43,60,598.00

F. Social capital development:

One of the major outcomes of this project is that it helped develop substantial social capital which are expected give rich dividend in future. Under this project about 625 Community Resource Persons (including Krishi Sakhi, Prani Sakhi etc.) have been trained so far who are capable of guiding local people in sustainable agriculture practices, rearing and vaccination of poultry birds and small animals, management of SHGs and their federations etc. It should be mentioned here that out of these trained personnel only 50 are men and all others are women. These CRPs will be able to help the society even after the Project is over.

Highlights of some achievements:

- A. Capacity Building of:
 - i) Mahila Kishans (Training days) 3,35,846 (since inception)
 - ii) Community Professionals do 20,940 (do)
 - iii) Community Resource Persons do 23568 (do)
- B. Capital invested (other than Project Fund):
 - i) SHG's own resources Rs. 2199 Lakh (since inception)
 - ii) Bank credit Rs. 4036 lakh do
 - iii) Leveraged from other government Programmes Rs. 4,43,60,598.00
- C. Impact on livelihood of MK families:
 - i) Enhancement in income (monthly) Rs. 3500 and above 41064 MK (67.5% of target)
 - ii) Ensuring food security throughout the year: 100%

4.3 MODEL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UNDER WBSRLM

Loka Kalyan Parishad was entrusted with the work of implementing Partnership Project in Harirampur Block (*Dakshin Dinajpur*) and Hemtabad Block (*Uttar Dinajpur*) in the year 2015 (February & March), Haringhata (*Nadia*) and Matigara (*Darjeeling*) Block in the year 2016 (September).

The purpose of the Project is to develop a home-grown model of institution building, capacity building of the SHG organizations, putting in place demonstration sites of livelihood activities by the poor landless families and social mobilization in SHG movement in the model blocks ushering in sustainable livelihood for the SHG members.

Objectives of the Project

- Social Mobilization: One member from poor, SC/ST, marginalized vulnerable families would be included in SHG.
- Institution Building: The poor SHG will form powerful and strong institution like Sub-Cluster, Cluster and Federation.
- Financial Inclusion: The SHGs will be so skilled and competent to access bank services and other financial institutions.
- Livelihood Promotions: For better standard of life, they will be provided with homegrown livelihood provisions.
- Awareness and Improvement of Gender Equity, Community, Food, Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation activities.
- Social Development: As and when the women collectives will take over the charges of development, social development will automatically take its way.

In this regard, Loka Kalyan Parishad jointly with DRDC (DMMU) is generating Annual Action Plan for each year in all the four blocks.

4.3.1 The Role of NGO as indicated in the MoU are as follows:

- To form SHGs and their Capacity Building
- At least 80% of targeted family should be covered within specified period (3 year)
- 90% of the SHG will form Sub Cluster, Cluster and Federation.
- Groups will in a habit to maintain Panchasutra
- 80% of the SHG member will attend Sansad Sabha.
- Insurance coverage of each and every member.
- 70% of the member of SHG will come under Bank loans.

4.3.2 On the above context our achievement in 2016-17 is as follows:

- Baseline survey has been done.
- CRPs selected, put in place and have been given proper training (Orientation of CRPs)
- Sensitization of Panchayat Pradhans and Staff and GP members
- Sensitization of existing SHG Members, Upa-Sangha, Sangha leaders
- Public awareness in Sansad meetings
- IEC Material development (handout, booklet and audio-visual in DVD format)
- Capacity building of Prani Bondhu O Krishi Bondhu
- Initiation of livelihood activities along with proper training

4.3.3 Outputs of the Projects during 2016-17:

1	Institution Building				
	No. of <i>EXISTING GROUPS</i> before our intervention		No. of <i>NEW GROUPS</i> formed in 2016-17	No. of <i>defunct SHGs revived</i> in 2016-17	Total No. of <i>ACTIVE GROUP</i> As on 31.03.2017
Hemtabad	752		373	78	1571
Harirampur	876		103	425	1404
Haringhata	792		211	104	1003
Matigara	928		719	54	1272
2	Financial Inclusion				
	No. of SHG received R/F in 2017-18		No. of SHG received CIF (with MCP)	No. of SHG Received CC (1 ST dose & Amount)	No. of SHG Received CC (2 nd dose & Amount)
Hemtabad	884		129	917	737
Harirampur	198		101	198	142
Haringhata	494		79	132	83
Matigara	131		124	154	135
3	Livelihood Activities				
	No. of SHG With Livelihood Activities (2017-18)		No. of SHG prepared MCP	No. of SHG Received MCP Loans	
	FARM	NON-FARM			
Hemtabad	1250	73	362	0	
Harirampur	18	945	470	101	
Haringhata	400	63	792	96	
Matigara	2	nil	nil	nil	



