Livelihoods Asia
Summit 2017

December 13-15, 2017, New Delhi
GROUP OF ADVISORS

Arindom Datta  
Head of Sustainability Banking Asia and Head of Rural & Development Banking/Advisory for Rabobank Group in India

Brig. Rajiv Williams  
Corporate Head – CSR, Jindal Stainless Ltd

Brij Mohan  
Founding Chairman, ACCESS Development Services & Former Executive Director, SIDBI

D Narendranath  
Executive Director, PRADAN

Dr. G. Senthil Kumar  
Executive Director, CARE India

Girija Srinivasan  
International Consultant, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

Dr. Madhu Sharan  
Vice President, North India, Hand in Hand, India

Meera Mishra  
Country Coordinator, IFAD

Dr. Purvi Mehta  
Deputy Director & Head of Agriculture for Asia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Rahil Rangwala  
Director-Family Economic Stability, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Dr. Sabine Preuss  
Director, Environment, Climate Change Natural Resource Management, GIZ

Samik Das  
Senior Rural Development Specialist, The World Bank

Srinivasan Iyer  
Programme Officer, FORD Foundation

Suryamani Roul  
Deputy Director TechnoServe India

Vipin Sharma  
CEO, ACCESS Development Services
WELCOME TO LIVELIHOODS ASIA 2017

For the last seven years, ACCESS Development Services has successfully organized its flagship initiative, the Livelihoods Asia Summit. The Summit is aimed at showcasing best practices, sharing experience and addressing key challenges and issues faced by the livelihoods sector and also informing and influencing policy. Since 2014, the initiative has been restyled and broadened to span the Asia region, thereby setting the stage for a variety of stakeholders to come together and deliberate on critical issues that impede and advance the livelihoods of the poor. The broad ambit of discussions at the Summit aims to arrive at a consensus on strategies that will deliver sustainable livelihoods outcomes.

For the first time this year, the Livelihoods Asia Summit will also include a DAY THREE styled as Corporate Commitment to Communities - Connecting the Dots, exclusively dedicated to Corporate Giving under the national CSR mandate.

The Livelihoods Asia Summit 2017 is being held between December 13 and 15, 2017 in New Delhi, India. The Summit will see participation of over 500 delegates and the 18 sessions across the three days will explore policies, programs, scalable solutions and various approaches that address the issue of poverty & livelihoods across countries in Asia. The DAY THREE will facilitate discussions on an array of topics, such as the diverse CSR strategies pursued by corporates, the challenges they face, the themes invested in and outcomes that are expected.

This year the Summit begins with the Session on Doubling Farmers’ Income: Strengthening Policy Framework. Continuing with the theme of smallholder agriculture, important sessions at the Summit will focus on Farmer Producer Organisations, Climate Change Adaption in Agriculture and Livelihoods of Landless. Other sessions will be devoted to discussing the Role of Private Sector in Livelihoods Promotion of Poor, Emerging Models in Financing Livelihoods, and the Importance of Non-Farm Sector in the Face of Stresses on Agriculture.

As per tradition, the annual State of India’s Livelihoods Report (SOIL) will be released at the Inaugural Session of the Summit. This year XLRI and ACCESS have jointly instituted the XLRI-ACCESS Livelihoods Awards for sustained contributions towards Livelihoods Promotion in the Farm and the Non-Farm Sectors. The Awards will be presented to leading institutions at the Valedictory Session of the Summit on DAY THREE.

We are overwhelmed with the support from a wide range of stakeholders, technical partners and sector leaders who contribute to the discussions across panels, and a large number of delegates who contribute to the discussions across panels and a large number of delegates who participate in the Summit every year. We appreciate the support of all our sponsors who continue to invest financial as well as intellectual resources in the Summit. Every year we are fortunate to welcome new sponsors and partners who come on board and hope they find value in associating with the Summit.

I hope that the knowledge shared through the Summit sessions will contribute to research, practice and further dialogue on livelihoods initiatives for the poor across Asia and we anticipate that the Livelihoods Asia Summit will provide an accessible and common platform for policy makers and practitioners alike.

Vipin Sharma
CEO
ACCESS Development Services
Programme Schedule
Day 1: December 13, 2017

9:30 to 10:30 am  Inaugural Session

**Introduction to the Summit and Welcome Address**
Vipin Sharma, CEO, ACCESS Development Services

**Special Address**
- Dr. Purvi Mehta Bhatt, Deputy Director and Head of Agriculture for Asia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director for India, World Bank

**Presentation on State of India’s Livelihoods (SOIL) Report 2017**
- N. Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods
- Girija Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

**Release: State of India’s Livelihoods Report 2017**

**Message**
Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

**Inaugural Address**
Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

10:30 to 11:45 am  Plenary Session 1: Doubling Farmer’s Income: Strengthening the Policy Framework

Agriculture continues to be the predominant employer in the country, with 54.6% of population engaged in the sector. However, the sector contributes 17.9% to the country's GDP. In the past, while most efforts have focused on enhancing per capita productivity, there has not been much concern on how this translates into more income for the producer. Only recently there has been an emphasis on increasing incomes of farmers. “Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022,” is the new resolve of the Government. While several strategies and recommendations have been made to accomplish the goal, the panel will discuss how feasible it will be to achieve this vision, whether through structural changes in policy or through market integration or through technology adaptation.

**Moderator**
Sanjeev Asthana, Founder and Managing Partner, I-Farm Venture Advisors & Chairman, ACCESS Development Services
Day 1: December 13, 2017

Panelists
- Dr. Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
- Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative in India
- S. Sivakumar, Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses, ITC Limited
- Devinder Sharma, Food and Trade Policy Analyst

11:45 am to 12:15 pm Networking Break
12:15 to 1:30 pm Plenary Session 2: Enabling Ecosystem for Farmer Producer Organisations

Over the last five years, first through efforts of SFAC and thereafter NABARD’s leadership, a large number of Farmer Producer Organisations have been established. With over 1900 FPOs now registered and functioning, it has now become inevitable to look at challenges that may impede their future growth and sustainability. To help evolve them into viable businesses to develop an enabling ecosystem within which FPOS can flourish is therefore critical. Enabling policies; access to resources, markets and finance; infrastructure support among others could strengthen the FPOs. The session will deliberate upon the critical need for such an ecosystem for FPO sustainability.

Moderator
Arindom Datta, Head of Sustainability Banking Asia and Head of Rural & Development Banking/Advisory for Rabobank Group in India

Panelists
- R. Amanorpavanathan, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD
- Prasanna Rao, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Arya Collateral Warehousing Services (P) Ltd.
- Dr. C Shambu Prasad, Professor, Institute for Rural Management Anand
- Dr. Ram Narayan Ghatak, Senior Vice President & Head of Operations, ACCESS Development Services
- Sanjay Sinha, Managing Director, Micro-Credit Ratings International Limited (M-CRIL)

1:30 to 2:15 pm Networking Break
2:15 to 3:30 pm Technical Sessions
Technical Session 1: Caught between the Crossfire of Modernity and Tradition: Livelihood Dilemma for Tribals

Scheduled Tribes with a population of 10.45 crores comprise 8.6 percent of total population of the country. While culturally tribals have a rich heritage, they lag behind considerably on key development indicators when compared with the rest of the population. Tribal communities are highly dependent on the natural resource base and their livelihoods systems revolve around forests, agriculture, livestock and wage labour. However, as a part of the development process, tribal areas have witnessed large scale development of industry, mining, infrastructure projects such as roads and railways, dams for power and irrigation, often followed by urbanisation. The overall impact of this on tribal population has often been loss of livelihoods, displacement, subsequent rehabilitation and involuntary migration. Land alienation and ownership rights to forest land are other key issues impacting the livelihoods of the poor. In this context, the session will discuss on issues and challenges to be addressed for enhancing livelihoods opportunities for tribal population taking into account their local context and culture.

Moderator
Girija Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

Panelists
- Girish Sohani, President & Managing Trustee, BAIF Development Research Foundation
- Samir Bhattacharya, Collectives for Integrated Livelihoods Initiatives (CInI)
- Pramathesh Ambasta, Chief Executive Officer, Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
- Nityananda Dhal, Integrator, PRADAN
- Senthil Kumar, Executive Director for Program Quality and Learning, CARE India

Technical Session 2: Challenges of the Landless: Livelihood Options and Opportunities

Access to land is an imperative for large number of rural poor in India who in one way or the other, depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. However, agricultural land is becoming scarce, patchy and its productivity fast decreasing. Landless households face livelihood insecurity in varying degrees and intensity due to lack of or negligible land entitlements and access to alternate livelihoods opportunities. Landlessness is the cause as well as effect of rural poverty in an agrarian society because other means of sustenance are severely limited. But often discussions around rural poverty fail to
address this issue. The session will discuss the challenges and look at policies and strategies for enhancing the livelihoods of landless poor in India.

Moderator
Dr. Ajit Kanitkar, Sector Expert

Panelists
• Dr. Syed M Hashemi, Senior Advisor, Partnership for Economic Inclusion, The World Bank, Bangladesh
• Rajesh Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, Cohesion Trust
• Sanjay Awasthi, India Country Director, Landesa

Technical Session 3: Climate Change Adaptation Planning for Indian Agriculture - Experiences and Way Forward

Developing countries such as India, which have most of their population dependent on climate vulnerable sectors like agriculture, are prone to the adverse effects of climate variability and changes. Negative impact of climate change on crop production hampers food security and puts the livelihood of millions of farmers at risk. It is estimated that the agricultural production will have to increase by six per cent by 2020 in India to satisfy the expected demands for food and feed. With climate change looming large as a major threat, multi-pronged strategies need to be defined to meet the ever growing demand for food and feed. This session will explore climate related risks and responses in Indian Agriculture from three perspectives: the local context, the policy perspective and the financial perspective. The session will discuss what is this operative reality at a ground level? What are the localized autonomous responses by individual farmers to the climate change challenges? How have new opportunities been leveraged despite these challenges? What are the support needs and policy gaps faced by them? What have been the experiences of Farmer Producer Organisations in better equipping member farmers to respond to climate related challenges? How National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) connect to District Level Plans and Panchayat level realities is an important strategic direction that needs to be discussed? How do these respond to the farmers’ real context and help them to adapt? And what is the role of public and international climate financing?
Day 1: December 13, 2017

Moderator
Rajeev Ahal, Director, Natural Resources Management, GIZ India

Panelists
- Dr. Ch.Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM
- B. Kalyan Chakravarthy, IAS, Director General, Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI)
- Raji Gain, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Policy Advisor-Climate change Adaptation and Climate Finance Readiness, GIZ India

3:30 to 4:00 pm
Networking Break

4:00 to 5:30 pm
Plenary Session 3: Strengthening Livelihoods of the Poor: Role of Private Sector

Expanding economic businesses have great potential to create value for both business and the society. Business activity can create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, build human capital and physical infrastructure, enable technology transfer and offer various products and services to consumers including those operating at bottom of pyramid. If supported by responsible business practices, more inclusive and innovative business models and policies, they can make major contribution to poverty reduction and serve core business interests at the same time in a mutually reinforcing manner. The session will look at ways in which the private sector companies through inclusive business models can expand poor people’s access to products, services and livelihood opportunities on fair terms

Chair
Dr. Arvind Mayaram, Former Finance Secretary of India

Panelists
- RCM Reddy, Chief Executive Officer, IL&FS
- S. Sivakumar, Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses, ITC Limited
- Pradeep Kashyap, Chief Executive Office & Founder, MART
- Dr. Amit Kapoor, President & CEO, India Council on Competitiveness
9:30 to 10:45 am  
**Plenary Session 4: Moving from Traditional to New Economy Skills – Creating Avenues for Employment**

Converting comparative disadvantage to competitive advantage will be the new challenge as also the new opportunity as India invests in skill development programmes. Leveraging the demographic dividend is a critical consideration and therefore a greater alignment of skill development programmes with the new economy opportunities are of paramount importance. Diversified market led, technology based skills development programme will need to be invested in to meet and benefit from the emerging demand. Given the demographic profile of the region, there is a potential to supply high skilled labour not only within the country but also across the world. The session will assess the different strategies being adopted in skill development to optimize on opportunities emanating from fast paced developments in the marketplace.

**Moderator**
Rahil Rangwala, Director, Family Economic Stability, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

**Panelists**
- Jayant Krishna, Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- Dr. Gayathri Vasudevan, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, LabourNet Services
- Ajay Kumar, Vice President – Head of Operations, ICICI Academy for Skills, ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth
- Debasish Ray Choudhuri, Director-Livelihood Programmes, Bandhan Konnagar

10:45 am to 12:00 pm  
**Plenary Session 5: Financing Livelihoods: Emerging Models**

At a policy level, the Government and RBI have initiated several measures to ensure that livelihoods of the vulnerable people, both farm and non-farm based, get access to finance. The priority sector lending framework came into existence to support the growth of key sectors of the economy. The public sector character of banking was thought to be sufficient to meet the needs of the poor and the vulnerable and to ensure that financial services reached all those with an effective demand. However the last few years have seen an increasing recognition that the formal financial institutions have lacked in their response to the demand of these sectors. The suitability of modern banking even in the public sector, to deal with small ticket financial needs has to be examined before they become effective in supporting livelihoods. Rather some new institutional options through product and process redesign, partnering other organisations in servicing...
Day 2: December 14, 2017

loans, improving staff skill sets, adoption of value chain based approaches to finance have created an ecosystem in which serving the excluded becomes a viable business proposition. The session will look at the experiences of a few such niche organisations that are providing differentiated products, efficient and responsive processed aligned to needs of customers and offer hope for financing livelihoods of the vulnerable.

Moderator
N Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

Panelists
- Anil Kumar SG, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Samunnati
- JiJi Mammen, Manager Director & Chief Executive Officer, Micro Units and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA)
- Brahmanand Hegde, Executive Vice Chairman, Vistaar Finance
- Manoj Rawat, Expert, Rural, Agribusiness & Priority Sector Banking
- Cherian Thoman, National Director and Chief Executive Officer, World Vision India

12:00 to 12:15 pm Networking Break

12:15 to 1:30 pm Plenary session 6: Breaking the Glass Ceiling - Investing in Women Led Enterprises

The past few decades have seen the rise of women to prominent positions in business, industry, government and public affairs. A large body of research has also established the critical role of women in development - Investing in women leads to significant improvements in socio-economic indicators of their families and communities. While women represent 48% of the Indian population, they account for only 14% of the total entrepreneurs in the country. Despite an increasing feminization of labour across sectors, women’s participation in the economy largely goes unrecognised. Moreover, women entrepreneurs face significant barriers to growing their businesses. A number of non-profits in India have created path breaking models for investing in women’s enterprises. However, for large scale change, there is a need for greater conversion, cross pollination of successful approaches and sustainable strategies. This panel will explore best practices for investing in women’s enterprise, share challenges and learnings, and address critical gaps in the space.
1:30 to 2:30 pm  Networking Break
2:30 to 3:45 pm  Technical Sessions

Technical Session 4: Community Based Social Enterprises: The Scale and Sustainability Challenge

Much of the focus on social enterprises revolves around the market savvy entrepreneurs (or a team of entrepreneurs) who develop and implement sustainable and innovative models to solve societal problems. While the contribution of such ‘heropreneurs’ is valuable, there is also an alternative (and complementary) model of social enterprises which is owned, controlled and led by the communities to solve their own social and economic problems. These community-based enterprises offer a unique option for designing development interventions which are localized, sustainable and empowering. This session brings together some such social enterprises which are formed and run by the most disadvantaged and under-resourced communities. The session will explore nuances of Community-Based Social Enterprises such as: What are the challenges and opportunities in mobilizing communities to develop such enterprises? What technical and financial support is required for developing such enterprises? How does one ensure the participation of the entire community and not just a few? What are the governance challenges of such enterprises? What are the regulatory challenges and support required in organizing the community into an enterprise?

