



Pran Singh: Saved by WADI

Pran Singh, a small farmer with only 2.5 acres of land, lives in Busahar village of Shivpuri District in Madhya Pradesh. Successive years of drought and the lack of irrigation sources had made struggling with farm distress a way of life posing as a threat to livelihoods.

Development Alternatives (DA) has focused on building climate resilient livelihoods, particularly by supporting marginalised communities in the semi-arid regions of Bundelkhand in adapting to conditions that pose a threat to their livelihoods and well-being also using community radio extensively for dissemination of information on farm linked sustainable livelihood options and improved agripractices. More than 100,000 people across 560 villages were reached out through a targeted water campaign to promote local action for sustainable management of water resources, and to build capacities of local youth agents and panchayat members to ensure sustainability of such action. Research and advocacy activities addressed diverse areas including the role of FPOs in promoting natural resource management, community based adaptation, climate risk communication, climate adaptive planning and mainstreaming climate resilient agriculture in local development planning. Training on a systems thinking approach to SDGs implementation was imparted to officials of states with a focus on ecological goals of the SDGs, i.e. goals 13, 14 and 15 pertaining to climate change, life below water and life on land. Lessons from the grassroots were taken up for policy advocacy at the national and regional level through various networks.

In 2016, DA enabled Pran to come under the fold of the WADI programme supported by NABARD initiated with the idea of providing a holistic approach to address the production, processing and marketing needs of the tribal farmers. After this, he adopted an integrated agro-forestry model, planting climate adaptive species such as Guava and Amla intercropped seasonally with wheat and fodder crops. He also started a poultry farm as a supplementary source of steady income. Today, Pran Singh is a successful WADI farmer and has been able to come out of his poverty. He now has a steady source of income.