



Consultative Workshop on design of TAP-RISE in Pune

Development Alternatives (DA) and Vigyan Ashram jointly organised a Consultative Workshop on design of Technology Acceleration Platform for Rural Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (TAP-RISE) at BAIF Bhawan, Pune on 25 July, 2019. TAP-RISE is envisioned as a country level platform to enhance the capacities of frontline organisations through the effective exchange of knowledge, expertise and support services. Once operational, the platform will provide "on-demand" services to accelerate the impact and commercialization of innovative technologies, products and services relevant to the needs of rural India.

The workshop was conducted as part of the TAP-RISE Design Phase project supported by the Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED), Department of Science and Technology (DST). The one-day event saw presentations and discussions and brought together 17 Core Support Groups (CSGs) - Science based Voluntary Organizations/field institutions supported by DST – from across India and facilitated sharing of knowledge and ideas; co-designing the platform; consolidating view on challenges and opportunities for accelerating impact of technologies/products developed by the CSGs. It aimed at bridging information gaps related to competencies of the CSGs (identified during analysis of the information received through questionnaires, and discussion during workshop); validation of needs identified by CSGs.

The opening remarks were made by Girish G. Sohani, President, BAIF, Dr. Rajendra P. Jagdale, Director General, Science and Technology Park, Dr. Sunil K. Agarwal, Scientist E, SEED Division, DST.

Shrashtant Patara, Sr. Vice President, DA Group, delivered presentation on 'Overview of proposed Platform' and 'Current findings and opportunities for Core Support Groups'. Similarly, under eco-system building through collaboration, presentations and briefs were delivered by representatives of Microsoft India, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, TATA Trusts and Wheels Charitable Foundation.

Dr. Debapriya Dutta, Head, SEED Division, DST joined the workshop over video conferencing and emphasized on marketability of a product by recognizing its social value as well. For this, he asked the participants to identify such products and the different marketing channels for it. The workshop was moderated by Shrashtant Patara, Dr. Yogesh Kulkarni, Executive Director, Vigyan Ashram and Kanika Verma, Programme Director, DA Group. The workshop was coordinated by Sudhir Sah and Mayank Nautiyal, Manager, DA Group and Sachin Punekar, Manager, Vigyan Ashram and Mayank.

Following the event, the project team would engage with the participants especially the CSGs to frame the overall design and implementation strategy of the platform.