Moderator
Dr Madhukar Shukla, Professor, XLRI – Xavier School of Management

Panelists
• Arbind Singh, Executive Director, Nidan
• Umadevi Swaminathan, Managing Director, RUDI Multi Trading Company Limited
• G.V. Krishnagopal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Access Livelihoods Consulting India Limited
• Nalini Shekhar, Co-Founder and Director, Hasiru Dala
Technical Session 5: Enterprises in Informal Sector: Tackling Vagaries and Vulnerabilities

The Indian economy is characterized by the existence of a vast majority of informal or unorganised labour employment. Predominance of informal employment has been one of the central features of the labor market scenario in India. However work in the informal sector is beset with many issues. The work is less remunerative and the conditions are inferior to that in the organised sector. They lack economic security and legal protection. Of late the labor market of India has been undergoing tremendous transformations, including growth of informal sector activities, further deterioration in the quality of employment, weakening of worker organisations and collective bargaining institutions, marked decline in social security etc. The session will deliberate on the challenges being faced by workers in the informal sector as well as informally engaged workers in the formal sector in India, share success stories and not-too successful experiences, explore the emerging legal and political environment for promoting empowerment of this set of the Indian workforce, and try to converge on stakeholder specific suggestions and way forward.

Moderator
Shashank Bibhu, Technical Specialist, Economic Development Unit, CARE India

Panelists
- Alok Singh Rana, Regional Lead, South Asia, Ethical Trade Initiative India
- Shalini Sinha, India Country Representative, Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WEIGO)
- JanhaviDave, International Co-ordinator, HomeNet South Asia
- Lesley Abraham, Dignified Work – Impact Growth Strategy Coordinator, CARE International in Asia

Technical Session 6: Engagement between Corporates and Incubators - Catalysing impact and Start up Ecosystem

Start-ups and enterprise promotion has become a new priority and a separate Ministry for Entrepreneurship has been established in May 2014. However, there are large gaps in the Indian start-up ecosystem. There is limited domestic capital and venture capital available for start-ups and the current support and incubation system is not sufficient to strengthen entrepreneurship in the country. Currently, there are around 160 incubators in the country and looking at the demand, this number needs to increase to 1,000 by the year 2020. A project commissioned by GIZ in 2016, aimed at fostering partnership between corporates and incubators to enable more support for the incubation and start-up ecosystem in the country. This session will enable discussion between the participants to share...
on some of the models of Corporate – Incubator partnerships, the prevailing challenges and look at ways for making the initiative sustainable in the long run.

**Moderator**

Priya Naik, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Samhita Social Ventures

**Panelists**

- Priyanka Kohli, Project Adviser, GIZ
- Vivek Prakash, Associate Vice President, CSR, Jubilant Life Sciences
- Manisha Singh, Head, Impact Funding, CSR, Mphasis
- Rajendra Tripathi, CSR Lead, Oracle India Pvt. Ltd.
- Rachana Iyer, Lead - Corporate Social Responsibility, Capital First & Founder, Crayon Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:45 to 4:15 pm</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 to 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Plenary Session 7: With Stresses on Agriculture, is Non-Farm Sector a Solution?</td>
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There is a close relationship between development and change in occupational structure from agriculture to industry and from industry to service sector. With the growing pressure of population, the agriculture sector alone is unable to provide employment opportunities, nor is able to provide sufficient income for the people to sustain their livelihoods. Segmenting employment growth into the farm and non-farm sector demonstrates significantly higher growth in non-farm sector employment compared to that in farm sector. Therefore, it is inevitable to initiate a comprehensive planning approach towards the promotion and expansion of non-farm activities so that effective measures are taken in time to address the issues of unemployment, migration and poverty. In this context, the session will look at experiences and innovations made to promote the non-farm sector, examine the challenges underlying the sector while exploring the way forward.

**Moderator**

Dr. Sankar Datta, Sector Expert

**Panelists**

- Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of Rajasthan
- Vanita Viswanath, Social Entrepreneur and Mentor to Social Enterprises
- Sumita Ghose, Founder and Managing Director, Rangasutra
- Ronald van het Hof, Joint Managing Director, Women on Wings, India
- Adarsh Kumar, Senior Agribusiness Specialist, The World Bank
Junaid Ahmad
The World Bank Country Director for India

Junaid Ahmad, a Bangladeshi national, is currently the World Bank Country Director for India. Prior to assignment, he was the Chief of Staff, Office of the President. Prior to his work in the President’s Office, Ahmad was the Senior Director for the Water Global Practice, a position in which he brought a strong track record of management and leadership in the area of service delivery and international partnerships. Ahmad has also worked in the areas of urban finance and city management, service delivery in federal systems, and local government reform. Ahmad joined the Bank as a Young Professional in 1991, working as an Economist in Africa and Eastern Europe before joining the Africa Infrastructure Unit. He spent 10 years in the field, first as the Deputy Resident Representative and Principal Economist in Johannesburg, and then as Regional Team Leader of the Water and Sanitation Program in New Delhi. From 2004-2008, he was the Sector Manager for Social Development in South Asia Region and subsequently for Urban, Water & Sanitation before taking on the latter responsibility for the Africa Region in 2010. He was also the Director for Sustainable Development in the Middle East and North Africa Region, a position he held from 2012-2014. He holds a PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University, an MPA from Harvard University, and a BA in Economics from Brown University.

Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala has been Chairman of NABARD since December 18, 2013. He is a post graduate in Management from IIM Ahmedabad and holds a Ph.D. in Management. He has been awarded honorary doctorate in Science by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

He has been an ardent votary of the concept of ameliorating farmers’ distress, enhancing farmers’ income through creation of agri & irrigation infrastructure. Under his Chairmanship, NABARD is carrying out major institutional development initiatives. Over 200 rural co-operative banks were brought under the cloud based Core Banking Solution platform. NABARD became the first institution in India to be accredited as National Implementing Entity by the Green Climate Fund & Adaptation Fund Board of the UNFCCC. Under his guidance, after completion of Phase I, Phase II of the project for digitization of SHGs across the country is underway. Digitisation of SHG accounts has brought about transparency, enhanced bankers’ comfort in credit appraisal and facilitated provision of hassle free credit & banking services to millions of poor households at their doorsteps. He had pioneered the ‘Credit Enhancement Scheme’ during his tenure in India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL). Dr. Bhanwala guides many national level institutions as a member of the Board. The major ones include the Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), IRMA, SFAC, NCDC, IIB&F, and NIBM. He is the Chairman of BIRD, NABCONS, Board of Supervision of NABARD.
Dr. Purvi Mehta-Bhatt
Head of Agriculture-Asia, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Purvi Mehta is working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and heads the foundation’s agriculture programs in Asia. Dr. Mehta has worked with the CGIAR (Consultative Group of International Agriculture), as head of Asia of the International Livestock Research Institute with IFPRI and USAID. Trained as an agriculture biotechnologist, she is well known for her work in translating scientific research into large scale development programs, scaling and policy interventions in over 17 countries in Asia and Africa. Dr. Mehta is on the board of several organisations, including IAEH-Canada, ICRA- Netherlands. Dr. Mehta has two books and over 48 publications to her credit.

Dr. Arvind Mayaram, IAS
Former Finance Secretary of India

Dr. Arvind Mayaram has a PhD in Finance. Presently he is an independent thinker and Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition. He is also an independent director on the Board of ACCESS Development Services. He has earlier held the positions of Finance Secretary and Special Secretary in Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. He has also been the Alternate Governor for India on the Boards of World Bank, ADB and African Development Bank. He was India’s finance deputy in G20 and BRICS. He was also on the Boards of the Reserve Bank of India and the Securities Exchanges Board of India. He was India’s chief negotiator for BRICS New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, and co-chair of the Framework Working Group of G-20. He spearheaded the establishment of the framework for mainstreaming Public Private Partnership in India and designed the first PPP module for delivering infrastructure in the rural areas. He was Vice President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), formed under the aegis of UNCTAD, UNIDO, FIAS and MIGA for two terms in early 2000. He has been an investment promotion expert with the UNCTAD for several years and his expertise in the area of PPPs is internationally acknowledged.
Prabhat Singh
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Petronet LNG Limited

Prabhat Singh is a graduate from IIT, Kanpur, and has 35 years of experience in the Hydrocarbon Industry both in MNC (British Gas) and PSUs (GAIL, NTPC, EIL). He has worked in Project Planning, Execution & Management, Exploration & Production, Training & Organisational Reforms and Business Development & Marketing. He has been Director of Marketing of GAIL (India) Ltd and also served as Chairman of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) during his tenure has commissioned the 5 MMTPA LNG re gasification terminal at Dabhol and Chairman of GAIL Global Singapore Pte Ltd. (GGSPL), which is currently creating value & managing India’s pioneering efforts towards global LNG business. He has been instrumental in putting the country on the world gas map, India being one of the first countries to have sourced LNG (based on Henry Hub) from the US. His major contribution has been the execution of world’s longest exclusive LPG pipeline from Jamnagar to Loni. The project was recognised by Asian Development Bank as the “Best Managed Project” of the year. He was also instrumental in ushering in the “Open Access Common Carrier Principle” in India. Prabhat is one of the core contributors to the concept of gas pooling for power & fertilizer. Prabhat has also been a member of National Auto Fuel Policy of MoPNG & member of the Governing body of Rajeev Gandhi Institute of Petroleum and Technology, Raibareily.

Anand Mohan Tiwari, IAS
Anand Mohan Tiwari, Managing Director, Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd and Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority

A. M. Tiwari is Additional Chief Secretary rank IAS Officer of Gujarat Cadre (1985 batch). He has an experience of more than 30 years dealing with diverse set of responsibilities in Education, Women & Child Development, Rural Development, Tribal Development, Industry, Energy Departments at the State and National levels. In past, he has held important positions in Fertilizer & Chemicals Sector like Managing Director, Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd, Bharuch and Managing Director, Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd., Vadodara. Presently, he is Managing Director, Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Vadodara. He is also holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority, Ahmedabad. He holds M. Sc. Degree in Zoology from Banaras Hindu University and MBA from Slovenia.
Resource Persons
Lesley Abraham  
Dignified Work Impact Growth Strategy Coordinator, CARE International in Asia  

Lesley Abraham is the Dignified Work Impact Growth Strategy Coordinator for CARE International in Asia, overseeing the implementation of the “Made by Women” strategy focused on the economic empowerment of female garment workers across eight countries in the region. She has over 13 years of experience working with nonprofit and government organizations in Africa, Asia, Canada and the Caribbean, spending the last three years in Southeast Asia working on a range of inclusive growth and gender equality initiatives. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Arts in International Affairs.

Mr. R Amalorpavanathan  
Deputy Managing Director, NABARD  

Amalorpavanathan, Deputy Managing Director of NABARD, is a graduate in Agricultural Engineering and holds a Masters in Management from IIM, Bangalore. He also holds Masters in Development Management from Asian Institute of Management, Philippines. He is a Fellow in Engineering and Chartered Engineer from Institution of Engineers (India) and has secured distinction in Certified Associate in Banking. Trained in Treasury and Fund Management, Risk Management and Asset Liability Management. He is also Chairman of NABKISAN Finance Limited. Amal has more than 31 years experience in NABARD working in states like Karnataka and Gujarat, among others. His expertise are in Project Finance, Banking, Institutional Development, Training and Financial Management. He developed the methodology for measuring operative efficiency of banks, product efficiency measurements and developed outreach models. He has developed optimal business solutions and worked on development strategies in diverse fields. He served as Director on Board of RRBs, Cooperative Banks and Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd. Under his guidance, NABARD obtained approval for six climate change adaptation projects from Adaptation Fund Board, secured as National Implementing Entity of Green Climate Fund. He is instrumental in designing the Implementation guideline under the recently established domestic funding mechanism NAFCC.
Dr. Subodh Agarwal, IAS
Principal Secretary of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department (MSME) in Government of Rajasthan

Dr. Subodh Agarwal is the Principal Secretary of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department (MSME) in Government of Rajasthan. He also holds the position as the Chairman of Rajasthan State Handloom Development Corporation (RHDC); Managing Director of Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RSIC) & Rajasthan Non-farm Development Agency (RUDA). He has more than 27 years of experience of formulating public policy in the Central and State governments, managing public sector organisations and leading administrative districts. Some of his recent appointments with the Government of Rajasthan have been as, Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Principal Secretary, Medical Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Udaipur ex-officio T.A.D. He has also held positions in Government of India as Private Secretary to Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Private Secretary to Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Private Secretary to Union Minister of External Affairs, New Delhi. He has a doctorate in Economics from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and holds masters in Public Policy from Princeton University, Princeton and has done in Post Graduate Diploma in Systems & Management from IIT Delhi.

Rajeev Ahal
Director, Natural Resource Management, GIZ India

Rajeev Ahal is a development practitioner with more than thirty one years of experience in diverse sectors of development policy and their application, from national, provincial to grassroots levels in Asia and Africa. He is currently Director Natural Resource Management at GIZ India, overseeing a number of projects related to NRM production systems, support systems and NRM protection systems. Before this, as a Vice President in Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), he worked with the Social Inclusion Group across India, establishing about 65 social projects on diverse issues touching about 500,000 lives. Before that, he was the National Adviser on Local Government to Ministry of Local Government in Lesotho, where he supported establishment of the first ever statutory Local Government system in the country. Mr. Ahal has a Post-graduate Certificate from International Programme for Organisational and Systems Development (IOSD), Gestalt Institute, Cleveland, Ohio, USA and a basic degree in Engineering (1987). He has been a social analyst and researcher (especially in socio-economic research) and overseen numerous publications, including technical manuals, guidebooks etc. His publications include - Politics of Co-operative Forest Management, The Kangra Experience and Experiences in Panchayat Based Planning in the Mountains and a book of short stories (e-published at amazon.com).
Pramathesh Ambasta
Chief Executive Officer, Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

Pramathesh Ambasta is co-founder of Samaj Pragati Sahayog, one of the largest grassroots initiatives for water and livelihoods security in the country. He has more than 29 years of experience in the areas of rural development, livelihoods, entitlements of marginalized communities and watershed management. Besides programme management and implementation, building civil society partnerships, capacity building, training and research are his forte. He has worked closely with various government bodies and consortiums. He has also been the Convener of the National Consortium of CSOs on MGNREGA, working with 72 partners across 76 districts of 12 states of India. Several articles written or co-authored by him have been published in major journals and newspapers of India.

Sanjeev Asthana
Founder and Managing Partner, I-FARM Venture Advisors & Chairman, Access Development Services

Sanjeev Asthana is a recognised leader in Food & Agriculture with over 25 years of experience in India and internationally. He is the Founder and Managing Partner of I-Farm Venture Advisors; Chairman of Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and National Skills Foundation of India (NSFI), and serves on the Board of Directors of NCDEX Spot Exchange Ltd. He works closely at policy level with Government and International Institutions like GAIN, UNICEF, World Bank, IFC, ADB etc and leading companies on Agriculture, Food Security, Nutrition, Livelihoods and Sustainability. He was formerly the President and Chief Executive of Reliance Retail. Sanjeev serves on the national committees of all leading industry and trade chambers CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI. His international affiliations are with IIED UK, Mainumby Bolivia and Columbia University, USA. He regularly speaks at leading conferences in India and overseas.
Sanjay Awasthi
India Country Director, Landesa

Sanjay Awasthi is currently responsible for leading Landesa’s programme in India, which envisions secured land rights for the poor (especially women) by working closely with Government at all levels across several states. This is ensured by meaningfully deploying the existing legal and administrative provisions. Having worked in various senior management positions with Oxfam and CARE in India for more than 12 years, he worked in various countries of Africa for nearly 12 years. His assignments included Oxfam’s Country Director in Malawi and South Sudan as well as VSO’s Country Director in Ghana and the programme portfolios ranged from HIV & AIDS initiatives as well as food security initiatives in Malawi, improved teaching and learning outcomes amongst government school children in Ghana and assisting the cocoa farmers in Ghana towards ensuring increased yield and productivity of cocoa accompanied by a comprehensive set of initiatives in partnership with World’s leading confectionery company-Mondelēz International. He also led a number of humanitarian response programmes for Oxfam in Darfur, Sudan and Ethiopia apart from being the Team Leader for CARE’s Tsunami Response Programme in South India.

