CHANGING LIVES
CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY
A Foundation Built On Ethics

Merino Group was established in 1967 on the ethos of Economy, Excellence & Ethics. The Group has diverse business interests expanding into Interior & Architectural Products, Information Technology and Food & Agro business. Merino has earned the confidence of its consumers, channel partners, and employees through exceptional product quality and focus on stakeholders, which is the most significant asset, strengthened over decades, built on the grounds of excellence.

- 215 Million USD Revenue
- 4000+ Employees
- 5 Production Units
- Producing 18 Million+ HPL Sheets/year
- 80 + Countries
55 Years Of Excellence

1967
Inception of the Group with Corporate Office at Kolkata, WB

1968
Established Potato Cold Storage Facility at Hapur, UP

1974
Started Commercial Plywood Manufacturing Facility at Makum, Assam

1978
MERINO adopted as the name for the Group at Kolkata, WB

1981
First High Pressure Decorative Laminate Manufacturing Facility at Hapur, UP

1994
Highest Exporter of Decorative Laminates at Hapur, UP

1995
Second High Pressure Decorative Laminate Manufacturing Facility at Rohad, Haryana

2002
First Flat Furniture Manufacturing Facility at Hapur, UP

2003
First Low Pressure Decorative Laminate Manufacturing Facility at Hapur, UP

2003
Installation of India’s Largest HPL Press measuring 14 feet X 6 feet at Hapur, UP

2004
Restroom Cubicles Manufacturing Facility in Collaboration with BESCO, Singapore at Hapur, UP

2005
India’s First Potato Flake Manufacturing Plant under Brand VEGIT at Hapur, UP

2006
Low Pressure Decorative Laminate Manufacturing Facility at Hosur, Tamil Nadu

2007
Launched Merino Services Ltd Offering IT Solutions at Delhi

2013
State of the Art Flat Furniture Manufacturing Facility at Hapur, UP

2016
Second State of the Art Flat Furniture Manufacturing Facility at Hosur, Tamil Nadu

2017
Third High Pressure Decorative Laminate Manufacturing Facility at Dahej, Gujarat
Facilitating Services Across Segments

**Interior & Architecture**

Merino is a versatile manufacturer & marketer of Interiors Solutions with a wide array of products for homes, offices, commercial & public areas.

**Information Technology**

Merino provides Business Consulting and value-added services to its customers & business associates.

**Food & Agro Technology**

Diversifying into farming, biotechnology, and food processing, Merino has become a leading brand in the country manufacturing potato flakes and instant snack mixes.
Foreword From MD

The past was great no doubt, but I sincerely believe that the future will be more glorious. - Swami Vivekananda

It is with great humility that I look upon our glorious history marked with humble beginnings, interspersed with leaps of ambitious forays into new ventures, and an unwavering faith in our Mission of “Universal Weal through Trade & Industry”.

It is this very Mission which has guided our actions towards benefiting our Society & Environment. We are now at a juncture wherein our Societal programs are bringing joy, hope & prosperity to at least some of our underprivileged fellow beings. And our care for the environment is manifesting in myriad programs which reduce the burden on natural resources within & around our establishments across the country.

I have no doubt that the future is beckoning us towards an era where Merino will be able to fulfil its obligation for what it owes to the Society and Environment. It is with this hope, that I would like to invite the reader’s attention towards the societal & environmental programs which have been outlined in this presentation.

Let us continue in our endeavour towards “Changing Lives, and Championing Sustainability”

Prakash Lohia
Managing Director, Merino Group
Our Endeavour To Bring The Change

Universal Weal through Trade & Industry
Sustainable growth of the community using productive & sound enterprise

Merino deploys a 2 fold approach in it’s CSR initiatives catering to the community at large, while ensuring all actions are aligned towards the betterment of the society.

The group’s initiatives can be categorized on the basis of impact they have on society

Social Impact

Environmental Impact
SOCIAL IMPACT
The world encountered an extraordinary situation with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following principles of the true Sankat Mochan, “Lord Hanuman”, Merino has been helping society stay protected through these times:

1. **Awareness Programs**: Educating people on social distancing, and on other governmental guidelines for a healthier India.
2. **Sanitization Drives**: Merino carried out sanitization drives in multiple villages.
3. **Building Immunity**: Homeopathic and Ayurvedic medicines were distributed free of cost.
4. **Production and Distribution of Masks**: Merino enabled underprivileged families to produce Face Masks which were distributed across the Country. Proceeds from sales benefited these families.
STEPS TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

**Education**
Impacting the individual student with the aim of holistic development

**Women Empowerment**
Empowering the underprivileged women through vocational training and providing them with employment opportunities.

