



Enabling Farmer's Capacity for Production of Millet Farming

Development Alternatives (DA) under Marico India Programme, organised training and capacity building programme for farmers and demonstrated organic pest management for millet cultivation in Chachawali village of Niwari district, Madhya Pradesh on 27 June 2020. The aim of this programme is to contribute to the economic efficiency of farming and provide food/livelihood security to thousands of households, particularly the small and marginal farmers in the rain-fed area of the Bundelkhand region.

The millet cultivation practices will help the small and marginal farmers in facing high production risks due to the variability of water, quality of soil, and weather aberrations. This activity was done with farmers through one to one and group discussions. It was found that farmers spend a large amount of money in purchasing a different variety of crop seeds, and are not able to get enough returns from the field.

Farmers in Chachawali village have been trained on seed production where they learned about the process of millet cultivation in their own fields. The farmers have also been provided good quality millet's seed, bio fertiliser, and access to better prices in the market. The millet cultivation will contribute to sustainable agriculture practices and help in providing a source of energy to the farmers, which will promote heart health and prevent diseases. The programme was conducted with 12 farmers who participated in the process voluntarily. And 12 acres of land was covered in the process. Farmers undertook the whole process with the help of community facilitators.

DA field tests its innovations mostly in Bundelkhand - Hamari Karmabhoomi (our land of action), with support of community institutions and makes varied interventions in the areas of social development, natural resource management, appropriate technology, and environment improvement with the overall aim of enabling access to sustainable livelihoods in large numbers. It has shown excellent results on the ground in wasteland development, natural regeneration, soil and moisture conservation, community-based management systems, and farm diversification activities.