



Masons Training Programme on Eco-Friendly and Disaster Resistant Building Techniques, Uttarakhand

Development Alternatives (DA) conducted Masons Training Programme on ‘Eco-friendly and disaster resistant building techniques’ from 21st to 23rd September, 2018 in village Kamad, Block Dunda, District Uttarkashi of Uttarakhand. The training was part of the ‘Technology Intervention for Mountain Ecosystem: Livelihood Enhancement through Action Research & Networking (TIMELEARN)’ programme funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Himalayan Environment Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), Dehradun. The training aimed to provide the masons with in-depth exposure of disaster resistant construction practices and application of basic eco-friendly techniques, with focus on foundation, plinth and masonry, along with hand-on experience on demonstration building. The training programme has been designed for skilled artisans. About 20 skilled artisans, with experience ranging from 10 to 25 years, undertook the training, which was divided into classroom (audio-visual presentation and interaction sessions) and mock drill exercises on different stages of construction. Trainers included Pankaj Khanna (Senior Consultant, DA), Srijani Hazra (Manager, DA) and Vinod Chamoli (Supervisor, Technology and Research Network -TARN).

The participants learnt various key details of disaster resilient construction practices, specifically in Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) construction, as there is lack of understanding of the science behind behavior of cement with water. The trainers emphasised that there should be no sense of competition amongst the masons while working, as it may lead to poor quality of work done in hurry. Moreover, sense of unity is very much important between the masons. Last but not the least, “*majbooti aur sundarta*” should be the motive of masons while working.

DA is pioneer in providing eco-friendly and disaster resistant building techniques in mountainous regions and has previously delivered training in coastal areas (post tsunami) and semi-arid regions of India.