4.4 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) CONVERGENCE, with CFT strategy Project:

CFT was launched by the Govt. of India with the object of convergence of MGNREGS and NRLM activities in a number of Blocks as pilot initiative. It was decided that experienced CSOs working in the field of livelihood activities would be given responsibility to raise teams of experts for effective coordination and convergence of two major national flagship programmes. Accordingly, Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) was chosen to implement the project in 99 (ninety nine) G.P.s spread over 11(eleven) Blocks in 6(six) districts of West Bengal. In terms of the guidelines of the project, multidisciplinary cluster facilitation teams were raised for all the 99 G.P.s. and the project was rolled out in July, 2014. The members of the team were thoroughly trained by the experts of LKP in several rounds. Though the programme was to continue for three financial years, the same was suspended at the end of two and a half years for non-availability of fund from the Government. The programme was suspended in February 2017. Loka Kalyan Parishad was entrusted to implement the programme in the following areas:

Sl no.	District	Block	Number of GPs
1	Birbhum	Ilambazar	9
		Khoyrasol	10
		Mahammad Bazar	12
		Labhpur	11
2	Purulia	Joypur	7
		Jhalda-II	9
3	Dakshin Dinajpur	Bansihari	5
4	Uttar Dinajpur	Itahar	12
		Harirampur	6
5	Alipurduar	Kalchini	11
6	West Midnapur	Gopiballavpur-I	7

Objectives of the programme were:

- Creation of awareness and generation of demand for work
- Identification and planning for works that converge with the livelihood activities under Anandadhara
- Worksite execution and measurement
- Capacity building and training for all stakeholders involved including PRIs

4.4.1 The key deliverables of CFT over the 3-year Project period are

- Preparation of livelihood based plans for every GP with Natural Resource Management approach using participatory rural appraisal methods
- Aid and assist the GP to implement the plan of action of MGNREGS

- Assist the GP to ensure 75 days of work to all S.C./S.T. households
- Assist the GP to ensure payment of 100% wages on time

4.4.2 Loka Kalyan Parishad's strategy to achieve these objectives were:

- Putting in place cluster facilitation teams in 11 blocks, having nine members with one Community Mobilization Specialist, Agriculture Specialist, Civil Engineer, Natural Rural Resources Management Specialist in each team.
- Awareness generation and creation of demand by organizing Gram Rozgar Diwas
- Identification of livelihood activities for integration with the assets created through MGNREGS
- Facilitation of Gram Panchayat level Annual Action Plan for MGNREGS in watershed approach
- Assist worksite execution and management
- Facilitate timely payment of wages
- Capacity Building of all stakeholders



4.4.3 Outputs of the project:

- 1) The members of the Cluster Facilitation Team organized Gram Rozgar Diwas (GRD) in several rounds at the grassroot level. In total, 798 GRDs could be organized by the CFTs in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat Members. In the GRDs, the congregation of jobseekers were explained the legal rights of the workers and the mechanism of convergence of livelihood activities with the assets created under MGNREGS.
- 2) During the planning stage, PRA was conducted by the CFTs along with the district resource persons and livelihood schemes were identified by the Self Help Groups (SHG) for integrating with MGNREGS activities. This ensured involvement of women folk in the planning of MGNREGS and NRLM.
- 3) The members of the CFT facilitated AADHAR camps at blocks and Gram Panchayats and assisted the block administration in incorporation of AADHAR number in the job cards.
- 4) The CFTs organized meeting with the SHGs to identify Individual Benefit Scheme (IBS) for inclusion in the MGNREGS plans. During the continuance of the programme over twenty six thousand (26,000) IBS schemes were identified and placed before the PRIs for inclusion in the MGNREGS plan.
- 5) The CFTs also facilitated in freezing of bank account of the job card holders of MGNREGS. As many as 5,83,848 bank accounts were frozen and linked with MIS.
- 6) During the project period the person days of women increased in all project areas. Percentage of payment generated within 15 days also improved substantially. The following table indicates the progress:

