

Soil Conservation Wing

- It undertakes soil and water conservation works in **North Bengal**.
- Three Divisions were there under one Conservator, Soil Conservation (N) of which the Kalimpong was abolished in 2019 leaving only two Divisions viz. Kurseong Soil Conservation and Jalpaiguri Soil Conservation Division
- Since the Soil Conservation Divisions in **South Bengal** were converted to Territorial Divisions and hence none there in South Bengal although old names remain such as Kansavati N & S Divisions (Purulia), Panchet Division (Bishnupur) etc.

Major Activities:

- a. **Soil Conservation works:**
 - i. **NBHills:** Gully plugging, boulder sausage works, hand packed wall and plantation activities on land-slide/slip- prone areas in hills
 - ii. **NB Plains:** River training to check change in the course of rivers that carry large amount of silt and boulders from the hills.
 - b. **Plantation works:** are **specialized** since undertaken on the newly formed boulder-strewn/gritty soils and pioneer species are generally planted
 - c. **Much of the activities** centred around the soil conservation works related to the Teesta Low Dam project funded by the CAMPA.
 - d. **There is much scope in South West Bengal** also where gully erosion and reel erosion in the Laterite tracts are common.
- **Various Structural works being undertaken:**
Major components are:
 - a. Structural works/ engineering works
 - b. Plantation works following structural works to stabilize soils. Specific species of vegetation are planted on these relatively barren refractory soils. Various grasses, Bamboos, *Pandanussp.* are early pioneering species from which more exacting species are taken up depend on the successional stage.

c.

Given below are the various types of works undertaken:



Hand packed wall



Cement Rubble Masonry wall



Sausage works



Terrace plantation with pallsades



Slip plantation in the land slide area



Catch water drain

- **Successful Stabilization works at the Peshoke khola**

Highly landslide prone Peshoke khola stand out as a success story and given below various steps:



- **The Integrated Watershed Development Project**

The Project is being implemented by the Agriculture Dept and the forest component has been allotted to the Forest Directorate with CCF, Soil conservation as the Nodal Officer. Altogether seven Project implementing Units were formed representing seven Forest Divisions , viz.

- Kurseong Soil Conservation Division, Division covering Darjeeling Dist
- Kalimpong Soil conservation covering the Kalimpong Dist
- Jalpaiguri Soil conservation Division covering the Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and the Alipur Duar dist
- Bankura (S) Division covering the district of Bankura
- Medinipur Division covering the dist of West Medinipur
- Kansavati (N) Division covering the dist of Purulia

The Project is at the fag end of its term , waiting for the Phase II to commence.