



Enabling Farmer's Capacity through Tagging of Plants for Seed Production

Under its Bundelkhand Revitalising Rainfall Network Programme, Development Alternatives conducted tagging of wheat plants in seed production in Poha village of Niwari district in Madhya Pradesh. The main objective of the programme is to enable farmers to grow seeds themselves for better management of seeds. Seed production management practices build capacities of small holder farmers who face high production risks due to the variability of water use, quality of soil and weather aberrations. This activity was done with farmers through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), where it was found that even though farmers spend a large amount of money for the procurement of seeds, they are unable to secure good quality seeds for their fields. Farmers repeat the same variety of crop in their fields as part of research and development, which can be taken further in the next season.

Given this context, small holder farmers were trained at Kisaan Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Tikamgarh on seed production where they learnt about the process of producing seed on their own fields. Introduction of improved seed cultivation practices and access to modern management through innovative community based models and systems were the drivers of this endeavour. Sustainable agriculture practices and improved seeds variety were demonstrated and disseminated along with skills training and extended capacity building support.

The programme was conducted with 10 farmers who participated in the process voluntarily, covering 12 acres of land during the process. Ribbon and stick were used to mark the area in which wheat was being cultivated for seed production. During the activity, farmers were assisted by a community facilitator, Jai Singh.

Development Alternatives periodically conducts field tests for its innovations, mostly in Bundelkhand, with the support of its partners. DA has intervened in several areas of social development, natural resource management, use of appropriate technology and environment regeneration with the overall aim of enabling large scale access to sustainable livelihoods. These interventions have demonstrated excellent results on the ground as in cases of waste land development, natural regeneration, soil and moisture conservation, community based management systems, and farm diversification activities.