



Monitoring Visit for Watershed Management

Watershed management is a part of the national approach to improve agricultural practices and alleviate poverty in rain fed regions in India. Development Alternatives is implementing micro watershed project across 21 villages of Babina Block, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The watershed management project, funded by NABARD, aims to restore degraded watersheds in rain fed regions to increase their capacity to capture and store rainwater, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil nutrient and carbon content in the area.

Recently, a visit was scheduled to Jhansi to understand the institutional mechanism, physical intervention, financial process, and documentation of the project. The team visited the project area and interacted with the community to understand the role of the village institution in the project. A village level watershed committee is ensuring the active participation of the community and is also leading to enhanced transparency and coordination for planning and implementation.

The project has made considerable efforts in covering private and public wastelands under soil and moisture conservation activities. The current activities stabilised the gullies to control further erosion. Furthermore, about 150 Ha of wasteland has been covered under vegetation and fodder development, 140 ha of land converted from barren to agricultural land, and 200 plus Ha of land has been converted from single crop to double crop area.

These solutions have been co-created with the communities of the region and a separate bank account has been created for repairing and maintenance which will ensure the sustainability of these developments even after the project period.