



### Economics of Land Degradation (ELD), an event organized at UNCCD CoP 14

**D**evelopment Alternatives and Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) initiative team jointly with GIZ ELD organised a side event on 'Evaluating the Impact of Land Remediation through the Lenses of Natural Capital and SDGs in the Bundelkhand region in Madhya Pradesh, India' in Rio Pavilion, Greater Noida on 3rd September, 2019. The event aimed at evaluating and raising awareness on the economic benefit of the land and land-based ecosystems for making it an integral part of policy strategies and decisions. The event was hosted Dr Anil Markandya (Basque Center of Climate Change), Dr Jagdish Krishnaswamy (ATREE), Dr Rohini Chaturvedi (Independent consultant), Madhav Gholkar (Watershed Organization Trust) and Pran Singh Lodhi (Farmer from Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh) as panelists and Hannes Etter (GIZ) as a speaker.

The session started with screening of a film on ELD followed by an introduction to the ELD approach by Hannes Etter from GIZ. Further a presentation on successful experiences of land remediation was given by Gitika Goswami on experiences of Bundelkhand, and a presentation by Madhav Gholkar on watershed experiences of Maharashtra. The session also featured vibrant discussions between the panelists providing critical indicators and insights for future upheaval.

The concerns highlighted during the discussion revolved around studies for economic valuation of land remediation interventions being critical for generating evidence, yielding valuable insights on the scale, nature of investment, interventions and the economic models that can be most effective in achieving

the country's LDN targets that can further influence scaling up of investment through policy mechanisms, convergence partnerships and private investment.

Pran Singh Lodhi shared his experience of making the shift to a climate resilient model of farming and leading his community in the sustainable management of land and water resources in his village. The event saw insightful discussions and sharing of knowledge and experiences amongst the participants who agreed to keep the very pertinent dialogue alive. Post the discussion there was a Q&A session, in which some striking questions came out on topics like role of ELD in reversing land degradation and achieving the LDN targets, ELD's contribution to decision making and incentivize investments in land restoration, and how can ELD influence biodiversity conservation and restoration of ecosystem services.