

Programme Schedule



Day 1: December 19, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 am	Inaugural Session
Welcome Address and Introduction	Puja Gour , Vice President, ACCESS Development Services
Report Release	<p>Release of State of India’s Livelihoods (SOIL) Report 2024</p> <p>Highlights of the SOIL Report 2024 Dr Yamini Atmavilas, Editor, State of India’s Livelihoods (SOIL) Report & Director, Gender Equity, Dasra</p>
Keynote Address	Andrew Goodland , Program Leader for Sustainable Development, World Bank
10:30 - 11:20 am	Women led Development – From Vision to Reality
Plenary Session 1	<p>Women-led development is shaping India’s future, placing women at the centre of the nation’s progress. Moving beyond empowerment, this transformative approach recognizes women as key drivers of change, contributing across sectors like entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, and governance. From small businesses to leadership roles, women are playing a pivotal role in accelerating economic growth, fostering innovation, and strengthening communities. India’s recent achievements, including the rise of the female Labour Force Participation Rate to 37% in 2022-23, highlight the growing momentum of women’s active involvement in the workforce.</p> <p>However, achieving the vision of women-led development requires addressing persistent challenges like social and cultural biases, unequal access to resources, and skill gaps. This session will focus on India’s journey towards a future where women lead transformative change. It will explore the progress made, identify barriers, and chart strategies to harness the untapped potential of women as leaders and innovators. Delving into strategies to amplify impact and foster leadership the session will envision actionable pathways to realizing a future where women are not just participants but leaders of Viksit Bharat.</p> <p>Moderator Dr Yamini Atmavilas, Editor, State of India’s Livelihoods (SOIL) Report & Director, Gender Equity, Dasra</p>

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	<p>Panelists</p> <p>Chhavi Rajawat, Former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Soda, Rajasthan</p> <p>Dr Rashmi Singh, IAS Commissioner & Secretary, Higher Education & Hospitality & Protocol Department, Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Jammu & Kashmir</p> <p>Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women India</p>
11:20 - 11:35 am	Networking Break
11:35 - 12:20 pm	On the Spot with Shiv Cultivating the Future
Fireside Chat 1	<p>The natural farming movement has gained significant momentum in recent years, bolstered by robust government support. With the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) spearheading efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices, the initiative aims to bring one crore farmers into the fold of natural farming within the next two years. This ambitious plan underscores the growing recognition of natural farming as a transformative approach to enhancing the resilience and sustainability of India's agricultural landscape.</p> <p>In this context, the Fireside Chat will delve into the critical role of climate-smart agriculture and natural farming in addressing the twin challenges of environmental degradation and economic viability in agriculture. The discussion will explore how these practices can empower farmers, rejuvenate soil health, and contribute to climate change mitigation, while simultaneously making agriculture more viable and aspirational. The Fireside Chat will focus on strategies for scaling natural farming practices and creating an enabling ecosystem for farmers to transition seamlessly to sustainable methods.</p> <p>Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Aayog</p> <p>In conversation with</p> <p>S. Sivakumar, Group Head – Agri & IT Businesses, ITC Ltd, India</p>
12:20 – 1:15 pm	Redefining MSMEs for the Smallest Businesses
Plenary Session 2	<p>Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are widely regarded as the backbone of economies, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering inclusive growth. Yet, within this broad category lies a subset of nano enterprises, tiny, often informal businesses, that face unique and outsized challenges. From limited access to credit and markets to minimal exposure</p>

