

10<sup>th</sup> Edition

INDIA AND



# SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

International Dialogue & Conference

6 - 8 November 2023 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

## Souvenir

Organised and Hosted by

**CRB** CENTRE for  
RESPONSIBLE  
BUSINESS

*Enabling Change for Impact*

**Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity**  
*Policy, Innovation & Collaboration*



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# Message from CEO

Dear Friends,

At the outset, on behalf of CRB colleagues and our esteemed Governing Body, I am delighted to welcome you to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of CRB's annual sustainability conference – India and Sustainability Standards 2023 (ISS2023). We have designed a three-day event around the theme – **'Solutions for Sustainability and Inclusivity – Policy, Innovations and Collaboration'**, and look forward to your active engagement to ensure its success.

I would like to thank all the partners, speakers and delegates for joining us for this year's event. We are grateful to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for their support to this year's conference. We would not have been able to host this event without your support.

The CRB team has worked tirelessly together with 54 partner organisations to co-curate 26 sessions in this year's conference – to be conducted over the next three days. Over 1,000 delegates have registered for this year's event already, and we extend a warm welcome to all. For us each one of you are a sustainability ambassador and champion. We hope to learn from your deep experience, perspectives and expect that you will find the event worthy of your time. The interactions outside of the meeting halls are equally enriching as the perspectives shared inside. So, please use the opportunity to interact with fellow delegates, as minds might meet and collaborative ideas could generate from these interactions. We have set up a solutions lobby and networking area for such interactions.

Some of you have been part of this platform earlier, others are new. We thank you all (our old friends and new) for being part of this journey. Thanks to you, this platform celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> year landmark this year. Over the years, ISS has evolved as a safe-space for multiple stakeholders to dialogue and engage on various aspects of social, environmental and economic sustainability and identify solutions or even 'next steps'. From the feedback we have received over the years, it has helped engaging a large community of otherwise uninitiated stakeholders; created awareness and understanding not only of solutions but also their application in the real world; and most importantly forged trust and understanding between stakeholder groups - leading to spin-offs and initiatives.

The theme of this year's conference hinges on sustainability solutions – and the importance of policy, innovations and collaboration. I would encourage you to go through the 'thematic note', where we have shared our perspectives on the theme.

Over the years, we have tried to add new features to the conference. This year – we decided to organise regional curtain raisers of the ISS in Bombay and in Bengaluru. The curtain

raiser in Mumbai was hosted by the Mahindra & Mahindra Group on 24<sup>th</sup> August and drew a diverse set of stakeholders. We organised the curtain raiser on 15<sup>th</sup> September in Bengaluru.

A set of common and critical take-aways emerged from these dialogues:

- Policies for sustainable development should be designed such that there are least impediments in their implementation, thereby reducing unnecessary delays
- There is a need to create an ecosystem to foster innovations for sustainability and inclusivity - and incentivise the process
- Collaboration is not just desirable but necessary, given the realisation of our interconnectedness, however it can't be automatic and needs to be nurtured

We thank all our friends who participated in these curtain raiser events. Some of them will join us in Delhi as well.

Let me pause here, also to pay tribute to my former boss and the Founding Chairperson of CRB – a friend to many of you, Dr Bimal Arora. Bimal passed away in March 2022 – but left behind his legacy and inspiration for us in the CRB team and the wider sustainability community to drive responsible business.

CRB is committed to pursue our vision for 'Business to integrate sustainability into their core', and we hope you will continue to stand with us and hold hands together as we move forward on this extremely exciting journey. Creating positive changes on the ground.

*Rijit Sengupta*

Chief Executive Officer  
Centre for Responsible Business



# Message from Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry

पीयूष गोयल  
PIYUSH GOYAL



वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग,  
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण तथा  
वस्त्र मंत्री, भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND  
TEXTILES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



## MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) is organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of India and Sustainability Standards (ISS 2023) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, in New Delhi. The theme of the conference, '*Solutions for Sustainability and Inclusivity: Policy, Innovation & Collaboration*' emphasizes the vital importance of well-informed policies, innovative advancements and cooperative initiatives across diverse sectors in achieving a future that is equitable, resilient, and sustainable.

In recent years, India has made significant progress in the field of sustainable development. Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Government of India formulated the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct to promote a culture of sustainable business among Indian enterprises and catalyze the journey towards achieving the global Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards.

This conference which will include stakeholders from different sectors will provide an ideal platform for sharing ideas and fostering collaborative solutions to address pressing sustainability challenges. It will also contribute significantly to the shared vision of a sustainable and inclusive future.

I extend my best wishes for the successful culmination of the conference and wish CRB success in all its future endeavours.

**Piyush Goyal**

# Theme Paper

In his report entitled, ‘Progress towards the SDGs: towards a rescue plan for People and Planet’<sup>1</sup>, for the 2023 UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres raised alarm for the international community to drive bold actions, stressing that business as usual approaches to sustainability is not enough, anymore. He pointed that, “Tepid responses will not suffice for the millions of people living in poverty and hunger, the women and girls with unequal opportunities, the communities facing climate disaster or the families fleeing conflict. We need a full-fledged rescue plan for people and planet”.

In conclusion, he asserted that, “There are no excuses not to be ambitious. Never before have we had such an abundance of knowledge, technology and resources to succeed in ending poverty and saving the planet”.

The underlying theme of CRB’s 10<sup>th</sup> annual sustainability conference (***Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity: Policy, Innovation and Collaboration***) pivots around this spirit encapsulated in the UNSG’s concluding remarks. That we have within our reach solutions to address and solve some of the most pressing sustainability challenges of the present and the future, like never before. Therefore, we should no longer shy away from taking bold and immediate actions that serves the long-term and intergenerational interests of people and nature.

The Delhi Declaration of the India G20 Presidency, released in September 2023 reiterates and underlines the imperative for bold and accelerated actions to pursue sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

The preamble of the Delhi Declaration reads, “We, the Leaders of the G20, met in New Delhi on 9-10 September 2023, under the theme ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’. We meet at a defining moment in history where the decisions we make now will determine the future of our people and our planet. It is with the philosophy of living in harmony with our surrounding ecosystem that we commit to concrete actions to address global challenges”<sup>2</sup>. The Delhi Declaration also emphasises on solutions crafted by synchronising national and international policy; driving innovations related to finance, technology and community needs; and enhancing collaboration and partnerships at all levels.

Both the agenda of this year’s annual conference and CRB’s vision and long-term strategy hinges on driving sustainability and inclusivity through multi-stakeholder collaboration, involving national and international stakeholders from policymakers, businesses, industry

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<sup>1</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/SDG%20Progress%20Report%20Special%20Edition.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty\\_new/document/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf](https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf)

actors, civil society, academia, international organisations, financial institutions, technology providers, standards organisations, etc. We have been extremely excited and motivated with the emphasis laid by the international policy community (G20 Delhi Declaration) on the need for sustainable and inclusive global value chains and an all-out strategy for accelerated action on the Sustainable Development Goals.

With this background, the CRB annual conference (*India and Sustainability Standards 2023*) will emphasise on three **core elements** that can help us take bold and timely actions now and for the future: **(i) policy; (ii) innovations and (iii) collaboration.**

## 1. Policy

We need a deep rethinking and rejigging of global sustainability governance – based on the lessons we have learnt so far. One of the ways forward would be to use the G20 Delhi Declaration as a starting point (bearing in mind that the G20 remains highest global platform for international economic policy). A key message of the Delhi Declaration was the need to – **integrate the principles of inclusivity and sustainability into Global Value Chains.** There are two elements of this message and needs to be delved deeper into:

(i) Principles of inclusivity and Sustainability – how are these principles to be set and who sets them? How can they be developed through a collaborative process using the principles of shared responsibility and accountability

(ii) Process of integration – do we have a process in place to ensure smooth and effective integration of these principles ensuring that the interests of all parties are considered, if not met?

Globally, there is considerable movement, especially post COVID-19 in designing international legislations that will have implications especially across global value chains, in networks of production. Based on existing experience, the process of implementation of these legislations should be undertaken collectively involving a balanced and participatory approach, based on dialogues and consultations.

## 2. Innovation

That innovations are critical to drive sustainable and inclusive outcomes at all levels, is well recognised. This year's deliberations will underline the importance of certain key design considerations while driving innovations, especially from their implications on resources and equity. We draw inspiration from the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) of India<sup>3</sup>, whose mission clearly conveys this imperative, i.e., "To help India become inventive and creative, and to become a global leader in sustainable technologies without social and economic handicaps affecting the evolution and diffusion of green grassroots innovations". There is considerable emphasis on 'spawning, sustaining and scaling' innovations at all levels from the traditional, grassroots to highest levels of contemporary cutting-edge innovations.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://nif.org.in/>

The quest to find sustainability solutions through innovations in energy, materials, financing, technology, and skilling must clearly put people at the centre. This will have to be supported by concurrent measures in the enabling policy environment and business models.

There is increasing interest on financing the transition from fossil fuel away to one that decouples economic growth from environmental and natural degradation. The international financial architecture is slowly beginning to realise the need to create the scope and opportunity for such innovations. There are various barriers that could impede this transition and will have to be identified and addressed jointly by the public and the private sector. Financial innovation strategies and plans will have to ensure that financing reaches those who need the financing most, especially to combat the risks related to climate change, pollution, youth unemployment and inequality.

A taxonomy on sustainable financing at the national level helps create a consistent and comparable system of classification to help prioritise activities that contribute to the transition to a sustainable economy. India needs to adopt a taxonomy on sustainable financing at the earliest.

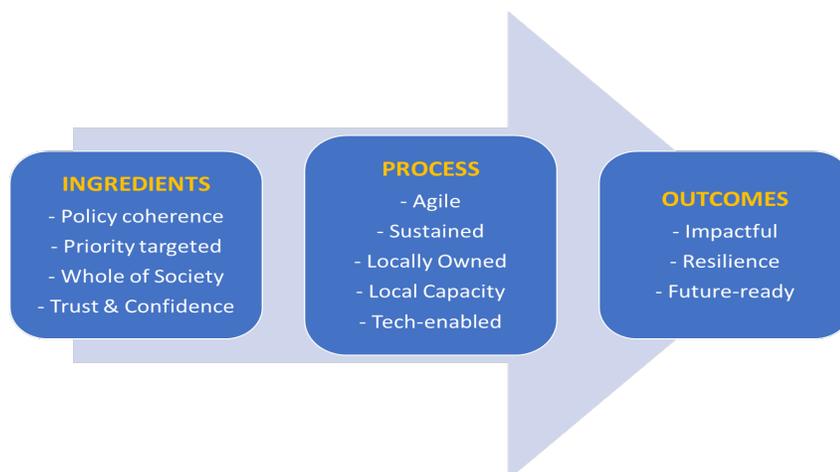
### 3. Collaboration

This spirit of collaboration is embedded in the seventeenth sustainable development goal (SDG17) – Global Partnership for Development. It promotes fostering international collaboration and partnerships to drive sustainable improvement, and is at the heart of the Agenda 2030. SDG17 emphasises the importance of cooperation and coherence across trade, technology, finance, capacity building and most importantly multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet the remaining sixteen SDGs.

Addressing sustainability challenges involves pursuing complex multi-dimensional challenges. This calls for a collective and coordinated effort transcending geographical boundaries, sectors and stakeholders.

Based on CRB’s experience we believe that promoting effective and impactful multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve sustainability/SDGs could be envisaged through a systems lens, and by investing adequate attention on three critical components of: (i) ingredients; (ii) process and (iii) outcomes, as presented below.