**Healthcare**
Providing Medical Care facilities to the larger strata of the society
Swami Vivekananda Arunoday Vidyalaya

Established in 2013 with an aim of holistic development of children while ensuring facilities are provided at their households to aid them in their quest for excellence

Key Features

- Provides co-educational Facilities to 111 students
- Education up to class VI
- Higher education is sponsored along with after school classes for 40 students
- Teacher to Pupil ratio of 1:8
- Smart classrooms, Science Labs, Computer Room, and Sport facilities
- Uniforms and nutritious meals are provided
- An all-inclusive development curriculum inclusive of Vedic Knowledge and Yoga
Mid-Day Meal Program

A Healthy mind resides in a healthy body.

A Kitchen with modern cooking facilities operates in the SVAV Campus for its students

Merino serves mid-day meals to more than 500 students every day to nearby schools giving complete nutritional diet for their overall development

Ensuring overall psychosomatic development & regular attendance
The Institute That Creates Winners

Recent Achievement: The students from SVAV Participated in the Future Fingers Global Drawing Competition. The theme was “What will the future classroom look like? How the learning will happen in 2050”

A student of Class 6 has been selected as one of the top global artist of the year by Hundred (Finland) Ambassador community.

Her Vision

- Paperless classrooms through Technology Integration for protecting the Environment
- Smart Devices to replace school bags
- Robots to be an integral part of the teaching experience

Aelish Sagar
Yoga Khshema

“Education, education, education alone! Travelling through many cities of Europe & observing in them the comforts & education of even the poor people there was brought to my mind the state of our own poor people, & I used to shed tears. What made the difference? Education was the answer I got.”

~ Swami Vivekananda

- Yoga Khshema is a scholarship offered by Sri Har-Kasturi Memorial Trust to Twenty Students every year.
- For students who clear the Matriculation examination with more than 80% marks, having family incomes below the poverty line.
- The scholarship offered is for two years to cover the expenses for studies, nutritional needs, and a Mediclaim policy for the family.
- Scholarship Amount: 50,000 Rs per student per year

A bright young mind, “Manik Halder” who has been a recipient of Yogakshema scholarship since the last 2 years has achieved 97.2% marks in Higher Secondary Examination this year from Bongaon High School. Now he aspires to be a doctor and is preparing for the NEET exam.
Holistic Development Remains The Top Priority

- Coaching for students from an economically weaker background
- Computer Training to keep the students future ready
- Students get opportunities to learn about contemporary events, cultural importance in the country through various Study Tours
- The School imparts knowledge of Vedic Culture & practices
Merino Masks

A CSR initiative of Merino Group initiated to
Combat Corona Pandemic &
Unemployment

Enabling Women to earn Rs. 300 – Rs. 500 a day

We enable women to produce masks,
Sell those masks and deliver the money
back to them

For every pair of masks sold,
Rs 7/- directly goes to these women
Merino Covid-19 Safety Kits

Keeping Business Partners Safe

Merino is providing COVID Safety Kits to ensure the health & Safety of its Channel Partners & Consumers.

- **Health Monitoring:** Using thermal scanners and oximeters.
- **Sprays & Disinfectants:** Fogging machines, foot-operated sanitizer dispensers, shoe disinfectant mats with tray, and hypochlorite solutions are provided for sanitization.
- **Personal Protection and Immunity Boosters:** Herbal Immunity Booster (Kadha), Face Shields and, PPE Kits are provided as a part of Personal Protection.
- **Contact Less Operations:** We are making contactless operations successful with foot-operated door openers in the washrooms and peddle operated taps.
Transforming lives through Health & Wellness Programs

General OPD Services

70+ villages covered in collaboration with the Department of Tuberculosis, Govt. of India

Health Centres

Merino has provided free treatment to over 24000 Patients
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Project NIRMAL

- The work culture in Merino is inspired by - Parasparam Bhavayantah (परस्पर भावयन्तः) i.e. Nurture each other.
- Merino group follows the policy of Environment first, and is aiming for empowering the community by working in all directions for a healthy environment.
- The word Nirmal means Devoid of Impurities or Pure
- “Nirmal” focuses on an integrated, multi-dimensional, holistic transformation covering the five elements of life:
  - Energy
  - Water
  - Waste
  - Air
  - Soil
ENERGY

- The group generates around 58% energy from renewable sources

- Generating 25.2% energy from Solar Power – Generating over 12.36 Million kWh of electrical energy annually

- Reducing 30% electrical consumption in lightening requirements by replacing 78% conventional lighting with LED

- Energy Efficient (IE3) motors installed in production and other facilities, with an average installation share of 80% across all manufacturing units

Energy Mix (Sources)

