

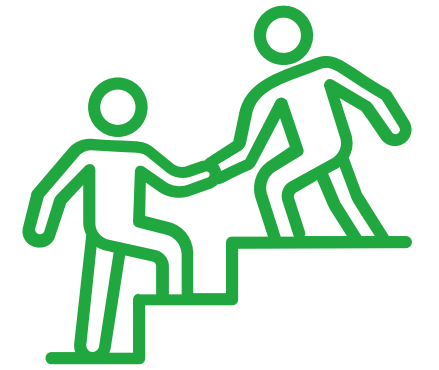
Development Alternatives's Flagship
Programme

Sustainability in Practice (SiP)



Key Takeaways

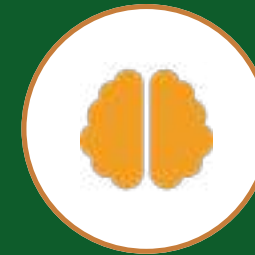
Why an Immersion changes how officers see, decide and lead.



From Files to Field

01

Officials witness policy outcomes on the ground ~ climate stress, check dams, livelihoods; making abstract governance tangible and memorable.



Systems-thinking mindset

02

Immersion trains officers to see interdependence across people, planet and prosperity; moving from siloed schemes to integrated decisions.



Grassroots-to-Governance bridge

03

Direct exposure to communities and DA's proven models builds empathy and practical templates officers can adapt to their own work.



Future-ready Leadership

04

Learning from the past equips officers to design climate-resilient, replicable interventions turning insight into forward-looking action.

Why Development Alternatives?

Connecting Policy, Knowledge and Practice

POLICY TO PRACTICE LEADERSHIP

- 40+ years of work at the intersection of environment, livelihoods and sustainability.

LEARNED PRACTITIONERS

- PhDs, sector experts and field researchers who teach through real case studies and stories carried straight from the field.

GRASSROOTS CONNECTION & TRUST

- An institution rooted in communities with the kind of trust that opens villages, enterprises and honest conversations.



Awards and Recognition

- Sustainable Environment Award at the Social Impact Conference & Awards (SICA), 2024
- Sohrabh Pirojsha Godrej Environment Award, 2024
- Development Catalysts, ACCESS Development Services, 2022
- Dr. Ashok Khosla gets Lifetime Achievement Award, MSMEs, 2022
- Rethinking Education for Sustainability, Commonwealth Education Award, 2022
- We the Change Now, UN, 2022
- Lead Radio Station, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2022
- UN Sustainable Development Goals Good Practices, 2021
- Zayed International Prize for Environment, Prime Minister of UAE, 2014
- Duke of Edinburg Conservation Medal, WWF, 2011



Thought behind SiP

Some forms of learning are most effective when they unfold gradually. SiP follows this principle through a structured immersion where participants examine how livelihoods function, how natural resources are managed and how institutions respond to everyday challenges. Each day builds on the last, moving participants from **observation to interpretation to informed understanding**, reflecting the spirit of India's **New Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and creating a strong policy-to-practice connect.

Central to the programme is the recognition that sustainable solutions emerge through **Local Entrepreneurship**, **Community-led Innovation** and **Institutional Collaboration**. Participants engage with **Grassroots Enterprises**, Community Organisations and development practitioners, with particular attention to **Women as agents of change** whose leadership through **Self-Help Groups** and **Collective Enterprises** strengthens local resilience and inclusive development.