Fig1: Framework to Drive Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Sustainability/SDGs



**INAUGURAL DAY**  
**6 NOVEMBER 2023**

## **Inaugural Plenary: Solutions for Sustainability and Inclusivity: Policy, Innovation and Collaboration**

**Date:** 6 November 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Venue:** Joseph Stein Auditorium

### ***Inaugural Message***

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union  
Minister of Commerce & Industry,  
Government of India



### ***Keynote Speech by Guest of Honour***

Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa  
India, Government of India



### ***Welcome Remarks***

Devyani Hari, Director, CRB Rijit  
Sengupta, Chief Executive Officer,  
CRB



### ***Opening Remarks***

R C Kesar, Chairperson, CRB  
Governing Body



***Opening Remarks***

Rijit Sengupta, Chief Executive  
Officer, CRB



***Special Guest Remarks***

Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director  
General, Directorate General for  
International Partnerships,  
European Commission



***Special Guest Remarks***

Allan Jorgensen, Head, OECD  
Centre for Responsible Business  
Conduct



***Special Guest Remarks***

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Chancellor,  
Rishihood University & Former  
Commerce and Industries Minister,  
Government of India



***Special Guest Remarks***

Shombi Sharp, UN Resident  
Coordinator in India



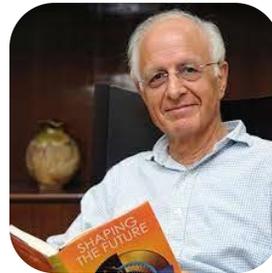
## First High-Level Plenary

### Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity: Role of Policy

**Date:** 6 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm  
**Venue:** Joseph Stein Auditorium

#### Speakers

Arun Maira, Former  
Member, Planning  
Commission, Government of  
India



Sachin Chaturvedi, Director  
General, RIS



Seppo Nurmi, Deputy Head  
of Delegation, Delegation of  
the European Union to India



Froukje Boele, Head, Public  
Policy & Regional  
Programmes, OECD Centre  
for Responsible Business  
Conduct



Ashok Khosla, Founder &  
Chairperson, Development  
Alternatives



## Second High-Level Plenary

### Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity: Purpose-driven Innovations

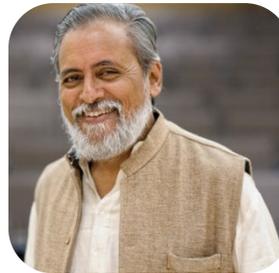
**Date:** 6 November 2023  
**Time:** 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
**Venue:** Joseph Stein Auditorium

#### Speakers

Prof Pawan Budhwar,  
Associate Pro Vice  
Chancellor International  
(India), Aston University &  
Governing Board Member,  
CRB



Prof Anil K Gupta, IIM  
Ahmedabad & Honey Bee  
Network



Sivasubramanian Raman,  
Chairman & Managing  
Director, SIDBI



Sharad Sharma, Co-founder,  
ISPIRT



Naresh Tyagi, Chief  
Sustainability Officer,  
ABFRL Ltd



Arundhati Kumar, Founder,  
BEEJ



**Third High-Level Plenary**  
**Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity: Impactful Collaboration**  
**Collaborative Cotton Futures: ACRE – a Regenerative Agriculture**  
**Initiative for Indian Cotton**

**Date:** 6 November 2023  
**Time:** 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm  
**Venue:** Joseph Stein Auditorium



**Solidaridad**

**CRB** CENTRE for  
RESPONSIBLE  
BUSINESS  
Enabling Change for Impact

 **regenagri**

**Speakers:**

- Devyani Hari, Director, CRB
- Rijit Sengupta, CEO, Centre for Responsible Business
- Franco Costantini, CEO & MD, regenagri
- Dr. Binay Kumar Choudhury, Chairman, Control Union Certifications
- Sivaramakrishnan Ganapathi, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Gokaldas Exports Limited
- Anukool Nagi, Head of Cotton Programme, Solidaridad

**Background:**

Conventional cotton farming practices have taken a toll on the environment and natural resources. Statistics reveal that the cotton industry is responsible for a significant share of global carbon emissions, ranking as the second-largest industrial polluter. It consumes a staggering 79 billion cubic meters of water annually, contributing to 20% of global wastewater, primarily due to dyeing and treatment processes. Furthermore, despite occupying only 3% of the world's arable land, cotton farming utilizes 24% of insecticides and 11% of pesticides, substantially impacting non-target biodiversity.

In this context, consumer preferences are shifting towards nature-friendly products, with 87% of consumers considering it essential for companies to address environmental issues. Regulatory pressures, like the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan, now mandate brands to adopt sustainable practices, use responsible materials, and adhere to environmentally

friendly standards. Regenerative cotton farming emerges as a comprehensive solution addressing these environmental and resource challenges. It focuses on climate mitigation, water conservation, soil health, and preserving habitats for crucial species like pollinators and natural pest predators. Regenagri certification assures adherence to these sustainable practices, providing credibility through process certification and chain of custody standards.

**Objectives:**

- To underscore the urgency of transitioning to sustainable and regenerative cotton farming practices in India.
- To showcase how regenagri certified cotton addresses environmental and resource issues while meeting consumer preferences and regulatory requirements.
- To discuss the pivotal role of an Alliance Platform in promoting and multiplying sustainable dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
4:45 pm to 4:50 pm	Welcome and Introduction
4:50 pm to 5:00 pm	Keynote Message Highlighting the importance of sustainable cotton
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Panel Discussion - Reflecting on Needs of the Textile Sector, Sustainability and Value Proposition ACRE under Collaborative Approach
6:00 pm to 6:10 pm	Q&A
6:10 pm to 6:15 pm	Closing Remarks

## Special Performance by Manzil Mystics followed by Networking Dinner

Silver Oak Lawn  
7:00 pm onwards



**DAY 2**

**7 NOVEMBER 2023**

## **Empowering Women Cotton Farmers: Cultivating Change, Closing Gender Gaps, and Combatting Climate Change**

**Date:** 7 November 2023

**Time:** 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Venue:** Silver Oak



### **Objectives:**

- Raise awareness of how women farmers are empowered through training, skills development, and transfer of know-how through our programmes
- Show that women are key to cascading improvements and knowledge and how they model leadership.
- Make the link between improving smallholder farming and sustainable, secure supply of cotton to brands.
- Make the link between improving smallholder farming and achieving ESGs
- Set out calls for action by influencers, including government, industry and consumers.

### **Speakers:**

- Geetanjali Solanki - Country Manager, Cotton Connect
- Vaishali Bahel - Sustainable Cotton Programme, Primark
- Kinjal Jani - Project Coordinator, Rudi Multi Trading Company Ltd
- Jahnvi Andharia - Director & Research Fellow, Institute of Social Studies Trust
- Nandini Sharma - Director, Centre for Responsible Business

## Aligning Sustainability to the Policy Landscape for Soft Commodities

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 1



### Background

Soft commodities – derived from forestry, farming and fisheries – are vital for feeding, clothing, and helping to fuel the world. However, their inefficient and unsustainable production can significantly harm communities and key ecosystems. Common impacts include biodiversity loss, deforestation, environmental degradation, watershed disruption, climate change and social conflict. Demand for soft commodities is booming, driven by the world's increasing population, growing purchasing power (especially in emerging economies), urbanization, changing dietary preferences and demand for biofuels, among other factors.

We will need to grow more food in the next 40 years than we have in the past 8,000 combined to feed the global population – in other words, 70 per cent more food by 2050, according to UN estimates. To meet this demand – and avoid devastating levels of deforestation and forest degradation, overfishing, overexploitation of other natural resources, water scarcity and hazardous climate change – we must find a more sustainable way to extract and produce soft commodities.

Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), is the largest edible oil crop in the world and is produced in and around areas endowed with rich biodiversity. It is grown extensively in its native West and Central Africa, as well as in Malaysia and Indonesia. Palm oil extracted from the pulp of the fruit is used for edible purposes such as cooking and frying. It is also a common ingredient in baked goods, desserts, and sweets. Palm kernel oil extracted from the seed is also often used for cooking and frying processed foods, due to its low cost and stability at high temperatures. Also, Palm Kernel Oil is used in the production of soaps, cosmetics and other industries (biodiesel and lubricant applications).

From palm oil and sugar to dairy and seafood, Asian FMCG companies depend heavily on soft commodities to maintain and grow their business. In fact, FMCG companies are typically the largest users of these commodities. Companies need a reliable, good quality, reasonably priced and reputational risk-free supply of raw materials to allow them to manufacture, brand and sell their goods. There is general agreement that increased demand and therefore production of certain raw materials and commodities have had implications on forests worldwide (referred to as “forest- risk commodities” viz. palm oil, soy, cocoa, coffee, rubber, timber). Soy and palm oil (including their derivatives) are used in a wide range of food products and other consumer goods across the world.

If managed sustainably these commodities have the potential to become engines for development, poverty reduction and protecting the planet. Transforming these commodity supply chains also has the potential to significantly reduce deforestation and resulting climate change. However, biodiversity loss is reducing the natural capacity of ecosystems to store carbon, worsening climate change, while deforestation alone accounts for an estimated 10% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Objectives of the Session:**

Looking at sustainable supply chains through the lens of:

- Evolution of international legislations
  - Overview and understanding the legislations existing and to be implemented at the global level and their implications on sustainable supply chains
- Actions undertaken by Government in India and Global South
  - Actions and activities undertaken by the Government of India and the Global South in addressing the topic of legislations in the sustainable supply chains
- Implications for private sector and possible solutions to address the challenge
  - The impact of changing policy landscape on the private sector and exploring solution encompassing aspects like certification, solutions, jurisdiction, environment and landscape

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
12:00 -12:05	Opening and Welcome by Rijit Sengupta, CRB
12:05 - 12:20	Context Setting by Vishal Dev, Director, Sustainable Business, WWF-India
12:20-13:15	Panel Discussion Moderator: Vishal Dev, Director, Sustainable Business, WWF-India Panelists

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Bucki, Counsellor, Head of Section from Delegation of the European Union to India</li><li>• Kamal Prakash Seth, Director, Global Palm Oil, WWF – Singapore</li><li>• Chris West, Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute York</li><li>• Arvind Rewal, Global Raw Material Leader, Agriculture, IKEA</li><li>• Yaswanth Tippireddy, Lead – Supply Chain Excellence and Special Projects, Oil Palm business, Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies</li></ul>
13:15-13:30	Closing Remarks by Panelists

## Driving Responsible Business: Developing Effective Human Rights Policies & Processes

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 2



### Background:

In the dynamic landscape of modern business, companies often find themselves navigating complex terrain where their operations can impact human rights, sometimes in ways that conflict with their own core values. Recognizing this challenge, there is an increasing realization that a structured and institutional approach is imperative for identifying, addressing, and remedying potential human rights risks arising from business activities. The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) provide a universal framework for achieving this, emphasizing that it applies to companies of all sizes and sectors.

The adoption of a robust human rights policy is the first crucial step that companies can take to proactively engage with the UNGP framework. Such policies not only enable companies to identify and understand their potential impacts on human rights but also empower them to build in-house capacity for responsible management. Moreover, they serve as a tangible demonstration of a company's sincere commitment to respecting and supporting human rights in all aspects of its operations.

Recognizing the importance of this fundamental aspect of corporate responsibility, the Business and Human Rights (BHR) Network and the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) have joined forces to host this enlightening session. The session aims to bring together senior practitioners from the Government of India, policymakers, and business leaders. Its primary goal is to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between business activities and human rights, while also offering practical guidance on how businesses can embark on the journey of developing a dynamic draft of a Business and Human Rights (BHR) policy.

### Objectives of the Session:

- **Enhanced Understanding:** To deepen participants' comprehension of Business and Human Rights (BHR) principles and the latest developments in the field.
- **Practical Insights:** Share practical experiences and success stories from businesses to guide the drafting of effective BHR policies.
- **Empowerment:** Empower businesses to take proactive steps towards developing BHR policies that align with their values and operational contexts.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Highlight the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders in the policy development process to ensure inclusivity and compliance with international standards.

Time	Agenda Items
12:00 pm - 12:05 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>
12:05 pm - 12:15 pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> Gyaneshwar Singh, Joint Secretary, Govt. of India
12:15 pm - 1:05 pm	<b>Panel Discussion: How to Develop a Human Rights Policy for a Business Enterprise</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Nandini Sharma, Director, Centre for Responsible Business <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shubha Sekhar, Regional Director-Human Rights, CocaCola</li> <li>• Pranjal Goswami, Chief Sustainability Officer, Gokaldas Exports Ltd</li> <li>• Prathana Borah, Director, Carbon Disclosure Project</li> <li>• Anand Jha, Managing Director, BlackStone</li> <li>• Pradeep R, General Manager, SEBI</li> </ul>
1:05 pm - 1:25 pm	<b>Open Floor Discussion</b>
1:25 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>

## Enabling Indian SMEs for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 2



**Utrecht  
University**

### Background

The Indian A&T Sector encompasses the entire value chain starting from raw materials and fibre production to post consumption collection and recycling. The sector contributes significantly to the Indian GDP and exports and is the second largest employer after agriculture. Given this scale, the sector can benefit immensely from adopting circular and sustainable practices. This is also the need of the hour given the changing landscape of national and international regulations, maturing consumer preferences, focus of investors and the industry's own competitiveness and resilience. The Indian SME sector has a critical role to play in the transition of the Indian A&T sector to being more sustainable and circular. This is especially true for textiles processing where the SMEs have a significant water, energy, chemicals and waste footprint. At present, the SMEs are undertaking measures to be more sustainable. However, these efforts need to be bolstered through systemic and institutional change. Cross cluster learning, supportive policies, affordable and indigenous technology, and innovative financing will go a long way in accelerated action by SMEs.

### Objectives of the Session:

- Understand the practices being taken by SMEs with regards to more sustainable use of material, water, energy, waste and chemicals etc.
- Identify gaps with current solutions and challenges faced by SMEs
- Deliberate on potential solutions through policy, financing and technology

Time	Particulars
12:00 – 12:05	Welcome: <b>Devyani Hari</b> , Director, CRB
12:05 – 12:15	Keynote address: <b>Dr. Periasamy S.</b> CEO at AIC-NIFTTEA Incubation Centre for Textiles and Apparels (Supported by AIM,NITI Aayog,Govt.of India), Tirupur
12:15 – 12:35	Transformative circular Economy practices in the textile sector; insights from business cases experimentations in India, Spain, and the Netherlands  <i>Lis J. Suarez-Visbal</i>
12:35 - 12:45	Presentation on Circular Clusters in Textiles
12:45 – 13:20	Panel Discussion: Perspectives from the Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, CITI</i></li> <li>• <i>Shrinivas Naik, Head, Business Sustainability, Arvind Limited</i></li> <li>• <i>Shalini Sheth Amin, Founder &amp; Senior Partner, MoralFibre</i></li> <li>• <i>Anurag Gupta, Managing Director, Usha Yarns</i></li> </ul>
13:20 – 13:30	<b>Audience Q&amp;A, wrap Up</b>

## Valuing Nature and People in Business Strategy and Operations *Lessons from India and other Emerging Economies*

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 1



**CAPITALS  
COALITION**



### **Background**

The Communiqué of Task Forces of Think20 India encourages G20 members to provide impetus and develop approaches to natural capital valuation (such as nature markets, and payment for ecosystem services) in an effort to address global environmental challenges, mobilise investments, create new opportunities and deliver sustainable livelihoods.

