



Interacting with clusters in Karnataka and Nagaland

Under the SFURTI project of Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF) and Development Alternatives (DA), team members Col Raman Thappar and Rabina Jaiswal visited the states of Karnataka and Nagaland from 28 November – 12 December 2019 to monitor the working of various clusters.

In the Kiphire District of Nagaland, DA works with the Agro Business Cluster. During this visit, the initial process of special purpose vehicle (SPV) establishment was completed. Additionally, a feasibility study of the cluster was initiated to measure its sustainability. The cluster will be involved in farming and processing of kholar beans (french beans), ginger, turmeric and honey beekeeping. The activities of the cluster display great potential for the market.

In Karnataka, the team visited two clusters - Sagara Woodcrafts Cluster and Natural Dye Cluster in Shivmoga. The woodcrafts cluster produces woodcrafts by 500 local artisans. The team interacted with the artisans and SPV members to understand their issues and challenges as well as to identify new opportunities. Finalisation of land for CFC and market linkages of Khadi outlets of Bangalore was also established. The other cluster visited in Karnataka - The Natural Dye Cluster is located in a typical rural setup. 60% of the cluster is made up of women artisans who work in dyeing, designing, weaving and marketing roles in retail outlets. The cluster has a strong customer base for its products because of high tourist footfall.

After engaging with the clusters, the team from DA, also attended the 4th Working Committee meeting with SPV members, members of State Government, DIC and Lead bank officials