

Science-Policy-Praxis Interface for Sustainability Underlined in the TNC Workshop



Dr. Ashok Khosla delivering his keynote address in the National Workshop on Strengthening the Science-Policy-Practice Interface for Sustainability

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13: Development Alternatives joined The Nature Conservancy and an array of other research institutions and think tanks in discussing the need and scope for strengthening a science-policy-praxis interface for sustainability in India. The workshop also marked the conclusion of the first phase of the Indian Collaborative for Applied Sustainability Solutions (ICASS), led by The Nature Conservancy and supported by TATA Trust, under which a number of small pilots were commissioned for generating evidence towards strengthening the policy from integration of science and learnings from praxis, and vice-versa.

Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group was a keynote speaker at the event. Drawing insights from his journey, he underlined the importance of supporting policies and praxis design with science – including traditional knowledge. His ideas were reflected in the technical sessions that followed on the use of science and lessons from the field practice for better-informed policy choices related to environment and nature conservation.

Dr. Khosla was joined by Prof. R. Sukumar, Honorary Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Sh. Subramanian Ramadorai, Chairman, Karmayogi Bharat & Former CEO & MD, TATA Consultancy Services, and Sh. Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, IAS (Retired), Distinguished Fellow in the Centre for Global Environmental Research, TERI in launching policy briefs supported under the ICASS initiative. This included one on 'Harnessing the Potential of Ponds with an Ecosystem-based Approach in India: Praxis to Policy Recommendations for Mission Amrit Sarovar,' drafted by Development Alternatives based on a triple bottom line assessment of 12 rejuvenated ponds, including Amrit Sarovars, in different climatic zones of India. This short study was undertaken from April to June this year to draw recommendations for Mission Amrit Sarovar. A detailed policy paper with compendium of assessed ponds shall be available soon.