Samir Bhattacharya
Collectives for Integrated Livelihoods Initiative (CInI)

Samir Bhattacharya is working on rural livelihoods in the Central India region since 1998 (18 years). His key interest areas are livelihoods, institutions and innovation. He has been working with the Tata Trusts since 2011 and involved in program design and implementation and partnership development for Mission 2020: Lakhpati Kisan. Prior to that he was the Program Lead (South Asia) for Fair Economic Development program of Dutch INGO - ICCO (2009-2011). He is currently, focusing on large scale replication of the Mission across the Central India region. He started his development career in 1998 with PRADAN in Jharkhand (1998–2008).
Shashank Bibhu
Technical Specialist, Economic Development Unit, CARE India

Shashank has over nine years of experience in economic development program designing, management and implementation to address poverty, discrimination and advance gender transformative changes. He is presently working as Technical Specialist with Economic Development Unit of CARE India. He brings a rich knowledge in approaches and models of gender integrated livelihood programming, specifically in dignified work domain, value chains promotion, entrepreneurship development, and micro-finance. Before joining CARE, Shashank has worked extensively in the field of micro-finance research and financial inclusion. Shashank holds an MBA in Agri-Business Management from Symbiosis International University.

B. Kalyan Chakravarthy, IAS
Director General, Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute, Government of Telangana

B. Kalyan Chakravarthy is the Director General of EPTRI. EPTRI has had many achievements spanning financial performance, building internal systems and certifications, training, innovative initiatives and gaining many important foreign assignments. B. Kalyan Chakravarthy joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1995. As part of District Administration, he worked on controlling extremism in North East, initiating measures for development of youth and working on women’s empowerment. He has worked on the ‘Look East Policy’ and was the originator of a Pilot for taxation information system for the North East, later adopted for the country. He has also been a Key Member for VAT Policy implementation in the country. Shri. Chakravarthy has been responsible for successfully implementing the World Bank assisted the Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP). As General Manager, Food Corporation of India, he has worked on maintaining quality standards of procurement in the second largest procurement state of the country Andhra Pradesh, started the depot online system which ensures food security for the country and introduced transportation through ships for food grains. Shri. Chakravarthy has a B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) from IIT, Madras; Post Graduate in Management from IIM, Ahmadabad; Bachelor of Law from Osmania University, Hyderabad and is pursuing a Ph.D in Management and Economics from Osmania University.
Vijayalakshmi Das
Chief Executive Officer, Friends of Women’s World Banking, India

Vijayalakshmi Das is CEO of Friends of Women’s World Banking, India, a non-profit based in Ahmedabad working across the country. She holds post graduate degrees in Economics and Regional Planning. She has been involved for more than two decades in microfinance, women’s empowerment through their collectives and livelihood promotion specifically among the small and marginal farmer households. She has served as Managing Director of Ananya Finance for Inclusive Growth Pvt. Ltd between 2010-2017. Ms. Das has served in the board of many organizations that are working in the areas of financial inclusion and livelihood promotion.

Nityanand Dhal
Integrator, PRADAN, Delhi

Nityanand is a Ford Foundation Fellow having completed his Masters in International Development from Cornell University in USA. After completion of B.Tech degree in Agriculture Engineering from OUAT, he joined PRADAN in 1994. He is currently based in New Delhi and primarily engaging to add value in various flagship programs of government such as in NRLM and MGNREGA. With his specialisation in soil and water conservation engineering and electives in dams and reservoirs, he has not only implemented a large number of micro irrigation projects (community manages micro-lift irrigation, gravity flow irrigations etc.) but also brought about many technical innovations. He has worked extensively with tribal community including PVTG such as Juanga and Kandhas in Odisha. His primary interest areas are action research, large scale livelihoods strategy and approach formulation and knowledge management.
Dr. Sankar Datta
Sector Expert

Sankar’s school education in Santiniketan, West Bengal in late 60s and early 70s influenced his young mind, and he chose to work for development of rural India for more than three decades. He completed his Rural Management Post-graduation from IRMA, after his basic training in Agriculture (B Sc Ag & AH) from GB Pant University, and did his Doctoral dissertation (Ph.D) in the area of Economics from Sardar Patel University. He also pursued higher studies in Agri-Business Management from the Cornell University. He has been closely associated with promotion of rural livelihoods both as a Practitioner was in-charge of operations while setting up the BASIX, had initiated and headed the first livelihood project of PRADAN, and was Team-Leader of the Spearhead Team responsible for promotion of soybean in Madhya Pradesh; and as an Academic - retired as the Professor, leading the Livelihood Initiatives, at Azim Premji University; was the Dean of the Livelihood School; was a member of the faculty in Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) and Ravi Mathai Centre for Educational Innovation (RM-CEI) of IIM, Ahmedabad. He has served on the Board of several institutions including IGS, Sarvodaya Nano Finance Ltd. Village Financial Services Ltd. and IndusTree Crafts Ltd. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee of Centre for Management in Agriculture (CMA) of the IIM-Ahmedabad and Member of the Planning Commission Working Group on MGNREGA among others.

Arindom Datta
Head of Sustainability Banking Asia and Head of Rural & Development Banking/Advisory for Rabobank Group in India

Arindom has over 24 years of experience in Rural Finance, Cooperative Banking, Microfinance and Agribusiness banking. Currently he is leading Rabobank’s sustainability agenda on knowledge, risk management and business development across Asia. He also heads the rural banking and advisory portfolio in India and for Rabobank Foundation oversees projects in agriculture development and “access to finance”. His earlier experience was with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, IDBI Bank and CARE. Arindom is a Mathematics honours graduate from St. Stephen’s College and has an MBA with specialization in Finance and Strategy from IIM Kozhikode.
Janhavi Dave
International Coordinator, HomeNet South Asia

Janhavi Dave is the International Coordinator of HomeNet South Asia. HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) is a network of home-based worker organisations across the South Asian region. And, as an International Coordinator, Janhavi has an overall responsibility of planning, implementation and coordination of HNSA’s work across the eight South Asian countries. Prior to joining HNSA, Janhavi has worked with Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA). Janhavi has a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from Miranda House, Delhi University, and a master’s degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

Raji Gain
Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

T S Raji Gain, presently, the Chief General Manager, at NABARD, Head Office, heading the Farm Sector Policy Department where Climate Change vertical is also housed. She has over 30 years’ experience in agriculture and rural development having worked in various States of India. She has been a Faculty Member at the Bankers’ Institute for Rural Development, Lucknow and Technical Advisor at UP Diversified Agriculture support Program, a World Bank Project and head of Natural Resource Management Centre of NABARD. She has experience in capacity building/training, research and consultancy. Her areas of interest include gender, Natural Resource Management through Peoples’ Participation and Climate Resilient agriculture and livelihoods. She is a Post-Graduate in Agriculture Physics from Indian Agriculture Research Institute and holds a Certificate on Land Use Management and Climate Change from World Bank Institute. Currently, she is also an Independent Director on the Board of Bandhan Bank and Chairman of the Board Committee on CSR. She has also been Member of Board of Studies of Extension Education at Srimati Nathubai Damodar Thakurdas University, Mumbai. She has about 36 papers published nationally and internationally to her credit in her areas of interest.
Dr. Ram Narayan Ghatak
Senior Vice President & Head of Operations,
ACCESS Development Services

Dr. Ram Narayan Ghatak is a development professional with over two decades of experience of working in areas of agribusiness management, policy advocacy and strategic consulting, regulatory evolution and banking etc. Ram has worked in close coordination with various Government agencies; prominent among them being Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways among others. He has experience of dealing with and represented many National level institutions/bodies like Milk and Milk Products Advisory Board (MMPO) and National Productivity Council (NPC) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). Before joining ACCESS Development Services, he worked as Vice President – Strategy, Rural Services at SREI Sahaj e-Village Ltd., Kolkata and as Head of Business Strategy and Compliance, Rural and Inclusive Banking Group at ICICI Bank, Mumbai. Ram is a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat. Before that he did his graduation in Agriculture from Visva-Bharati University, Sriniketan, WB (1985 to 89) and thereafter MSc and PhD in Agricultural Economics from Banaras Hindu University, UP and Sardar Patel University, Gujarat respectively.

Sumita Ghose
Founder and Managing Director, Rangsutra

Sumita Ghose is the founder and managing director of Rangsutra, a social enterprise which seeks to bring about socio economic development and inclusive growth in rural India by engaging both: the community and the market. Rangsutra is owned by 1800 rural artisans- most of whom are women. Other owners are like minded organizations and people committed to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural artisans in India. Rangsutra provides design, marketing, technical and organizational support needed to make crafts and allied rural industries into viable enterprises, so that they provide regular home / village based employment to 3500 rural artisans. Prior to setting up Rangsutra, Sumita lived and worked in different parts of rural India for many years—mostly in Western Rajasthan with the URMUL Trust, working with rural communities for social change and economic development. Sumita has a Masters Degree in Economics from Mumbai University. She was a Fulbright scholar in the United States, where she completed a Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution. Sumita has also been a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship for Leadership, is among the first batch of the Aspen India Fellows, and most recently selected as a Synergos Global Fellow, 2012.
Dr. Ashok Gulati
Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Dr. Ashok Gulati is an eminent Indian agricultural economist and a former Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India (2011-14). He was Director at IFPRI for more than 10 years (2001-11). He worked as a Chair Professor NABARD at Institute of Economic Growth (1998-2000), and prior to that he was Director/Chief Economist, Agriculture and Rural Development at NCAER from 1991 till 1997. He was the youngest member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Member of the State Planning Board of Karnataka. For his contributions to the field, the President of India honored him with “Padma Shri Award” in 2015. He has 14 books to his credit on Indian and Asian Agriculture besides numerous research papers in national and International Journals. He has been a prolific writer in several leading daily newspapers in India, with his current column “From Plate to Plough” in the Indian Express and Financial Express. He is currently on the Board of Directors of several organizations such as the RBI, NABARD, NCDEX, NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NEML), IDFC Foundation; TERI University, etc. He did his M.A. and Ph.D. from Delhi School of Economics.

Dr. Syed M Hashemi
Senior Advisor, Partnership for Economic Inclusion, The World Bank

Dr. Syed M Hashemi has a long career in teaching, research and managing programs for the poor. He taught Economics at Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh, directed an anti-poverty research program at Grameen Trust, and set up a development institute and chaired the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University. He spent nine years with CGAP, at the World Bank, focusing on financial inclusion of the poorest and ensuring a social performance bottom line in microfinance. He also headed a multi-country program to develop new pathways to graduate out of extreme poverty and food insecurity through integrating social protection, livelihood activities and financial services. Syed Hashemi continues to work on graduation as Senior Advisor, Partnership for Economic Inclusion, at the Social Protection and Jobs global practice at the World Bank.
Brahmanand Hegde  
Executive Vice Chairman, Vistaar Finance

Brahmanand is a career banker with over 34 years of experience. Brahmanand is one of the co-founders of Vistaar Finance, a specialised small business lending NBFC, established in April 2010, based out of Bangalore. Vistaar Finance currently operates in 13 States with a network of over 200 branches and cumulatively assisted over 175,000 customers, generating direct and indirect livelihood/employment to over 0.5 million people. Before Vistaar Finance, Brahmanand worked in ICICI Group, Fullerton India, Bank of Maharashtra, in the area of rural, agri and microfinance space. Brahmanand worked extensively in the livelihood, rural and microfinance space during his career and worked with over 100 MFIs/Livelihood financing companies. During early part of career in ICICI group, Brahmanand was responsible for managing post harvest agribusiness financing programme, funded by USAID, under which many innovative and first of its kind projects were funded including floriculture, fruit and vegetable processing, pre-cooling and packing units etc. Brahmanand is a post graduate in Agriculture, with CAIIB from Indian Institute of Bankers-Mumbai and also studied agribusiness management at Santa Clara University, California and UC Davis.

Ronald van het Hof  
Managing Director, Women on Wings India

Ronald van het Hof has a broad retail experience in design, sourcing, sales, supply chain management, multi-channel management and change management. He worked as CEO for a number of leading retail-chains in the Netherlands, and has received several Retail Awards. Ronald has been working for Women on Wings as an expert-volunteer (2008-2012) and supported many Indian social enterprises in their growth with his broad management experience. In early 2013, Women on Wings established an office in India with the aim to build up a strong Indian organization and partner-base to achieve its goal: create 1 million jobs for women in rural India. Women on Wings strongly believes that if you create a sustainable job for a woman, it will benefit her entire family, the community, the next generations and thus breaking the cycle of poverty. Since early 2013, Ronald is Managing Director of Women on Wings India.
Dr. Ajit Kanitkar
Sector Expert

Dr. Ajit Kanitkar is a Development Consultant based out of Pune and working with the Tata Trusts for the last one year and a member of the research team at Vikasanvesh Foundation. Prior to this, he was Programme Officer at Ford Foundation, and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, both in New Delhi and a faculty member at IRMA in Anand. He is associated with a number of civil society organisations as a volunteer including his alma mater Jnana Prabodhini in Pune. He has published extensively in professional journals including three books on the themes of Entrepreneurship and Management of cooperatives. As a part of the Tata Trusts’ assignment, his co-edited book “GEM of PUREST RAY SERENE: Glimpses into lives and work of India’s outstanding social workers” will be published by end of 2017.

Rachana Iyer
Lead - Corporate Social Responsibility, Capital First & Founder, Crayon Impact

Rachana Iyer leads Corporate Social Responsibility and Internal Communications at Capital First. Having co-founded Crayon Impact, a social enterprise that pioneered using performing arts for awareness on disability and mental health, she has been part of the innovation ecosystem. She also freelances as a Journalist writing about mental health in India. Rachana is an alumnus of Tata Institute of Social Sciences and has worked across community driven development projects across India, Africa and the U.S.
Dr. Amit Kapoor
President & Chief Executive Officer of India Council on Competitiveness

Dr. Amit Kapoor is President & CEO of India Council on Competitiveness; Honorary Chairman at Institute for Competitiveness, India and Editor-in-Chief of Thinkers. He is the chair for the Social Progress Initiative and Shared Value Initiative in India. He is an affiliate faculty for the Microeconomics of Competitiveness & Value Based Health Care Delivery courses, Harvard Business School and an instructor with Harvard Business Publishing, in the area of Strategy, Competitiveness and Business Models. He has been inducted into the Competitiveness Hall of Fame at Harvard Business School. He is a Ph.D. in Industrial Economics and Business Strategy. He has been invited by Kennedy School of Government & Harvard Law School and Harvard University among others to present his views on various issues and themes like strategy, outsourcing and economic development. He is the author of India City Competitiveness Report, Livability Report et al. He is also been a columnist for several national and international papers in addition to penning down academic pieces. Based on his work three awards have been constituted within the country titled State Competitiveness Awards wherein the Chief Ministers are awarded; City Competitiveness Awards wherein City Heads are awarded and Institute for Competitiveness wherein the corporates are awarded for their strategic acumen.

Rajesh Kapoor
Chief Executive Officer, Cohesion Trust

Graduate in Dairy Technology with Post-graduation in Rural Management, Rajesh has 34 years of experience in diverse sectors such as public, private and NGOs. He has previously worked with NDDB, Aga Khan Rural Support Program and Dalal Consultants. Currently he is working as the CEO of an NGO - Cohesion Trust, focusing on rural livelihoods securities. His areas of specialization include Research, Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation and Institutional Development. He has worked in the sectors related to Livelihoods, Natural Resources Management, Dairy, Health, Education and Urban Poverty Alleviation in most of the states in India. He has worked with different Government Departments at Union and State levels such as Health, Rural Development, Women & Child Development, Tribal Development, Education, Water, Forest and Agriculture.
Shyam Khadka
FAO Representative in India

Shyam Khadka, a national of Nepal, holds a Bachelor in Commerce, a Bachelor in Law and a Master’s degree in Business Administration and Commerce from the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, as well as a Master’s Degree in Agribusiness Management from the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Philippines. He started his career in 1977 in the Agricultural Development Bank, Kathmandu, Nepal and held several positions such as Chief of the Loan Policy and Procedure Section from 1977 to 1985; Chief of the Computer and Data Processing Section from 1985 to 1988; Special Assistant to the Chairman and CEO from 1988 to 1990; Chief of the Projects Development Section from 1990 to 1992; and Chief of the Corporate Planning Division, concurrently with the Monitoring and Evaluation Division from 1992 to 1993. He joined the United Nations in 1993, as Senior Project Management Officer in the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in Bangkok, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with responsibilities for the countries in East, South-east and South Asian countries. From 1997 to 2004, he was Country Programme Manager for India and periodically and concurrently for Bangladesh and Nepal in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy. In September 2014, he was appointed Chief of the Asia and Pacific Service in the Investment Centre Division (TCI) in FAO, Rome, Italy.

