



DA at the Group Monitoring Workshop of Department of Science and Technology, Dehradun

Development Alternatives (DA) participated in the Group Monitoring Workshop of the Core Supported Groups (CSGs) under the Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) (Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India) on 5th and 6th February, 2019. The workshop was organised at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. The event brought together 26 CSGs from all over India to share their work in the presence of experts and other principal investigators, and also provided a platform to exhibit their innovative products and technologies. The two-day event, consisting of presentations and discussions underlined the need for demonstrating viability of these products and technologies at scale. To address this, Technology Acceleration Platform for Rural Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (TAP-RISE), a SEED supported project currently in its design phase, and led by DA and Vigyan Ashram, was proposed as a solution for scaling up. TAP-RISE is being developed as a national level platform to bridge existing gaps and provide “on-demand” services to accelerate impact of innovative products and technologies through collaboration.

During the workshop, Dr. Soumen Maity (Assistant Vice President) and Palas Kumar Haldar (Asst. General Manager) from the DA Group, presented on the innovative products and technologies developed by the organisation with support from DST. Similarly, Poulami Dutta (Assistant Programme Director) and Sudhir Sah (Deputy Manager) from the DA Group, networked with the CSGs to promote TAP-RISE, and on boarding them for collaboration on the project. Among the various dignitaries who graced the occasion, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma (Secretary, DST) visited the DA Group’s exhibition stall where he was briefed on various solutions offered by the DA Group in areas like green building materials, low carbon cement (LC³), and safe drinking water. The other dignitaries present during the event were Shri Arun Singh Rawat (Director, FRI, IFS), Shri B. Anand (Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, DST); Dr. Sunil Agarwal (Scientist E, DST); Dr. Debapriya Dutta (Head, SEED, DST). Overall, the workshop and exhibition proved to be an excellent platform to promote DA Group’s work, and TAP-RISE getting an overwhelming response from government stakeholders and CSGs alike.