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	<p>to capacity-building opportunities, these enterprises require tailored solutions to thrive and contribute meaningfully to the economy. The number of MSMEs registered on the Udyam portal, including the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP), has reached 4,00,42,875. Among these, 3,93,18,355 (97%) are classified as micro-enterprises. The data highlights a stark disproportion within the sector and points to a critical need for re-evaluation. The current classification system, while effective in broad terms, limits the ability to address the distinct challenges faced by nano enterprises. Addressing this 97.7% requires new indices and a more granular classification framework to ensure targeted policy interventions and tailored support.</p> <p>The session, seeks to spotlight the need for a more nuanced classification within the MSME framework. By exploring how better segmentation can inform targeted policies and interventions, the discussion aims to address the critical gaps in support systems for nano enterprises.</p> <p>Release: Report on ‘Women-Led Development - Locating Opportunities in the Non-Farm Sector’ Authored by Ramesh Arunachalam</p> <p>Moderator N Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods</p> <p>Panelists Amit Arora, Rural Development Finance Specialist, World Bank Group Ramesh S Arunachalam, Independent Consultant</p>
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Networking Break
	TECHNICAL SESSIONS
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Promoting Women’s Engagement in the Gig Economy
Technical Session I	<p>The digital gig economy is emerging as a game-changer, offering flexible opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. For women in India, it presents a unique pathway to overcome traditional barriers, enabling them to balance work and personal responsibilities while accessing a global marketplace. From freelancers to online entrepreneurs, women are beginning to harness the potential of digital platforms, contributing significantly to economic growth and innovation. However, despite these opportunities, women’s participation in the digital gig economy remains underutilized. Challenges such as limited access to digital skills, technology, and financial resources, coupled with social biases, continue to hinder</p>

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	<p>their engagement. Addressing these barriers is critical to unlocking the potential of women as contributors and leaders in this evolving economy.</p> <p>Drawing from this, the session will explore strategies to enhance women’s participation in the digital gig economy, including skill-building initiatives, digital literacy programmes, and access to finance and mentorship. By fostering an inclusive digital ecosystem and addressing systemic challenges, the session will outline the key pointers to empowering and promoting women’s engagement in the digital gig economy.</p> <p>Moderator Sona Mitra, Director, Policy and Research, IWWAGE</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Anweshaa Ghosh, Research Fellow and Program Lead, Institute of Social Studies Trust</p> <p>Bhavya Sharma, Director of Communications & ESG, Urban Company</p> <p>Priya Anant, Co-founder and Chief Customer Officer, Life Circle Health Services Private Limited</p> <p>Pallavi T Madhok, Vice President - Advisory Services, South Asia, Women’s World Banking</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Empowering Farmers Collectives through Cooperative Entrepreneurship</p>
<p>Technical Session II</p>	<p>India’s cooperative movement has historically played a pivotal role in advancing agricultural and rural development. Within this framework, cooperative entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative force, empowering farmers and women’s collectives while promoting equitable opportunities and inclusive growth. By harnessing collective strength, cooperatives enable small farmers and rural entrepreneurs to overcome structural challenges and gain access to critical resources such as fair market opportunities, credit, and innovative agricultural practices that support environmental sustainability.</p> <p>This session will bring together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to share insights and best practices. Key topics of discussion would include the role of cooperatives in fostering sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing market linkages, and transforming value chains. The session will also examine how cooperatives can reduce inequalities and strengthen</p>

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	<p>resilience in rural communities. It will explore strategies to address systemic challenges, in order to unlock the full potential of cooperative entrepreneurship. By prioritizing collaboration and shared learning, the session aims to foster synergies among stakeholders, driving scalable and impactful solutions that empower farmers and women's collectives to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace.</p> <p>Moderator Rajeev Ahal, Director, Natural Resource Management and Agroecology, GIZ India</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, Farmer, Educator, Trainer</p> <p>Kishor Kumar, Chief Operating Officer, Urarungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS)</p> <p>Ramakrishna R, Livelihoods and Inclusive Finance Expert & Former Chief General Manager, NABARD</p> <p>Dr Guru Prasad Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University</p> <p>Sumit Singh, Advisor - Strategy & Cooperation at National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)</p>
<p>3:00 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Social Procurement - Pathways to Resilient and Sustainable Agri Value Chains</p>
<p>Technical Session III</p>	<p>Social procurement presents a unique opportunity for both public and private sectors to integrate social and environmental considerations into their purchasing decisions. By prioritizing sourcing from farmer collectives, social procurement fosters the dual impact of promoting sustainable agricultural practices and empowering small and marginal farming communities. This approach not only strengthens agri-value chains but also aligns with the broader goals of responsible and impact-driven business practices.</p> <p>In this context, the session will delve into the transformative potential of social procurement in building resilient agri-value chains. It will spotlight how collaboration with farmer collectives can drive sustainable production, ensure fair economic returns, and contribute to environmental sustainability. The panel will discuss strategies, share success stories,</p>

