



Promoting Inclusive Entrepreneurship at the Livelihoods India Summit

For the third consecutive year, Development Alternatives (DA) collaborated with ACCESS Development Services as a technical partner in the annual Livelihoods India Summit from 28 – 30 January 2021. On the first day of the Summit, the State of India's Livelihood Report (SOIL) was launched where DA co-authored a chapter on '*India Needs To Move From Microenterprise Schemes to Building an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem*'. The chapter authored by DA team consisting of Shrashtanat Patara, Kanika Verma, and Vrinda Chopra examines the microentrepreneurship ecosystem and proposes a path of inclusive entrepreneurship characterised by a systemic change that enables underrepresented groups to access entrepreneurship opportunities and decent livelihoods.

In the second half of the day, DA co-curated a session on 'Women's Entrepreneurship 2030.... Unearthing New Possibilities, Driving System Change'. The panel discussion was moderated by Shrashtant Patara, Senior Vice President, DA, and included the following panellists: Gayatri Divecha, Associate Vice President and CSR Head, Godrej Industries; Neelam Maheshwari, Founder, Navodyami Services; Kanta Singh, Country Programme Manager, UN Women; and Bala Madhavan Kutty, World Bank. The speakers engaged in an open dialogue session to share perspectives on unearthing new possibilities; key learnings that can help in co-designing solutions; and meso and macro level processes that can facilitate systemic changes for women entrepreneurship at the grassroots. The virtual session received participation from over 270 individuals, where the emphasis was laid on the need to look at women entrepreneurship with a different lens and pave the way for inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development.

On the last day of the Summit, DA with its partners announced the 'SAM-UDYAM' initiative: an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Collaboratory established to build an ecosystem to promote Inclusive Entrepreneurship. It is aimed to explore the idea of how a multi-stakeholder platform can induce change that is systemic in nature to build new 'micro-economies' where progress is based on equitable growth and social well-being. It will act as a shared 'institutional infrastructure' for thought leaders, change makers, and innovators, all committed to promoting entrepreneurship for creating sustainable livelihoods at scale.

Livelihood India Summit over the past 10 years has evolved significantly and has emerged as an important forum for stakeholders to meet, share experiences, discuss issues, assess and analyse the policy environment, and build consensus on strategies that will deliver sustainable outcomes. Across three days, more than 70 thought leaders spoke on a wide range of themes and over 500 delegates from across the country participated in the event.