

Entrepreneurship Coalition Meeting in Basti District, Uttar Pradesh

To accelerate rural enterprise development at the district level, an inception meeting for the Regional Entrepreneurship Coalition was conducted in Basti district, Uttar Pradesh on 13 June, 2022. This meeting was hosted by the District Training Officer and anchored by Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF), under the Work4Progress programme.



Officials interacting with entrepreneurs

The inception meeting was headed by the Chief Training Officer of Basti district and officials from six other government offices, namely, Rural Self Employment Training Institutes, SBI Bank, District Training Department, District Development Board, Horticulture Department and Veterinary. Representatives from women federations and entrepreneurs also attended the meeting and highlighted the barriers to pursue entrepreneurship at the rural level. The officials from various departments and the community representatives agreed on a need for a collaborative platform to monitor and streamline the various schemes available for livelihood creation.

The officials interacted with the entrepreneurs and guided them through various opportunities for entrepreneurship. During the closing remarks, Dr Rajesh Kumar Prajapati, Chief District Officer appreciated the efforts of Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) and the Work4Progress programme. He suggested the regularisation of such meetings and defining indicators to measure their efficacy. A few successful entrepreneurs were also provided with recognition certificates for their efforts and contribution in promoting entrepreneurship at the district level.

As part of the next steps, TRIF and Development Alternatives will work together to create a core team for the coalition in Basti and develop communication products to promote entrepreneurship in the community.

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Regional Entrepreneurship Coalition in Mirzapur & Bundelkhand

Regional Entrepreneurship Coalitions were conducted in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand on 18 May, 2022 and 3 June, 2022, respectively, under the Work4Progress (W4P) India programme. The two coalitions were attended by 75+ individuals including entrepreneurs and representatives from diverse organisations such as ActionAid, NABARD, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Indian Grass and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Bekaar to Aakar, Khadi Gram Udyog, and Sharm Vibhag.

The session in Mirzapur was conducted in hybrid mode and was hosted by Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti and Manviya Dristikon Sewa Sansthan (MDSS). It was moderated by Ram Sanjeevan Dubey of MDSS, who initiated the conversation by emphasising on the platform's significance in fostering relationships and bridging gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Whereas in Bundelkhand, the coalition meeting was conducted virtually with Omkar, DA team as the moderator. The objective of the Bundelkhand coalition was to explore opportunities for large-scale enterprises that could create more jobs in the region and also leverage the existing network of stakeholders from IGFRI and ActionAid.



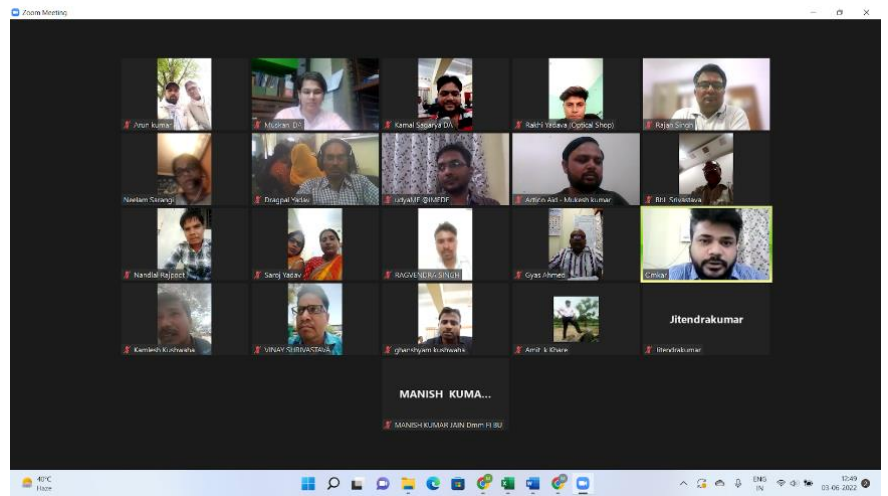
Regional Entrepreneurship Coalition underway at Mirzapur



Carpet weaving entrepreneur Sadaf Ali speaking on relevance of enterprise support services at Regional Entrepreneurship Coalition, Mirzapur

Back in 2017, a Regional Entrepreneurship Coalition was established in Mirzapur as part of the W4P India programme. Currently, the coalition is active in five geographies including Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bundelkhand, Bankati, and Bahraich. The coalition's major goal is to create a multi-stakeholder platform that allows entrepreneurs and stakeholders from government organisations, financial institutions, and training institutions to take ownership and come together to collaborate on solutions for supporting enterprise growth in any geography. DA is now working towards making the Mirzapur coalition the 'model coalition' to ensure ownership among stakeholders and its replicability across other geographies.

The focus of the discussions was on entrepreneurship-related training, schemes, and large-scale enterprises leading to job creation. The stakeholders present emphasised that entrepreneurs should have access to a healthy and nurturing environment in order to establish more sustainable enterprises. As a way forward, the DA team will follow up on the action points that emerged during the meeting with respect to providing enterprise support services and capturing success stories of convergence among coalition partners.



DA Bundelkhand team and participants at the virtual REC

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