To make natural capital valuation accessible to policy and business, UNEP TEEB has led the EU funded The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) AgriFood project in six large emerging economies next to India, Brazil, Mexico, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. As part of this project, Capitals Coalition has implemented the TEEB AgriFood for Business project to support the uptake of natural capital valuation among businesses.

The session will build awareness of relevant stakeholders about the capital's valuation approach, through real experiences and cases presented by experts and practitioners drawn from emerging economies like India, Brazil, Mexico, Thailand, etc. It will help provide specific inputs for practitioners interested in learning and applying this approach. The session has a focus on the agrifood system, but the learnings can be applied to other sectors as well.

The objective is to share opportunities and challenges of adopting/applying the capitals valuation approach in emerging economies – which will be relevant and useful for Indian stakeholders. It is the ambition to discuss pathways to support this emerging field in India and accelerate change with the various stakeholders that are already involved.

### **Objectives:**

- share opportunities and challenges of adopting/applying the capitals valuation approach in emerging economies
- discuss pathways to support this emerging field in India with the various stakeholders that are already involved
- accelerate food systems transformation
- build strong collaborations between policy and business representatives

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
12:00 to 12:05 hrs	Welcome and Opening Remarks Rijit Sengupta, CEO, Centre for Responsible Business
12:05 to 12:15 hrs	Opening Remarks: Global implementation of TEEB Agri Food for Business and Policy Martine van Weelden, Director, Capitals Coalition
12:15 to 12:25 hrs	Natural Capital Valuation and Accounting (Application of Natural Capital Valuation in India) Sarang Vaidya, Co-founder, Go4fresh
12:25 to 12:35 hrs	Special Remarks: Andhra Pradesh's Community-Based Natural Farming (APCNF) Pavan Sukhdev, Founder and CEO, GIST Impact
12:35 to 12: 45 hrs	Floor Discussion
12:45 to 13:00 hrs	Country perspectives from other G20 Members <b>Indonesia:</b> Indah Budiani, Executive Director, Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSD) <b>Brazil:</b> Carla Gehler, Technical Coordinator, CEBDS, Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development
13:00 to 13:25 hrs	Special Message: Policy perspectives on Natural Capital Valuation in the AgriFood sector in India Floor Discussion (10 minutes)
13:25 to 13:30 hrs	Summary & Closing Martine van Weelden, Director, Capitals Coalition

## Innovative Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in India

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 1



### Background

This session will focus on actionable strategies and innovative approaches to promote sustainable palm oil production in India. It aims to bring together experts, industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore solutions for addressing the challenges while maximizing the opportunities for sustainable palm oil in the Indian context.

The theme focuses on the need to promote and enhance the sustainability of palm oil production practices within the Indian palm oil industry.

Overall, the theme underscores the importance of taking proactive measures to ensure that palm oil production in India aligns with sustainability principles, benefiting both the industry and the environment. It acknowledges the challenges while highlighting the potential for positive change and collaboration among stakeholders.

### Key Elements to Be Explored Under This Theme:

- **Environmental Conservation:** Discussing methods to reduce deforestation, protect biodiversity, and minimize the environmental impact of palm oil production in India.
- **Social Responsibility:** Addressing fair labor practices, community engagement, and the protection of the rights and well-being of workers and local communities involved in the palm oil industry.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Exploring best practices, innovative approaches, and technological advancements that can make palm oil production more sustainable.
- **Policy and Regulation:** Discussing government policies and industry regulations aimed at promoting sustainability in the Indian palm oil sector.
- **Market Dynamics:** Analyzing market trends, consumer preferences, and the role of sustainable palm oil in India's market.

### Objectives:

The session, "Innovative Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in India," aims to promote sustainability within the Indian palm oil industry by showcasing innovative

practices, sharing success stories, and emphasizing the importance of environmental and social responsibility.

It seeks to raise awareness about the critical need for sustainable palm oil production, foster collaboration between various stakeholders, and inspire concrete actions that contribute to a more environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically viable palm oil sector in India.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
14.30 - 14.35	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Bhavya Sharma, Centre for Responsible Business</b></p>
14.35-14.40	<p><b>Panelist Introductions</b></p>
14.40 – 15.30	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Sustainable Practices and Innovations</b>            Panelists discuss innovative and sustainable practices being implemented in palm oil production.            Highlight technological advancements, eco-friendly farming methods, and responsible sourcing initiatives.</p> <p>Moderator: Amit Vatsyanan, Partner, Business Consulting, E&amp;Y India</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. M.J. Khan, Chairman, ICFA</li> <li>• Dr. Manish Pande Director &amp; Head of Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PAD Division) at Quality Council of India (QCI)</li> <li>• Yogesh Gokhale, PhD, Senior Fellow and Area Convenor, Centre for Forest Management and Governance, and Nutritional Security, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute</li> </ul>
15.30 - 15.45	<p><b>Best Practices and Success Stories by RSPO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief presentations of impactful case studies showcasing successful sustainable palm oil production models in different Indian regions.</li> <li>• Emphasize lessons learned and replicable practices.</li> </ul>
15.45-15.50	<p><b>Q&amp;A and Audience Engagement</b></p>
15.50-16.00	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p>

## Paving the Way for Sustainable and Inclusive Global Value Chains

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 2



### Background

Global value chains (GVCs) have undergone rapid transformations in international trade since the 1990s, leading to notable gains in productivity, economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. However, since 2008, these gains have stagnated, accompanied by an uneven distribution of benefits. High value-added activities have often been concentrated in the Global North, while developing countries primarily participate in lower value-added roles. Furthermore, this inequality is exacerbated by the disproportionate negative environmental impacts on the Global South. To foster more equitable and sustainable GVC growth, collaboration between the Global North and South is crucial. This collaboration should focus on developing innovative solutions, engaging in policy-making, sharing best practices and capacity building, involving consumers in sustainable consumption, and piloting sustainability initiatives in priority sectors. Addressing the unique challenges and opportunities of the Global South is essential in this context. By working together to redefine the value chain, GVCs can serve as powerful drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development for all countries.

### Objectives:

- Identify key challenges faced by Global South stakeholders in transforming global value chains for equitable and sustainable development.
- Share best practices, innovative ideas, and success stories between Global North and South stakeholders to recognise opportunities and models for driving positive change.
- Examine collaborative measures, policies, and partnerships to implement solutions that foster inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and shared value throughout global value chains.

Time	Agenda Items
2:30 PM – 2:35 PM	Introduction and session objectives, Devyani Hari, Director, CRB
2:35 PM – 3:45 PM	<b>Moderated panel discussion</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Mr Arhan De, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC <b>Panelists</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Indras Ghosh, Head, IGCC Sustain Markets</li> <li>• Dr Elisabeth Hoch, Climate &amp; Company</li> <li>• Ms Satinder Bhatia, Director (Additional Charge), Dean, Head(CDOE), Professor, IIFT</li> <li>• Ms Rubina Pal, an Expert on GVC</li> </ul>
3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	<b>Participant Q&amp;A</b>
3:55 – 4:00 PM	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> Vivek Singh, Assistant Director, CRB

## Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: Innovative Solutions to Transform Supply Chains

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 2



### Background

Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is a crucial component of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it is clear that more can and will need to be done if we are to make adequate progress in this space. The UN estimates that at the current rate of progress, it will take up to 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace. With less than a decade to meet the 2030 SDGs, now is a critical time for sustainability standards and other supply chain actors to take action to contribute to gender equality goals.

In this session, we will explore what role they need to play to support deeper and more transformative change on gender equality and social inclusion in supply chains. We will hear from actors in different sectors to understand their experiences, ambitions, and how they are measuring change. We will identify key challenges they are facing and actions that can be taken to make progress in this space.

### Objectives:

- Understand different sector's experiences, ambitions, and how they are measuring change
- Identify key challenges to supporting gender equality
- Identify actions for supply chain actors

Time	Agenda Items
3mins	<b>Opening &amp; Welcome</b> Centre for Responsible Business
10mins	<b>Context Setting</b>

	ISEAL and CGIAR (Dr. Meghajit Shijagurumayum)
45mins	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Moderator</i>                  Lakshmi Bhatia, Director, SustainAbility</p> <p><i>Speakers</i>                  Madhuri Nanda, Director (South Asia), Rainforest Alliance                  Vidyun Rathore, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Coordinator, Better Cotton Initiative                  Dr. Nidhi Kaicker, School of Business, Public Policy and Social                  Entrepreneurship, Dr BR Ambedkar University Delhi                  Saurav Roy, Chief-Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Steel</p>
30mins	<b>Open Floor Discussion</b>
5mins	<b>Key Highlights and Closing Remarks</b>

## Integration of Sustainability in Management Education

### *Exploring Inclusive Solutions through Policy, Innovation & Collaboration - For Next Gen Leaders*

**Date:** 7 November 2023

**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

**Venue:** Silver Oak 1



**Nālandā**  
UNIVERSITY

#### Background

The academic Forum under ISS by CRB was set up in 2016 to connect B-schools in India and beyond, to influence, and inspire each other to progress on their sustainability journeys.

Pursuing ‘integration of sustainability in management education’ as the key focus, the forum has explored many facets of sustainability education over the last seven years and generated a multitude of ideas, insights and takeaways to inspire the sustainability visions and plans of B school fraternity, engaging the industry perspectives as well.

#### Objectives:

- Identify effective approaches/replicable models of **integration** in the space of sustainability education.
- Identify inspiring and **inclusive solutions** to prepare the next-gen business leaders while exploring the **role of policy & innovation**.
- Enhance the understanding, synergy and **collaboration** between academia and industry w.r.t. Sustainability.

Time	Agenda Items
16:30 to 18:00	<b>Integration of Sustainability in Management Education</b>
	<b>Introduction and Theme Presentation</b> Dr Muneer Magry- Faculty Member, School of Management Studies, Nalanda University.

**Esteemed panelists**

- Sapna A Narula, Professor Sustainability & Founder Dean, School of Management Studies, Nalanda University, Rajgir
- Dr Suneel Pandey, Director & Senior Fellow, TERI New Delhi.
- Dr Ashish Aggarwal, Professor Sustainability, IIM Lucknow.
- Dr Gopal Sarangi, Associate Professor, Teri School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi
- Himanshu Arora, Manager (Sustainable Development), Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- Harsha Mukherjee, Managing Director International Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Core Committee Gender Equality - United Nations GCNI
- Ashish Gupta, DGM (HSSE) Corporate, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd.
- Dr Amit Tuteja, Founder, Connecting Dreams Foundation, New Delhi

**Session Moderator**

Dr. Sangeeta Mansur, Founder-catalyst, Bhairavi Business & Consultancy

## Strategizing Climate Adaptation for the Private Sector *A Regional Roundtable Discussion*

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 1



Physical climate risks, such as extreme weather events, increasing temperatures and sea level rise, pose significant risks to human populations, plants and animal species and the environment. It is clear from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report (2018) that while climate risks are projected to be less significant under a 1.5°C scenario than a 2°C scenario, need for climate adaptation is unavoidable, especially for more vulnerable areas. Adapting to current and projected climate change impacts across the world requires widespread mobilisation to protect human safety and ecological health. As vulnerable groups face disproportionate impacts of climate they will bear the greatest challenges of adaptation.

There is an accountability gap in the efforts required to meet global adaptation needs. According to the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), between 2014 and 2018, the 46 least-developed countries (LDCs) received \$5.9 billion from international public finance sources, constituting only 3% of the climate financing needed to adequately address adaptation over the 2020s. Furthermore, the IIED found that these public adaptation finance mechanisms largely failed to include vulnerable groups in decision-making, with only 3% of the funds dedicated to addressing gender inequalities and 2% dedicated to Indigenous Peoples. At COP26, countries signed the Glasgow Climate Pact, committing to doubling the financing available to developing countries for adaptation.

According to the IPCC, adaptation planning is outpacing implementation of adaptation solutions, opening a gap in adaptation action by the private and public sectors. To address the adaptation accountability gap, companies have an important role to play. Standards and initiatives have been developed to support company action on adaptation. ISO standards 14090 and 14091 provide guidelines for organisations to assess climate change risks, identify uncertainties and implement adaptation planning. The Race to Resilience, a campaign led by the United Nations High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action, is currently working to mobilise non-state actors to increase resilience of vulnerable groups to climate risks.

Furthermore, the Assessing low-Carbon Transition (ACT) Initiative will publish a final Adaptation Methodology, creating a framework for assessing company action on

adaptation. The ACT Adaptation Methodology allows companies to evaluate the coherence and completeness of their efforts in adapting to climate change within their own operations and participating in global adaptation efforts.

### **How can companies adapt to climate change?**

Impacts of climate change threaten human safety and health, infrastructure and economic systems. To protect their employees, local communities and regional/global economy, companies have a shared responsibility to adapt to climate change.