Pradeep Kashyap
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, MART

Pradeep Kashyap is known as the Father of Rural India (a title bestowed on him by late Prof. C K Prahalad). He is a Global thought leader and is a sought-after speaker. He worked for 20 years with MNCs before starting MART as a ‘Business Mind Social Heart’ consultancy organization. He has been Marketing Advisor to Ministry of Rural Development, has served on PMO and Chief Minister Committees on rural development. He is a World Bank and United Nations consultant; and member of advisory committees of RBI and NABARD. He has advised dozens of MNCs such as Pepsi, GE, Philips, Intel and more. He has authored the most definitive ‘Rural Marketing’ book, a standard text at premier MBA institutes. He has created the world-famous Project Shakti with Hindustan Unilever (case study at Harvard) to appoint 60,000 poor women as company dealers. He has pioneered many sustainable business and marketing models such as Inclusive Marketing, Public Private Community Partnerships, and last mile distribution models with Colgate, Tata Steel, Novartis etc. He has helped generate additional income for 200,000 poor women by reaching their produce to bigger markets. He has been conferred with many awards such as Lifetime Achievement Award 2013 by Rural Marketing Association of India; Distinguished Alumnus Award 2014 from his Alma mater BITS Pilani and Jamnalal Bajaj Award 1991 for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.
Priyanka Kohli  
**Project Adviser, GIZ**

Priyanka Kohli works as a project adviser for GIZ on fostering corporate engagement in start-up incubation space. As part of the initiative, she has designed and implemented various initiatives that support collaboration between corporates, startups, and incubators. Prior to her current profile, Priyanka worked with a business consulting group at Intellecap and brings in extensive experience of working on strategy and market intelligence-oriented projects in the areas of finance, agribusiness, clean energy, healthcare, water and sanitation. She also has hands-on experience of working with corporates in developing roll-out strategy, impact assessment, and market analysis for low-income markets.

Prior to Intellecap, Priyanka worked in the areas of livelihoods and agribusiness. Priyanka is an agricultural graduate and holds a management degree in agri-business from Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune.

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Jayant Krishna  
**Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**

Jayant Krishna is the Executive Director and COO of NSDC. He has more than 29 years of experience of which 2 decades were with TCS, where he has held various key positions, including Director, Life Sciences and Healthcare, Europe; Principal Consultant; Regional Director, UK & Ireland; and Global Relationship Manager for one of its largest accounts worldwide. Jayant championed apprenticeship reforms in India, and played a pivotal role in the shaping of the Apprentices (Amendment) Act, 2014. He was actively involved with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI, in the implementation of the reform and has served as the Chairman of its Special Task Force on Apprenticeship Curriculum Rationalization. He also serves on its Special Committee on the optimization of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs). Jayant has been the Chairman of CII’s Committee on Skills and Education for the Northern Region, and serves on its National Committee on Skill Development. Jayant had also led CII’s Task Force on Apprenticeship Reforms. He was involved in the evolution of the National Skills Qualification Framework and formulation of India’s 12th Five Year Plan. He was awarded the Chevening Scholarship by the British Government. He is also a fellow of the All India Management Association and the Computer Society of India. Jayant has served as an Adjunct Professor at the IIT, Kanpur, and has been on the Board of Governors and Board of Studies of reputed technical institutions in India.
G. V. Krishnagopal  
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer,  
Access Livelihoods Consulting India Ltd.

GV Krishnagopal is a graduate in Dairy Technology and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management. He is the founder of Access Livelihoods Consulting India Ltd. (ALC India) and is currently managing its affairs as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. As Project Manager of Cooperative Development Foundation, he was heading the unique project to develop India’s first all women cooperative dairy union. His tryst in working with women collectives continued at the Government Program – District Poverty Initiative Program funded by World Bank and Implemented by Government of Andhra Pradesh. He is also actively involved in the policy frameworks for Producer Companies including the Guidelines for FPOs published by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Family Welfare. More recently he has drafted the Chhattisgarh State Self Help Associations Bill, 2017 for their state. He has actively been involved in research around Self Reliant Cooperatives and Producer Companies.

Adarsh Kumar  
Senior Agribusiness Specialist, The World Bank

Adarsh Kumar is a Senior Agribusiness Specialist with the Food and Agriculture Global Practice at the World Bank. His work focuses on skills training and enterprise development, with a focus on the agricultural sector. Prior work stints include founding an investment promotion facility for agri-enterprises; co-founding AIACA, a non-profit organization that works to strengthen enterprise growth in the crafts sector; and working on strengthening microcredit institutions and livelihoods initiatives across South Asia at the Ford Foundation. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from Georgetown University and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Adarsh has been nominated as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and has been awarded both the Echoing Green and Ashoka fellowships for social entrepreneurship.
Ajay Kumar  
**Vice President-Head Operation, ICICI Academy of Skills, ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth**

Ajay Kumar started his professional career as Assistant Professor in Delhi University in 1988. He joined civil services in 1992 and continued till 2014, where he has worked in different capacity across India. In his capacity as government servant he has served both in Europe (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Africa (Sierra Leone) as member of United Nation contingent and later also trained in USA in Disaster Management. In 2014, Ajay Kumar has taken voluntary retirement and joined Cairn India Limited in ‘Risk Management’ vertical. In mid-2016, he moved to ICICI Foundation and presently working as Head Operations and Vice President in ‘ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth’ a non-profit arm of ‘ICICI Group’. Being ‘Head Operations’ his main responsibility is to conceive, execute and evaluate the whole project cycle. Ajay Kumar has done his graduation from Kirori Mal College (Delhi Univ) in Political Science (Hons) in 1985 and his Masters and M.Phil from Delhi University. Being a passionate & avid traveler, Ajay Kumar has travelled across India as well as different part of globe including the remotest corner of Africa, Europe & USA. Mr. Kumar is blessed with a daughter and residing in Delhi.

Jiji Mammen  
**Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA)**

Jiji Mammen is the first Managing Director & CEO of MUDRA, a Non-Banking Finance Institution launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 8 April 2015 to support ‘funding the unfunded’. Prior to joining MUDRA, Shri Mammen has been with NABARD for almost 30 years. In NABARD, he has worked in different capacities in different States. He had also worked as a Faculty Member in the Mangalore campus of BIRD. In MUDRA he has been engaged in building the organization and giving a direction to it. New refinance products and credit guarantee products were introduced. Further, he has also given leadership in developing a portal for monitoring the progress of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) on a weekly basis. Due to the close monitoring, the programme became a success in the first year itself disbursing over Rs 1.32 lakh crore and also surpassing the target set for the year. Shri Mammen had his post-graduation in Agriculture Entomology from the Indian Agriculture Research Institution (IARI), New Delhi and graduation in Agriculture from the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV), from Kolhapur campus. Shri Mammen completed his graduation as a Gold medalist. He had his schooling from Sainik School, Kazhakuttam, Kerala. His areas of specialization include micro finance, entrepreneurship development and project financing.
Priya Naik
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Samhita Social Ventures

Priya Naik set up Samhita Social Ventures, a social enterprise that builds partnerships between companies, donor organizations, government agencies, NGOs and social enterprises to co-create innovative solutions and scale evidence based approaches, to maximize social impact. Prior to setting up Samhita Social Ventures, Priya co-founded The Spark Group, an education incubator that delivered affordable, high quality education to low income communities in India. Priya's interest in social entrepreneurship began when she worked as a Researcher at the Poverty Action Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, USA. At MIT, Priya was part of two student-led start-ups that won several innovation and business plan competitions. Priya has worked as a consultant with the International Finance Corporation in four countries in Africa. She started her career at Arthur Andersen in Mumbai. Priya has graduate degrees in Economics from Yale University, in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and in Commerce from Mumbai University where she stood first in the University. She also completed an Executive Education course from Harvard Business School.

Vivek Prakash
Associate Vice President, CSR, Jubilant Life Sciences

Vivek Prakash, an Aspire Fellow has been the Associate Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility at Jubilant Life Sciences since May 2006. A post graduate in Labour and Social Welfare from Patna University, Vivek acquired his knowledge in community development and social initiatives from over some 20 years of experience in the manufacturing industry. Vivek started his career as a Welfare Officer in Gujarat with Ambuja Cements. In his current role at Jubilant, Vivek spearheads the operations of ‘Jubilant Bhartia Foundation’, the foundation that conceptualize and implement Corporate Social Responsibility for the group companies. Vivek’s key priority is to initiate activities and create a sustainable framework which is aligned with the objectives of Millennium Development Goal. Vivek's background allows him to extend his expertise to CII Northern Council in the capacity of a Co-Chairman of CII’s CSR Committee and Affirmative action committee, Member in National Council on CSR, PHDCCI CSR Task Force and into the mentor committee of CIIE (Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship) promoted by IIM Ahmedabad, member Business Advisory Board at SRCC Delhi, member Academic Council BIMTECH.
Dr. C. Shambu Prasad  
Professor, Institute of Rural Management Anand

Dr. C Shambu Prasad is a Professor in the General Management (Strategy and Policy) area at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). At IRMA he coordinates the incubation centre for social enterprises through the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Enterprises (CSEE) and works on contemporary research issues of farmer producer organisations through the Verghese Kurien Centre of Excellence on producer collectives. His expertise is in science and innovation policy and his education has been multidisciplinary with a basic training in mechanical engineering, a Masters in Industrial Management with specialisation in science policy (both at IIT Madras) and a doctorate in science, technology and society studies from IIT Delhi. His publications and teaching have been in the domains of rural livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, innovation management, managing collectives; and managing sustainable transitions. Dr Shambu Prasad was awarded the Villgro-CSIE award for ‘Academic Contribution to the Field of Social Entrepreneurship’ in April 2013 and was a Fulbright Nehru Senior Research Fellow attached to Cornell University pursuing a long term study on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 2013-14. He has been a member of a Sub Group on Upscaling Innovative Technologies in agriculture for the 12th Five Year Plan and in several round table discussions on Farmer Producer Organisations or FPOs.

Dr. Smita Premchander  
Founder-Director, Sampark

Dr. Smita Premchander is the Founder-Director of Sampark, an NGO engaged with empowering models of microfinance, education and migration in Bangalore, India, and serves on the boards of many NGOs. She is a graduate of and a Visiting Professor for the Microfinance Management course at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. She is on the Advisory Board of the United Nations University’s Institute UNU-EHS in Bonn. She consults with several international agencies on microfinance, women’s empowerment, child and bonded labour. She has a Phd from Durham University, UK, in association with the University of Berne. She is certified associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.
Manoj Rawat
Expert, Rural, Agribusiness & Priority Sector Banking

Manoj Rawat is a B. Tech (Gold Medallist), M.B.A and CAIIB with 20 years hands-on experience in rural business development, agriculture banking, Financial Inclusion and Priority Sector Banking. Manoj has been Group Executive Vice President and Head – Agribusiness & Rural Banking for RBL Bank. Manoj managed Rural Banking, Agriculture finance, Agri value chain finance, Agro-processing, Warehouse and Commodity finance, Renewable Energy Finance, Rural and Government Schemes business. He has been a part of RBL Bank’s Management committee, CSR committee and ESG group. Prior to joining RBL Bank, Manoj had a long stint with NABARD and Fullerton India, Rural. Manoj has been instrumental in setting up, growing and developing agriculture & rural businesses pan India. He is involved in series of new initiatives in value chain finance, Agri-marketing infrastructure, Agro-processing, Digital Solutions for Rural customers, Small & Marginal Farmer Finance and Rural financial Literacy. He has worked & mentored with many start-up companies in Agribusiness, Renewable and Rural space. Manoj has been a part of various Rural Development Forums including High Level Corporate Dialogue on Climate Change and is on various forums on Agriculture, Natural Resource Management, Renewable energy and Financial Innovations network. Manoj has been closely working with Public & Private Sector banks, Co-operative Banks, DFIs, NBFCs, International agencies, MFIs, NGOs, Government Departments and State Public Sector Enterprises.

Senthil Kumar
Executive Director for Program Quality and Learning, CARE India

Senthil Kumar is the Executive Director for Program Quality and Learning in CARE India. Senthil has more than 16 years of rich experience in social research and programming, spanning humanitarian and long term social development in diverse socio-cultural settings. Being part of CARE India since 2006, his work spanned areas of research, strategic planning, program design, and project management. Before CARE India, Senthil worked with various national NGOs on the issues of governance, micro finance, and enterprise development. He has worked with a range of partners, and brings a vast experience in building and nurturing partnerships with government, private sector, and NGOs. Senthil has a doctoral degree in political science, where his research focused on understanding the role and effectiveness of micro finance promoting institutions in advancing women’s empowerment.
Anita Rajan
Chief Operating Officer, Tata STRIVE

Anita Rajan is the Chief Operating Officer of Tata STRIVE and Vice President, Tata Sustainability Group. Tata STRIVE is a Global skills building initiative of the Tata Group. She has over twenty five years of diverse experience in the education and management sectors. Prior to Tata STRIVE, Anita worked with the Advisor to Prime Minister on Skill Development and the Chairman, National Skill Development Corporation and was deeply involved with the National Skilling Ecosystem during its formative years. Anita is an active member of Industry bodies, she is the Co-chair of CII CSR committee (Western Region) and an active representative of Industry as a speaker at seminars in India and overseas. Anita has been the chief of staff at the office of the CEO of Tata Consultancy Services for 13 years and worked closely in supporting the CEO on numerous strategic initiatives of the company. Prior to Tata Consultancy Services she was head of Research and Training at Schoolnet India, an ILFS initiative. Prior to that she was with the advertising firm Lintas. Her academic credentials include an MBA in Marketing from Sydenham Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, she is an alumnus of the prestigious St Stephens College, Delhi University where she earned a BA in Maths Honours degree. She also holds Bachelors in Education from Mumbai University.

Rahil Rangwala
Director of the Family Economic Stability, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Rahil Rangwala is the Director of the Family Economic Stability and oversees the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation's investments in the financial inclusion and livelihoods sectors. He spent over seven years at Bridgewater Associates, a global macro hedge fund, before making the transition to the development sector. Rahil has a bachelor’s in computer science from the University of Texas in Austin and a master's in public administration with a focus on international development from New York University. He represents the Dell Family Foundation on the boards of LabourNet, Kinara Capital, iStar and SkillVeri.
Prasanna Rao
Chief Executive Office and Managing Director, Arya Collateral Warehousing Services Private Limited (ARYA)

Prasanna is the CEO and Managing Director of Arya, an agribusiness value chain integrator. Arya works with more than 400 FPOs in providing them sustainable market access through a suite of post harvest interventions. Arya and its NBFC have a specific focus on catalyzing the eco system for FPOs through post harvest interventions that include storage solutions, credit and risk guarantees, financial and market linkages and policy level changes. Prasanna brings his experience of working in the Cooperative marketing, FMCG Sales and Agri-financing sectors for the last 18 years. As part of his 8-year stint at ICICI Bank, the largest private sector Bank in India, Prasanna headed the Agri-commodity finance business for the Bank. He has been a part of the supply chain, marketing and sales teams of organizations like Amul and Coca-Cola in India.

Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao
Director, ICAR-NAARM

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, has done his M.Sc (Ag) from ANGRAU, Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, Ph.D from IARI, New Delhi and Post-Doctoral from Tel-Aviv University, Israel. He worked at IISS, Bhopal, IIPR, Kanpur, ICRISAT and CRIDA, Hyderabad. He specialises in soil carbon sequestration, climate change, agriculture contingency Planning, conservation policy and agriculture research management. He was coordinator All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Dryland Agriculture and Director of CRIDA, Hyderabad during 2013-17. He was national coordinator for ICAR-flagship program on climate change, NICRA and worked as technical chairman of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), climate change negotiator in Indian delegation represented at UNFCCC, SBSTRA, COP meetings. He is executive board member of International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC), Cairo, Egypt, member, Asian Carbon Network, Japan. He published more than 250 research papers and reviewer for 15 International journals, besides 25 books. He is president of Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture and Association for Innovation Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture (a-IDEA). He is the fellow of NAAS, ISSS, ISPRD. He received prestigious awards from Honorable President and Honorable Prime Minister of India from ICAR, Indian Science Congress, IISS, NAAS, FAI, IARI, ICRISAT.
Debasish Ray Choudhuri  
Director- Livelihood Programmes, Bandhan Konnagar

Debasish has over 30 years of experience divided equally in corporate and development sectors. Currently as a Director in Bandhan Konnagar, he leads Bandhan’s development operations in women empowerment, skill development, financial literacy, renewable energy etc. Bandhan development programmes span across ten states of India covering more than 1 million families. Debasish holds an MBA degree from Calcutta University with further trainings in management, computers and development strategies. He brings in substantial Industry experience into the social development works from his previous assignments in MNCs, start-ups and trade bodies. Debasish switched mid-career and worked with national level innovation network of the Government and also with international network of fair trade, before joining Bandhan. He has managed various projects of different multilateral agencies and foundations, state governments, and CSR initiatives of different industries. Debasish has represented in various international and national forums on development issues. He has significant exposure in the vocational training and entrepreneurship development space and worked in DFID project, Government projects and set up institutional mechanism for skill development within Bandhan in partnership with leading knowledge and industry partners.

RCM Reddy  
Chief Executive Officer, IL & FS

RCM Reddy is the CEO of IL&FS, in-charge of social infrastructure group covering the Employment, Employability and Education initiatives. He has designed and implemented several path-breaking scalable initiatives in partnership with the government, industry and community for generation of sustainable livelihoods and development of SME enterprises under value chain based clustering approach. He has provided vital inputs from on project development, engineering and financial services to the industry and the government in setting up of close to 100 MSME-led clusters across the country thereby facilitating creation of about a million jobs. Prior to that, during his stint at United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), he had developed models for competitiveness enhancement of MSMEs. The skill development model pioneered by him, particularly targeting youth below poverty line, is often cited as one of the best global case studies. In addition, Mr Reddy is also involved in designing and providing technology enabled education solutions to the schools of the Government and private sectors. He was an IAS (1989 batch) officer, and handled various assignments in Tripura, before joining the Ministry of Textiles. He is actively engaged with several industry-government interface initiatives, industry associations, NGOs etc. By qualification, he holds Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering.
Anil Kumar SG  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Samunnati

Anil is founder and CEO of Samunnati, an enterprise focused exclusively on value chain finance in the Agriculture & Allied activities. Anil is a career banker with over 24 years of experience in the areas of Rural, Retail and Agri Banking. He started his career with Canara Bank and then joined ICICI Bank. Over the last decade Anil’s work has focused on creating newer institutions across the country and operating in the financially excluded markets with corresponding support structures for their capacity building. Before Samunnati, Anil as a Co-Founder & Trustee of IFMR Trust and the CEO of IFMR Rural Channels, conceptualized, designed, developed and spearheaded a new model of delivery of financial services in remote rural areas - the KGFS model. Anil has done Masters in Management from Asian Institute of Management, Manila, The Philippines. He has Masters in Business Administration from Symbiosis Institute of Management, Pune and Graduation in Humanities from Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Anjali Schiavina  
Founder and Managing Director, Mandala Apparels

Anjali Schiavina is the founder and managing director of Mandala Apparels, located at the spiritual city of Pondicherry, India. She started Mandala Apparels Pvt. Ltd (CAOS Apparels, erstwhile) in the year 2002 with 2 stitching machines, 3 employees and a big dream to become pioneers in the Organic and Ethical Apparel sector. She intended to create a platform that can provide suitable conditions for an integral development of our environment, society and individuals. Today, 15 years later, Mandala has grown into a fair trade and organic certified enterprise with a high level of responsibility, accountability and integrity. Mandala employs 220 workers and more than 80% of them are women who come from unskilled, semi-skilled and rural backgrounds. Ms. Schiavina strives for fair-trade, women empowerment, capacity building, livelihood generation, organic cotton, food security, skill development and well being of the farmers and women. She aims to bring the change in the society through her focused and active participation in the CSR activities. She has been associated with number of social and business institutions. She is Convenor, CSR for CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), Puducherry, Vice Chair for CII, Southern Region and represented IWN as a chairwoman. She is also a member of Fairtrade Twin Town National Steering Committee.
Dr Madhu Sharan
Vice President, North India, Hand in Hand, India

Dr Madhu Sharan is a Livelihoods and Gender Specialist with over two decades of extensive field research and global work experience. She has worked as Project Director of Hand-in-Hand, India (2004-07) and Executive Director of BALM, Chennai (2007-2010) before shifting to Delhi in 2011, where she worked as a regular Consultant with several multilateral and bilateral organizations including The Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission and GIZ, New Delhi on projects related to financial inclusion, livelihoods and women empowerment. Madhu re-joined Hand-in-Hand India in August 2013 where she is currently working as Vice President, North India, and oversees projects related to SHGs, microfinance, skill training, livelihoods, women empowerment and community development across the States of Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Madhu is a Sociologist, having completed her graduation from Delhi University and her post graduation, M Phil and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Devinder Sharma
Food and Trade Policy Analyst

Devinder Sharma is an award-winning Indian journalist, author, writer, thinker, and researcher well-known and respected for his views on food and trade policy. Trained as an agricultural scientist (he holds a Master's in Plant Breeding & Genetics), Sharma has been with the Indian Express, among the largest selling English language dailies in India. And then quit active journalism to research on policy issues concerning sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and intellectual property rights, environment and development, food security and poverty, biotechnology and hunger, and the implications of the free trade paradigm for developing countries. Many regard him as singularly responsible for deciphering the complex global treaties and agreements and what it means for the developing countries in a simple and understandable manner. He is also a Visiting Professor to the Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Jodhpur; and has formerly been a Visiting Fellow to many international Institutes and Universities. The popular Indian weekly magazine The Week in its Independent Day Special (issue dated Aug 16, 2009) has listed Devinder Sharma among the 25 Most Valuable Indians, calling him ‘Green Chomsky’. He is also on the board of various national and international organizations. He also served on the Key Opinion Leaders Board of the Paris-based dairy giant, Danone. He had earlier been a member on the international committee on Ethics in Globalization, chaired by Mary Robinson.
Nalini Shekar  
Co-Founder & Director, Hasiru Dala

Nalini is a co-founder of Hasiru Dala, the wastepickers’ non-profit organization in Bangalore. Previously she was co-founder of Kagad, Kach Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP), the union of wastepickers in Pune and Co-ordinator of the national Alliance of Indian Wastepickers. Nalini is a pioneer in advocating for wastepicker rights. She has trained hundreds of waste pickers, municipal officials and elected representatives on zero waste practices and integration of informal workers in solid waste management. Nalini lived in the US for a decade working on human trafficking and child labour issues. Her work resulted in policy changes and the passing of legislation to support victims of human trafficking. Nalini has won many awards including an Honor by the San Jose City Government, a certificate of Honor from Governor of California, Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Star award from Asian Community in the San Francisco Bay Area, a finalist at the Numma Bengaluru award and Bangalore city’s Kempe Gowda award 2014.

Vipin Sharma  
Chief Executive Officer, ACCESS Development Services

Vipin Sharma is the founding CEO of ACCESS which was set up in 2006. Starting his career with the Reserve Bank of India, Vipin has thirty six years of experience in banking, agriculture and rural development, micro enterprise development and microfinance in varied institutions including NABARD, Rural Non-Farm Development Agency (RUDA), Govt of Rajasthan and CARE India. As Executive Director of RUDA, Vipin helped the Govt of Rajasthan to develop strategies for promoting non farm sector in the state through a sub-sector approach. At CARE, Vipin was the Programme Director of the Microfinance Unit and a part of the Regional Leadership Team. In the last ten years, Vipin has also helped to set up two specialized affiliates of ACCESS viz. ACCESS-ASSIST to support and advance financial inclusion in India and Ode to Earth to help primary producers sell their products in mainstream markets. He holds a BA (Hons) in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and a MA in History, besides attending programmes at Cranfield school of Management, Boulder and School of Management, Yale University. Vipin has been a part of a few task forces set up by Government of India. Vipin is a member of the Smart Campaign Steering Committee, working on issues relating to client protection.
Arbind Singh
Executive Director, NIDAN

Arbind Singh holds a Bachelor and Master’s degree in Sociology from the Delhi University. An activist and a social entrepreneur, he has been empowering informal workers by getting new laws, policies and programs and by securing their access to markets, financial services and technology.

Organizing the informal workers across India has been his forte along with building collaborations to set up new models of development of informal workers. He was elected as Ashoka and Eisenhower Fellow in 2007. He was awarded the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2008 by the World Economic Forum. He was also awarded at the first innovation forum set up by the Government of Bihar in 2007. In 2012, the California based Skoll Foundation awarded him with Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford. He heads Nidan and is the National Coordinator of NASVI and also Secretary of StreetNet International.

Dr. Madhukar Shukla
Chairperson, Fr Arrupe Centre for Ecology & Sustainability & Professor, XLRI Jamshedpur

Dr. Madhukar Shukla is Chairperson, Fr Arrupe Centre for Ecology & Sustainability and Professor (Strategic Management & OB) at XLRI Jamshedpur (India), and has keen research and teaching interest in the development sector and social entrepreneurship. He is also on the Board of School of Management & Labour Studies, TISS, and is a member of the Board of Governors of XLRI Jamshedpur.

Madhukar has served as an assessor for the Echoing Green Fellowship Competition, a global competition to identify social entrepreneurs, and is on jury for the oikos Case Competition on Social Entrepreneurship. He is also a Member, Livelihood India Advisory Group, and serves on the advisory board of many social ventures. He has been the Conference Coordinator for the National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship since 2009, and was a lead assessor for the India NGO Awards during 2007-09. In 2011, he was awarded the Social Enterprise Academic & Research Award by Villgro Innovation Foundation and Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIT, Madras). Madhukar holds a Masters degree in Psychology from Lucknow University and is a PhD from IIT, Kanpur. Prior to Joining XLRI in 1990, he has worked with National Productivity Council and Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad. He was also a visiting faculty to ESADE, Barcelona during 1993-94.
Manisha Singh
Head, Impact Funding, CSR, Mphasis

Manisha Singh, has more than 11 years of diverse professional experience in the Social Startups, strategy consulting (development sector), & BFSI domain. At Mphasis, she leads the Impact Funding arm of CSR- where she manages funding and mentoring support to social enterprises through government approved social incubators. In her past roles, she has provided strategy consulting within the Impact Investment space and has headed the India operations of an international social enterprise. Manisha is an MBA from IIM Indore & a B.Tech. from NSIT, Delhi. She also completed the Executive Leadership program in JM Katz Business School, University of Pittsburgh, USA.

Rana Alok Singh
Representative, South Asia, Ethical Trading Initiative

Alok is a senior CSR and Social Development professional with around 17 years of experience of working on labour rights and social development issues. Alok has worked with informal sector as well as the formal sector workers with wide range of organisations, including International Trade Unions. His expertise includes organising workers, developing and facilitating training programmes, organisation development, managing CSR projects and facilitating multi-stakeholder groups. He has also carried out several research studies for International Agencies, including ILO. For the last 10 years he has been managing ETI (UK) supported supply chain projects in South Asia. This involves working with International Brands, Government Agencies, Suppliers / Exporters, Contractors, Trade Unions, NGOs and Community based Organisations and workers. He is currently representing ETI for all its activities in the South Asia region, which includes programmes around Garments, Natural Stone and Jewellery. He is also supporting the ETI teams in the region to strengthen discussions around Business and Human Rights in South Asia.
Sanjay Sinha
Managing Director, Micro-Credit Ratings International Limited (M-CRIL)

Sanjay Sinha is an economist with an alternative view of modern emerging economies. He believes enabling low income families to generate higher incomes should be equally a lever of economic growth along with macroeconomic policies. In pursuit of that goal he has charted a career applying economic principles to understanding and stimulating economic activity by producers at the base of the economy in Asia. The establishment of EDA Rural Systems as a research company focusing on understanding and promoting the livelihoods of low income producers and of M-CRIL for facilitating the flow of microfinance loans to them was aimed at helping to achieving this goal. In recent years, EDA and M-CRIL have been increasingly concerned about MFIs throughout Asia chasing borrower and portfolio numbers without regard to the real needs of their clients. The group’s heightened focus on farmer organisations, social performance and impact investments stems from this concern. Sanjay Sinha has an M.Phil in Economics from Oxford University, UK.
S. Sivakumar
Group Head – Agri and IT Businesses, ITC Limited, India

S. Sivakumar is the Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Limited, India and a Member of its Corporate Management Committee. Mr Sivakumar runs the US$ 2 billion Agri Business Division of ITC, is the Chairman of Technico Agri Sciences Limited, and also the Vice Chairman of ITC Infotech. He also oversees the Company’s Social Investments. Sivakumar is well known as the architect of ITC e-Choupal, the pioneering farmer empowerment initiative that benefits over 4 million small farmers through customised agri-extension and market linkage services, while providing a unique source of competitive advantage to ITC’s packaged foods business. ITC e-Choupal evolved continuously and now a Digital-Economy-Ready Tier-4 of ITC e-Choupal is being prototyped for expanding the outreach further, as well as to offer a plug & play flexibility to the IT-enabled startups working on innovative solutions for rural Indians. Sivakumar is the Chairman of the National Agricultural Council of the CII. Sivakumar served on the Board of NABARD, the Private Sector Committee of the CGIAR, and UN Global Compact’s Core Advisory Group to develop Sustainable Agriculture Business Principles, among other organisations. Sivakumar is the topper of the Class of 1983 from IRMA.

Shalini Sinha
India Country Representative for WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing).

Shalini is based in India and her work focuses on developing and documenting decent work and livelihood opportunities for women workers in the informal economy. ‘Home’ as a place of work is an area of abiding interest for Shalini; she has worked on issues related to home-based workers for many years. Currently, she is developing a focal cities program for Delhi, which includes supporting member-based organizations of women informal workers in their capacity building and advocacy efforts at the city level. Before joining WIEGO, Shalini has worked as a development consultant for over a decade, specializing in labour, gender and social development issues with several national and international organizations. Her most recent work includes an edited volume, Redefined Labour Spaces, Routlege, 2017.
Girija Srinivasan
Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

Girija Srinivasan had been a development banker for more than a decade and then turned to build a successful international consulting practice in the areas of livelihoods and rural finance. She has been involved in design, supervision and evaluation of strategy and implementation of several unique development projects and accompanied rural institutions in their growth process in India and abroad. She has authored the India Social Performance Report in Microfinance for three years from 2012 to 2014, besides editing the report in 2011. She has jointly authored, with N. Srinivas, the State of India’s Livelihoods report for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. She has also authored individually and jointly other books, carried out pioneering studies in SHG bank linkage programme. She is on the Board of Friends of Women’s World Banking. She is also involved in the industry bodies dealing with microfinance and rural livelihoods. As an international expert, she serves as a consultant and advisor to International Fund for Agricultural Development, GIZ, NABARD, Microsave, Frankfurt School and other institutions.

