



### DA at the 'Rethinking Development Cooperation' Conference in Germany

**D**evelopment Alternatives (DA) participated in an international conference on 'Rethinking Development Cooperation' in Bonn, Germany, during 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. The conference was organised jointly by the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and the DAAD-funded programme 'Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – exceed'. Mayukh Hajra (Deputy Programme Director, DA) delivered a plenary presentation on one of DA's most innovative and successful initiatives i.e. 'Shubhkal Leader - A Rural Reality Show on Climate Change', as a contribution to the session on 'Rethinking Development Cooperation - Examples from Practice'. The presentation highlighted some of the features of the initiative that had proved instrumental in its delivering successful impact and which could be taken as lessons and best practices with wider applicability for ensuring ownership and sustainability in development interventions. Additionally, DA was also represented by Mayukh Hajra in a parallel round-table session on 'Learning for Effectiveness in Development Cooperation'. The session explored how the function of learning could contribute to enhanced effectiveness of development cooperation and what are the challenges faced by actors in generating and using evidence for informing practice.

150 participants from 22 different countries attended the conference, which offered a multi-faceted platform to discuss and exchange critical ideas about the challenges and prospects of development cooperation. The program combined keynote lectures from research and policy, high-level panel discussions and a comprehensive open-space process, during which the role of research and higher education institutions in the context of development cooperation was discussed.