### **The aim is to elaborate how can companies contribute to adaptation efforts globally? And what should corporate accountability on this topic look like?**

- Given the risks of climate change to a company, there is a need for companies to identify and enhance their capacity for adaptation. The ACT Adaptation Methodology provides guidance on various capacity-building strategies for developing financial, technological and human capacity for adaptation. Some of the capacity-building activities companies can adopt include research and development in adaptation, incorporation of adaptation into investment decision-making and training employees on physical climate risks and adaptation.
- Companies can also play a pivotal role in addressing the costs of adaptation by fairly distributing resources to vulnerable groups and involving local stakeholders in adaptation decision-making. As cited in the ACT Adaptation Methodology, the integration of adaptation considerations into corporate governance practices requires the development of a company adaptation strategy, engagement with stakeholders and collaboration with local actors.
- An element of adaptation governance and accountability centres around the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle of the European Union taxonomy. The ACT Adaptation Methodology establishes the expectation that companies ensure that their adaptation strategies do not significantly harm climate change mitigation, biodiversity, health or other important matters, and possibly have a positive impact on such areas. As key players in global systems, companies must account for their negative externalities and increase their positive externalities, ensuring that they do not impede, and instead contribute to, climate adaptation.

### **Objectives of the Session:**

- Understand the challenges and shared responsibility of companies in adapting to climate change.
- Discussions focused on the dimensions of governance, physical risk assessment and adaptation capacity/actions.
- Elaborate on how companies can contribute to adaptation efforts globally. And what should corporate accountability on this topic look like.
- Raise awareness of the challenges of climate adaptation and gain a stronger understanding of who are the actors accountable to drive climate adaptation in the corporate world.

- Build capacity on how adaptation plans can be integrated alongside a company's mitigation agenda.

Session Segment	Description / Topics Covered	Speakers / Presenters
<b>Welcome</b> (2 Minutes)	Welcome and Introduction	<b>Mr Aditya Petwal – CRB</b>
<b>Panel</b> (45 minutes)	<p>Panel discussion with representatives from corporates, academia, research bodies, and policy think tanks.</p> <p>Reflections/Perspectives around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance and Accountability: What are public and private policies on Climate Change risk mitigation and adaptation? What tools are most used for accountability?</li> <li>• Physical Risk Assessment: Explore how companies are assessing and mitigating physical risks related to climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation Capacity and Actions: Discuss strategies/perspectives for building adaptation capacity, including technological and human resources.</li> <li>• How do we build resilience for people that are exposed and impacted the most?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr Paul Smith -</b> <i>Consultant Climate Change at UNEP FI</i></p> <p><b>Mrs Suranjali Tandon -</b> <i>Associate Professor at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy</i></p> <p><b>Mrs Malini Chakravarty -</b> <i>Research Manager at Climate Policy Initiative India</i></p> <p><b>Mr Shubhashish Dey –</b> <i>Director, Climate Policy &amp; Finance Programme, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation</i></p> <p><b>Mrs Marcia Toledo Sotillo-</b> <i>Director Adaptation &amp; Resilience Climate Champions – Race to Resilience</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> <b>Vicky Sins – World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)</b></p>
<b>Presentation on ACT Tool</b> (20 minutes)	<p>Overview of the Assessing low-Carbon Transition (ACT) Initiative and its Adaptation Methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Features of ACT Tool</li> <li>• Target Users and Plan to operationalize it</li> <li>• Case Studies by EDF Group</li> <li>• Discuss how the ACT tool can address governance, risk assessment, and adaptation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ms Stephea Latino –</b> <i>Project manager ACT Adaptation</i></p> <p><b>Mr Remi Bussac –</b> <i>Senior Climate Policy Advisor EDF Group</i></p>

	capacity, as highlighted in the panel discussion.	
<b>Open Discussion and Q&amp;A</b> (20 minutes)	Open floor for questions / feedback from the audience.	Invitation to audience to join the dialogue – moderated by <b>Romain Poivet &amp; Vicky Sins (WBA)</b>
<b>Next Steps and Action Items</b> (3 minutes)	Discuss follow-up activities, potential collaborations, and other ways to stay engaged with the ACT tool and climate adaptation efforts.	<b>Vicky Sins – WBA</b>

## Responsible Business Conduct and the RMG Sector

**Date:** 7 November 2023

**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

**Venue:** Jacaranda 2



Innovative Change Collaborative  
Services Pvt. Ltd.



### Background:

The National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC), released in 2018 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), provides a comprehensive framework for Indian businesses to understand and incorporate responsible business practices. The Guidelines are sector agnostic and rest on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). provide ways that businesses can include responsibility in business operations as well as value chains.

The Ready-Made Garment (RMG) sector plays a vital role in the Indian economy. In the current global economic landscape, however, the sector is posed with both opportunities and challenges. While it offers opportunities, in terms of market access and investments, the challenges that remain are issues pertaining to labor rights, environmental sustainability, and ethical practices. Responsible production in the ready-made garment sector necessitates the assurance of safe working conditions, fair wages, and dignified treatment of workers, especially in nations where the industry thrives. It also involves measures to reduce the sector's environmental impact, such as sustainable sourcing, waste reduction, and the adoption of eco-friendly materials. Embracing responsible production practices can not only boost the sector's reputation but also contribute to the welfare of workers and the environment. Furthermore, it aligns with the growing global demand for ethically produced clothing.

Against this backdrop, ICCSPL, have been engaged in organizing dialogues to share the key sustainability issues and challenges in the RMG sector so that it can receive inputs on the same from various stakeholders. The objective is to provide clear Guidelines to support RMG players to incorporate and demonstrate responsible business practices.

### Objectives:

- Share the key sustainability issues and challenges in RMG Sector and to receive inputs on the same from various stakeholders.
- Elicit inputs, feedback towards the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) for RMG sector.

Time	Agenda Items
4:30 pm - 4:35 pm	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Centre for Responsible Business
4:35 pm - 4:40 pm	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Alay Barah, Director ICCSPL
4:40 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Presentation on NGRBC</b> Shankar Venkateswaran, Founding Member, E cube Investment Advisors
5:00 pm - 5:40 pm	<b>Breakout Session</b> To deliberate RMG specific NGRBC and provide inputs
5:40 pm - 5:55 pm	<b>Presentation by the Groups</b>
5:55 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Highlights Summary &amp; Closing Remarks</b>

## Small Business, Big Impact: India's SMEs on the Path to Net Zero

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 2



### Background

The MSME sector is the backbone of the Indian economy, championing local innovation and resource use, generating employment, and strengthening value chains. The sector accounts for approximately 30% of India's GDP, a 49% share of the country's exports and employs 110 million workers. They are indispensable for India to reach its net zero target and maintain a stable economy. As Indian MSMEs work to prioritize climate action, they must be supported with the right knowledge, tools, and resources to help them take concrete, actionable steps towards global net zero targets.

The SME Climate Hub which recently launched a dedicated presence in India aims to mainstream climate action in the small to medium-sized business community and empower MSMEs to take climate action. Through the Hub, MSMEs make a credible net zero commitment and access free resources and tools to meet their emission reduction targets. The Hub also plays a catalytic role in bridging the gap between large businesses/brands and MSMEs to align climate action priorities and leverage big business as an enabler of SME climate ambition.

Through this event, the SME Climate Hub will bring together different players from across the MSME ecosystem to strengthen collaboration and unlock new opportunities for MSMEs on the road to net zero.

### Objectives:

- Spotlight MSMEs and entrepreneurs driving a new wave of ambition and innovation towards climate action in India
- Bridge the gap between large brands/buyers, institutions and small business/MSMEs through digital solutions such as the SME Climate Hub

- Highlight actions taken by Indian MSMEs and how impact can be scaled through support from the ecosystem in the form of benefits, curated tools and resources

<b>4:30 – 4:35 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Address: Devyani Hari</b> , Director, CRB
<b>4:35 – 4:45 PM</b>	<b>Opening and Context Setting: Pamela Jouven</b> , Director - SME Climate Hub, We Mean Business Coalition
<b>4:45 – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Fireside Chat: Unlocking the power of big business to bolster SME climate action.</b>  <b>Pallavi Ahuja</b> (Manager, Systems Transformation, We Mean Business Coalition) in conversation with <b>Sagarika Bose</b> , Head, CSR, SAP India
<b>5:00 – 5:40 PM</b>	<b>Un-panel Discussion – Indian MSMEs on the path to Net Zero</b> <b>Sucharita Kamath</b> , Head, South Asia, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) - Exploring climate in the context of needs, trends, and opportunities in the Indian entrepreneurial landscape. <b>Sakthi Vel</b> , Managing Director, Punarbhavaa Sustainable Products – The why and how of sustainability/climate action as an important business consideration and differentiator. <b>Rajiv Kumar</b> , General Manager - Green Climate & Energy Efficiency Centre, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) – Reaching SMEs at scale and financing SME action. <b>Supriya Kapoor</b> , Director Social Enterprises, Women on Wings - Facilitating peer learning and action at scale.
<b>5:40 – 5:50 PM</b>	<b>Q&amp;A: Interaction with Audience</b>
<b>5:50 – 5:55 PM</b>	<b>K. Rama Devi</b> , President, Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP)- Indian MSMEs on the SME Climate Hub – Potential for large-scale impact
<b>5:55 – 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Closing Remarks: Pallavi Ahuja</b> , Manager, Systems Transformation, We Mean Business Coalition

## EU-India Business Collaborative on Sustainable Development, Climate Action and Inclusivity

**Date:** 7 November 2023  
**Time:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak Lawn



**European Union**

### Objectives of the Session:

- To discuss and deliberate on developments related to sustainability, sustainable value chain related initiatives and legislations in the EU
- To reiterate the ongoing EU-India collaborative initiatives on various issues related to sustainability, energy and climate action
- To share details about the rationale and objectives of an upcoming initiative between CRB and the Delegation of European Union to India related to a sustainability platform in India for European businesses and Indian stakeholders

Time	Agenda Items
1800 – 1805 hrs	<b>Welcome and Context Setting</b> Rijit Sengupta, CEO, CRB
1805 – 1815 hrs	<b>Special Address:</b> Laurent le Danois, Team Leader, Cooperation Section, EU Delegation to India
1815 – 1825 hrs	<b>Special Address: Global Supply Chain Legislations in Europe and India</b> Richard Howitt, Former CEO, International Integrated Reporting Council
1825 – 1835 hrs	<b>Special Address:</b> Farhad Vania, Portfolio Management Advisor to the Country Director, GIZ India
1835 – 1840 hrs	<b>Presentation : Overview of the Project</b> Devosmita Bhattacharya, Programme Officer, CRB

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
1840 - 1900 hrs	<b>Closing Remarks</b> CRB

## Special Performance by The Rythme School of Music

7:15 pm onwards

Silver Oak Lawn



**DAY 3**

**8 NOVEMBER 2023**

## Transforming Indian Workplaces with Family-Friendly Policies for a Brighter Future and Sustainable Development

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
**Venue:** Silver Oak



### Background

Implementing family-friendly policies in Indian workplaces is imperative, both from a social justice perspective and bolstering business performance. Policies such as paternity leave, breastfeeding breaks, onsite crèches, and childcare stipends have benefitted employees and employers significantly.

Studies show family-friendly policies boost productivity, employee engagement, satisfaction, and retention. They create a diverse and inclusive work culture where employees can personally and professionally thrive. For Indian companies looking to attract top talent, especially women, offering robust family support policies is no longer an added perk but a necessity.

Beyond the clear business incentives, family-friendly policies enable Indian companies to contribute to critical social goals outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality, reduced inequalities, and decent work. As more women join the Indian workforce, ensuring their equitable participation through family-friendly policies fosters community development.

Most importantly, enabling a healthy work-life balance and equal opportunities upholds fundamental human rights and dignity. Indian companies implementing thoughtful, family-friendly initiatives exemplify ethical business practices where employee well-being is valued. Family-friendly policies are a strategic imperative for responsible, sustainable growth in the Indian business landscape.

### Objectives:

- Share best practices for the successful implementation of family-friendly policies from leading companies.
- Discuss how family-friendly policies align with human rights principles and support sustainable development goals related to decent work, gender equality and reduced inequalities.
- Explore policy recommendations to promote wider adoption of family-friendly practices across industries.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
10:00 – 10:05 AM	Introduction and session objectives
10:05 – 10:15 AM	Opening remarks from Government agency representative
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Moderated panel discussion
11:15 - 11:25 AM	Q&A session with company representatives
11:25 – 11:30 AM	Closing summary and remarks

## Driving Demand for Sustainable Consumption: Contributing to Mission LiFE

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 1



### Background:

In spite of growing interest among an increasing segment of consumers, the awareness about the availability of sustainable products in the Indian market remains extremely low. In addition to the lack of awareness, there are also instances of misleading advertisement and false representation that thwarts consumer confidence about patronising such products. In addition to enabling policy and strict regulatory enforcement, there is an urgent need to build awareness about credible sustainability schemes and initiatives among certain consumers (especially the young millennials) to drive demand. Given this is also in the interest of consumer facing businesses, they need to invest in strengthening their internal strategies, processes and systems to be able to communicate better and unambiguously to their current and potential consumers, about their sustainability performance.