BLOCK	% of women Persondays		% of payment generated	
	2014-15	2016-17	2014-15	2016-17
Illambazar	27.04	39.93	1.97	16.28
Khairashol	33.53	39.95	1.54	1.90
Md Bazar	31.03	43.15	3.12	21.33
Labhpur	26.65	49.34	3.09	10.89
Jhalda-II	38.34	43.65	1.53	18.95
Joypur	41.87	47.90	1.57	19.39
Gopiballavpur-I	34.44	37.57	0.61	18.80
Itahar	23.07	46.18	7.07	28.97
Bangshihari	27.51	44.76	6.77	36.95
Harirampur	28.02	78.85	8.81	16.15
Kalchini	46.35	54.02	2.22	20.59

7. Improvement of person days generated with the facilitation by the CFT's is also remarkable. The following table indicates improvement during the project period.

SL No.	BLOCK	PERSONDAYS GENERATED	
		2014-15	2016-17
1.	Illambazar	429933	825345
2.	Khairashol	478430	663965
3.	Md Bazar	491389	981918
4.	Labhpur	935573	1181591
5.	Jhalda-II	332213	366102
6.	Joypur	235508	179987
7.	Gopiballavpur-I	438560	824354
8.	Itahar	113677	545447
9.	Bangshihari	55485	222620
10.	Harirampur	39529	309786
11.	Kalchini	1221228	1842904



4.5 “Enhancing Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in the Political Process of Rural Local governance in Bengal” –Project:

The overall goal of this project, simply put, is to increase the capacity of women (Self-Help Group members, community members and elected officials) at the local level to address, and reverse, the issues negatively affecting women in their communities.

TARGET GROUPS REACHED THROUGH THE PROJECT TILL DATE

District	Female Members	Female Members worked with	Male Members	Male Members worked with	Total SHGs	Number of SHGs and members worked with
Alipurduar	18	12	19	11	324	181
Purulia	19	12	15	9	346	100
South 24 Parganas	24	21	24	18	976	414
Birbhum	25	22	19	15	1069	369
TOTAL	86	67	77	53	2715	1164

A mid-term external evaluation was conducted by Ms. Michelle Bekkering, the Director for Global Initiatives and Senior Gender Advisor to International Republican Institute (IRI).

4.5.1 Overall Impact of the project witnessed

Women Elected Representatives

- The women elected representatives’ show an increase in confidence and self esteem
- The elected representatives have better contact with the voters especially women voters in their constituencies.
- The women elected representatives regularly attend GP and its meetings.
- The women elected representatives are more aware of their roles
- The women elected representatives find their voice is raising issues

4.5.2 Male opinion leaders

- Male opinion leaders encouraging their wives who are elected representatives to travel alone and come to Kolkata for training programmes
- Many members are showing interest in participating in the workshops organized in Kolkata
- Some male colleagues and opinion leaders slowly becoming open to include community women (from SHGs) into the Sub Committees.
- Some of them are talking about the need for men to release control over women in public.

4.5.3 Gram Panchayat as a whole

- Becoming open to the idea of holding effective gram sansad sabhas and Gram sabhas
- Some of the GPs have begun to make gender responsive budgeting a reality
- One GP has added the need for a separate toilet for women within the GP in Annual Action Plan.
- Open to organizing 2nd and 4th Saturday monitoring meetings
- A few GPs have provided clusters (SHG federations at GP level) a space in the form of a room with the GPs to enable them to hold meetings
- Some GPs are referring the cases of violence against women to Anti Gender Based Violence Committee
- Some GPs along with the SHGs have begun the responsibility of observing important days with the community like Women's Day, Environment Day, Health Day etc.

4.5.4 Some Highlights

Adult Women's Literacy Centre:

In Purulia, 6 Adult Literacy Centres have come up with 245 women. 3 women elected representatives are themselves learning to read and write there. The centres received a lot of support from the Panchayat Samity who distributed books for the students.

