

# Promoting Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems

Thursday, 01 December 2022,  
Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi and online

## PROGRAMME

Delhi Time  
(UTC+05:30)

09:00-09:30	<b>Registration, online registration, and meeting connection</b>	
09:30-09:50	<b>Introduction to forum</b> Inspire room   <a href="#">Webex – Inspire room</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Varun Sood, Vice President, Invest India</li> <li>Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP</li> <li>Mr. Hari Menon, Country Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</li> </ul>	
09:50-11:00	<b>Session 1. High-level panel discussion on inclusive business in agriculture and food systems</b> Inspire room   <a href="#">Webex – Inspire room</a> <i>High-level panel discussion during which government officials and experts share why it is critical to promote inclusive business (IB) in agriculture and food systems, focusing on why they seek to promote this type of business models and their experiences in doing so.</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP  <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Minhaj Alam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, India (TBC)</li> <li>Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry &amp; Dairying</li> <li>Ms. Huong Thi Trinh, Deputy Director General, Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam</li> <li>Ms. Wimonkan Kosumas, Deputy Director-General, Office of SMEs Promotion, Thailand</li> <li>Mr. Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations</li> </ul>	
11:00-11:15	Networking Coffee Break	
11:15-12:30	Policy track	Business track
	<b>Session 2a. How can governments promote inclusive business in agriculture?</b> Inspire room   <a href="#">Webex – Inspire room</a>  <i>Several governments have put in place policies, strategies and programmes to promote IB. For example, ASEAN economic ministers have endorsed</i>	<b>Session 2b. Expanding market opportunities and social impact with inclusive business in agriculture</b> Allure room   <a href="#">Webex – Allure room</a>  <i>In this session, business leaders will share their experience in supporting the livelihoods of low-income</i>

*the Guidelines for Promoting Inclusive Business in ASEAN. In this session, government officials will share the strategies that they have or are implementing to promote IB and explore what may be needed to promote IB in agriculture and food systems.*

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- *What policy options exist for the promotion of IB? How do they ensure that women and men benefit from inclusive businesses?*
- *What resources (human, financial and institutional) are needed to develop and implement strategies that promote IB?*
- *How are these strategies developed and what governance structures do they require?*

**Moderator:** *Marta Pérez Cusó, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP*

**Panellists:**

- *Mr. Pawan Choudhary, Advisor to Chief Minister of Haryana for Foreign Cooperation Department, Haryana State Government (TBC)*
- *Ms. Sushma Dharamsoth Golconda, Director, Business Development, Telangana State Food Processing Society*
- *Mr. Markus Dietrich, Policy Director, Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN), Germany*
- *Ms. Melanie Moleño, Inclusive Business Policy Expert, The Philippines*
- *Ms. Srivalli Krishnan, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*
- *Mr. Dhruv Kumar Sharma, Sector Lead of Food Processing, Invest India*

*farmers and marginalized groups through commercial business models.*

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- *What are the current opportunities to make agriculture more inclusive for men and women?*
- *How are IB models supporting access to inputs, markets, finance, technology and extension services, in particular for men and women small holders and other marginalized groups?*
- *How are IB models in agri-business supporting the development of capabilities in safety, sustainability and traceability along their value chain, in particular with men and women small holders and other marginalized groups?*

**Moderator:** *Ms. Deepti Thakur, Sr. Investment Specialist, Invest India*

**Panellists:**

- *Ms. Lisa Huyen, Director, VinaSamex, Viet Nam*
- *Mr. Saranathan Raganathan, Vice President for Finance, ITC Ltd., India*
- *Mr. Thanit Kongkaew, Director of Sustainability, The Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Thailand*
- *Mr. Roopak Bhat, Head, Cocoa Life Program, Mondelez International, India*
- *Ms. Ritoja Basu, Director, Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence, Confederation of Indian Industry*
- *Mr. Debaranjan Pujahari, Principal, Sattva Consulting, India*

12:30-13:45

Lunch

13:45-15:15

Policy track	Business track
<p><b>Session 3a. Accreditation of inclusive businesses as a promotion tool</b></p> <p>Inspire room   <a href="#">Webex – Inspire room</a></p> <p><i>The accreditation of IB is a powerful instrument to recognise, incentivise and support enterprises that go beyond commercial objectives. This session will present in detail the accreditation system of IB models and share the experience of several countries in registering and accrediting IB models, to explore how an accreditation system specifically for</i></p>	<p><b>Session 3b. Measuring and managing the impact of inclusive businesses</b></p> <p>Allure room   <a href="#">Webex – Allure room</a></p> <p><i>What gets measured, gets managed. To enhance the lives of low-income groups and to demonstrate the results, firms must measure the reach and depth of their social impact. How can firms measure the impact of their IB model? What indicators can be used? How can firms use this data to improve business performance and make better decisions?</i></p>

the agricultural sector may look like.