This is critical also for the success of the Mission Lifestyle for the Environment (Mission LiFE) of the Government of India, especially the thrust that this initiative has received not just from the Government of India, but also at the international level – especially given it is now embedded in the G20 agenda, going forward.

Rainforest Alliance has been actively engaging with HoReCa segment actors to help communicate better with certain category of consumers about the application of voluntary sustainability standards in promoting sustainable consumption. Together with the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), they are co-hosting this session to convene senior practitioners from the Government of India, consumer facing businesses and international organisations to help.

### Objectives of the Session:

- Uncover opportunities and challenges in driving demand in the market for sustainable products
- Alignment with and contribution towards the objectives of Mission LiFE
- Understand from international practitioners and initiatives, what has worked

- Exploring contribution of voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) towards Sustainable Consumption

Time	Agenda Items
12:00 pm - 12:05 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b> Rijit Sengupta, Centre for Responsible Business
12:05 pm - 12:10 pm	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Madhuri Nanda, Regional Director, Asia, Rainforest Alliance
12:10 pm - 1:15 pm	<b><u>Panel Discussion: Driving Demand for Sustainable Consumption: Contributing to Mission LiFE</u></b> <b>Moderator:</b> Madhuri Nanda, Regional Director, Asia, Rainforest Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shubhra Jain, Lead, Sustainability Policy, Amazon</li> <li>• Maelys Nizan, Communication, Partnerships and Knowledge Management Analyst, Consumption and Production Unit, UNEP</li> <li>• George Thomas, Co-Founder and Partner, Menterra Ventures</li> </ul> <b>Q&amp;A</b>
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>

## Sustainable Supply Chain by Promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) in India

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 2



**International  
Labour  
Organization**

### Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO) plays a crucial role in establishing global labour standards that aim to improve working conditions and uphold Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW). These standards are especially important in India, where the supply chains involve both formal and informal sectors, creating a complex landscape. While larger businesses at the top of these chains often comply with labour laws and ethical practices, small enterprises and individual producers in the informal sector are often neglected. This leads to a systemic imbalance where workers at the lower levels are invisible and disadvantaged, lacking the benefits of social dialogue, improved working conditions, and social protection. Furthermore, the lack of freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining worsen these problems.

The International Labour Organization's FPRW principles, such as freedom of association, elimination of forced labour, abolition of child labour, non-discrimination in employment, and ensuring a safe and healthy working environment, form the foundation for fair economic development. These principles are not only morally right but also play a crucial role in boosting productivity, driving consumer demand, and formalising informal economies. While India's ratification of various ILO conventions is a positive step, turning these commitments into concrete policies that extend throughout the supply chain is essential. By doing so, we can support the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and make significant contributions to the broader 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve this, it is vital for all stakeholders—including governments, employers, and workers—to collaborate and actively promote international labour standards to ensure fair and equitable economic growth.

### Objectives:

- Delve into the intricacies of the formal and informal sectors within the supply chain and the obstacles that impede the consistent implementation of FPRW across complex supply networks.

- Share examples of policies, initiatives, and innovations that have successfully promoted decent work in supply chains.
- Highlight the role of responsible business conduct and ethics in ensuring inclusivity and equitable growth.
- Encourage businesses to incorporate ILO's decent work agenda in sustainability efforts actively.
- Outline recommendations and actionable solutions to extend FPRW throughout supply chains in India.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
12:00 – 12:05 PM	Context Setting
12:05 – 12:25 PM	ILO FPRW Concept and Integrated Approach Presentation
12:25 - 12:45 PM	CLP Platform Presentation
12:45 - 1:05 PM	Worker Union Presentation
1:05 – 1:20 PM	Open Dialogue and Discussion
1:20 – 1:30 PM	Q&A

## Social Stock Exchange: Building a Robust Framework for Collaborative Transformation

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 1



In this session, thought leaders representing three essential pillars of society - Samaj, Sarkar and Bazar - join to discuss the pressing need for a robust framework within the context of the Social Stock Exchange. Recognizing the power of collaboration, (since this is the core for Catalyst 2030 as a movement) the session will explore how these sectors can synergize on collaborative efforts, leveraging the SSE as a platform for social change.

### Themes for the discussion during the session:

1. **Collaborative Ecosystems:** Delve into the dynamics of collaborative ecosystems, understanding how communities, governments, and businesses can work in harmony to foster meaningful social impact.
2. **Policy and Governance:** Discuss the role of governments in creating policies and participatory efforts that support SSE initiatives, ensuring robust frameworks that encourage participation.
3. **CSR and Market:** Explore how businesses can align with social responsibility, utilizing robust frameworks like SSE to invest in impactful projects.
4. **Inclusive Narratives:** Discuss the importance of reshaping societal narratives around effective frameworks, emphasizing inclusivity, collaboration and democratization.

### Objectives of the Session:

Exploring a shared understanding among stakeholders from Samaj, Sarkar, and Bazar about the collaborative potential within the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) framework. Encourage dialogue that emphasises the power of collaboration and its role in driving social change under a robust system.

Time	Agenda Items
1200 - 1210 hrs	Welcome and Context Setting  Mr. Rameez Alam, Co-anchor, and Co-founder of Catalyst 2030 India
1210 - 1330 hrs	Panel Discussion Moderator: Mr. Rameez Alam, Co-anchor, and Co-founder of Catalyst 2030 India Panellists : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathew Cherian, Chairperson, CARE India</li> <li>• Jyotsna Sitling, Member Advisory Committee to SEBI on Social Stock Exchange, Special Monitor- NHRC (Livelihoods, Skills and Employability)</li> <li>• Deepa Menon, Senior Vice President-CSR &amp; Corporate Communication, PVR INOX Limited</li> </ul>

## Responsible Sourcing of Agri -commodities: Challenges and Opportunities

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 1



### Background

Agri-commodity companies that trade in high volumes of key globally traded commodities such as coffee, palm oil and in turn which have operations across the world were signatories to the Agricultural Commodity Companies Corporate Statement of Purpose at the COP26. This multi-stakeholder initiative paved the way for continued action pertaining to make supply chains sustainable in the lead up to COP27.

The FOLU India CREST (Food and Land Use India (FOLU India) Action Coalition for Responsible Sourcing & Trade of Commodities) is an action coalition by FOLU in India, which brings together four organisations, viz. Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative India, WWF India, and World Resource Institute India (WRI India), has been tasked with understanding how agri-commodity companies are operationalizing sustainability. In this regard, the action coalition embarked upon a study to explore how the private sector, a key stakeholder in terms of driving the sustainability agenda, is operationalizing sustainability in the supply chain. The approach that is being adopted by agri commodity companies overlaps in terms of their operationalization. Broadly speaking, agri-commodity companies have shown conceptual clarity in developing strategy that translates into sustainable sourcing via institutional responsibility.

### Objectives:

- Implications on Responsible Sourcing by on-going trends, such as market volatility, respective international agreements
- To understand the actions and best practices of the private sector, namely, agri-commodity companies to integrate sustainable sourcing in their respective supply chains.

Time	Agenda Items
2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	<b>Inaugural session</b> <b>Welcome Remarks</b> Mr. S Vijay Kumar, Distinguished Fellow, <b>TERI</b> and Lead, <b>Food and Land Use Coalition-India</b>
2:40 pm -2:50 pm	<b>Presentation - ‘Responsible Sourcing of Agri-Commodities in India: Opportunity &amp; Challenges’, (FOLU India CREST)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Rajat Panwar</b>, Associate Professor, Forest Ecosystems &amp; Society and Director of the SNR Certificate, <b>Oregon State University</b> and Senior Fellow, <b>Centre for Responsible Business</b></li> <li>• <b>Nitya Chhiber</b>, Senior Programme Officer, <b>Centre for Responsible Business</b></li> </ul>
2:50 pm – 4:10 pm	<b>Panel Discussion: Responsible Sourcing of Agri-Commodities in India: Opportunity &amp; Challenges</b>  <b>Moderator: Arindom Datta</b> , Senior Advisor – Sustainability/ Agribusiness/ Technology  <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Arpita Mukherjee</b>, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (<b>ICRIER</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sudhanshu</b>, Secretary, <b>APEDA</b></li> <li>• <b>Sachin Sharma</b>, Vice President &amp; Head- Agri &amp; Dairy Operations, <b>ITC</b></li> <li>• <b>Atin Tyagi</b>, Senior Manager (Head- ESG, Sustainability and Carbon Projects), <b>Jain Irrigation Services Limited</b></li> <li>• <b>Rathish Balakrishnan</b>. Co-founder and Managing Partner, <b>Sattva Media and Consulting Pvt. Ltd.</b></li> </ul>
4:10 pm – 4:20 pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
4:20 pm 4:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> FOLU India CREST Partner/s

## Collaborative Systems Change: Increasing Impact of Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak 2



### Background

Changemakers around the world have come up with solutions to different sustainability and inclusivity problems we face in their contexts. However, these innovations and solutions do not spread quick enough to address the same problems around the world, and sometimes the problem keeps resurfacing. This session will help explore systems change approaches to addressing any problem in a long lasting, equitable and sustainable way, by learning about it’s root causes and key places to intervene in a system.

### Objectives:

- Gain a better understanding of systems change and how addressing root causes of problems can lead to long-lasting and equitable social impact.
- gain insights into how there are different types of causes/places/point in a system (mindsets, policies, practices, relationships etc), that can be barriers or enablers for a problem being addressed (leverage points to intervene in a system), and identify targeted goals for changes in the system
- learn about a proven set of approaches/ pathways (scaling innovations and solutions, collaborative networks, policy change, mindset shift and more) through which certain systemic changes can happen.

Time	Agenda Items
2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Opening & Checking In
2:40 pm - 3:00 pm	Context Setting- Intro to Systems Change
3:00 pm - 3:20 pm	Workshopping- Root Causes of the problem you are trying to address

3:20 pm - 3:40 pm	Workshopping- Key places / changes to work on in the system, and targeting a strategic goal
3:40 pm - 4:00 pm	Workshopping- Approaches to working towards that systems change goal
4:00 pm - 4:10 pm	Open Resources & Q&A
4:10 pm - 4:30 pm	Closing & Checking Out

## Neutrality to Stewardship: Transitioning towards Water Secure India

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Jacaranda 1



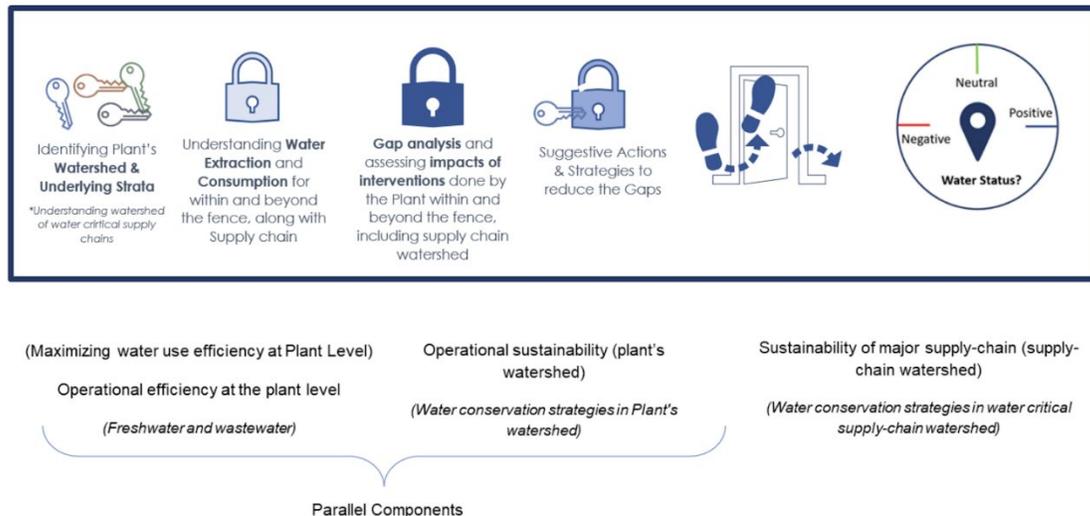
### Background:

Water is the ultimate shared resource and it can be only be managed sustainably if all water users in a river basin work together. India Water Stewardship Network calls on the businesses to become water stewards and go beyond water efficiency practices, to lead collective action in river basins in the country.

As businesses strategize for the future, climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing water scarcity consistently rank among the top factors to consider. Leading companies are shifting towards strategies that not only promote "sustainability" but also aim to address broader challenges that may affect future business growth.

Water is both a risk and opportunity for the private sector and for a vast majority, water is already driving business decisions for growth. Incorporating "purpose" into water strategies necessitates addressing the specific water challenges the company faces within the basins or regions where it operates. This can be achieved by setting contextual water targets or water science-based targets (water SBTs). Practically, this means that any water initiatives, regardless of their type, must increasingly rely on local hydrological or scientific data. Moreover, the focus should narrow down to water-related challenges that are strategically significant or material, both to the target-setter and other stakeholders in the surrounding context. Therefore, sustainable water governance will require equitable and transparent management of all water resources within a defined area, ideally an entire basin which necessitates the involvement of various stakeholders including businesses and institutions, along with their supply chain partners, for collaborative actions.

