



Webinar Series on 'Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development'

The 10th session of the Webinar series "Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development and the Role of Citizens" was conducted on 8 October 2021. This webinar built the case for Systems Approach and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as ways to engage citizens for sustainable development of water resources in Udaipur.

The first speaker, Mr. Ashok Khosla, Founder and Chairperson of Development Alternatives Group, highlighted Systems approach to look at sustainability and restoration issues. He elaborated on an intervention in Columbia by DA under ZERI's banner whereby degraded grazing lands were converted to Tropical Rainforests and generated diversified livelihood; massive economic returns; purest of drinking water; a thriving biodiversity; reduced human violation crimes; and increased national security.

The second speaker, Dr. Anil Mehta, Principal of Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic and Expert member at Jheel Sanrakshan, emphasized on main streaming watersheds as units of planning for water resource development, in place of administrative boundaries. He said respect for local culture; local knowledge; and local aspirations are the key to IWRM. He pointed to lack of coordination and alignment in policies; and weak institutional capacities as main bottlenecks of IWRM and elucidates dealing with them through building scientific capacity of communities and putting eco-technological solutions in place; by discussing projects implemented in Udaipur.