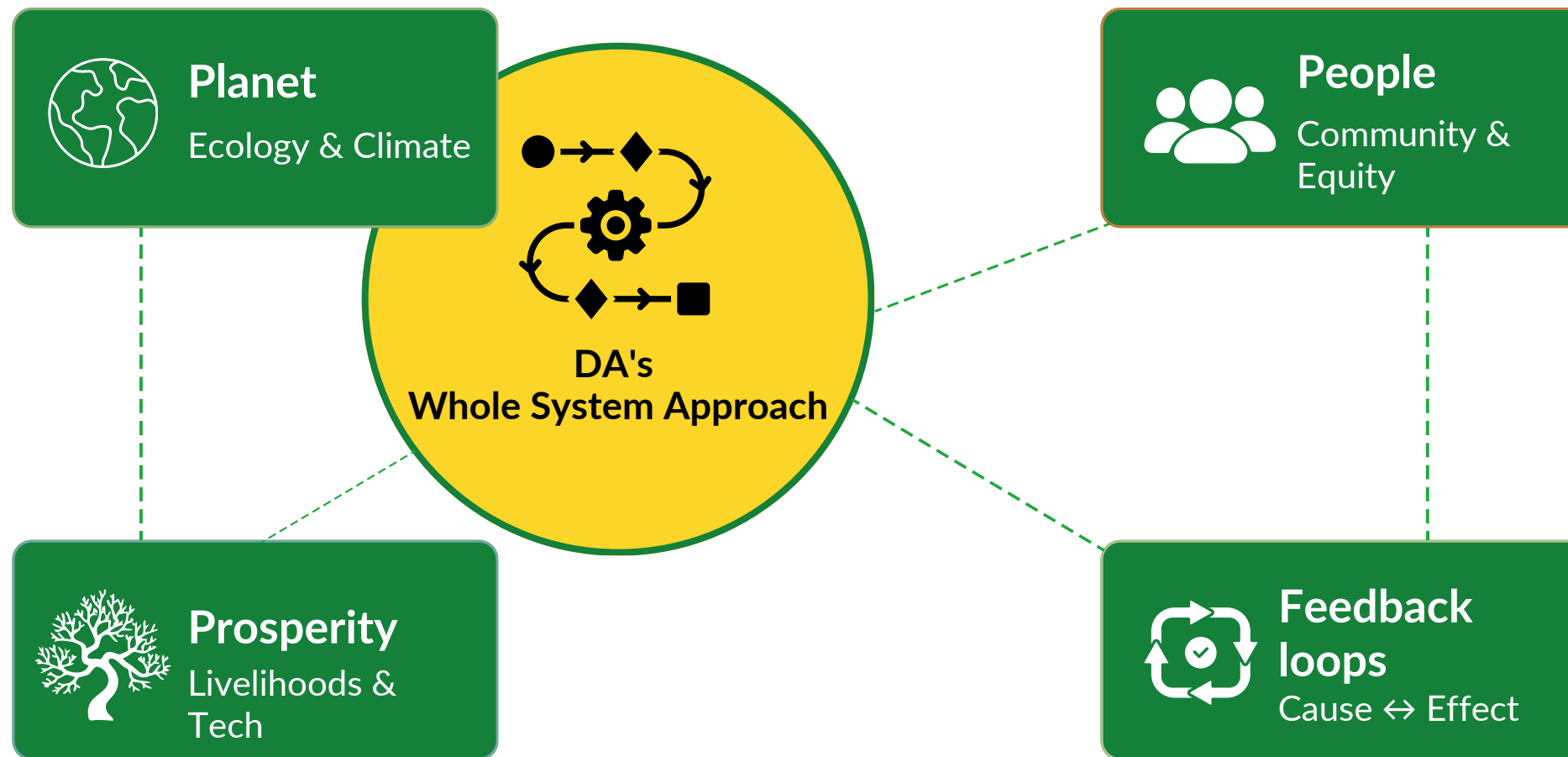
By the end, participants return with more than exposure: applied insight and practical frameworks shaped by **lived experience** ~ knowledge that is tangible, transferable and grounded in reality.



A Systems View, Across Time

To read the future, you must first understand the past; SiP teaches change as a connected system, not isolated parts.

THE SYSTEMS CONNECTION



No single lever moves alone, SiP trains officials to see Interdependence.

THE SiP ARC



Target Audience

The SiP programme engages a diverse range of participants across sectors, enabling cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration.



Students & Faculty

Undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students with faculty linked to academic credits, research projects, field studies or capstone assignments.



Corporate Professionals

CSR teams, sustainability practitioners, strategy leads and supply-chain managers seeking grounded insight into development and sustainability practice.



Government & Policy Delegations

Public administrators, judicial officers and policymakers exploring how development policies translate into practice within communities.



Researchers, Social Entrepreneurs & NGOs

Individuals working in livelihoods, sustainability, governance, social innovation and inclusive development.



Women Leaders & Grassroots Entrepreneurs

Members of self-help groups and emerging women leaders who play a critical role in community-led development and local enterprise.



Inclusive & Cross-Sector Cohorts

Participants from marginalised backgrounds alongside diverse professionals, to encourage dialogue and collaborative learning.