Child Cabinets

With the aim of encouraging leadership skills and lay the seeds of participation in governance and decision making, an attempt was made to strengthen the the concept of 'Child Parliament/Cabinet' in the Primary Government Schools. The effort was highly appreciated and 15 Child Cabinets were activated with active 90 young girls and boys aged between 6-10 years. Each Child Cabinet has 7 ministers (Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister who is also in charge of promoting Gender Equality , Minister for Education, Minister for Information and Culture, Minister for Food and Supplies, Minister for Health and Hygiene and Minister for Environment).

Some of the Activities that the children undertook-

- Rally for awareness on environment
- Plantation of trees
- Ensuring health & hygiene
- Monitoring cooking of mid day meal in their schools

Livelihood Activities

In the last quarter, we had introduced livelihoods related skill development in 2 GPs in South 24 Parganas and 3 GPs of Rajnagar Block in Birbhum district to enable the poorest of the women to improve their livelihood opportunities by skills development and convergence with various government schemes. 41% of the trainees found the motivation to apply the new skill/agro based technique in practice.

Nari Jagaran Committee:

Nari Jagaran Committees in Rajnagar, Kalchini and Alipurduar II formed by community women and led by the Convenor of the Nari O Shhishu Samaj Kalyan Upa Samity underwent intensive capacity development. Nari Jagaran Committees of Pathar Protima Block; Labpur Block and Kalchini Blocks played an active role in handling cases of gender based violence and discrimination.

4.5.5. Case Study:

Renuka Bagdi is a resident of Dwarka Gram Panchayat and Panchpara neighbourhood. She used to assist her husband and work as a daily labourer along with her husband. Later she joined a SHG group and also got a job as a helper an ICDS Centre. Her husband does not approve of Renuka going out so often to fulfill her job and SHG responsibilities. Renuka got to know of the Nari Jagaran Committee and became a member. She decided to attend one of the workshops of Nari Jagaran Committee in Labpur which is quite a distance from her home. Renuka was beaten up badly by her husband who forbade her to attend the next day's training. Renuka decided to go for the training and informed he Nari Jagaran Committee about the physical abuse and requested the NJC to intervene and visit her house and talk to her husband ask him to refrain from hitting her. After discussion, 10 members of the NJC visited her house and spoke to her husband and put pressure on him to stop abusing her. In the following workshops and meetings Renuka Bagdi actively participated.

In Rajabhatkhawa GP of Kalchini Block in Alipurduar District, a woman who was involved in MGNREGS work, was sexually abused verbally by a man. The woman informed the NJC who intervened and spoke to the man who apologized.

The 4 theatre groups in Alipurduar district, South 24 Parganas, Purulia and Birbhum conducted regular awareness programmes at the block level.

Ms. Mitchell Beckering, an international expert deputed by the Funding agency, highly commended the performance of LKP and the impacts created under the Ptoject. An extract from her report is reproduced below:

4.5.6 An extract from Ms. Mitchell Beckering's evaluation report:

....”An important aspect of my mid-evaluation of this project was to assess whether—and to what extent—progress has been made, and whether or not adjustments to program activities are necessary to increase success toward meeting these goals. I was delighted to witness for myself the success LKP is achieving in each of its project goals. Again, this has to do with their thoughtful approach to designing the project's objectives and choosing an inclusive group of stakeholders”.

“An important part of evaluating the project was through my site visits to Birbhum and Purulia where I had an opportunity to engage with all program beneficiaries. This was incredibly inspiring; I can attest that



the program beneficiaries had benefited greatly from LKP's support. Women elected officials attested to an increase in their confidence to perform their legislative duties and in accessing funding to address community issues; this has led to what they perceive as an increase in support for women leaders in their communities as well as an increase of support from their party leaders. In addition, I found the Self-Help Groups to be well organized and mobilized and a great resource to the elected officials. They expressed that the project has led to an increase in SHG meetings and the motivation for women to speak up for their rights and to verbalize their demands. Male officials (party leaders and elected officials) also attested to the increase in women in their communities who knew how to access government services and who now advocated for their rights which, according to one male party leader, "we are now listening too." Over and over, I heard the same phrase from site visit to site visit "we have found our voice."

..."Overall, I was impressed by the ability of women leaders in both districts to succinctly outline the primary challenges in their districts (illiteracy, sanitation, nutrition, early/forced marriages) and how they were addressing the issues through action, strategic plans and funding sources. I even had the opportunity to see for myself the fruits of these labors in the form of tube wells and gardens."