With NITI Aayog outlining standard definition and approach for water neutrality for industries, it is imperative that the private sector move towards implementing water stewardship journey collaboratively to showcase basin level positive impacts. The International Water Stewardship Standard built around five steps of 1. Gather and Understand; 2. Commit and Plan; 3. Implement; 4. Evaluate; 5. Communicate and Disclose, and can significantly help the businesses to enable evaluation and validation of the water neutrality claims made by the industries in their absolute sense.



*Figure 1 General approach for assessing water neutral/positive/negative status NITI Aayog Report- Water Neutrality in Indian Industries 2023*

As per NITI Aayog, this water stewardship journey will assist the businesses to achieve results on water neutrality/positivity and help them in obtaining the certificate or credential that validates their efforts. NITI Aayog in its report also has considered three levels of certification-

1. Level I- Water Neutral/Positive Aspiring Company- Companies/organisations/industries undertaking evaluation of their water status and the components mentioned under scope I, focusing on operational efficiency gains maximization
2. Level II- Water Neutral/Positive Rising Plant Company- Companies/organisations/industries undertaking evaluation of their water status and the components mentioned under scope II, focusing on operational and sustainability including gaps in offsets, supply chains
3. Level III- Water Neutral/Positive Achieved Company- Companies/organisations/industries undertaking evaluation of their water status and the components mentioned under scope III, focusing on validation, verification and reporting

With this background, this session will focus on how IWSN can catalyse the businesses to address the core water-related challenges through purpose-driven strategies that emphasize optimization of actions on both, reducing risks through data and innovative technologies and creating value. Also, the deliberation will lead to highlighting IWSN's core role in driving collaboration between businesses and supply chains within the basin, and giving the necessary push to the implementation of policies being advanced by the policy makers, through implementation of Water Stewardship.

**Objectives:**

- To spread awareness about water stewardship and India Water Stewardship Network's role
- To highlight role of industrial collaboration and best practices, and how they benefit all stakeholders
- To highlight the catalytic linkages between policy framework and water stewardship implementation

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b> (Indicate topics, speakers/panellists, chairs)
2:30 pm – 2:40 pm	Welcome Remarks- Adrian Sym, AWS
2:40 pm – 2:50 pm	Context Setting- Ashish Bhardwaj, AWS
2:50 pm – 3:00 pm	Special address Upendra Pratap Singh, Former Secretary, Jalshakti and Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
3:00 pm – 3:10 pm	Keynote Address: G Ashok Kumar, Director General, NMCG
3:10 pm – 4:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pia Barkataki, Partnership Coordinator, World Bank</li> <li>• Dinni Lingaraj, Wipro Foundation</li> <li>• Navdeep Singh Mehram, Senior General Manager, Diageo</li> <li>• Ankit Gupta – GM – Sustainability, ITC Limited</li> </ul> Moderator- Suresh Babu, WWF India
4:20 pm – 4:30 pm	Q&A & Closing

## State Experiences and Innovative Approaches to Fast-track the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak



### Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been the universal language for pursuing socio-economic development globally and assessing progress made in addressing complex challenges. Globally, COVID-19 cast its dark shadows on the progress, with the SDGs as countries grappled with the unprecedented challenge of protecting lives. Consequently, countries including India have slipped back on with our progress on SDGs, given our commitment towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In spite of all odds, India has performed progressively well on SDGs moving from 57/100 in 2018 to 66/100 in 2022.

SDG are adopted nationally to develop a set of National Indicators. In India, the national indicators (developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, MoSPI) are further adapted at the State and District levels. NITI Aayog has at the national level developed the national architecture of management and monitoring of SDGs, in close coordination with MoSPI and various line Ministries. At the state level, the process has been coordinated by the Planning Department, with oversight by the Chief Secretary's Office. State and District level Indicators help monitor and report progress.

The Indian model of SDG Localisation comprises four pillars (NITI Aayog, 2022):

- Pillar 1: Creating institutional ownership
- Pillar 2: Establishing a robust review and monitoring system
- Pillar 3: Developing capacities for integrating SDGs in planning and monitoring
- Pillar 4: Promoting a “whole-of-society” approach

There is a growing recognition for collaborative actions as being crucial in achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential for

different levels of government, civil society, and the private sector to work together. At the state level, stakeholders have collaborated in various ways among themselves in pursuit of specific SDGs. Collaboration to pursue SDGs, can be beneficial in many ways, including:

- Sharing of experiences and resources thereby developing pathways for solutions
- Contributing towards effective policies and programs to facilitate the pursuit of SDGs
- Overcoming challenges of scale, related to investments and measurable impacts
- Building and contributing to political will, and government ownership

CRB has been doing its part to keep the discourse ongoing and identify factors that can mobilise multiple stakeholders to advance specific SDG goals/targets at a state level. The organisation has successfully held roundtable discussions recently across Indian cities (Kolkata, Guwahati, Pune, and Bengaluru) in partnership with local organisations. A synthesis of the outcomes of these discussions is being readied for publication.

**Objectives:**

- To explore innovative ways of collaboration between CSOs, businesses, state Governments, and other key stakeholders to fast-track the pursuit for SDGs
- Highlight SDG performance at state-level especially ‘good practices’
- To explore partnerships between multiple stakeholders on specific SDGs
- To explore the role of innovation and technology in fast-tracking SDGs

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
1630 to 1635hrs	<b>Welcome and Context Setting by CRB</b> CRB
1635 to 1645hrs	<b>Special Address:</b> Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India
1705 to 1755hrs	Panel Discussion <b>Moderator:</b> Amit Kumar, Head - Inclusive Growth, UNDP <b>State Representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. R. Sujatha</b>, Senior SDG Consultant, Government of Tamil Nadu</li> <li>• <b>K Rama Devi</b>, President, Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP)</li> <li>• <b>Deb A Mukherjee</b>, Former President, BCC&amp;I and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited</li> <li>• <b>Vicky Sins</b>, Decarbonisation and Energy Transformation Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)</li> </ul>
1755 to 1800hrs	<b>Closing &amp; Way Forward by CRB</b>

## Closing Plenary

**Date:** 8 November 2023  
**Time:** 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Silver Oak Lawn



**Urmi A Goswami**  
Assistant Editor  
The Economic Times



**Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee**  
Director General & CEO  
Director General & CEO  
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs



**Smt. Prajakta L Verma**  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

# Partners

## **Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)**

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) is a global membership collaboration comprising businesses, NGOs and the public sector. Our members contribute to the sustainability of local water-resources through their adoption and promotion of a universal framework for the sustainable use of water – the International Water Stewardship Standard, or AWS Standard – that drives, recognizes and rewards good water stewardship performance.

## **Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)**

In 2019, Bioversity International and CIAT joined forces to create the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a global organization building on their complementary mandates and long collaboration, to respond to today's global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and malnutrition.

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. To do so, the Alliance works with local, national and multinational partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and with the public and private sectors. With partners, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations in large-scale programs to create food systems and landscapes that sustain the planet, drive prosperity and nourish people in a climate crisis.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

## **Alliance of Cotton & Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE)**

Solidaridad, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and regenagri have set up India's first Alliance of Cotton & Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE) platform, which will support scaling up the production of regenerative agriculture in cotton with the vision of making India the world's biggest producer of certified regenerative cotton. ACRE aims to encourage more textile and apparel brands to commit to sourcing regenagri-certified cotton in India and transform their supply chain to regenerative by 2030. It also aims to strengthen the communication on regenerative cotton, in order to increase awareness among national and international consumers and attract their support for regenerative agriculture by explaining the need for and the benefits of certified regenerative cotton. ACRE will develop partnerships with governments, multilateral and

bilateral organisations, buyers, brands, value chain actors, financial sector actors, grower groups and NGOs to promote regenerative agriculture.

### **Apparel Resources**

Apparel Resources brings the two worlds of Buyers and Sellers in the Apparel and Textile industry together on a single platform through its vast pool of contemporary, insightful and compelling information. Though the portal tracks in real-time the news that matters, its each and every article is an analysis of apparel, textile and fashion industry written and vetted by industry experts who have rich experience and deep understanding of the local as well as the export markets.

### **Ashoka**

Ashoka Globalizer is an organization dedicated to collaborating with changemakers worldwide to address the systemic root causes of social and environmental issues. Their mission is to create a world where everyone can be a changemaker, and they engage a global network of individuals, including social entrepreneurs, innovators, executives, policymakers, foundations, academics, and activists. Ashoka Globalizer offers various initiatives to support their mission, including a Systems Change Strategy Accelerator called "Globalizer," a Systems Change Research Lab named "Knowledge Globalizer," and Ecosystem Globalizer initiatives aimed at creating a supportive environment for all changemakers striving to improve systems. Their primary focus is on empowering individuals and organizations to tackle the underlying issues contributing to social and environmental problems, and they invite collaboration and engagement to further their mission.

### **Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP)**

The Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) was established with an aim to bring Women Entrepreneurs trying to help each other on a common platform. It was established in December 1993 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 as a not for profit organisation. Today it holds the recognition of being one of India's premier institutions for women entrepreneurship.

ALEAP is NABET gold rank accredited and ISO 9001:2015 certified organization. has developed India's first Industrial Estate exclusively for women entrepreneurs in Gajularamaram, Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad creating employment opportunities for about 5,000 people.

ALEAP acts as a facilitator and helps women in acquiring entrepreneurial skills, guiding them to become economically independent and assisting women from all walks of life in their enterprising endeavours. ALEAP, came up with the idea of establishing Industrial Incubator dedicated to Women Entrepreneurs way back in 2012-2013 and implemented the concept of Incubation.

### **Aston Business School**

Aston Business School, part of College of Business and Social Sciences at Aston University is are part of an elite group of business schools across the globe who hold the triple accreditation from AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS, and internationally recognized by top accrediting bodies and independent rankings for the quality of teaching and the employability of its graduates. Aston India Centre for Applied Research at Aston Business School is currently undertaking a research project aimed at examining phenomenon at the intersection of business and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of activating India 2.0, fuelled by the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The official journey of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced on 12th March 2021 which started a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2023.

### **Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

The Chamber turned into the financial universe of the East from the mid 19th century - not merely as a forum for networking, but as a powerful enabler lobbying for the development of the economy and infrastructure. It became the first port of call on matters of Federal and State Government policies and legislation.

The legislations that the Chamber reviewed and commented upon before their passage through the Parliament and Assembly are too numerous to be commented upon separately.

The Bengal Chamber has helped in the formation of a slew of educational and cultural institutions - Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM), Nazrul Manch and the Academy of Fine Arts apart from bringing to Kolkata the son-et-lumiere at the Victoria Memorial.

### **Business and Human Rights Network**

There has been a paradigm shift in the global Business and Human Rights (BHR) framework. While States are tightening regulations and policies on human rights due diligence, investors are eyeing it as a decisive factor for investments. Given the increasing momentum on the subject, it is imperative to create space for businesses to engage with stakeholders and understand the evolving policy landscape, expectations and opportunities around BHR.

An initiative of Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), Business & Human Rights Network aims to simplify BHR concepts, identify opportunities, encourage BHR uptake, and thereby make businesses more competitive and resilient.

### **Capitals Coalition**

The Capitals Coalition develops, advocates for and advances the capitals approach. We work with organizations and individuals spanning global systems to understand the value that flows from the capitals and to ensure that it is included in decision-making. The Capitals Coalition accelerates momentum, leverages success, connects powerful and engaged communities and identifies the areas, projects and partnerships where we can collaboratively drive transformational change.

### **Catalyst 2030**

The Catalyst 2030 India Chapter, working together as members of the National Association of Social Entrepreneurs (NASE), is collaborating to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in India.

Launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2020, Catalyst 2030 is a social entrepreneur and innovator-led movement responding to a global call to action for people and planet.

The movement was co-founded in 2019 by a diverse group of social entrepreneurs, many as members of our ecosystem partners: Ashoka, Echoing Green, the Schwab Foundation of the World Economic Forum and the Skoll Foundation. One Family Foundation incubated Catalyst 2030 and continues as its fiscal sponsor. Panorama Global facilitated and managed funding from 2021-2023 as fiscal sponsor.

Alongside communities, governments, businesses, funders and others, we are forming inclusive and locally-led collaborations, creating connections across borders and cultures.

Together, we are implementing bold new strategies and sustainable solutions to achieve a brighter future for all.

### **CGIAR**

The CGIAR HER+ Gender Equality Research Initiative is designed to address challenges to gender equality in agrifood systems in times of climate change. The Initiative aims to use impactful gender research to address four dimensions of gender inequality by applying gender-transformative approaches to harmful norms, bundling socio-technical innovations for women's empowerment, leveraging social protection to increase women's access to and control over resources, and promoting inclusive governance and policies for increased resilience. The research is supported by funders through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund.

### **Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)**

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) being one of the leading industry chambers of the textile and clothing sector of India, represents the major leading regional & industry associations and 18 major corporate members, thus, covering the entire textile value chain from farm to garments & made-ups and the textile machinery industry. It is the only National Association which covers the entire spectrum of the Textiles & Clothing Industry spanning both domestic and export markets. CITI has signed MOUs with Thirteen major International Textile Associations for promotion of textiles' trade and investment. It directly and indirectly serves an industry that connects to millions of farmers, 100 million plus work force and 1.3 billion consumers. The cumulative annual turnover of CITI members is around USD 30 billion i.e. Rs.2 lakh crores plus.

### **Cotton Connect**

Cotton is big business. It accounts for almost 24% of all global textile production, and the industry supports more than 350 million livelihoods.