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	<p>and explore actionable pathways to scale social procurement initiatives. The session will also address challenges, such as enabling market access, building capacity within farmer collectives, and creating policy frameworks that ensure equitable value chains while supporting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices.</p> <p>Lead Presentation Shubhendu Dash, Vice President, ACCESS Development Services</p> <p>Moderator Sagarika Bose, Head CSR, SAP</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Nitin Gupta, Senior Vice President, OLAM Agri India Pvt Ltd.</p> <p>Ritesh Pandey, VP - Tuber Division and Sustainability, Siddhi Vinayak Agri Processing Pvt Ltd. (SV Agri)</p> <p>Prabhakar L, Executive Vice President for Social Investment, ITC Ltd.</p>
<p>3:00 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Agritechs for the Farms of Future</p>
<p>Technical Session IV</p>	<p>The Indian Agritech ecosystem is evolving rapidly, emerging as a key player in addressing critical challenges faced by the agricultural sector. Leveraging cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions, Agritechs are redefining traditional practices, fostering sustainability, and enhancing productivity besides enabling access to higher order markets, finance and technology. Government-led initiatives such as the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture and the deployment of the Krishi Satellite are acting as catalysts for this transformation.</p> <p>To delve into this dynamic landscape, this session at the Summit will spotlight the latest advancements and innovations in Agritech. The session will feature a series of brief, high-impact presentations showcasing unique technologies, models, and strategies that are shaping the future of agriculture. Through these insights, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how the Agritech ecosystem is unlocking new opportunities for growth, sustainability, and resilience in the agriculture sector.</p>

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	<p>Moderator Hemendra Mathur, Venture Partner, Bharat Innovation Fund</p> <p>Panelists Amandeep Panwar, Co-founder & CEO, BharatRohan Tarun Katoch, Co-founder, Dvara E-Registry Sreekanth Voleti, Vice President of Product Management, Kalgudi Shashank Kumar, Co-founder & CEO, DeHaat</p>
4:00 – 4:20 pm	Networking Break
4:20 – 5:30 pm	Transformative Learnings from Models for Inclusive Livelihoods
Fireside Chat 2	<p>Inclusive livelihoods aim to create equitable opportunities by addressing systemic barriers and enabling sustainable income generation. A cornerstone of this approach is the graduation model, which focuses on lifting households out of extreme poverty by fostering viable livelihoods, ensuring income growth, promoting food security, and improving access to essential services such as healthcare and social protection. Despite the growing adoption of graduation model, scaling these interventions remains a significant challenge.</p> <p>This session will explore how Inclusive Livelihoods Models can move the needle beyond the inflection point where the risk of slipping back into poverty is minimized. Drawing from real-world experiences and design approaches, the discussion will delve into strategies for improving access to livelihoods, small business opportunities, employment, and a wider range of social protection programme. This engaging dialogue will provide actionable insights for inclusive, scalable, and transformative livelihoods programming.</p> <p>Amarjeet Sinha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India</p> <p>Smriti Sharan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India</p> <p>In conversation with</p> <p>Shweta S. Banerjee, Country Lead, BRAC International</p>

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9:30 - 10:30 am	Catalysing Non-farm Employment: The 78.5 Lakhs Challenge
Plenary Session 3	<p>Economic Survey Report 2023-24 has recommended that ‘the Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs in the non-farm sector annually, to cater to the growing workforce’. The report emphasizes that achieving this ambitious goal will require significant contributions from the private sector and enhancements to existing government schemes. Governments at all levels and the private sector must work in tandem to achieve this objective.</p> <p>Recognizing the complexity and scale of this task, the Fireside Chat will serve as a platform to discuss actionable strategies to accelerate job creation in the non-farm sector. The discussion will focus on key priorities such as aligning skill development programmes with evolving industry needs, fostering innovation, and building robust infrastructure to prepare a workforce that is resilient and future ready. Emphasis will also be on a holistic, coordinated approach to creating an enabling ecosystem that facilitates employment growth while addressing regional disparities and gender imbalances.</p> <p>Moderator Vijay Mahajan, Founder, BASIX Social Enterprise Group & CEO, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation</p> <p>Panelists S. Divyadharshini, CEO, Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission Arun Maira, Former Member, Planning Commission of India & Chairman, HelpAge International</p>
10:30 - 11:20 am	Unlocking the Benefits of Sustainable Sourcing
Fireside Chat 3	<p>As sustainability evolves from a voluntary initiative to a strategic business imperative, organisations are rethinking how they source goods and services. Sustainable sourcing minimizes environmental impact, promotes social equity, and fosters economic growth while addressing immediate operational needs and long-term resilience across the value chain. Its prominence has grown as businesses align with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and confront vulnerabilities in traditional supply chains, including</p>