Girish G. Sohani
President and Managing Trustee, BAIF Development Research Foundation

Girish Sohani is the President and Managing Trustee of BAIF Development Research Foundation, directly involved in the areas of Watershed Development, Tribal Livelihoods and Processing of farm produce, particularly mango, cashew and other fruit and nuts. Among his other roles at BAIF, Girish is closely involved in developing a holistic development programme concept in the form of BAIF’s Tribal Rehabilitation Programme that focuses on generating opportunities for gainful self-employment for the tribal families in the vicinity of their hamlets and touches diverse facets of the tribal life ranging from livelihood to health, and habitat to community organization. He has been awarded the “Distinguished Alumnus Award 2011” by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in recognition of outstanding contributions to Rural and Community Development and appointed as “Commander in the Order of Agricultural Merit” by the French Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry. Girish has various Research Reports and Papers, Concept Notes, Approach Papers to his credit - both presented and published. He holds a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Post Graduate in Business Management from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
Narasimhan Srinivasan  
Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

N. Srinivasan had been a central banker and development banker for 30 years (in Reserve Bank of India and NABARD). After three decades of career as a development banker, over the last ten years as an independent consultant, he has been involved in design, supervision and evaluation of policy, strategy and implementation of several development finance and rural livelihood initiatives and building institutions in India and abroad. As an international development finance and livelihoods expert, he serves as a consultant and advisor to World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, GIZ, KFW, NABARD, SIDBI, Microsave and other institutions. He has authored the Microfinance-India State of the Sector Reports for four years. He has jointly authored, with Girija Srinivasan, the State of India’s Livelihoods report for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 besides contributing to many other books as a joint author. He currently serves as an independent director on the board of Equitas Small Finance Bank, three other companies and two development trusts. He has been a member of the Indian Microfinance Equity Fund supervisory board for over three years. He is also involved in the governance of industry bodies dealing with rural finance and microfinance.

Umadevi Swaminathan  
Managing Director, RUDI Multi Trading Company Ltd.

Umadevi has 37 years of work experience in social work, empowering women through trade activities with SEWA since 1981. RUDI provides multiple employment opportunities to rural women producers and direct marketing linkages for small and marginal farmers. She is engaged in sustaining and developing 15 women’s cooperatives and facilitating their market linkages. She also has a leadership role in SEWA Gram Mahila Haat since 1998, promoting more than 10,000 women’s producer groups of handloom weavers, salt farmers and forest producers in rural areas of Gujarat. Collectively, these women’s groups have achieved a turnover of INR 168 crores across 10 years. Currently she is involved in scaling up RUDI model in Rajasthan, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh Assam and Bihar and replicating it in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
Cherian Thomas
National Director and Chief Executive Officer, World Vision India

Cherian Thomas has over 31 years of experience in diverse fields, having last served as CEO, IDFC Foundation, where he oversaw the working of the Foundation and its joint ventures with the Governments of Karnataka, Delhi and Uttarakhand. Mr. Thomas comes with extensive experience in the fields of infrastructure, banking, project finance, policy advocacy, capacity building, programme support and advisory services for government clients and community engagement programmes. Apart from IDFC Limited, where he worked for almost 18 years, he has worked with major organizations such as Tata Industries Limited, ICICI Limited, and Citibank in the areas of corporate finance, project finance and banking. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering (Honors) and Masters in Management Studies in Finance from the University of Mumbai, India.

Rajendra Tripathi
CSR Lead, Oracle India Pvt. Ltd.

Rajendra is a seasoned development professional with over a decade of industry and nonprofit sector experience, currently CSR lead at Oracle India. He has expertise in driving social impact in education, skill development, community and digital inclusion initiatives across India. He has been driving the agenda of Corporate Social Responsibility for IBM, Intel in his past roles for India and the APAC region. He has experience of working with cross functional, multi-cultural teams in the APAC region handling large scale social projects to drive maximum impact from corporate giving in the key areas of Education, Environment and Community initiatives. Rajendra’s key interest areas are corporate giving, large scale grant management, STEM education, sustainability reporting, NGO relations & alliance management, CSR Policy advocacy, and thematic development initiatives. Rajendra is an alumnus of Indian School of Business, (ISB) Hyderabad, University of Delhi, and University of Allahabad, with specialization in Social Work. He volunteers regularly and is a regular speaker on a host of socially relevant issues at various forums.
Vanita Viswanath is a social entrepreneur and mentor to social enterprises. She works with the Jagriti group that includes Jagriti Yatra (a unique 2 week annual dedicated train journey across India for 500 young people that combines instruction on inclusive entrepreneurship on the train and exposure to social entrepreneurs on the ground), Jagriti Enterprise Center (a rural business incubator in Eastern Uttar Pradesh) and Jagriti Enterprise Network (of entrepreneurs and mentors across India). She is Chairperson of Aajeevika Bureau that provides services, advocacy and research for dignified migration. She conceptualized and led Udyogini, an NGO that builds women’s enterprises through skill and entrepreneurship training and enterprise value chains in central and north Indian states. She was at the World Bank, Washington D.C. for several years. Vanita was a member of the Working Group on Clustering and Aggregation for the Govt. of India’s 12th Five Year Plan. She was finalist of the Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2012 and is a Senior Fellow of the Synergos Institute. A PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, she has published widely and lectured in leading US universities such as Yale and Columbia.

Dr. Gayathri Vasudevan
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, LabourNet Services

With a vision to enable livelihoods and enhance quality of life through Education, Employability and Entrepreneurship, Gayathri Vasudevan cofounded LabourNet Services, a social enterprise, in 2006. Her untiring efforts have already touched half a million lives, empowering men and women to earn a decent living and become entrepreneurs. She is a doctorate in Development Studies, with over 23 years of consistent work for the less privileged. A research scholar on gender and labour issues, she spent early years of her career exploring rural India at the grass roots level that led her to experience firsthand the life and day-to-day challenges faced by people in villages. She was associated with International Labour Organisation for eight years before cofounding LabourNet. Gayathri has held several advisory posts in the Government and other private Boards and, presently, is member of Tailoring Advisory Board-Raymond, CII - National Skills Committee & National Sports Committee, Periyar Technology Business Incubator (Periyar TBI). She has more than 30 publications in the areas of labour & employment and gender issues to her credit. She has won numerous awards in the last decade as a social entrepreneur for her exemplary work in labour issues and is one of 53 most Powerful Women in Business in India.
Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee
Director, Country Relations and Business Affairs, ICRISAT

Arabinda Kumar Padhee has done his Masters in Agricultural Science from BHU and a PhD from IARI. He also holds a Masters in Public Administration from University of Birmingham, UK. He has taken public policy courses at University of Toronto; Civil Services College, Singapore and University of Cambridge during his career. He joined the Indian Administrative Services in 1996. Among the various positions he has held are District Magistrate and Collector; Director, Agriculture and Food Production; Joint Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, GOI, among others. During his tenure with the Odisha Government, he was instrumental in drafting the Odisha State Agriculture Policy in 2008. He has also served as a member of the Technical Support Group of the erstwhile Planning Commission that prepared the District Agricultural Plan manual. Among the notable awards and citations he has received during his career in the Civil Services are the Best Collector award (2002-03) and the National Award for contribution to humanitarian services given by the Indian Red Cross Society (2006-07). Dr. Padhee was the Indian Co-chair of the Sub-Group on Fertilizers of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in October 2015. He was awarded the AIASA National Award for outstanding Leadership in Agriculture for the year 2016.
Day Three:
Corporate Commitment to Communities, Connecting the Dots

Programme Schedule
9:30 to 10:45 am  
**Plenary 1: New Potential for Inclusive Growth - Corporate Commitment to Communities**

India is perhaps among the few countries to mandate corporates to contribute a part of their profits to CSR activities. While several corporates, have for long, contributed towards empowering communities in diverse ways in the past, this new legislation may compel them to rethink their strategies for a more focused approach to CSR, it may prod them to identify a few focused themes, refine them to cobble new partnerships and perhaps make them true stakeholders for shaping an inclusive India. The panel will explore all these possibilities and deliberate on the potential.

**Moderator**
Dr. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, Research Director, India Development Foundation

**Panelists**
- Damodar Mall, Chief Executive Officer Grocery Retail Reliance Retail Limited
- Shankar Venkateswaran, Former Chief, Tata Sustainability Group
- Gurdeep Singh, Chairman & Managing Director, NTPC Limited

10:45 to 11:00 am  
**Networking Break**

11:00 to 12:15 pm  
**Plenary 2: From Traditional to Tactical - Strategic Shift in the CSR Paradigm**

CSR in India has traditionally been seen as a philanthropic activity that was performed but often not deliberated upon. However after the 2013 Companies Act, which required a statutory contribution to CSR, Companies have begun approaching these investments in a more strategic way. While some corporates have subtly aligned their CSR investments to their business goals other have aligned it to national goals, pursuing specific themes. The discussion will take into account the way CSR has evolved over the years and how companies are getting more engaged and committed towards it in a strategic way.

**Moderator**
Ajay K. Sud, Managing Trustee, Centre for International Development Services (CIDS)

**Panelists**
- Dr. Madhukar Gupta, Additional Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India
- Neelima Khetan, Group CSR Head, Vedanta Resources Plc & Vice President, CSR Hindustan Zinc Limited
- Aloka Majumdar, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC India
- Brig Rajiv Williams, Corporate Head-CSR, Jindal Stainless Ltd.
The onus of sustainable development perhaps no longer lies solely with the government or its agencies alone. Given the kind of technical expertise and financial resources that companies possess, their potential to contribute to nation building is significant. In fact, an increasing number of companies in India are rising to this challenge by moving beyond traditional philanthropy to actively engage with the government and the community. This session seeks to highlight some of the CSR activities in India where companies have worked along with government agencies and NGOs to implement development initiatives. It presents examples that such collaboration works can be a preferred, more efficient and effective way of addressing developmental challenges.

**Moderator**

Sudhir K Sinha, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Coach - CSR, Sustainability & Human Rights

**Panelists**

- Anand Mohan Tiwari, IAS, Managing Director, Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd and Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority
- Vijay Chadda, Chief Executive Officer, Bharti Foundation
- Dr. Kalpana Sankar, Chairperson and Managing Trustee, Hand In Hand
- Clement Chauvet, Chief, Skills and Business Development, United Nations Development Programme

In the present complex and competitive landscape, innovations for social good need structural and fundamental support to initiate, survive, grow, sustain, and attain the highest potential for communities that struggle to eke sustainable livelihoods. They require not only funds to scale up but also need training, capacity building and handholding support. India still lacks adequate incubation facilities that can catalyze the growth of the innovations on a scale that the country requires. The discussion will take into account of the opportunities that the CSR ecosystem provides for incubating and stimulating innovations to lead a change for social good.

**Moderator**

Gaurav Kapoor, Senior Head – Industry Partnerships, CSR, Media & Advocacy, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
Day 3: December 15, 2017

Panelists
- Osama Manzar, Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation
- Nidhi Pundhir, Director CSR-Head, HCL Foundation
- Chetna Kaura, India Corporate Social Responsibility Lead, Sapient Consulting Private Limited
- Vikas Goswami, Head-Good & Green, Godrej Industries Limited

2:30 to 3:45 pm
Technical Session 2: Investing in Communities: Seeking Scale and Sustainability

CSR is in existence in India from a long time and the companies have been contributing to social development in their own ways. Over time, CSR has become more organized and intrinsic part of a company’s overall sustainability strategy. Today companies are implementing their CSR in a strategic way with a more measurable and result oriented approach. The aim of the companies is to improve the sustainability and scalability of CSR project and to build stronger and enhanced engagements with the society. The discussion will take into account how an organization can build up sustainable CSR projects and scale it up over a period of time.

Moderator:
Ashok Varma, Partner-GRID (CSR Advisory), PricewaterhouseCoopers

Panelists
- Ruchi Khemka, Vice President & Head, CSR, Deutsche Bank AG
- Apoorva Oza, Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
- Eika Chaturvedi Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer, Future Learning
- PV Narayanan, CSR Leader, GE South Asia, GE Power India Ltd.

3:45 to 4:15 pm Networking Break
4:15 to 5:30 pm Valedictory Session

Special Address
- Sanjeev Asthana, Chairman, ACCESS Development Services
- Prabhat Singh, Managing Director, Petronet LNG Limited
- Anand Mohan Tiwari, IAS, Managing Director, Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd and Chief Executive Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority

Presentation of XLRI ACCESS Livelihoods Awards

Valedictory Address
Dr. Arvind Mayaram, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Resource Persons
Eika Chaturvedi Banerjee
Chief Executive Officer, Future Learning

In her current role, Eika leads three Future Learning business verticals – Corporate Capability, Skilling, Employability & Livelihoods, and Education. Eika is also the creator of Future Learning’s line of signature programs, Bodhi – The Awakening, which aims to explore and revisit ancient wisdom in its various aspects, making it relevant and applicable to modern-day context. She also runs “Durga In the Boardroom” – a series of bespoke Leadership Development retreats for mid and senior level corporate women. Previously, Eika founded FinSutra, a boutique Leadership Development firm involved in Talent Development and Executive Coaching interventions based on ancient wisdom, history, mythology and literature. She has over 17 years of core operating experience in various Leadership roles. She has contributed in key positions at Standard Chartered Bank, ABM Amro, Citi & Kotak, both in India & Singapore. Eika is an MBA from FMS-Delhi; an IAC certified Executive Coach & holds Post Graduate certifications in Comparative Mythology from the Department of Sanskrit, Mumbai University. She is the founder – curator of Aakhyaan, India’s First Annual Mythology festival, a knowledge platform that she has conceptualized with department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai – to integrate the corporate world academia and popular culture.

Vijay Chadda
Chief Executive Officer, Bharti Foundation

Vijay Chadda is the CEO of Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. Bharti Foundation was set up in 2000 with a vision ‘to help underprivileged children and young people of our country realize their potential’. As the CEO of Bharti Foundation, he has played a key role in project expansion and enhancement of quality standards and system efficiency, while constantly keeping the team morale high to deliver their best in challenging circumstances. Vijay has over forty years of professional experience in different fields. He has served in the Indian Army for twenty years and has headed some of the leading corporates in the travel and hospitality industry. His army background has inspired many processes and events to inculcate a sense of patriotism and integrity within the school program. A graduate from the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune, India and the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College Toronto, Canada; Vijay has also completed his M.Sc. in Defence Studies from Madras University. Vijay has served on the board of significant Travel & Tourism Associations and is a part of various National Committees in the area of Education, Skill Development and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He has represented the organization at various renowned national forums. Vijay is a member of the India – Malaysia CEOs Forum (CII) and is also on the Advisory Committee of leading schools and educational institutions.
Clement Chauvet
Chief, Skills and Business Development, United Nations Development Programme

Clement is currently Chief, Skills and Business Development, United Nations Development Programme. At UNDP, he manages the IKEA Foundation funded project “Disha: Creating Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Women in India” that aims to improve the lives of one million Indian women and girls by creating scalable models at key stages in the value chain to enable women to learn marketable skills, connect to jobs or start their own enterprises. Clement is working to position the Disha project as a catalyst in the skilling ecosystem, bringing together diverse partners including government, businesses, academia, training institutions, and civil society. Prior to his assignment with UNDP, Clement worked as a Regional Resource Mobilization and Partnership Adviser for UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia based in Istanbul from 2013 to 2015. Before that, he worked at UNICEF India from 2008 to 2013 as Resource Mobilization Chief, based in New Delhi. He also worked as a Fundraising Manager for UNICEF in Manila, Philippines and Paris, France. He started his career in the development sector as a project coordinator for a credit and saving cooperative network in the suburbs of Manila in 2002. Clement holds an MBA in International Economics from Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC), France.

Shubhashis Gangopadhyay
Research Director, India Development Foundation

Shubhashis is an economist with a PhD from Cornell University. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Gothenburg in 2006. He was made a Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute in 1991. He has been the Founder Director of IDF and the Founding Director (Dean) of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Shiv Nadar University. He was also the Founder-Chief Editor of the Journal of Emerging Market Finance (Sage Publications). He has published widely in international journals, and has a number of books, in economics and finance. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay is currently the Research Director of India Development Foundation, Chair Professor of Emerging Market Finance in the University of Groningen, Netherlands and Visiting Professor in the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. In 2008, the year of the global financial crisis, he was appointed Advisor to the Finance Minister, Government of India.
Vikas Goswami
Head - Good & Green, Godrej Industries Limited

In her current role, Vikas drives the Group’s ‘Good & Green’ vision of creating a more employable workforce, building a Greener India and innovating for good and green products. Under her leadership, the team is laying down processes to evaluate the impact of the Group’s Good & Green initiatives. Vikas has over 25 years experience in working with both the corporate and development sector. Prior to joining the Godrej Group, Vikas helped companies strategise on issues of corporate social responsibility and environment. She was also a member of the team responsible for crafting the Business Responsibility Report framework for SEBI and the National Voluntary Guidelines for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. Vikas completed her Ph.D in Anthropology from Delhi University and her M.Sc in Development Management from University of Wales. Vikas enjoys mentoring non-profits on organisation management and helping them build their strategic visions and plans.

