



Inauguration of DA's Development Initiatives by NABARD

In pursuit of its mission to create sustainable livelihoods, Development Alternatives (DA) focuses on Bundelkhand in Central India. The region comprises 13 districts of the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Bundelkhand is a microcosm of the Indian rural economy, one of the poorest and most backward regions in the country. The Natural Resource Management programme in Bundelkhand has contributed to the regeneration of over 25,000 hectares of land and interventions have directly contributed to an enhancement of 15 to 20% in the incomes of more than 10,000 farmers in the region. Women, farmers and artisan groups have been organised as collectives, and community based enterprise models developed for them. Work with village governance system is leading to improving access of families to public programmes, schemes and funds for housing, water supply, sanitation and village infrastructure.

Budhpura village in Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) is one of our intervention areas. On 4th February, 2019, some of the initiatives in the village were inaugurated by the senior team members of NABARD. Shri A.K. Singh (Chief General Manager), Shri M.P. Singh (Deputy General Manager), A. Soni (District Development Manager) and other officials from NABARD visited various intervention sites of Budhpura to review the work and encourage the community to encash various schemes and available opportunities and benefits to improve the quality of life in rural area. Shri A.K. Singh (Chief General Manager). Inauguration of the checkdam on river was followed by inauguration of two enterprises, namely Nadiki Mata Self Help Group Stitching centre and Harshit Cycle Repair Shop. The role played by DA in construction of Check dam under NABARD sponsored Watershed Development Fund (WDF) at Budhpura village has received appreciation from the government as well as the community. It is considered as boon for the people in the village; as it has helped in increasing the production of the crop. Earlier the land which was dry is arable now. DA as implementing organisation is playing important role in it and also to maintain water table of the wells in the region. On the other hand, the enterprises have been instrumental in creating livelihood alternatives for women and youth of the village.