

## Regional Enterprise Coalition Held in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand

Regional Entrepreneurship Coalitions (RECs) were conducted in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh on 25 August, 2022 and Niwari, Bundelkhand on 6 September, 2022 under the Work4Progress (W4P) India programme. The two coalitions were attended by more than 83 individuals including entrepreneurs and representatives from diverse organisations such as ActionAid, NABARD, Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), District Industry Commissioner Bhadohi, HDFC Micro Finance Institution, Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bhadohi, local civil society organisations, and entrepreneurs.

The meeting held in Badohi was conducted in person and was attended by 35 members, including entrepreneurs and members from organisations/departments such as RSETI, NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission), Khadi Gram Udyog, HDFC Micro-Finance Institution, Development Alternatives, SVSS (Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Sansthan), and MDSS (Manviya Drishikon Seva Sansthan). The broad agenda of the session was to map out the importance of large-scale entrepreneurship and enterprise. The participants discussed the importance of taking a diverse perspective on large enterprises from the stakeholders, coalition partners, and existing entrepreneurs as well as encouraging existing entrepreneurs to establish large enterprises. The session was moderated by Debasis Ray, Development Alternatives.



REC in action at Bhadohi

The focus of the discussions was on entrepreneurship-related training, schemes, and large-scale enterprises leading to job creation. The stakeholders emphasised that entrepreneurs should have access to a healthy and nurturing environment to establish more sustainable enterprises. As a way forward, our team will follow up on the action points that emerged during the meetings with respect to providing enterprise support services and capturing success stories of convergence among coalition partners.

During the meeting organised in Niwari, the need to scale up the large enterprises in the area and also develop collaboration among the government agencies to ensure timely support is provided to the entrepreneurs was discussed. The meeting was hosted by the NRLM District Manager at their office and saw the participation of more than 14 stakeholders such as NRLM-Niwari, State Bank of India-Niwari, Horticulture Niwari, RSETI-Tikamgarh, HDFC Bank Niwari, and Agriculture Department, Hathkargha Niwari and 25 entrepreneurs. As an action point, all stakeholders agreed to exchange information about existing on-going schemes and support entrepreneurs in setting up and expanding their existing business.