Dr Madhukar Gupta, IAS
Additional Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Public Enterprises and Heavy Industries, Government of India

Mr. Madhukar Gupta is an Electrical Engineer, MBA and a law graduate. He was selected as a Mason Fellow by Harvard for a Master’s in Public Administration in 2006. The Government of India sent him for a Master’s in Public Policy at Maxwell, Syracuse. Mr. Gupta has been awarded a PhD in Development Economics in 2010. He focused on Public Policy in US and China working with experts on economic growth, urban development, infrastructure, corporate finance and cluster development at the Harvard, MIT and Fletcher School. He has won many national awards from National Productivity Council and NABARD. Indian and international Universities have hosted him as a visiting faculty and scholar. He has presented many professional papers taking him to more than forty countries. Mr. Gupta has worked in Government of India, governments of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, as Team Leader in United Nations Development Program, consultant to ADB and Sri Lankan government, non-profit sector, cooperative sector, as Managing Director in State Road Transport Corporation and State Cooperative Dairy Federation, as Principal Secretary Higher Education and Transport Departments and also, as Vice Chancellor of University of Rajasthan and Rajasthan Agriculture University. Mr. Gupta has spent thirteen years as a practitioner as Divisional Commissioner in four Divisions (regions), District Magistrate in three districts and Sub Divisional Magistrate in two places.
Gaurav Kapoor
Senior Head – Industry Partnerships, CSR, Media & Advocacy, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

Gaurav heads Industry Partnership and CSR Engagements at NSDC, in particular Business Development, Operations, Finance and Advocacy to setup demand-driven greenfield skill development institutes and upgrade brownfield ones, through CSR and other financing models. In addition Gaurav heads Media & Advocacy for NSDC besides leading the South States and Citizen Engagement. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1998 and has over 18 years of professional experience across Finance and Development Sector. Over the span of his working career Gaurav has worked in various CXO positions across Sectors.

Chetna Kaura
India Corporate Social Responsibility Lead, Sapient Consulting Private Limited

Chetna leads Corporate Social Responsibility for Sapient pan-India, primarily focussing on the requirements under Indian Law but also facilitating linkages of CSR to multiple stakeholders across the business within India and globally. She brings to her role the expertise she gained as Chief Programme Executive of the National Foundation for CSR at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and was closely associated with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for five years relating to CSR and business responsibility policy making and advocacy. She was a senior member of the team which mainstreamed the National Voluntary Guidelines for Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business. In the last sixteen years Chetna has lived and worked in India, the UK and Australia and therefore possesses a global perspective on CSR which is further enriched by her having worked in the commercial, development and government sectors. She was one of twenty professionals selected from across the country, for the CSR and sustainability focused Swedish Institute Management Programme 2013, undertaken and fully funded by the Government of Sweden. She holds a MSc. in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where her dissertation was on the status of CSR in the Indian corporate sector.
Ruchi Khemka
Vice President & Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, Deutsche Bank AG

Ruchi has over 17 years of experience across working in the social development sector. She started her career with Microsoft India and worked there for 5 years across different Marketing & Sales roles. She has set-up two entrepreneurial ventures, one for-profit fashion enterprise and one social enterprise (SevaYatra Edutrips) that she co-founded focusing on volunteerism and CSR Advisory to Companies in India. Over years, she has also worked with several non-profit organizations and has volunteered extensively with NGOs in some of the most rural locations in the country. In her recent assignments, Ruchi led Sustainability & CSR at Vodafone before she joined Deutsche Bank AG (DB) in February 2016 as the Head of CSR for the Bank and its entities in India. In her current role at DB, Ruchi leads the mandate for making social investments into communities that create value and result into transformation of these communities to help drive positive change in society.

Neelima Khetan
Group CSR Head, Vedanta Resources Plc & Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Hindustan Zinc Limited

Neelima Khetan is the Group CSR Head for Vedanta Resources Plc, a global diversified resources company. In this capacity, she provides oversight and guidance to the CSR efforts of 11 business units of the Group across India and Africa. She is also Vice President, CSR at Hindustan Zinc (which is part of Vedanta). HZL is a world leader in zinc production, as also lead and silver. HZL has a long history of working for community betterment, and is among the Top-20 CSR spenders of the country. Neelima joined Vedanta in November 2015.
Damodar Mall  
Chief Executive Officer Grocery Retail, Reliance Retail Limited

Mr. Damodar Mall is the Chief Executive Officer of the Grocery Retail Business at the Reliance Retail Ltd. An IIT-Bombay and IIM-Bangalore alumnus, Damodar worked in Sales and brand management roles at Unilever prior to founding and incubating the D-Mart Supermarket Chain in Western India. He was then with Future Group in various leadership roles and was part of Kishore Biyani’s core team. Mr. Mall writes an invitation blog for Forbes India. His recently published book Supermarket Wala - Secrets to winning Consumer India, provides sharp business insights for shaping consumer business and modern retail, in increasingly confident India. He has been a member of Coca-Cola Retail Research Committee of Asia. He has also received the Golden Spoon Award for the most admired Food & Grocery professional of the year in 2011.

Aloka Majumdar  
Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC India

Aloka Majumdar is the Head of Corporate Sustainability for HSBC India. Graduating with Honours in Political Science from the University of Calcutta, she started her career as a financial journalist. She specialised in covering Banking and Finance as well as the microfinance sector working with leading business publications such as the Financial Express and Business India. In 2004 she joined Citibank India to look after the Corporate Citizenship portfolio following which in 2010 she joined HSBC to Head Corporate Sustainability. In her current role she heads Corporate Sustainability for HSBC Group in India which comprises the Bank and other HSBC Group companies. Her expertise lies in the fields of Skills, Financial Inclusion, Environment and Climate Change. She has worked extensively with a wide range of stakeholders that include community based organisations, multilateral agencies, the academia and central and state governments. She is the Trustee of Earthwatch Institute India and Chair of their Education Advisory Group, Steering Committee member of the India Sanitation Coalition and member of industry forums such as the FICCI Environment Committee, CII Western Region Sub-committee on CSR & Affirmative Action among others.
Osama Manzar
Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation

Osama Manzar is a global leader on the mission of eradicating information poverty from India and global south using digital tools. He is a social entrepreneur, author, columnist, impact speaker, angel investor, mentor, and sits on several government and policy committees in India and on international organisations working in the areas of internet, access, and digital inclusion. With over 20 years of experience, Osama has worked in the areas of journalism, new media, software enterprise before he established Digital Empowerment Foundation, to digitally empower the masses with a footprint of 300 locations and interventions in more than 10 countries, mostly in South Asia. Osama is a British Chevening Scholar and an International Visitors Leadership Program Fellow of the US State Department. He has co-authored more than five books, including Internet Economy of India. Osama has also instituted 10 awards for recognising digital innovations for development in South Asia. He is a Member of Advisory Board for Alliance for Affordable Internet; Licensing Committee for Community Radio in India at the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; Working Group - IT for Masses at Ministry of IT in India. He is Member of the Board at Association of Progressive Communication; World Summit Award; Ibtada; and Society for Labour & Development. Osama writes a column regularly in Mint.

Apoorva Oza
Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

He is the Chief Executive Officer of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) since 2001. He leads a team of dedicated development workers to achieve the mission of AKRSP(I) through field facilitation in the three states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar and outreach through its training and capacity-building unit. AKRSP(I) is also part of NGO networks through which works towards influencing policies. Before joining AKRSP(I), Mr Oza used to work with Gujarat Dairy Development Board. He has done his Management from Institute of Rural Management, Anand.
Nidhi Pundhir  
Director CSR - HEAD, HCL Foundation

Nidhi is the Global Head of CSR for HCL. She heads the HCL Foundation, which is the CSR arm of HCL Technologies. She leads the Urban Community Development Projects for HCL Foundation as well as the prestigious path-breaking initiatives of Power of 1 and the HCL Grant. Nidhi is an international social development and management practitioner, with specialization in Child Rights. Some of the key portfolios she has held have been with Plan International as National Advisor on Child Rights and Protection, with SOS Children’s Villages as Director Programme Development, Asia and with Plan International’s International Headquarters as Global Advisor on Child Protection in Development. In her pursuit and passion towards her commitment towards social development, Nidhi has travelled almost 40 countries and most of her home country, India. Nidhi holds a Masters in Hospital & Health Administration from IIHMR University, Jaipur and an M. Phil. (Health Systems Management) from Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani

Dr. Kalpana Sankar  
Chairperson and Managing Trustee, Hand In Hand

Dr. Kalpana Sankar is an expert in participatory assessment, gender differentiated impact and monitoring tools and indicators. She has been involved in the women’s self-help group movement in Tamil Nadu for over two decades. She is a doctorate in Physical Sciences and in Women’s Studies and Self-Help Groups. Dr. Kalpana was Consultant with the Government of South Africa and has supported microfinance and poverty reduction programmes in Afghanistan and Brazil. She is also the Managing Director of Belstar Investment and Finance Ltd, the NBFC arm of Hand in Hand India. Dr Kalpana was a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Tamil Nadu. Dr Kalpana has also authored various publications and manuals on child labour, microfinance and self-help groups. She was the first recipient of a scholarship to pursue an Executive MBA from TRIUM, an alliance among NYU Stern School of Business, London School of Economics and Political Science, and HEC School of Management Paris. Dr. Kalpana was awarded the “Nari Shakti Puraskar 2016" from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI, for her contribution to the empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized women. Dr Kalpana also received the “Special Commendation Certificate" for Hand in Hand India’s pioneering work in the SHG movement from NABARD.
Sudhir K. Sinha  
CEO & Chief Coach – CSR, Sustainability & Human Rights  

Sudhir K. Sinha, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, is a crusader of CSR Satyagraha. He is the CEO and Chief Coach at the Centre for Sustainability and Responsibility Inc (CSR Inc). He is also a Founder Member of the Human Rights and Business Resource Group (HRBRG) and has been Advisor – CSR to PwC since 2014. He is a LEAD Fellow and has over 33 years of vast and varied experience of working with companies and NGOs on CSR/Sustainability projects. He headed and managed CSR/Sustainability verticals of leading Indian & MNC brands such as Tata Steel, ArcelorMittal, Cipla Ltd, Reliance - Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, and Moser Baer India Limited. He sits on the Boards of some leading NGOs. Sudhir has introduced a working concept of ”Transformational CSR” against Transactional Philanthropy and been engaged in promoting and advancing the agenda of Transformational CSR. Also, he has presented a social theory of “Underlying Impacts”, a critical success factor for CSR and development projects.

Gurdeep Singh  
Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Limited  

Gurdeep Singh has an illustrious career spanning nearly three decades in the power sector. He started his career in 1987 as an Engineer Trainee with NTPC and has worked his way through various ranks in both public sector and private sector. Prior to joining NTPC, he was Managing Director of Gujarat State Electricity Company (GSECL). His visionary leadership and innate ability to work through complexity and focus on core issues, helped bring transformational changes in GSECL. It also allowed the company to keep its energy cost under control. His sustained focus on cost reduction resulted in conceptualisation of coal swapping and freight rationalisation much ahead of time. Before GSECL, he worked with Powergen, CLP, AES, IDFC and CESC. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from NIT Kurukshetra and has undergone Management Education Program from IIM Ahmedabad. He has received management and leadership training from global institutions like Said Business School-Oxford, Darden School of Management-Virginia, USA, Singapore Civil Services College-Singapore, ISB-Hyderabad, etc. He brings to NTPC dynamism and team approach. He firmly believes that the key to performance improvement is employee empowerment, their capability augmentation and process optimization. His early years in NTPC helped in making an immediate connect at all levels in the company. He has launched various initiatives to sustain NTPC’s growth and bring about cultural changes necessary to maintain NTPC’s position as a leading global power company.
Ashok Varma  
Partner - GRID (CSR Advisory), PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited  
Ashok Varma  
Partner - GRID (CSR Advisory), PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited  
Ashok has done his MBA from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, 1997 and Bachelor of Engineering from Utkal University, 1993. Ashok Varma is Partner with PwC and leads the Social Sector & CSR Advisory practice in India. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in project management and policy advisory in livelihood, education & skill development, energy and MSME sectors. He has led several large scale programmes for Central Ministries, IDAs including the World Bank, ADB and the UN groups. He leads engagements on healthcare, livelihood and inclusive development and education. His core expertise include capacity building, institutional strengthening, operations and management, performance improvement and regulatory issues.

Ajay K. Sud  
Managing Trustee, Centre for International Development Services (CIDS)  
Ajay K. Sud is an Attorney at Law and Fellow Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Formerly Head of KPMG’s International Development Services (IDS) Practice in India 2008-2010 wherein as a leader of the Practice, he led various assignments in the Consulting, Strategic Planning, Program Design/Management, Institutional Assessment & Capacity Building and Organization Development & Fund Raising. Mr. Sud has an over 33 years of extensive experience in the voluntary sector and has advised various not-for-profit organizations both in the capacity of Founder and Governing Board Member as well as Strategic Advisor and Managing Counsel. Mr. Sud has been a Member of the United Nations Resource Network for implementing Global Fund Grants for Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Member of Governing Board of Freedom from Hunger India, Sesame Workshop India, ACCESS Development Services, International Development Enterprises (India), Prince of Wales Bhumi Vardaan Foundation, Foundation for MSME Clusters.
Brig. Rajiv Williams
Corporate Head- CSR, Jindal Stainless Limited

Brigadier Rajiv Williams joined Jindal Stainless Limited, New Delhi as their Corporate Head – CSR. He is a driver of the program on Business and Human Rights and as a member of the CII CSR Council, sensitized CII members on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Brigig. Williams is a member of the Governing Council, UN Global Compact Network India (GCNI), appointed as an Independent Director as a member of CSR Committees and so on. As Convener UN GCNI Human Rights Committee, he championed the initiative ‘The India CEO Forum on Business and Human Rights’. Brig Williams is a recipient of several military and civil awards. In the development sector, he is a recipient of the ‘Asia Pacific Leadership Award’ awarded at Singapore in 2012, a citation for the ‘Top 100 Most Impactful Global CSR leaders’ by the World CSR Congress in 2016 and declared as ‘Top 25 CSR Leaders in India’ in August 2017. In addition, he has also been awarded for Human Rights and that will be presented along with a Certificate of the Most Excellent CSR Award. 2017. A prolific writer and speaker at various forums and conferences, Rajiv has been invited to speak at the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva. He has co-authored books on ‘SIACHEN GLACIER’ and the Indian Military Academy and written several papers on varied topics from conflict prevention and security to matters relating to Responsible Business and Corporate Citizenship.
Associated Publications & Events
ASSOCIATED PUBLICATIONS

State of India’s Livelihoods Report (SOIL Report) 2017 is an annual publication that addresses contemporary issues in the livelihoods sector. It is the only document that aggregates the experiences and challenges of this sector, analyses case studies and reports progress of both government-run and the privately run programmes. This report is released each year during the Livelihoods Asia Summit, which is a pan-Asia platform that presents opportunities for cross-learning and sharing of unique experiences within the countries in this region.

While some core chapters are continued from the previous years’ reports in order to provide stability to the structure of the report, the authors have covered some interesting new themes. An overview of the economic situation in the past years and a concluding chapter on dealing with equity and inclusion in growth are part of this year’s report. In addition to this, two chapters on agricultural livelihoods and tribal livelihoods are new areas of in-depth focus. The report also covers policies, legal and fiscal framework for livelihoods, and key government programmes and schemes. Further, the authors have re-evaluated the employment and skills landscape, CSR and FPOs after a year’s gap.

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Inclusive Finance India Report 2017 provides in-depth, well-researched, and well-analyzed evidence on how the financial inclusion agenda has progressed at various levels. The report covers a review of the performance of diverse institutional initiatives working in inclusive finance—banks, specialized banks, self-help groups, and microfinance institutions. It also covers the initiatives in technology that address last-mile delivery as well as provides an overview of new initiatives.