But right now, just 30% of the world's cotton is classed as 'sustainable'.

Farming communities face a range of social and environmental challenges, which make it hard to sustain cotton production for the long-term.

Meanwhile, brands and retailers are under increasing pressure to deliver more ethically sourced products that consumers want.

Reimagining the future for supply chains – and securing a sustainable, traceable and transparent supply – is vital.

That's where CottonConnect comes in.

We reimagine and innovate to find solutions. Our 2020-2025 strategy, implemented via three pillars of activity, is designed to deliver what the cotton and raw materials industry needs now, and in the future.

### **European Union's Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI)**

European Union's Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) for India and aims to support India in the implementation of the United Nations global Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) agenda by way of adapting international standards and best practices in business on resource efficiency and circular economy and fostering the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

The EU-REI works towards creating a dialogue on the need for resource efficient and circular economy approaches in India among key government and non-governmental organisations, businesses, students, media and the general public. It also underscores the link between

recovering raw materials from different material streams and creating an enabling ecosystem for the management of secondary raw materials. Adoption of resource efficiency and circular economy standards and benchmarks and business best practices on resource efficiency will remain key in this transition. The primary sectors of interest in Phase-I were mobility, buildings and construction, renewable energy (photovoltaics), and resource recovery from waste (e-waste, and plastics and packaging).

#### **Consortium**

The European Union – Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) is implemented on behalf of the European Union by a consortium led by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII) and Adelphi. The EU-REI aims to facilitate partnerships between Indian and European businesses and stakeholders on Resource Efficiency (RE) and Circular Economy economy in sectors of interest.

#### **Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)**

The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) is an Indian NGO that is the progressive face of Indian MSMEs and is regarded as such by the Government of India. It is a member of the National MSME Board formed under the MSME Act 2006. FISME is consulted by SME policy making set-up of the country and also works in close coordination with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises as well as major multilateral and bilateral bodies in India such as UNIDO, ILO, UNCTAD, DFID, GTZ etc.

Supported by UNCTAD, DFID and Ministry of Commerce & Industry, as a Tier-I partner, FISME is leading 22 provincial SME bodies in 18 states.

#### **Food and Land Use Coalition India**

Food and Land Use Coalition India Country Platform Established in 2017, the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) is a community of organisations and individuals committed to the urgent need to transform the ways we produce and consume food and use our land for people, nature and climate. We support science-based solutions and help build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities to unlock collective, ambitious action. The FOLU Coalition in India includes the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and World Resources Institute India (WRI India), and with a detailed integrated country modelling effort, led by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) with support from International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-arid and Tropics (ICRISAT).

#### **FOLU India CREST**

Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) India has launched its first action coalition in India. This action coalition brings together four organisations, viz. Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative India, WWF India, and World Resource Institute India (WRI India). The action coalition has been named as Food and Land Use India (FOLU India) Action Coalition for Responsible Sourcing & Trade of Commodities (in short FOLU India CREST).

### **Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom**

The Foundation was established in Germany in 1958. It aims to promote the goal of making the principle of freedom valid for the dignity of all people and in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom works in over 65 countries worldwide. In South Asia we have offices in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Additionally we work with partners in Nepal. We promote civic education, trainings and the exchange of ideas in the region in four focal areas. These are economic freedom, human rights, urban governance and digital transformation. In addition to the country projects, the Foundation supports regional programs.

### **Indian Institute of Management Lucknow**

The Indian Institute of Management Lucknow is fourth in the prestigious IIM family of management schools to be established in India after IIM Calcutta, IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore. The establishment of IIMs was envisioned and initiated by the first Prime Minister of India – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Institute was established in the year 1984. Since then IIML has touched million lives directly or indirectly through its faculty, alumni and support staff. IIML moulds its students into value driven leaders, managers and global players. The institute undertakes a diverse range of academic activities aimed at creation, dissemination and application of management knowledge and practice.

In 2005, IIM Lucknow expanded its area of influence in the realm of management education by becoming the first IIM to set up a satellite campus exclusively for Executive Education at NOIDA in Delhi NCR region.

Situated in a city known for its cultural heritage, the campus is spread over more than 190 acres of beautifully landscaped area. With its foundation in the city of “Tehzeeb”, IIM Lucknow as well inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students to help them make a positive impact not just on the nation but on a global platform. IIM Lucknow is an ideal setup conducive to learning, accessibility and excellence.

### **Indian Vegetable oil Producers Association (IVPA)**

Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) an apex body of Vegetable Oil Producers was founded in the year 1977 by the then illustrious Industrialist namely, Mahinder Kumar Modi, Vinod Kumar Jain, Naresh Kumar Bajaj, Mahavir Prasad Kedia, Mahavir Prasad Jhunjhunwala, Karmendra Narain Agarwal and Rajindera Prasad Khaitan. IVPA was formally registered in the year 1979 as 'Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association' as not for profit organization under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. Over the years, IVPA had many key esteemed President(s) like M K Modi, K N Agarwal, Raghu Mody, N K Bajaj, B L Jaju, A K Swarup, Siddharth Shriram, J K Khaitan, S K Kejriwal, Sushil Goyal, Kripakar Varshney and acclaimed Executive

### **Innovative Change Collaborative Services Private Limited**

Innovative Change Collaborative Services Private Limited (ICCSPL) is a value-driven social consulting firm providing technical and knowledge support to individuals and organizations to ensure lasting social impact. We, at ICCSPL, believe that 'Innovative' strategic thinking and 'Collaborative' effort are the key to bringing the desired change in society. ICCSPL envisions a just, inclusive, and equitable society. With our mission of designing and implementing innovative ideas and solutions, and strengthening CBOs for inclusive and high-impact growth in society, we work in the areas of agriculture value chain, clean energy, food and nutrition, and responsible business. ICCSPL's program is aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, and 12. While designing any interventions, ICCSPL brings synergies among the SDGs to bring a complete solution to a problem. In such an endeavor, cooperation and collaboration with multiple stakeholders is the key to looking at any intervention holistically.

### **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a Canadian Crown corporation established by the Parliament of Canada in 1970. Its goal is to help developing countries find practical, long-term solutions to their social, economic, and environmental challenges using science and technology. IDRC promotes and funds research and innovation in developing regions as part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts. Headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, IDRC has regional offices in Montevideo, Uruguay; Nairobi, Kenya; Dakar, Senegal; Amman, Jordan; and New Delhi, India. IDRC supports researchers and innovators in developing countries, emphasising the development of research capacity, fostering innovation, and establishing necessary institutions. IDRC focuses on sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and gender equality to contribute to the economic and social progress of developing regions.

### **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that aims to promote social justice and promote decent working conditions worldwide. The ILO was founded in 1919 and has since been working towards its goal of promoting social justice and promoting decent working conditions worldwide. The ILO's work is guided by the principles of social justice, human rights, and decent work for all. The organisation works with governments, employers, and workers to promote social dialogue and develop policies promoting decent work. The ILO's work is organised around four strategic objectives: promoting rights at work, promoting employment opportunities, enhancing social protection, and strengthening dialogue on work-related issues.

### **ISEAL**

ISEAL is the global membership organisation for ambitious, collaborative and transparent sustainability systems. ISEAL is driving collective efforts to tackle the most pressing sustainability issues and create a world where markets are a force for good. ISEAL supports sustainability systems and their partners in delivering solutions to critical global challenges, so that companies and governments can meet their sustainability commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. ISEAL drives improvement by defining credible practice; convening forums for collaboration, sharing of experience, and collective action; delivering expertise, advice and training; and facilitating and promoting innovation to strengthen sustainability systems.

## **IDH**

IDH is an organization (Foundation) that works with businesses, financiers, governments and civil society to realize sustainable trade in global value chains. We believe that action-driven coalitions will drive impact on the Sustainable Development Goals and create value for all. We work in multiple sectors and landscapes in Africa, Asia and Latin America with over 600 companies, CSOs, financial institutions, producer organizations and governments towards sustainable production and trade. We develop and apply innovative, business driven approaches to create new jobs, sustainable industries and new sustainable markets to have large scale positive impact on climate change, deforestation, gender, living wages and living incomes, which will help reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

## **Integrated Association of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises of India (IamSMEofIndia)**

One-stop Solution Center for MSMEs, that provides Tried, Tested, Credible, Affordable, Ready-made and Guaranteed solutions to save time, energy and costs.

## **Knowledge & News Network (KNN)**

Knowledge & News Network (KNN) is a community-owned not-for-profit alternative media platform established to address the problems of Indian MSMEs arising from gaps in information and knowledge flows. It is promoted by GIZ-German Agency for International Cooperation and the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) under the aegis of an umbrella bilateral development programme jointly supported by Government of Federal Republic of Germany and Government of India.

KNN provides news and information to the mainstream media – both print and electronic, fed through a national network of over 156 KNN member industry associations and 110 institutions.

The Micro, small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) are considered the backbone of the Indian economy. Over 40 million in number, cumulatively they are the second largest employer after agriculture and contribute over 35% to exports and almost 40% to industrial production. However, the MSME sector is largely unorganized and operates in an informal setting. Due to their unorganized nature, their views and news seldom reach to policy makers. This results in a structural gap in information-feedback-loop critical for formulation of demand driven policies and schemes. While MSMEs rightly complain about bad policies, the policy makers do not have sufficient information to frame the right response. KNN aims to enable two-way flow of information from MSMEs to both policy makers and institutions and vice versa

## **Media Management Group for Literacy and Development (MMGLD)**

Since registration in 2000, MMGLD has implemented capacity development projects in India for both national and international players; Our collaborating organizations include the Ford Foundation, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, Indian Council of Social Science Research, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Thomson Foundation and University of Tampere. A number

of MMGLD's projects implemented were supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Women and Child Development. We have implemented capacity-building workshops of civil society members and NGOs in remote regions of the North East, in pursuit of developing their expertise in accessing development schemes of the Government of India.

MMGLD is run by cross-sectoral experts with decades of experience in the field, with a passion and aptitude for social development we look forward to collaborating with like-minded organizations and individuals to roll out programs across the Indian subcontinent. Given that social development is a global pursuit best achieved through collaborative efforts, MMGLD has and will continue to nurture international collaborations.

### **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.

The Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with issues relating to multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of regional bodies like Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to the environment.

### **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME)**

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) envision a vibrant MSME sector by promoting growth and development of the MSME Sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries, in cooperation with concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments and other Stakeholders, through providing support to existing enterprises and encouraging creation of new enterprises.

The Micro; Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector. The Act seeks to facilitate the development of these enterprises as also enhance their competitiveness. It provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of "enterprise" which comprises both manufacturing and service entities. It defines medium enterprises for the first time and seeks to integrate the three tiers of these enterprises, namely, micro, small and medium. The Act also provides for a statutory consultative mechanism at the national level with balanced representation of all sections of stakeholders, particularly the three classes of enterprises; and with a wide range of advisory functions. Establishment of specific funds for the promotion, development and

enhancing competitiveness of these enterprises, notification of schemes/programmes for this purpose, progressive credit policies and practices, preference in Government procurements to products and services of the micro and small enterprises, more effective mechanisms for mitigating the problems of delayed payments to micro and small enterprises and assurance of a scheme for easing the closure of business by these enterprises are some of the other features of the Act.

On 9 May 2007, subsequent to an amendment of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, erstwhile Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries were merged to form the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME). This Ministry now designs policies and promotes/ facilitates programmes, projects and schemes and monitors their implementation with a view to assisting MSMEs and help them to scale up.

The primary responsibility of promotion and development of MSMEs is of the State Governments. However, the Government of India, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various initiatives. The role of the M/o MSME and its organizations is to assist the States in their efforts to encourage entrepreneurship, employment and livelihood opportunities and enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs in the changed economic scenario. The schemes/ programmes undertaken by the Ministry and its organizations seek to facilitate/provide: i) adequate flow of credit from financial institutions/banks; ii) support for technology upgradation and modernization; iii) integrated infrastructural facilities; iv) modern testing facilities and quality certification; v) access to modern management practices; vi) entrepreneurship development and skill upgradation through appropriate training facilities; vii) support for product development, design intervention and packaging; viii) welfare of artisans and workers; ix) assistance for better access to domestic and export markets and x) cluster-wise measures to promote capacity-building and empowerment of the units and their collectives.

## **Ministry of Textiles**

### **Vision**

Positioning India as a Global Textiles manufacturing hub by developing a US\$ 250 billion Textile Industry and attaining US\$ 100 billion in Global Textile Exports by 2030 by focusing on high-tech & high-growth product segments, leveraging inherent strengths, developing large scale plug and play infrastructure, keeping sustainability at the core, while ensuring large-scale livelihood opportunities, providing impetus to traditional sectors and becoming Atma-nirbhar in raw material value chain.

### **Mission**

- i. To strengthen Industry ecosystem and becoming truly 'Atmanirbhar' across raw material value chain covering both, natural and man-made fibre (MMF).
- ii. To establish indigenous capabilities for world-class Textile Machinery manufacturing.
- iii. To become a growth engine for employment opportunities with special focus on balanced regional development and women empowerment.