....."This is one of the most impactful women's empowerment programs I have had the opportunity to assess anywhere in the world".

4.5.7 Performative Storytelling Project, "Breaking the Silence, One story at a time

This Performative Storytelling project, "Breaking the Silence, One story at a time" promotes positive activism and civic engagement to directly address the issue of gender based violence by using a combination of modern and traditional methods of storytelling to directly empower and influence young leaders to combat gender imbalance and gender based violence within their communities.

This project is financially supported by the U.S. Consulate in Kolkata. It has partnered with Loka Kalyan Parishad, Kolkata Sanved, Bangla Natok dot com, Vikramshila and a team of creative people, and artists from different parts of Bengal specialising in their own unique art forms. Their art ranges from puppetry, scroll painting, dancing, singing, street theatre, poetry and many more. Loka Kalya Parishad is the implementing organization coordinating, managing the trainings, performances and finances.

This myriad ensemble trained under the expertise of Raymond Caldwell, Washington D.C. based artist and a theatre professor at Howard University; Johamy Morales from California, a Director of Creede Repertory theatre, travelled to Jharkhand to perform and also gave a performance in front of the US Consul General and other dignitaries at the Kolkata American Centre.

4.6 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT –

4.6.1 SWAWLAMBAN, Sindri, Jharkhand

After the Pilot phase of the Project, M/S Sindri Cement Works, an unit of ACC Ltd. has sanctioned the project: **SWAWLAMBAN** for another 3 years w.e.f from 1st March, 2016. The project intends to initiates the community development program in **5 villages** of **Chhatand Gram Panchyet** i.e. *Chhatatand, Simatand, Sawalapur Adibashitola, Sawalapur Pathardhi, Kushberia, Kherban* & **4 villages of Birsing Gram Panchayat** i.e. *Sitalpur Basti, Sitalpur Mishra Tola, Gulitand, Sarsakunri* **2 Nos. of Ward** i.e. **54 & 55 of Sindri Municipal Corporation** of **Dhanbad** district of Jharkhand state. The total Target families are 1500 Nos.

During the pilot phase, more thrust was given to raise the socio-economic status of rural women and this time it is for both male & female youths to engage themselves in institutional frame work (Farmers Groups, SHGs & its Federation) & ultimately to link up them with the mainstream institutions like Gram Panchyat, Micro-Finance Institutions, Banks and development Departments programs with aview to be the partner in development process.

During Pilot phase, some **Good practices** have been developed & these are:

A. Farming Activities -

- New crops like Red Cabbage, Broccoli, Letus and Pakchoi etc. were introduced, successfully demonstrated and highly accepted.
- The protein rich Oyster mushroom generated high priority preference and established one Mushroom Spawn production laboratory to have required quantity of mushroom spawn.
- New cropping system technology are also introduced (SRI, TPS) & adopted.
- Irrigation efficiency enhanced by introducing Drip system of Irrigation, Seasonal Bund on tiny natural drainage which could demonstrate single crop area into double cropping system.
- Food processing & value addition in Agri. Produce like Rice puffing (Muri), popping (corn), roasting of pulses / ground nuts – these open up new areas of opportunities.
- Improved Chicks (Rhode Island Red), Ducks (Khaki Campbell) & pure line Black Bengal goats have been introduced.

B. Non-Farm Activities

- The women have picked up the skills like Kntha-stitching on garments/ saris, tailoring, production of detergent powder, phenyl & jute based home products and producing to market the products.
- A Federation of SHGs has been formed & has opened and marketing outlet to sell the products manufactured by SHG members.

The focal areas of *Phase - I* of the Project:

