



DA's Representation at National Air Pollution Workshop

Development Alternatives (DA) participated in the National Workshop on Air Pollution conducted in Patna, Bihar, on 9th May 2018. In order to understand the current air quality status of Patna, the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) has made a comprehensive assessment system across 10 micro environments using state-of-the-art mobile online laboratory, in association with scientists of Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India (IITM), Pune. The workshop was designed to identify factors that overwhelmingly contribute in augmenting the air pollution of Patna; review and assess the existing qualitative & quantitative information and identify gaps in the state's air quality; identify key sectors, and therefore, the respective key strategies that can work in reducing pollution in Patna; and assign the role of policy makers in setting time-bound targets for air pollution mitigation. The workshop further embarked upon the release of the "Air Quality Assessment Report of Patna" by Shri Sushil Kumar Modi (Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar), in the presence of 100 other stakeholders. He announced the imposition of various stringent anti-pollution regulations in Patna, including the rolling out of phase out ban for clay bricks not later than 1st September 2018 in Patna. He also threw light on the future plans to impose ban on the use of vehicles that are older than 15 years and have not undergone a rigorous emission test. DA contributed to a panel discussion on 'Air pollution Status and Disaster Risk Reduction – Relevance'. During the session, Dr. K. Vijaya Lakshmi (Vice President, DA) gave a presentation on "Mitigation Action in Construction Sector". The presentation focused on the environmental impacts of the brick sector in Bihar, particularly in Patna. The perspective on the significance of alternative bricks, including fly ash bricks, was presented to the participants of the workshop. DA also contributed to the brainstorming and drafting process of the Patna Declaration to overcome the problem of air pollution. The Declaration will soon be finalised by the state authority, and shared with public.