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	<p>climate change, resource depletion, and labour issues. When integrated strategically, sustainable sourcing mitigates these risks while unlocking opportunities like cost savings, innovation, enhanced brand reputation, and market access. However, achieving sustainable sourcing at scale is not without challenges. Companies must navigate complex supply chains, foster transparency and traceability, and align with suppliers and stakeholders. Balancing cost efficiency with sustainability goals remains particularly difficult in cost-sensitive industries.</p> <p>This Fireside Chat explores strategies, innovations, and partnerships that empower organisations to overcome these challenges, positioning sustainable sourcing as a driver for business success and improved livelihoods for small producers.</p> <p>Nishant Gupta, Head of Sustainability, Flipkart Jasmeer Dhingra, Director Programs, IDH Dipanwita Chakraborty, Social and Environmental Responsibility Strategist</p> <p>In conversation with Shiv Kumar, Co-Founder, Catalyst Group & Chief Integrator, Community Action Collab</p>
11:20 – 11:40 am	Networking Break
	TECHNICAL SESSIONS
11:40 – 1:00 pm	Catalysing E-Commerce through CSR- Empowering Micro-Entrepreneurs
Technical Session V	<p>In today’s digital-first era, businesses are uniquely positioned to drive significant social impact by equipping micro-entrepreneurs with essential tools, tailored training programmes, and access to online marketplaces. Recognizing this potential, the session will explore how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives can be harnessed to empowering micro-entrepreneurs. This session will bring together a dynamic panel of industry leaders, policymakers, and social impact strategists to discuss innovative practices, address key challenges, and uncover new opportunities for leveraging e-commerce as a transformative force for good. The session will further propose collaborative strategies that demonstrate how empowering micro-entrepreneurs can create a ripple effect, driving economic empowerment, reducing inequalities, and unlocking shared value for communities and businesses alike.</p>

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	<p>Moderator Siva Devireddy, Founder, GoCoop.com</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Simi Suri, Associate Director, HCL Foundation</p> <p>Sumita Ghose, Founder, Rangсутra Crafts</p> <p>Sumit Singh, Advisor - Strategy & Cooperation at National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)</p>
11:40 – 1:00 pm	<p align="center">Gender Responsive Procurement- Making Women Count</p>
	<p>There is a gathering momentum that integrating women in procurement raises productivity, improves customer response, and helps meet sustainability targets. Gender-responsive procurement is therefore emerging as a key lever for achieving development objectives and business sustainability by integrating women-owned businesses and women-produced goods and services with public and commercial supply chains. In addition to supporting the UN SDGs for gender equality, Gender Responsive Procurement (GRP) boosts supply chain resilience, fosters innovation, and propels economic growth. This session will bring together practitioners and policymakers in a dialogue on gender-responsive procurement. Market linkages for micro and nano businesses, which form the majority of women’s businesses, often feel insurmountable. There is increasing evidence and a deeper understanding of procurement as an inclusive market-shaping strategy that can be open to nano and small producers. India is one of the many countries with a robust and enabling policy environment for public procurement. Further, a digital marketplace complements the policy environment, creating opportunities for women entrepreneurs to participate in the procurement processes.</p> <p>Release: Landscape Study ‘Gender Responsive Public Procurement - Need for Accelerated Policy Action’ Authored by Dr Yamini Atmavilas & Sumya Omer</p>

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	<p>Lead Presentation Dr. Yamini Atmavilas, Director, Gender Equity, Dasra Saumya Omer, Consultant</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Yamini Atmavilas, Director, Gender Equity, Dasra</p> <p>Panelists Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India Anurag Awasthi, Chief Manager, Social Impact and Inclusive Seller Growth, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Nandita Sharma, Lead - Social Sector, Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) Suhela Khan, Country Programme Manager, Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women, India</p>
1:00 – 1:50 pm	Networking Break
1:50 – 3:10 pm	Pathways to Inclusive & Resilient Job Creation
<p>Technical Session VI</p>	<p>Work4Progress (W4P) promoted by “la Caixa” Foundation envisions an ‘inclusive entrepreneurship,’ approach that is characterized by systemic changes that enable under-represented groups such as youth and women to access entrepreneurship opportunities, thereby leading to social inclusion, quality employment, and sustainable economic growth. By unlocking entrepreneurship through enhanced access to technology, innovation, and markets, the approach has enabled the development of robust local entrepreneurial ecosystems. This session will explore the critical intersection of job creation and entrepreneurship, focusing on how the W4P approach has leveraged local resources to drive inclusive entrepreneurship across both farm and non-farm sectors. Overall, the session will emphasize how the W4P approach has facilitated collective action and networking to build pathways toward inclusive and resilient job creation.</p>