1. Scaling up of Farm production, productivity through skill building in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal & bird farming including non-farm activities initiated during pilot phase (The best practices stated above).
2. To accomplish the related MDG issues awareness building on Gender, Preventive Health & Hygiene particularly for women & children through supplementation of nutrition, individual & community hygiene and leverage from the mainstream services
3. Functional Educational for the activity Groups will be taken care of.
4. Sports & culture to create a peaceful mental & physical strata among inhabitants
5. Maintenance of eco-friendly environment by spreading social agro-forestry plantation, enhancing water (waste, natural & irrigation) use efficiency.
6. Marketing of Farm & Non-farm produce, establishment of linkages with rural & urban markets will be taken up on high priority.
7. To augment the natural resource capital development, priority has been given to minimize the “global warming and climate resilient” activities through large scale plantation, water preservation etc.
8. In the areas of social capital development the ACC AHEAD Sindri of the ACC colony will be engaged & abreast in the process particularly in the activities of gender, sports, culture, life-skill education for babies, child & adolescents (MDG related issues).
9. The Groups are oriented, capacitated & engaged towards 3-4 IGP activities to bring about changes in quality & of living and participation in clean environment activities.
10. Entrepreneurial development in production & service sector- both individual & Group linked with Project and mainstream backward & forward market & credit linkages.
11. Adequate transparency & accountability will be maintained through public disclosing activities.

The Project outlay of Phase –I : Rs. 1,89,72,806.00

Outcome of 1st Year of Phase -1 :

Villages covered: 5 Nos. (Simatand, Chattatand, Khusberia, Samlapur Pathardihi & Samlapur Adibashi Para

Target Families : 1800 Nos.

SHG Formed : 48 Nos. (Members -685)

Training Camps organised:

1. Management of Kitchen/ Community garden crop camps : 92 Camps
2. Bio-Management of pest control for crops : 32 camps
3. Agro forestry, Floriculture, Fruit culture nursery : 18 Camps
4. Management of Seed health & preservation : 15 Camps
5. Management practices of Small Domestic Animals : 41 Members
6. Stitching/Tailoring/Bag making, etc.: 85 Members
7. Production of Utility Products-Phenyl, Hand wash, Agarbati Detergent etc. making : 57 Members
8. Capacity building on Intensive Fish farming : 17 Members

New crops introduced:

Lettuce, Yam-bean, Red cabbage, Pak-choi, Water melon, Elephant-foot yam, Brocoli Pineapple.

Input support provided:

1. Agri./Horti. seeds, saplings etc. distributed to : 223 Members
2. For non-Farming (material for Kantha-stitch/Bag /Phenyl etc.) : 31 Members

Fund Received: **Rs. 32,03,010.00**

Fund Utilized: **Rs. 32,35,878.60**

4.6.2 CSR Project at Damodhar Cements Works:

Project is being implemented with the active support of the Damodhar Cements Works according to the action plan. Active participatory of the local people and cooperation of the local government institution deserve mention.

The table growing below will give a cost of activities performed in 2016-17

Program	Total	
	No. of Activities	Beneficiaries/ Participants
Public Disclosure & Entry Point activities	374	1426
Awareness & Campaign activities	246	3896
Development, Restoration, Management of environment & Natural Resources	21	878
Income generation & entrepreneurial activities for rural neo educated youth (Male & Female)	614	2036
Orientation & Skill building	2887	5340
Sanitation & Health	33	1209
Participatory input cost	18	379
Social Capital Development: Culture & Sports	13	228
Monitoring, Evaluation & documentation	7	3
GRAND TOTAL :	4213	15395

4.6.3 CSR project at Kharagpur work site of ACC Ltd.

Having been impressed by our performance in Madhukunda and Sindri, M/S ACC Ltd. Assigned the project at their Kharagpur project site a cement factory is proposed to be set up by them.

Physical achievements under this project during the year 2016-17 has been shown below

Program	Total	
	No. of Activities	Beneficiaries / participants
Public Disclosure & Entry Point activities	48	741
Awareness & Campaign activities	29	511
Development, Restoration, Management of environment & Natural Resources	10	122
Skill based entrepreneurial & income generation activities for rural educated youth (Male & Female)	2	77
Skill & Management Building activities	16	269
Sanitation & Health	8	311
Income generation input cost	68	1344
Social Capital Development: Culture & Sports	12	236
Monitoring, Evaluation & Documentation	197	2108
GRAND TOTAL :	390	5719

5. Administrative and Financial Information:

5.A Administration:

Loka Kalyan Parishad has its headquarter in Kolkata from where all the administrative functions are carried out and project management works are monitored. For smooth and day to day management of the project implementation it has field offices at Kalchini, Itahar, Hemtabad, Harirampur, Bolpur, Lavpur, Rajnagar, Khoirasol, Ilambazar, Kotshila, Madhukunda, Kharagpur and Sindhri (Jharkhand). Employees posted in different categories under different projects has been shown below:

