



Session on Systems Change at ACCESS Livihood India Summit

Development Alternatives (DA) participated as the technical partner in the Livihood India Summit 2019 organised by ACCESS Development Services on 12-13 December 2019 in New Delhi. The Summit provides a platform to understand and assess the key issues and challenges that the underprivileged face in sustaining their livelihoods and microenterprises, and also to craft a vision and strategy for moving them from subsistence to sustainable levels.

Development Alternatives with support from ACCESS curated a session on, 'Systems Change for Entrepreneurship Driven Livihood Security', aimed to create a discourse with thought leaders in the area of entrepreneurship. The session, which was attended by 120 participants, was moderated by Shrashtant Patara, Senior Vice President, DA. Kanika Verma, Programme Director, DA was one of the panelist. She emphasised how technology for entrepreneurship development can be made inclusive, such as building virtual co-working spaces for young women in rural India.

The panel also included other eminent speakers like – Madhu Sharan, President at Hand in Hand India, Ajit Kanitkar, Researcher and Senior Advisor Vikas Anvesh Foundation, and Ram Sanjeevan Dubey, Director, Maanviya Drishtikon Seva Samiti.

In another session - "Breaking the Glass Ceiling – Women Entrepreneurs Talk about their Journey". Radha Ahirvar, one of the leaders of the Locally Owned Community Operated (LOCO) safe water supply system which was set-up under the Work 4 Progress programme of Development Alternatives and la Caixa Foundation spoke about her journey. She shared how by breaking social barriers, she and 48 other women of her village have solved the issue of water scarcity in the village.