

Stakeholders' Workshop in Udaipur on Integrated Water Resource Assessment

Development Alternatives, through support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - DANIDA Fellowship Center, is implementing a Research Project titled "Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ahar River), Udaipur District." Under the project, a roundtable was organised at the Development Alternatives Headquarters in New Delhi.

The roundtable witnessed participation from the Denmark team working in collaboration with India on the Green strategic partnership, led by Dr. Karsten Høgh Jensen from the University of Copenhagen. Dr. Karsten shared his views on the focus areas of the Green Strategic Partnership. The engagement fosters data-based decision-making to ensure preparedness for future climate scenarios.

He further emphasised the Danish strategy to manage water resource usage efficiently by regulating water prices, incentivising water saving, and reducing water loss in the pipe distribution system. He also presented the working structure of the MIKE SHE Model to analyse, learn, and predict climate change scenarios. Other participants for the roundtable discussed the scope for integrating citizen science into hydrological modelling and the transparency of available data for future usage in resource management planning.

Development Alternatives has a successful history in implementing citizen science projects for environmental issues and developing a national-level framework for adopting a Citizen Science based approach. The participants further asserted that the spirit of volunteerism should be infused with citizen science to apply it for the best use.

The discussion on challenges of the institutionalisation of Citizen Science concluded that institutionalisation of such initiatives, even on a smaller scale, can fuel its expansion to other areas like agriculture and biodiversity. Credibility, legitimacy, and accountability are the crucial principles that should be followed for integrating citizen science data into the national database.

The Danish Water Planning Model has to be contextualised for India to better cater to the need for sustainable management of its water resources, keeping communities as central users.



Ms. Goswami presents DA's work in conserving water resources



Partners of Indo- Danish Green Strategic Partnership