- i) IWMP—9
- ii) MKSP—52 (plus 313 community resource Persons)
- iii) Partnership—5 (plus 70 Sahayaks)
- iv) CSR—17
- v) EWPP--24
- vi)

5.B Financial information:

A Summary of financial position is given below:

SL	Project	Opening Balance (Rs.)	Fund Received during the year (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1	a) IWMP-3	19,1,140.00	26,49,590.00	25,29,930.00
	b) IWMP-5	88,5,461.00	18,20,000.00	23,22,312.00
	c) IWMP-14	11,07,377.00	27,90,000.00	11,99,549.00
2	MKSP	4,67,65,085.00	nil	2,97,14,552.00
3	Partnership	87,5,190.00	5,10,000.00	46,52,324.00
4	CSR	13,13,748.00	75,14,232.00	73,09,288.00
5	EWPP & ST	31,96,892.00	30,85,800.00	51,14,602.00

6. Publication of Panchayat-O-Amra:

Loka Kalyan Parishad has been continuing publication of its fortnightly tabloid “Panchayat-O-Amra.” This magazine has been proved to be an important means of highlighting the activities of LKP, success stories and for communicating with the field workers on various thematic issues related with the activities of LKP. Through this magazine we have always tried to disseminate important government policy announcements, orders, amendments of rules and regulations for convenience of not only our workers but the government and local government functionaries at the field levels. It reaches every fortnight to all Gram Panchayats, and about 835 subscribers, besides the employees of LKP.

7. Loka Kalyan Parishad's Training Centre at Bolpur:

A long cherished dream of Loka Kalyan Parishad has come true this year, when on 21 December 2016, our respected President formally opened the Training Centre at Bolpur after thorough renovation of the existing office premises. The Centre has a training hall to accommodate over 40 trainees and has the facility of residential accommodation of about 25. Besides these three double bedded Faculty Guest rooms are also there.

8. Miscellaneous:

- Having considered the competence and knowledge, the WBSRLM has deployed more than 80 of Community Resource Persons for initiating and handholding Community Managed Sustainable Agricultural practices in different NRLM/NRLP blocks in the state. A good number of our field personnel have been selected by them after rigorous tests to work as Master Trainers as well. We are proud to have been able to extend such support to the WBSRLM.
- Although performance was not questioned ever, abrupt discontinuation of MGNREGS-NRLM Convergence programme with CFT Strategy by the state government came as a shock to LKP.
- Office bearers and senior functionaries of LKP are often invited to participate in seminars, workshops on rural development issues, local governance, environment, agriculture, people rights, gender equity etc. It is pertinent to mention here that our field workers also regularly participate in sharing their experiences and handholding in the field level programmes of the various line departments of the government.
- Large number of our colleagues has had the opportunity to undergo trainings at BRAIPRD, KVK etc. apart from internal capacity building exercises.
- Standing by the people in desperate need of support and victims during natural calamities, accidents and other emergencies is the tradition of LKP. LKP is happy to have been able to distribute a large number of clothing materials, utensils etc. to such people in Purulia and Birbhum during the year.
- English Wizard Foundation was kind enough to donate an amount of Rs.50,000/- only for assisting needy students in perusing their Studies. 91 extremely poor and meritorious students were identified from our project areas in Bibhum to whom based on their requirements books and other learning materials like geometry box etc. have been distributed through their respective schools. LKP sincerely thanks the organisation for their kind gesture.

- LKP has continued its relationship with various local CSOs in its project areas as before and also with state level organisations like, IMSE Forum for Voluntary Organisations etc.

9. Acknowledgement:

Loka Kalyan Parishad remains grateful to all those who in some way or the other contributed and /or supported LKP in any of its activities during the year to make its journey possible. Our special thanks to the organisations mentioned below:

- A) Panchayats and Rural Development Department, Govt. Of West Bengal.
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.**
- B) West Bengal Rural Livelihood Mission.**
- C) West Bengal State Watershed Development Agency.**
- D) Office of the Consulate General of America, Kolkata.**
- E) Damodhar Cement Works, Sindhri Cement Works and Kharagpur work
Site of M/s Acc Ltd.**



‘‘আকাশে তো আমি রাখি . ই মোর
উড়িবার ইতিহাস।
তবু, উড়িছি.. এই মোর উল্লাস’’