

Chhattisgarh Rural Livelihood Summit 2023



Col. Raman Thapar and Sameer Kapoor at the Summit

Development Alternatives and Grant Thornton Bharat successfully organised the Chhattisgarh Rural Livelihood Summit 2023 on the 25th of July 2023 at Raipur as part of HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative. Focused on FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations), government initiatives, financial and market linkage, and knowledge providers, the Summit served as a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among diverse stakeholders in rural livelihoods. The event also aimed to deliberate on a strategy to develop an enabling environment for women's livelihood development and the respective FPOs' sustainability.

Mr Iqbal Singh Guliani, Executive Vice President, HDFC Bank, Smt Padmini Bhoi Sahu, State Mission Director, Chhattisgarh SRLM, and Sh. Pradeep Sharma, Advisor to CM, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, were amongst the guests present at the event.

Ms Nusrat Pathan, Head of CSR & ESG, HDFC Bank, remarked that the Summit envisioned supporting women farmers by linking them with the market through FPOs and creating an ecosystem of stakeholders in the farming community to generate sustainable livelihoods. She conveyed her enthusiasm about the collaborative effort between HDFC Bank, Society for Development Alternatives (DA), and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP to achieve this goal and bring positive change.

Colonel (Retd) Raman Thapar and Sameer Kapoor from the DA Group were part of the sessions on "Common Facilities and Value Addition by Producer Groups" and "Productive Partnership". The insightful dialogues aimed to promote rural livelihood growth and strengthen various stakeholders' roles in uplifting rural communities.

Speakers and experts shared invaluable experiences in the FPO (Farmer Producer Organisations) ecosystem in other states such as Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

DA is implementing the Local Economic Development (LED) programme supported by HDFC Bank in six states of India - Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, and West Bengal. Under the programme, farm and non-farm enterprises are being set up by women-led Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

As part of the visit, the DA team also visited Rural Industrial Parks (RIPAs) in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, where the Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF), the special-purpose vehicle of DA, is providing technical support in 8 RIPAs of Bilaspur district. RIPAs are an initiative of Govt of Chhattisgarh to provide sustainable livelihoods. The team visited the organic paint manufacturing unit and the HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) bag-making unit. These units are managed by rural women entrepreneurs who are essential to the value chain.