Core Learning Outputs

Applicable across the spectrum

Contextual Understanding

Participants will be able to:

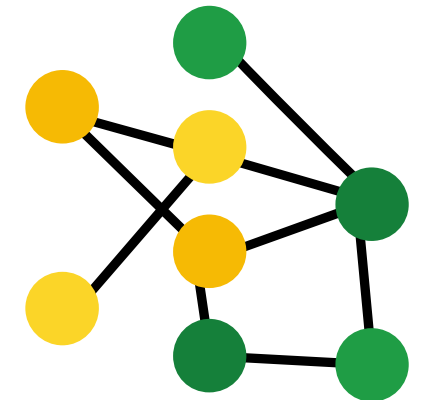
- Identify **interconnected livelihood systems** (Climate change, agriculture, water, enterprise, skills)
- Recognize key natural resource constraints and their socio-economic impacts
- Map institutional roles (community groups, SHGs, Panchayats, CSOs, CSR actors)



Systems Thinking & Problem Analysis

Participants will be able to:

- Analyse a development challenge using **systems-thinking tools** (problem tree/causal loop)
- Distinguish root causes from symptomatic sustainability challenges
- Identify leverage points for intervention



Applied Design & Communication

Participants will be able to:

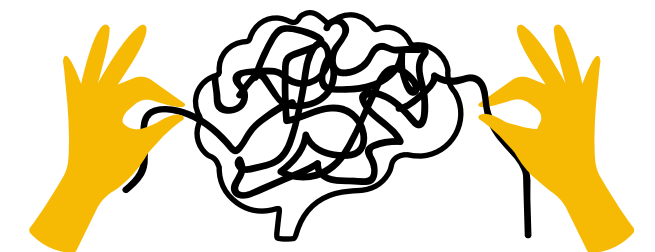
- Co-design a **context-sensitive pilot intervention** with community stakeholders
- Apply basic project design principles (needs assessment, stakeholder roles, feasibility)
- Present insights through structured communication outputs (presentation/media brief)



Collaboration & Social Behavioural Change

Participants will be able to:

- Work effectively in cross-sector teams
- Demonstrate **empathy** and **contextual sensitivity** toward community realities
- Identify practical follow-up actions for policy, research, CSR, or professional practice



Each output can be assessed with rubrics: completeness, evidence of community input, feasibility and learning reflection.