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	<p>Moderator Ranu Bhogal, Coordinator, Work4Progress</p> <p>Work4Progress Approach Kanika Verma, Lead–Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Associate Vice President Development Alternatives Group Shubhendu Dash, Vice President, ACCESS Development Services Dipali Sharma, Director, Organisational Effectiveness at ActionAid</p> <p>Panelists Pankaj Shukla, CEO, Agri Entrepreneur Growth Foundation Anuj Srivastava, Chief Functionary and Director, Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS)</p>
<p>1:50 – 3:10 pm</p>	<p>Democratizing Giving - The Role of Social Stock Exchange</p>
<p>Technical Session VII</p>	<p>The concept of the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) in India is designed vide a Notification and a Circular issued by SEBI in 2022 to bridge the gap between social impact organisations and funders and investors looking to support social causes. The SSE in India is overseen by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which has laid out the regulatory framework and guidelines for its operation.</p> <p>As of now, National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) have opened the platform. The two Exchanges, the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange, have so far registered about 150 Social Enterprises collectively and out of these, 10 Social Enterprises have been listed with issue size of Rs. 22.3 crores. Equally, many social projects are in pipeline now for listing. With Social Stock Exchange gathering momentum, it is right time to discuss how livelihood sector could benefit from Social Stock Exchange. In light of above, the panel discussion will highlight the evolution, functions and functionalities of SSE as an instrument to address livelihood related challenges. Experts from the ecosystem will give the audience a deeper insight into the functioning of Social Stock Exchange as a platform with a potential to democratize giving. This session will be benefit all who would like to know about Social Stock Exchange in depth and would like to participate in this platform.</p>

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	<p>Moderator Aparna Suresh, Co-Lead, Community Action Collab</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Jyotsna Sitling, Member of Advisory Committee, SEBI on Social Stock Exchange</p> <p>Kaoshal Kumar, Sr. Manager, Social Stock Exchange, NSE</p> <p>Kartikeya Desai, Founder & CEO, Desai & Associates</p> <p>Dr SK Gupta, CEO, ICAI Social Auditors Organization</p>
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Networking Break
3:30 – 4:15 pm	From Dreams to Reality - How 2X Lakhpati Didis are Redefining Entrepreneurship
	<p>The session will spotlight the inspiring journeys of four 2X ‘Lakhpati Didis’ as a testament to the transformative power of economic empowerment. Featuring trailblazing entrepreneurs, who are not only earning aspirational livelihoods, but are also contributing to their local economies, generating employment opportunities. Through their stories of challenges and triumphs, these women will illustrate how community support, Self-help Groups (SHGs), and networks have played a pivotal role in enabling them to overcome barriers and succeed.</p> <p>The session aims to inspire more women to dream bigger while calling on policymakers, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and other stakeholders to invest in women-centric programs and resources that nurture such success stories.</p> <p>Moderator Dr Madhu Sharan, President, Hand in Hand</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Bhagyashree, Member, Pink City Rickshaw Company</p> <p>Sarla Devi, Entrepreneur</p> <p>Rupinder Kaur, SHG Member & Entrepreneur</p> <p>Kumari Priti, Entrepreneur & Community Leader</p>
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Valedictory Session

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	<p>Summary of Deliberations Dr Smita Premchander, Founder-member, Sampark</p> <p>Release: Livelihoods India Case Study Compendium 2024</p> <p>Felicitation Ceremony - Livelihoods India Case Study Competition</p> <p>Presentation Ceremony - Grants for Agroecology Program (GAP) Fund</p> <p>Presentation Ceremony - FPO Impact Awards 2023</p> <p>Keynote Address Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p>
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