



### Fostering Sustainable Development in Bundelkhand

**A** Bundelkhand conclave was organised on 10 January 2020 in Banda to bring out the challenges and identify potential solutions in various development sectors in the region. This was part of the ongoing activities of the Bundelkhand Development Board.

The board has been set up by government of Uttar Pradesh as part of an initiative to bring overall development for the Bundelkhand region. The board is headed by the chief minister of the state, Shri Yogi Aditya Nath along with two vice chairman and 10 members. The board is headquartered in Jhansi and is working towards development of seven districts of Uttar Pradesh: Chitrakoot, Banda, Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Maohoba and Lalitpur.

The two-day workshop was to discuss in detail the surface water management and sustainability, access to quality and quantity ground water, water use efficacy and urban development and role of financial institution. At the end of the workshop, presentation and official recommendations were formulated and presented to Mahendra Singh, Jal Shakti Minister, and government of Uttar Pradesh.

Sandeep Khanwalkar, Senior Programme Director, DA during the session on water resource management highlighted the need for an ecosystem-based approach to water conservation in

Bundelkhand. He focused on issues related to water management and farmers' welfare in the region. He also shared DA's approach and how watershed development and climate-resilient farming has brought changes in the life of the community.

He also shared possible solutions on water resource management and how micro irrigation methods like drip/sprinkler technique, seepage management and reuse of waste water, capacity building and training of farmers for increasing water-use efficiency, community engagement for sustainable drinking water and promoting crops with low water requirements, can bring change in the region.

The workshop was able to disseminate academic, technical and practitioners' knowledge for better water management strategies and community mobilisation. It also helped in sharing knowledge on water challenges and success stories for replication across the region.