

## **“Ek Ped Maa ke Naam”**

### **International Year of Cooperatives**

**13th June, Dolep School, Pedong, Kalimpong**

As part of the celebrations of the *International Year of Cooperatives*, a plantation programme titled “*Ek Ped Maa ke Naam*” was organized on 13th June at Dolep School, Pedong, Kalimpong. The programme witnessed the participation of dignitaries from cooperation sector and enthusiastic students and staff of the school.

The event was attended by **DDM, NABARD, CEO, Darjeeling District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB), District Cooperative Officer (DCO), Kalimpong, CEO, Cooperative Union, and Branch Manager, Pedong Branch**. Along with them, teachers and children of Dolep School actively took part in planting saplings, symbolizing growth, unity, and sustainability.

### **Key Messages**

- **CEO, Darjeeling DCCB** highlighted that cooperatives are the backbone of rural development, enabling people to pool resources, work collectively, and achieve prosperity. She emphasized that “just as a tree nurtures life around it, cooperatives nurture communities by fostering self-reliance and shared growth.”
- **DCO, Kalimpong** underlined the importance of sensitizing young minds about cooperative values. He said, “Children should learn that cooperation, like nature, is about mutual support and harmony. By planting trees today, we are sowing the seeds of unity and sustainability.”
- **DDM, NABARD** drew parallels between tree plantation and cooperatives, stating that “a cooperative, like a tree, requires nurturing, patience, and collective care to bear fruit for everyone. Planting trees under this programme is not only an environmental duty but also a message of cooperation for future generations.”

### **Significance**

The plantation drive symbolized the spirit of cooperation—where every sapling planted is a contribution towards a greener tomorrow, much like every member of a cooperative contributes to its strength and success. The programme reinforced the message that cooperative values of **self-help, mutual aid, and collective action** are essential for both community well-being and environmental preservation.

### **Conclusion**

The event ended with a collective pledge by participants to protect the planted saplings and to carry forward the values of cooperation in their daily lives. The programme was not just an environmental initiative but also a reminder that cooperatives and nature go hand-in-hand in ensuring sustainable development.

Some photograph of the event