This report focuses on a larger landscape of financial inclusion while continuing to report progress on microfinance in mainstream financial inclusion activity. It tracks the growth of financial inclusion across institutional structures and delivery models, provides a better understanding of the complexities of the sector, and contributes to the policy development process on inclusive finance. It informs banks and investors—both national and international, brings forth key issues that require the attention of the financial sector as well as of policy makers, highlights the positive impact of the sector, and identifies policy and practice gaps on an annual basis. The
report involves participation by the RBI, Ministry of Finance, banks, apex financial institutions, technology service providers, business correspondents, and diverse delivery models. It serves the dual purpose of informing the policy formulation process as well as providing perspective on the practice of financial inclusion in India.

This is the best reference book on the annual trends and progress of the financial inclusion and microfinance sector. It includes data-based analysis of all streams of financial inclusion, with most current information in terms of numbers and developments. It is a must-read for every practitioner in the financial inclusion value chain.

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Formation of Producer Companies saw a fillip between 2011 - 2017 with policy and funding support from central and state governments, which has led to manifold increase in their numbers. According to SFAC data, 922 FPOs exist as on date. The major support from FPOs has been from SFAC, NABARD and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. As the number of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) registered as Producer Companies (PCs) established under Indian Companies Act 1956) and interest in this form of institution grows across the country. FPOs seem to be the obvious solution to several challenges that small and marginal farmers face particularly in access to resources and inputs, finance and markets as also in access to entitlements and benefits from several schemes of the government. Although farmers’ organisations are being promoted by several stakeholders unless there is an enabling environment and a responsive ecosystem that recognizes their needs, the investments being made may not yield the desired outcomes. A number of issues need to be addressed that will lead to an ecosystem where FPOs become sustainable and viable business entities. Appropriately all related stakeholders need to come together and cogitate on what it will take to build a vibrant ecosystem within which the FPOs can hope to survive and sustain.

Friends of Women’s World Banking (FWWB) and ACCESS are jointly instituting a Think Tank on Building an Ecosystem for FPO Sustainability. The Think Tank will meet periodically to facilitate debate and discuss on key issues affecting the sustainability of FPOs in order to realize better outcomes from the efforts and investment being made in this critical domain. The Think Tank will be launched in an evening event at the Livelihoods Asia Summit 2017 on December 13 from 6:00-8:00 pm (By invitation only).
XLRI and ACCESS have jointly instituted the Livelihoods Awards to fill a long standing gap and recognize the stellar efforts of institutions that have contributed to promoting livelihoods of the poor in India. The growth of the livelihoods sector, despite odds and obstacles, can be attributed to indefatigable and long term efforts put in by several individuals and institutions, who have worked to create large outreach, enabling environment, influence policy, support capacity building, and design sustainable, scaled up models. The inspiration behind the XLRI-ACCESS Livelihoods Awards is to provide motivation to such exemplary institutions to continue to enhance the livelihoods of the poor by way of recognising their incredible efforts.

The rationale behind the Awards is to identify and recognize such institutions that have contributed to advancing livelihoods of poor in India at scale and through innovative and sustainable models. Through the Award mechanism, XLRI and ACCESS hope to promote greater interest of the stakeholders in supporting models and institutions working towards livelihoods promotion of poor. The 2017 Awards will be presented for

- Sustained Contribution towards Livelihoods Promotion in the Farm Sector
- Sustained Contribution towards Livelihoods Promotion in the Non-Farm Sector

The Awards will be presented in the Valedictory Session of the Summit
Sponsors and Partners
Our Mission: Promotion of sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural prosperity through effective credit support, related services, institution development and other innovative initiatives.

- Research and Development on matters of importance pertaining to agriculture, agricultural operations and rural development including the provision of training and research facilities.
- Consultancy services related to Agriculture & Rural Development through subsidiary (NABCONS).

Our Functions:

- Provide Credit/Refinance for production credit and investment credit to eligible banks and financing institutions.
- Development functions undertaken through Farm Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF), Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF), Watershed Development Fund (WDF), Tribal Development Fund (TDF) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) etc.
- Supervisory functions in respect of Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Head Office Plot C-24, ‘D’ Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400 051

www.nabard.org /nabardonline Taking Rural India >> Forward
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people’s health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

CO SPONSORS

Friends of Women’s World Banking (FWWB)

Friends of Women’s World Banking (FWWB) initiated its operations in the year 1981. It was established with an aim to provide financial and capacity building services to organizations promoting livelihoods and self reliance of poor women. From 1989 till 2009, FWWB pioneered the micro finance sector by nurturing and supporting many micro finance institutions across India. Its current focus areas are Agriculture Financing covering small and marginal farmer collectives, Water and Sanitation, Solar Energy, and building Women Entrepreneurship. FWWB’s interventions are aimed at increasing women’s participation in collectives and at the community level. FWWB is currently working across 17 states of India through more than 50 institutions.

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided about US$18 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached some 462 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency based in Rome – the UN’s food and agriculture hub. Since 1979, IFAD has invested a total of over $928 million in 27 programmes and projects in India, with a total cost of $2.6 billion including co-financing, directly benefitting 4.4 million households.
Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited (Samunnati)

Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited (Samunnati) was set up in November 2014 with a mission to provide underserved households and agri-enterprises, access to markets through financial intermediation, market linkages & advisory services so that the enterprises & value chains that they are engaged in, operate at a higher equilibrium, thereby creating value for all the stakeholders in the chain. Under Samunnati’s Value Chain Finance approach, the decisions on financing are based not just on the financial health of the individual borrowers, but on the health of the entire value chain and the prospective borrowers’ social and trade capital. Samunnati has a diverse product range catering to retail and institutional clients along the agricultural value chain and follows the AMLA (Aggregation, providing Market Linkages and Advisory Services) approach to financing.

With a presence in 11 states across 15 value chains, Samunnati offers financial, co-financial and non-financial solutions to marginal, small and medium holders including farmers, agri enterprises and wholesale/retailers. Samunnati also works with 150 community based organisations (CBO) and farmer producer organisations (FPO) across India.

World Vision India

World Vision is one of the world’s leading child-focused humanitarian organisations. We work at the grassroots, to create lasting change in the lives of children, their families and communities living in poverty and injustice. Through development, relief and advocacy, we pursue fullness of life for every child by serving the poor and oppressed, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender as a demonstration of God’s unconditional love for all people.

World Vision India’s programmes are guided by our strategic directives that underpin our programmes to address the urgent issues faced by the children and communities we serve

1. Reduce malnutrition and childhood illnesses
2. Enhance quality education
3. Strengthen child participation and protection systems
4. Build resilient communities

With nearly 65 years of experience in India, World Vision India works in 185 districts, impacting around 26 lakh children and their families in 6252 communities, spread across 25 states and the National Capital Region. Our work is focused on Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, Livelihoods and Emergency Relief.
Technology Solution Partners

Mastercard

Mastercard (NYSE: MA), http://www.mastercard.com, is a technology company in the global payments industry. We operate the world’s fastest payments processing network, connecting consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. Mastercard products and solutions make everyday commerce activities – such as shopping, traveling, running a business and managing finances – easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Follow us on Twitter @MastercardNews, join the discussion on the Cashless Pioneers Blog and subscribe for the latest news on the Engagement Bureau.

Knowledge Partner

Rabobank Group

Established in the 1890s, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., (also known as Rabobank) is a cooperative bank and a global leader in financial services recognised for its focus on food & agribusiness, sound capital structure and sustainable business practices. Rabobank is recognised as the leading global food and agribusiness bank – the “financial link in the global food chain” – due to its experience of more than a 100 years, worldwide presence and extensive knowledge of agriculture.

Rabobank has a global agenda of ‘Banking for Food’ – the mission to ensure food & drink for 9 billion people on the planet by 2050. The four pillars of the Banking for Food agenda are Increase Food Availability, Improve Access to Food, Stimulate Balanced Nutrition and Enhance Stability. Rabobank seeks to achieve progress towards these four goals by facilitating Access to Finance, Access to Knowledge and Access to Networks.

Established in 1974, Rabobank Foundation (RF) is the social fund of Rabobank focused on helping people become self-reliant. Aligned with the Banking for Food agenda, RF’s interventions are along two primary themes: Access to Finance and Supporting Small Producers. RF seeks to support small-holder farmers’ aggregate into cooperative producer organizations and strengthening them to make them operationally and financially sustainable. This would help generate sustainable livelihoods for farmers so as to increase their income levels. RF is focused on strengthening the upstream value chains (closer to the farmer) and reduce the length of the chain, connecting different stakeholders.
Technichal Partners

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is Germany’s leading provider of international cooperation services. As a federal enterprise, we support the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. With a global footprint in over 120 countries, GIZ leverages its regional and technical expertise for local innovation.

For over 60 years, GIZ has been working jointly with partners in India for sustainable economic, ecological, and social development. Currently, GIZ has over 330 employees in India, of whom 85 per cent are national personnel. India is fast emerging as an economic and industrial power. It is a member of the ‘Group of Twenty’ (G20) as well as one of the five major emerging national economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). Despite the country’s rapidly growing economy, poverty and other socio-economic issues remain a challenge. The burgeoning population and accelerated urbanisation in the country have resulted in an environment at risk and greenhouse gas emissions that continue to spiral upwards. The focal areas of Indo-German cooperation currently are a) Energy, b) Environment, Preservation, and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, c) Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development and d) Sustainable Economic Development.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) are the main commissioning parties of GIZ in India. Other clients include Indian public sector clients, the European Union and foundations. The Government of India has launched numerous important initiatives to address the country’s economic, environmental and social challenges, and GIZ is contributing to some of the most significant ones. For example, it supports key initiatives such as Smart Cities, Clean India and Skill India. GIZ, in close cooperation with Indian partners, devises tailor-made, jointly-developed solutions to meet local needs and achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

Samhita

Samhita is a CSR consulting firm that collaborates with companies to develop impactful corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Samhita shapes strategies, designs programmes, facilitates implementation, and assesses the impact of sector projects.
Some of Samhita’s clients have included Morgan Stanley, Mahindra & Mahindra, Microsoft Services Global Delivery, Dr. Reddy’s, Titan, Lenovo, Johnson & Johnson, Vodafone, Sun Pharma, Reckitt Benckiser, A.P. Moller – Maersk Group, Arghyam, Piramal Group, Viacom 18 and Sealed Air.

Samhita also works with international and domestic donor agencies and foundations like The Rockefeller Foundation, Tata Trusts, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and International Finance Corporation to bring multiple stakeholders together to address critical social issues collectively and on a large scale.

At Samhita, it is believed that constant innovation and adoption of technology are crucial to ensuring widespread impact in the social sector. Samhita core technology platform, Samhita GoodCSR, is a complete solution for CSR teams and implementation agencies, designed with the purpose of helping them achieve higher efficiency and impact in their projects. The key components of GoodCSR include the Marketplace with impactful programmes implemented by credible NGOs, Project Management tools for CSR portfolios, the SmartRFP tool to find NGOs easily, and Impact Portfolios with ready-to-invest programmes in critical causes.

Since its establishment, Samhita has created impact in multiple causes including healthcare, water and sanitation, education, energy access, community empowerment, vocational training, rural livelihoods and financial literacy. They have worked across the spectrum of sectors and industries - including heavy manufacturing, shipping and logistics, financial services, energy and software, pharmaceuticals and healthcare.

Their extensive grassroots network and strong relationships with social sector organisations across India, enable Samhita to support the effective implementation and management of projects.

**XLRI-Xavier School of Management**

XLRI-Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur is a premier, private management institute in India founded in 1949 by Fr Quinn Enright, S.J. in the ‘steel city’ of Jamshedpur (www.xlri.ac.in). Over the last six decades, the institute has grown into a top-ranking business management school of international repute with a wide portfolio of management programs and research publications. Its alumni are spread around the globe and have demonstrated responsible business leadership in their organizations.

Over the decades, XLRI Jamshedpur has contributed significantly to the professional growth and management of innumerable institutions that serve the public, especially organized industry, labour, service agencies engaged in rural development, education, health and other public systems. Consistent with its vision of developing management professionals with “a sensitive social conscience”, and to “encourage entrepreneurship and service”, XLRI is also the only Indian Business School (and among the first 100 in the world) which is a signatory of UN Global Compact’s PrME –
Principles of Responsible Management Education. XLRI has been awarded two prestigious International Accreditations, viz., AACSB - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and AMBA - Association of MBAs. XLRI has also earned the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accreditation.

Anchor Partners

CARE

CARE has been working in India for over 66 years, focusing on alleviating poverty and social exclusion. We do this through well-planned and comprehensive programmes in health, education, livelihoods and disaster preparedness and response. Our overall goal is the empowerment of women and girls from poor and marginalized communities leading to improvement in their lives and livelihoods. We are an independent member of CARE International Confederation working in over 94 countries for a world where all people live in dignity and security. Our Livelihoods sector program seeks to empower women from poor and marginalized communities to climb out of the poverty trap, permanently and with dignity. Livelihood sector projects are designed to promote resilient livelihoods for women in smallholder agriculture, women labour/workers, or micro-/small-/medium-scale entrepreneurs. Some of the key cutting edge themes on which CARE India has been working in this space include – clean energy, climate change adaptation, nutrition sensitive (especially agri-nutri) programming, women’s leadership, employability and entrepreneurship.

HAND IN HAND INDIA

Hand in Hand (HiH), India, is a public charitable trust, working to alleviate rural poverty through job creation, livelihoods promotion and integrated community development. Registered in 2002, the organization works in areas of women's empowerment, skill development, microfinance, livelihoods, child labour elimination, education, health and environment. Having started its operations on a humble scale in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu in 2002, HIH India has now expanded its work across 10 States of India and its model of ‘job creation’ replicated in over 11 countries across the globe through its partners. Since its inception in 2003 and until October 2017, HiH India has mobilized over 1.5 million women living at the bottom of the pyramid into 1.19 lakh SHGs and created over 3 million jobs in the rural and semi urban areas of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal. With a dedicated team of over 1314 employees and 54,642 volunteers, the organization is steadily moving towards achieving its mission of creating 5 million jobs by 2020!

Committed to creating for sustainable businesses for poverty alleviation, HiH India inaugurated its Academy for Social Entrepreneurship in February 2016. The mission of the Academy is to provide integrated practical and theoretical knowledge to create social entrepreneurs and build sustainable businesses that address social priorities.
About the Organiser
ACCESS is a national support organisation with focus on incubating innovations for sustainable livelihoods of the poor. With the support from DFID and CARE USA, ACCESS was established in March 2006 as a professional new generation agency to contribute to and support poverty reduction in India. ACCESS is structured uniquely to work at all levels of the value chain – implementing programmes on the ground, working with Civil Society Organizations, Government Departments, Corporate sector and Multilateral / Bilateral agencies to improve and enhance their programme implementation and also undertaking a few national initiatives.

For sustainable impact, ACCESS pursues a 3-tier approach to strengthen and support the livelihoods sector and implements several dynamic initiatives at all levels.

At Tier I, ACCESS operates in nine states of the country, largely focusing on the agriculture sector, given that majority of the poor are engaged in the livelihood. Across the states, ACCESS implements about 39 programmes, with the core strategy of organizing the primary producers and integrating them into value chains. ACCESS also implements a few large non-farm programmes. Most of the ACCESS programmes focus on small and marginal farmers helping them to enhance their productivity, organising them and integrating them into value chains.

As a part of its Tier II portfolio, ACCESS builds capacity of capacity builders, strengthening civil society capacities, supports government programmes, and undertakes studies, among others.

At the national level, as a part of its Tier III work ACCESS annually organises the Livelihoods Asia Summit and Inclusive Finance Summit and brings out annual reports and publications in the respective sectors. ACCESS also organises policy / thematic retreats and Round Tables to help catalyse issues and for making key recommendations to policy makers.

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Knowledge Partner

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Anchor Partners

Livelihoods Asia Secretariat
ACCESS Development Services
22, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi – 110016
Tel: 011 26510915/ 4878517
Email: livelihoodsasia@accessdev.org
www.accessdev.org