Beyond Immersion: The Cluster & Enterprise Experience

Experience Connect Reflect

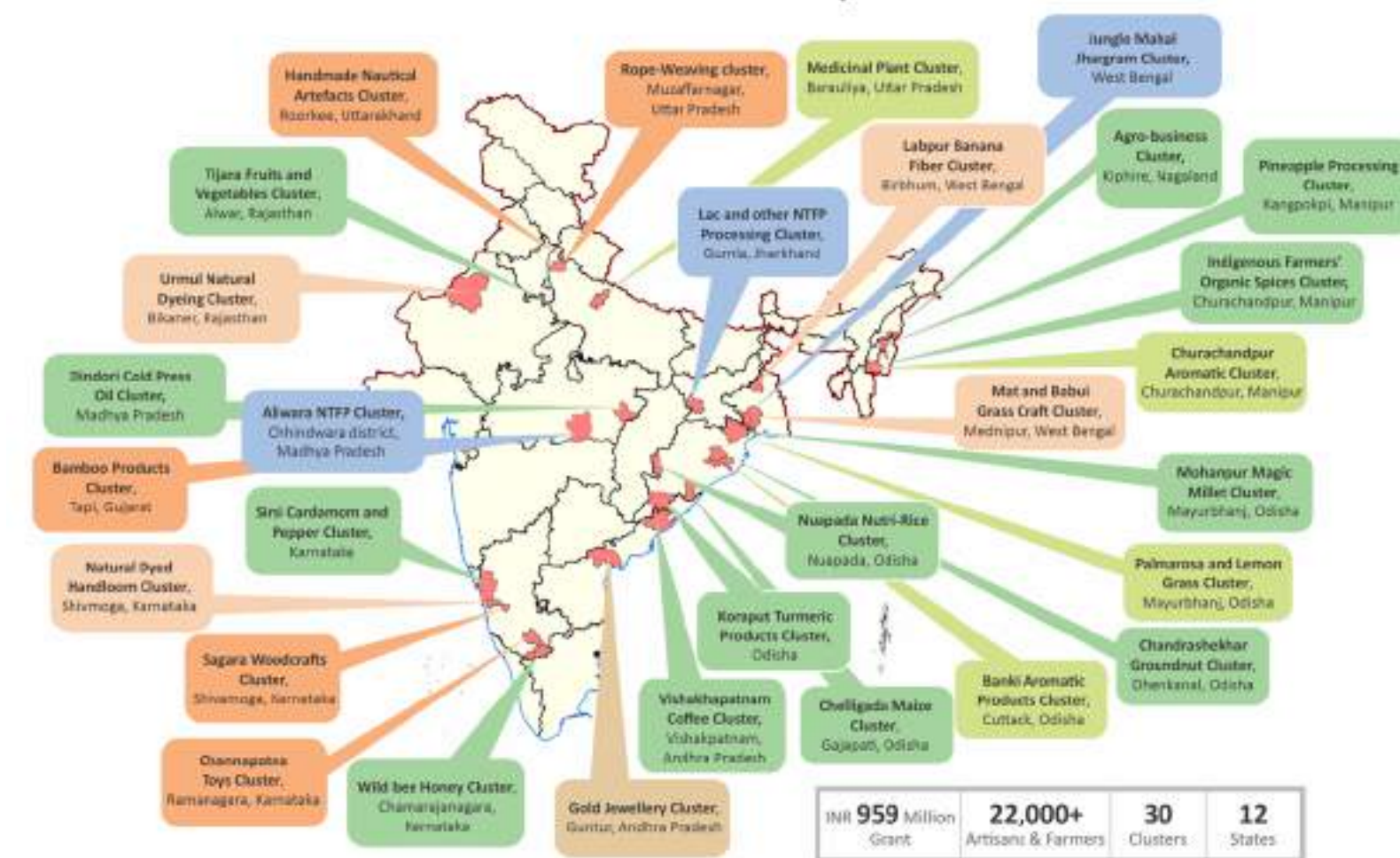


For participants seeking a deeper engagement beyond the rural immersion at TARAgam Orchha, Development Alternatives Group (DAG), through its **Special Purpose Vehicle Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF)**, offers curated exposure visits to micro-enterprise clusters and enterprise ecosystems across India.

IMEDF is a Nodal Agency registered with the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, working to strengthen micro and small enterprise clusters through capacity building, institutional development, and sustainable business models.

Through these cluster engagements, participants gain first-hand exposure to how entrepreneurship, local production systems, and community enterprises contribute to regional economic development and sustainable livelihoods.

IMEDF Cluster Footprint



UN-recognised SDG good practices ~ proven cluster and enterprise models advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the ground.

Cluster Deep Dive – A Pan India Footprint

Through IMEDF (a nodal agency of the Ministry of MSME), immersions can extend from Bundelkhand into curated enterprise clusters across six regions of India.



NORTH · Near Delhi
Muzaffarnagar Rope-Weaving (SIROHI)



EAST · West Bengal
Banana Fibre · Madur Matcraft · Tasar Silk



NORTH-EAST · Nagaland
Tribal Agro-Enterprise



WEST · Gujarat & Rajasthan
Bamboo Craft · Urmul Natural Dye



SOUTH · Karnataka
Eco-Handloom · BR Hills Natural Fibre

Cluster & Cultural Retreat Experience



Curated Cultural & Nature Experience

- **Riverside and nature walks** with guided storytelling on Cluster's history and landscape.
- Exploration of **heritage sites** and **local landmarks**, offering insights into the region's cultural evolution.
- Optional open-air dinners and cultural performances featuring traditional music, folklore, and poetry.



Community Conversations & Living Heritage

- **Storytelling sessions** with community leaders and local entrepreneurs.
- **Informal dialogues** with artisans, cluster members and grassroots practitioners.
- **Fireside-style conversations** and shared meals with local hosts, creating space for authentic exchange.



Light Enterprise & Cluster Exposure

- **Guided exposure to MSME** and **cluster ecosystems** supported through development programmes.
- Short cluster walks and enterprise visits, offering insights into local production systems and value chains.
- Reflective sessions linking enterprise experiences with leadership and development perspectives.

Expected Learning Outcomes



The learning outcome is central — every element of the immersion is built backwards from it.

- Analyse **how circular and natural-resource-based enterprises transform local waste and biomass into sustainable livelihoods** across textile waste, banana fibre, grass, bamboo, silk and forest produce.
- Assess the **role of community-owned institutions** ~ Self-Help Groups, Producer Organisations and Special Purpose Vehicle in driving production, governance and market access at the grassroots.
- Examine how **enterprise growth, women's empowerment** and **tribal livelihoods** advance together within ecologically fragile and resource-constrained landscapes.
- Identify the **institutional and market levers**; value addition, branding, GI tagging, post-harvest systems and MSME convergence that enable grassroots clusters to scale.
- Translate **field insights into actionable lessons** for **policy design**, programme delivery and CSR or institutional partnerships.



FROM TRAINING TO IMMERSION

Walk the ground, read the system & orchestrate the change.

SiP invites participants to **step into living systems** where policy is interpreted through community institutions, innovation emerges from local enterprise and sustainability is shaped by everyday decisions across landscapes and livelihoods.

Anchored at TARAGram Orchha and extending into enterprise clusters and cultural ecosystems, the programme blends **field engagement**, **dialogue with practitioners** and **moments of reflection**.

The result is a learning experience that is **immersive**, **grounded** and **transformative** leaving participants able to see development systems with greater depth, nuance and responsibility.





**Thank
You!**