



Providing Rural Exposure to NABARD Recruits

Development Alternatives (DA) has been identified by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as a resource agency to conduct the three-week Rural Immersion Programme for newly recruited officials. TARAGram Orchha, Madhya Pradesh, served this learning platform for nine recruits, from 26th March to 14th April 2018. The objective of the programme was to enhance their understanding of the rural scenario, fine-tune their skills, and provide them with an exposure to the challenges and development in rural areas. This was achieved through a mix of closed discussions and field visits. Development practitioners conducted the former through a set of presentations; while for the latter, the participants visited several project sites, communities and villages, and various line departments, including government and private sectors. The NABARD recruits were given a detailed and clear picture of the socio-economic conditions of rural areas; the various stakeholders involved in rural development, along with their roles and responsibilities; the approach towards village development, using tools such as participatory rural appraisal; the functioning of rural markets, related to both farm and non-farm produce; and the rural credit structure – the entire process of group formation, loan appraisal, disbursement, monitoring, recovery and record maintenance. The programme culminated into a valedictory session on the final day, in the presence of Mr. Monomoy Mukharji, General Manager HRMD, NABARD, Uttar Pradesh Regional Office. The entire 21-day itinerary was designed by TARA Livelihood Academy - an affiliate of the DA Group - which ensured the successful implementation of the rural immersion agenda.