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- What is a typical accreditation system for IB models? What would an accreditation system specifically for the agricultural sector look like?
- How do the IB accreditation systems incorporate a gender lens?
- What is the experience of governments using registration and accreditation systems for IB models? What are some of their results?
- How are IB accreditation systems developed and what resources and governance structures do they require?

**Moderator:** Marta Pérez Cusó, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

**Panellists:**

- Mr. Chorn Vanthou, Deputy Director, Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Cambodia
- Ms. Melanie Moleño, IB Policy Expert, The Philippines
- Ms. Lisa Joy Cheong, IB Policy Expert, Cambodia
- Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, Global Compact Network in India

What skills and resources are needed to measure and manage impact?

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- How is inclusiveness being measured now? How do we make sure that we measure the impact on different groups of stakeholders, including women and marginalised groups?
- What are relevant and usable benchmarks?
- What is the evidence for the return on investment in IB and their impact on small-scale producer incomes, productivity and women's economic empowerment?

**Moderator:** Mr. Kirti Prasanna Mishra, Co-Founder and Director, Ecociate, India

**Panellists:**

- Mr. Amar Gokhale, Associate Director, Intellectap
- Ms. Luciana Aguiar, Head of Business Call to Action, United Nations Development Programme
- Mr. Vivek Pandey, Chair (Verghese Kurien Policy Lab), Institute of Rural Management Anand, India
- Ms. Marie Lisa Dacanay, President, Institute of Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA), The Philippines

15:15-15:45

Networking Coffee Break

15:45-17:15

**Session 4a. Financing inclusive businesses**

Inspire room | [Webex – Inspire room](#)

*This session will explore opportunities for governments to encourage greater access to finance for firms seeking to develop IB models.*

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- What are the financial needs of businesses seeking to develop IB models?
- What financing opportunities can support greater investments in IB models?
- How can governments support the financing of IB development?
- What else is needed to promote greater investments in and financing for IB models?

**Session 4b. The future of agritech: Can technology make agriculture more inclusive?**

Allure room | [Webex – Allure room](#)

*Does technology make agriculture more inclusive? Agritech can increase farm productivity, enable more efficient food markets and improve agricultural sustainability. Will this promise held true for low-income farmers with limited digital connectivity, weak technological know-how and unable to afford the purchase of agriculture machinery?*

**Questions to be explored by the panellists:**

- As interest grows in agritech start-ups, how can we ensure that these start-ups support low-income farmers?
- What type of technologies are critical for

**Moderator:** Ms. Smita Jacob, Director Policy, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)

**Panellists:**

- Mr. R.V. Ramakrishna, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- Mr. Arindom Datta, Executive Director, Rabobank India
- Mr. Royston Braganza, CEO, Grameen Capital India
- Ms. Tushna Dora, Senior Investment Specialist, Asian Development Bank

*smallholder farmers? How can businesses enhance access to such technologies?*

- *How companies support the transfer of technology to men and women small holder farmers?*
- *Given the difficulties of reaching the last mile, how is digital transformation helping reach the more remote farmers?*

**Moderator:** Mr. Dhruv Kumar Sharma, Sector Lead of Food Processing, Invest India

**Panellists:**

- Mr. Varun Khurana, Founder and CEO, Otipy, India
- Mr. Vasudevan Chinnathambi, Co-Founder, Ninjacart, India
- Mr. Jinesh Shah, Managing Partner, Omnivore, India
- Mr. Vijay Nadiminti, Chief Executive Officer, AgHub, India
- Mr. Onkar Pandey, Manager, Social Alpha, India

17:15-17:30

**Closing Remarks**

Inspire room | [Webex – Inspire room](#)