- iv. To be in sync with the global trend, and achieve 60% man-made fibre consumption.
- v. To enhance State-of-art plug & play mega textile parks and catalyze India's growth to regain global dominance in textiles through economies of scale.
- vi. To enhance quality of products by raising quality standards to increase export competitiveness and climb higher value chain.
- vii. To ensure that industry achieves SDGs 2030 and to observe compliance of all practices for inclusive development.
- viii. To build capabilities and the ecosystem needed for a transition towards a circular textiles industry
- ix. To develop and promote organic cotton and other organic natural fibres in conjunction with natural dyes as unique contribution of India towards global sustainability
- x. To develop a strategic roadmap at sub-sector, product segment level to migrate towards high-value added/ high-tech manufacturing and to enable import substitution of high-tech/ high-value products.
- xi. To create world class talent pool for global high-tech segments.
- xii. To support in brand building, promotion & market linkages for Indian Textiles in the international markets
- xiii. To maintain relentless focus on Research, Development and Innovation across value chain segments

## **Mission LiFE**

Mission Lifestyle for Environment recognises that Indian culture and living traditions are inherently sustainable. The importance of conserving our precious natural resources and living in harmony with nature are emphasised in our ancient scriptures. The need of the hour is to tap into that ancient wisdom and spread the message to as many people as possible.

Mission LiFE seeks to channel the efforts of individuals and communities into a global mass movement of positive behavioural change.

## **Nalanda University**

Nalanda University was established in November 2010. It came into being by an act (Nalanda University Act 2010) of the Indian Parliament, a testimony to the important status that Nalanda University occupies in the Indian intellectual landscape. The Nalanda University is an avant-garde University set up under the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India to revive the glory of ancient Nalanda University and is supported by the 17 countries of the East-Asia Summit. Nalanda has been recognized as an Institution of National Importance.

The **School of Management Studies was established with a unique** MBA program in Sustainable Development and Management in 2020, operating under the aegis of Nalanda University. In last couple of years our MBA program has successfully drawn students from over 15 countries, including India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Nigeria, Cambodia, and Mexico, among others. The school aims at training upcoming managers and executives who would not only be sensitive to current trends of market for sustainable growth but also innovate solutions to the multifarious global challenges of

sustainability. On these lines, through our comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to knowledge generation and dissemination through interactive and non-conventional pedagogy aimed at experiential learning, solution-led thinking and critical enquiry, the students/ executives would be trained as techno-managers.

### **Okhla Garment & Textile Cluster (OGTC)**

OGTC has initiated trust building with all the stakeholders in the supply chain and is having detailed

diagnostic studies to identify the common self needs.

OGTC Aims

- To have a collective approach of being more competitive in the world market and seek government's attention in a more authoritative manner.
- To develop linkages between the local industrial units, technological and research institutes.
- Develop linkage with Association and Bodies like AEPC, GIZ, CII, FICCI and Textile Association.
- To assist members for developing training and capacity building exercises to achieve economies of scale for the SMEs.
- Common sourcing of critical inputs whenever required,
- Mutual Trust Building Work as think tank for the apparel export industries

### **Quality Council Of India**

The Quality Council of India was set up as a public private partnership model on the model existing in the Netherlands at the time, where although the NAB was not owned by the government, yet it was supported by it and was exceedingly used as a third party agency to improve quality in departments and industry.

QCI thus came to be organized as an independent autonomous body that worked towards assuring quality standards across all spheres of economic and social activities. Key industry associations, i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) became the promoters of the organizers and QCI got established under the Societies Registration Act in 1996 to provide accreditation services in various sectors for product, services and persons.

### **Rainforest Alliance**

The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-profit organization working in 70 countries at the intersection of business, agriculture and forests. The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities. By bringing farmers, forest communities, companies, and individuals together it addresses some of the most pressing social and environmental challenges, with a focus on cocoa, coffee, tea, bananas, forest products, and palm oil through its certification program, supply chain services, landscape management, and advocacy.

In 2020, more than 6.8 million hectares of land and more than 2.3 million farmers were certified according to the Rainforest Alliance or UTZ standards, which are designed to improve economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

### **regenagri**

regenagri is an international regenerative agriculture program for securing the health of the land and the wealth of those who live on it.

It supports farms and organisations transitioning to holistic farming, increasing soil health, encouraging biodiversity, reducing green house gas emissions and sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>. regenagri also provides farmers with routes to additional funds through carbon credit markets and environmental subsidies.

In supporting regenerative farming, we aid in the regeneration of our planet and sustainably secure the future of agricultural products and their supply chains.

### **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil**

RSPO is a not-for-profit that unites stakeholders from all sectors of the palm oil industry to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil which companies must comply with in order to produce Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). When they are properly applied, these criteria can help to minimize the negative impact of palm oil cultivation on the environment and communities in palm oil-producing regions. The RSPO has more than 5,400 members across 100 countries who have committed to produce, source and/or use certified sustainable palm oil.

### **Sattva Consulting**

We are driven by impact and powered by knowledge, always striving to bring the right balance of head-heart-hands to our work. We believe that age-old problems need new-age thinking and rigorous implementing, with empathy at the core.

And that's what we deliver through our end-to-end support capabilities covering research, strategy consulting, programme management, impact assessment and more, to maximise social return on every investment.

We have been working with foundations, philanthropists, companies, non-profits, multi-laterals and impact ecosystems across India, Africa, and Asia since 2009 on a collective mission of developing scalable solutions for a sustainable world.

### **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament, acts as the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities

### **SME Climate Hub**

The SME Climate Hub is a global initiative that aims to mainstream climate action in the small to medium sized business community and enable SMEs to build resilient businesses for the future. The Hub is an initiative of the We Mean Business Coalition, the Exponential Roadmap Initiative and the United Nations Race to Zero campaign in collaboration with Normative and the Net Zero team at Oxford University.

### **Solidaridad**

Solidaridad provides scalable and economically effective sustainability solutions in agriculture and mining sectors in collaboration with governments, businesses and the community. We are driving sustainability from niche to norm in Asian markets to support people, planet and profits.

### **Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I- SPOC)**

Palm oil is the most widely consumed vegetable oil in the world and one of the most productive oilseeds in terms of output per unit of land, making it an economically lucrative industry in both producer (namely Indonesia and Malaysia) and consumer countries. India being the largest importer of Palm Oil in the world is an important market driver and influencer. Through I-SPOC our endeavor is to work with businesses and other ecosystem players to promote sustainable palm oil production and consumption through collective action on awareness generation, value chain capacity building, good practices & knowledge exchange, and policy recommendations and action.

### **TEEB**

The TEEB initiative seeks to draw attention to the invisibility of nature in the economic choices we make across the domains of international, national, and local policy-making, public administration, and business. TEEB sees this invisibility as a key driver of the ongoing depletion of ecosystems and biodiversity.

TEEB advocates a three-step approach to analyzing and structuring valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, guided by three principles:

- Recognizing value in ecosystems, landscapes, species and other aspects of biodiversity is a feature of all human societies and communities and is sometimes sufficient to ensure conservation and sustainable use. For example, the existence of sacred groves in some cultures has helped to protect natural areas and the biodiversity they contain.
- Demonstrating value in economic terms is often useful for decision-makers to consider the full costs and benefits of nature rather than just those that enter the markets in the form of private goods. An example would include calculating the values of conserving the ecosystem services provided by wetlands in controlling floods, as compared to building flood defenses.

- Capturing value involves the introduction of mechanisms that incorporate the values of biodiversity
- and ecosystems into decision-making through incentives and price signals. This can include payments for ecosystem services, reforming environmentally harmful subsidies or introducing tax breaks for conservation.

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a United Nations agency tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development. Headquartered in New York City, it is the largest UN development aid agency, with offices in 170 countries.

The UNDP emphasizes developing local capacity towards long-term self-sufficiency and prosperity. It administers projects to attract investment, technical training, and technological development, and provides experts to help build legal and political institutions and expand the private sector. The UNDP operates in 170 countries and is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from UN member states. Also, UNDP is governed by a 36-member executive board overseen by an administrator, who is the third-highest ranking UN official after the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Since its inception in 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been the global authority that sets the environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP's mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP works on delivering transformational change for people and nature by drilling down on the root causes of the three planetary crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. UNEP employs seven interlinked sub programmes for action: Climate Action, Chemicals and Pollutions Action, Nature Action, Science Policy, Environmental Governance, Finance and Economic Transformations and Digital Transformations.

### **UNICEF**

UNICEF works in the world's toughest places to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents – and to protect the rights of every child everywhere. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we do whatever it takes to help children survive, thrive, and fulfil their potential from early childhood through adolescence.

The world's largest provider of vaccines, we support child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality education and skill building, HIV prevention and treatment for mothers and babies, and the protection of children and adolescents from violence and exploitation.

Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing lifesaving help and hope to children and families. Non-political and impartial, we are never neutral when it comes to defending children's rights and safeguarding their lives and futures.

### **Utrecht University**

Utrecht University is a wide-range, international research university of high standing. We have a strong connection to the city of Utrecht and our roots lie deep in the past (1636).

Our interdisciplinary research targets four themes:

- Life Sciences
- Pathways to Sustainability
- Dynamics of Youth
- Institutions for Open Societies

We are a trailblazer in the field of modernising educational concepts. Our student pass rate is high.

Our teaching and research are strongly connected. We work together in tight communities. We believe equality, diversity and inclusion are important.

All this provides us with a solid base from which to work with others around the globe on the societal issues of the future.

### **VECTRA**

VECTRA International is an independent cooperative of experts in over 24 countries and enables organizations to be responsibly competitive through a strategic approach, organizational transformation, effective and efficient business processes and works with multiple stakeholders simultaneously in order to have a positive impact.

The aim of VECTRA International is to facilitate and partner with our client to drive improvement so the organization can become the best it can be.

### **VSS Collaboration India**

An initiative of Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) for Sustainability Standards organizations operating in India to be better informed about each other's initiatives and explore opportunities to collaborate.

Given the proliferation of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS), producer organizations are often ill-informed or confused about their applicability. Experts worldwide have been calling for collaboration among VSS organizations. In keeping with the need for better interactions among VSS organizations, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) kicked-off an initiative in January 2019 in Delhi by convening VSS organizations working in India to explore 'mutual engagements and collaboration'.

From CRB's engagement and interactions with VSS organizations and various experts and actors, the need for collaboration among sustainability standards had been raised as an imperative.

### **Work: No Child's Business Alliance**

Work: No Child's Business, aims for all children and youth to be free from child labor and enjoy their rights to quality education and (future) decent work.

The Work: No Child's Business Alliance is run by the Save the Children Netherlands, UNICEF Netherlands and the Stop Child Labour Coalition. Hivos is the lead organization and hosting the program management unit.

### **World Benchmarking Alliance**

The World Benchmarking Alliance is a non-profit organisation holding 2,000 of the world's most influential companies accountable for their part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It does this by publishing free and publicly available benchmarks on their performance.

### **World Resources Institute India**

World Resources Institute India is an Indian research organisation with experts and staff who work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action to sustain a healthy environment – the foundation of economic opportunity and human well-being. WRI envisions an equitable and prosperous planet driven by the wise management of natural resources and aspires to create a world where the actions of government, business, and communities combine to eliminate poverty and sustain the natural environment for all people. WRI India carries out research-based analysis on the environment and development and provides objective information and practical proposals to foster environmentally sound and socially equitable development. Through research, analysis, recommendations and technical advisory services, WRI India puts ideas into action to build transformative solutions to protect the earth, promote livelihoods, and enhance human well-being. WRI India aims to help solve the four most urgent challenges in India – rapid urbanization, the increasing demand for energy, responding to climate change and the large-scale degradation of natural resources. WRI India has the capacity to convene key stakeholders, and forge strategic partnerships with governments, business, foundations, civil society organizations, institutes and NGOs, to scale-up solutions that can bring game-changing results for the sustainable management of natural resources in India. WRI India is part of WRI's global network, with sister offices in Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico, and the

United States, and regional hubs in Europe and Africa. Our global network, and WRI's 35-years of experience to provide cutting edge analysis to address global environment and development challenges, enable WRI India to design solutions that combine global and Indian knowledge. We also share India's successes with the rest of the world. In all of these locations, WRI works with all key stakeholders, business, and civil society to drive ambitious action based on high-quality data and objective analysis.

### **WWF India**

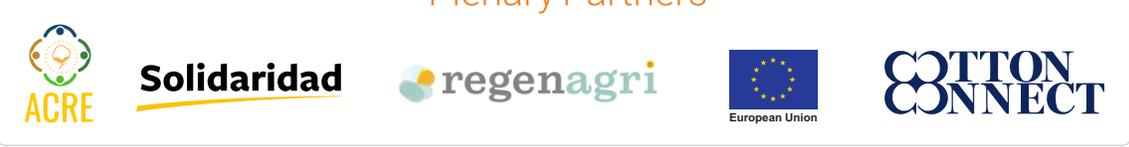
WWF India is one of the country's leading conservation organizations dedicated to delivering sustainable solutions to address challenges at the intersection of development and environment conservation. We focus on creating science-based programmes to address India's complex environmental issues and promote science-driven policy design for sustainable development to impact positive change. Working with diverse stakeholders including governments, corporates and businesses, NGOs, schools, educational institutes and civil society, WWF India is committed to creating and demonstrating practical solutions to conserve India's biodiversity, maintain its ecosystems, and contain its ecological footprint.

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