South Asia Webinar: Reflections after COP27
Eco-Village Development, Climate Mitigation and Development
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Views from
Development Alternatives Group, India
Resilient Futures Together

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Our Vision

A world where every citizen can live a secure, healthy, and fulfilling life, in harmony with nature

Our Mission

To design, deliver, and promote scalable solutions that enable better lives and resilient economies for everyone, especially the vulnerable communities, women, farmers, and young people in India
"Transforming our society to one where prosperity, justice, and security are shared by all and in which life-supporting nature flourishes forever, will need foresight and active effort at every level - from households and local communities to businesses and national governments to choose alternative technologies and approaches that create sustainable, fulfilling lives and livelihoods."

Dr Ashok Khosla
Chairman, Development Alternatives
Our Impact

Year 2020-2021

Empowered Communities

- 17,057 households accessed basic needs services such as WASH, clean energy, housing, and literacy
- 442 new SHGs formed
- 40 SHGs linked to banks

Clean and Green Environment

- 2,110 farmers trained on water management, sustainable agriculture, and climate change adaptation planning
- 410 million liters of water conserved
- 3.2 million tonnes of top soil saved

Income Generation Opportunities

- 682 enterprises setup and supported, creating 8,702 jobs
- 5,747 people trained with employability and vocational skills
- 3,226 jobs created through skill enhancement
- Generating INR 300 million revenue
- 16,000+ artisans, crafts persons, and farmers livelihoods enhanced
Impact: Technological Innovation
Impact: Social Innovation & Environmental Action

Over 40 Years, the Development Alternatives Group has acquired unique understanding of Rural Lives and the Rural Market
Our Journey So Far

- First 100% earth-based urban building – DA headquarters
- TARA Balram Mud Block Press
- TARA Chulha 101
- TARA loom
- Jal-TARA filter
- TARA handmade paper
- Aqua check vial & Jal-TARA water testing kit
- VSBK-TARA EcoKiln
- TARA MCR roofing tiles
- TARA Brickmek
- Climate Action Network South Asia
- TARAgam livelihood resource centre in Bundelkhand
- DESI Power - India’s first biomass gasifier-based power plant
- Check dams in Bundelkhand
- Clean India programme launched
- TARA Karigar Mandal launched
- Pawan TARA air-monitoring kit
- TARA soil testing kit
- Building Materials & Services Bank, Odisha
- Fly Ash brick technology package
- SOE Atlas for India published
- Rural Housing Policy for GoI
- New DA green headquarters
- Rural Climate Change Action
- Radio Bundelkhand established
- Shubh Kal - climate communication action programme
- PACS - largest civil society support programme
- UdyaME, enterprise information network
- Bridge2Naukri, youth employment portal
- TARA Urja, mini-grids in UP & Bihar
- CELAMeD
- DA co-found Green Economy Coalition
- IMEDF, nodal agency for the Ministry of MSME’s SFURTI scheme
- triilogue 2047, sustainability discourse
- TARAgam Yatra, annual development pilgrimage
- MoU with One UN for partnership in UN programmes in India
- Hamara Gaon – Integrated Village Development programme launched
- Community-based water services delivery in Bundelkhand
- First trial of LC3 in Rajasthan
- Agreement on carbon neutrality in construction sector with Bihar
- MoU with JK Cement to decarbonise cement production
- Engagement with Global AFN to double Adaptation Fund country cap
- TARA Akshar+ literate 2,50,000 women
- SAM-Udyam launched at the Livelihoods India Summit 2021
- LC3 reaches Thailand, Fiji, & Malawi
Our Approach - How

**Innovation**
We create innovative business models and institutional systems that promote local initiative and benefit sharing

**Incubation**
We incubate and prove the viability of business models that increase access to basic needs, products, and services

**Implementation**
We work with a wide spectrum of stakeholders to implement development solutions on-ground

**Influence**
We develop our insights from on-ground action and analysis to provide critical advice for policy-making

**Impact**
We work towards creating replicable models that have a large-scale impact and speeding up multiplication
Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Innovative business models and institutional ecosystems to empower local entrepreneurs for creating businesses that generate jobs and deliver basic needs

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

Accelerating the transition to inclusive and circular modes of production and consumption by reducing carbon and material footprints across the lifecycle of economic activity while promoting local value and wealth creation

Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

Regenerating lost biodiversity and degraded ecosystems and building resilience to climate change and extreme events in a manner that also generates prosperity
Our Approach - Where

- Waste Management
- Human Settlements
- Green Energy
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Safe Water
- Climate Resource
- Sustainable Enterprise
- Decent Work
- Empowering Communities
Awards and Recognition

- UNEP Global 500 Award - 1992
- The United Nations Sasakawa Environment Prize 2002
- The Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2008
- The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal at Buckingham Palace in 2011
- UNEP Science-Policy Lifetime Award 2016
- Good Practice award by World Bank Impact Portfolio in 2019
- UN SDG Good Practices 2021 award
- Common Wealth Award for Good Education Practice in 2022
Our Footprint
Our Karmabhoomi - Bundelkhand

*Karmabhoomi refers to our work laboratory*
Bundelkhand

35 years as Sustainability Laboratory of Development Alternatives:
- Understanding ground realities in remote communities
  - People’s culture and aspirations
  - Societal and economic constraints
  - Local Resources
- Innovating, testing, and refining alternative models of development
  - Local, bottom-up, community-centric planning
  - Implementation most suited to the people and resources of the region
  - Feedback from experiences.
Building People’s Capacities for Economic Empowerment

Since 2019, Raqib, aged 32, has been participating in community meetings, peer-to-peer learning, business plan co-creation, and enterprise development training and has benefitted from technology, market, and credit linkages. After receiving the training, he set up a flour mill, followed by a tyre puncture repair shop. Recently, he expanded his business with a spice-grinding unit. His average monthly revenue is around INR 40,000.

Building people’s capacities for economic empowerment is the core objective of the HSBC-EE project, which is being implemented in villages in Delhi NCR, Uttarakhand, and UP. Through a 3E people-centred approach: building capacities of Entrepreneurs, setting up and supporting sustainable Enterprises, and creating a nurturing Ecosystem for entrepreneurship, the initiative has supported 300 enterprises. After the COVID-19 outbreak, transition support was provided to 450 individuals. The project is scaling-out to accelerate livelihood creation through udyaME.
Footprint: India
Presence: Global South
Mission LiFE seeks to translate the vision of LiFE into measurable impact. It is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and conserving the environment in the period 2022-28. Within India, at least 80 percent of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by 2028.

Indoor Government’s initiatives towards UNFCCC Processes
TEAM DA at COP27