- SEBs: Grid Power stations having electricity supply from multiple sources/fuels
- DG Sets: Fossil Fuel
- Solar: Sunlight
- Biomass & Biogas: Green Fuel (combustible agricultural wastes like rice husks, saw dusts & biogas)
ENERGY

Biomass & Biogas Power – The Green Fuel

- Harnesses 15.77 million kWh of electrical energy annually from biomass during 2019-20
- Accounted for around 74% of the total energy requirement of the two manufacturing units.
- Generates approximately 1,60,000 kWh unit of electrical energy through biogas generator by utilizing waste


- Installed around 9.43 MW solar system/plants to generate 12.36 million kWh units of electrical energy during 2019-20 for four factories of Merino.
- Fulfilled 25.2% of the total energy requirement of all plants of the group.
- Installed 1.98 MV solar system (rooftop) & another 5.5 MV ground-mounted solar system to take care of 49% of energy needs therein
WATER

The 5R approach

- **Reduce** - 200 and 250 CHM Adiabatic Cooling Towers installed that saves more than 27,880 KL of water annually.
- **Flash Recovery** system that saves around 15% of the water used in steams
- **Recycle & reuse** – Recycling over 160,000 KL of water annually for reuse
- **Replenish & restore** – Effectively restores nearly 6,53,815 KL of water in a year while aiming at zero discharge and double recharge
# WASTE

## Waste Segregation & reuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segregated Waste</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Reuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice Husks, Sawdust</td>
<td>Rice &amp; Wood Processing</td>
<td>Fuel to generate heat &amp; Electrical energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Scrapes of Processed</td>
<td>Laminates, Particle Boards manufacturing</td>
<td>Heat generation with complete combustion system for drying biomass fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Boilers, Incinerators NTPC Plant</td>
<td>Making of Bricks, tiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Food processing plant &amp; canteen</td>
<td>Biogas &amp; Composts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Treatment & reuse of Potato Flake Plant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste</th>
<th>Treatment &amp; use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid, Sludge</td>
<td>Processed in ETP to generate electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharged Liquid</td>
<td>Treated with aerobic decomposition for plantation and flushing systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineralized Slurry</td>
<td>Used as fertilizer in gardens, Crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato peels, Unused potatoes</td>
<td>Converted into compost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Objectives

- To reduce/minimize the entire waste generated / received in Merin Plant
- Create Positive value out of any process scrapes / wastes
PADDY COMPOST

Assisting Farmers with Innovative Technology

Dry paddy burning is a significant component of air pollution, especially in the Northern states of India. Merino has developed a cost-effective paddy digesting culture with VNIT to produce soil-enriching compost while restricting air pollutants.

This process has enabled Merino take a multi-pronged approach towards Environmental protection:

- Paddy straw is converted into mature compost efficiently.
- Farmers become capable in completing the process on their own.
- Bulk of the operations are run on human energy, thereby keeping the air pollutants under control.
AIR

- Merino’s cooling needs is addressed by VAM chillers that use waste heat instead of the conventional compressor run on refrigerant gases.

- Mitigation of over 370 tons of ODG- Chlorinated Fluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants have been replaced by the technologically advanced hydrofluorocarbons (eg R-410A) refrigerant in over 376 tons of refrigeration (TR) systems annually.

- Merino’s plants at Hosur and Dahej have complete refrigeration facilities based on Non-CFC refrigerants.

- Wet scrubbers installed in all of our lamination plants to control air pollution.

- We ensure the air quality of premises is heathier, the particulate matters under the prescribed limits, by continuous monitoring through CEMS specially PM2.5 & PM10 etc. on real time basis.
SOIL

- Pest & nutrient management based on soil conditions:
  - Reduced usage of pesticides and fertilizer by 49% and 20% respectively on over 1400 acres of land under potato farming

- The group produces over 200,000 kg vermicompost annually

- Carbon sequestration of around 12,000-kilotons of CO2 equivalent annually

- Rated as one of the best examples of Public Private Association by the Ministry of Agricultural cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India
Agroforestry By Merino

- Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, afforestation also offers **watershed protection**, prevents soil erosion and, mitigates climate change.

- **Merino has brought afforestation** and also the **expansion of agroforestry** under its CenterStage of Green Dive activities.

- In the year **2019-20**, over **7000 trees sampling got paced** into its two factory premises of Hapur.

- Under its agroforestry, **more than 2000 poplar trees and bamboos over 5 acres of land** are grown up.

- These **green activities** like plantations, farming and agroforestry do the **carbon sink or carbon sequestration**.

- Together around **14,000 tons of CO2 equivalent GHG has been effectively removed** through Merino's green initiatives during 2019-20.