

Promoting Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems

Thursday, 01 December 2022,
Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi and online (link with registration)

PROGRAMME

09:00-09:30	Registration, online registration, and meeting connection	
09:30-09:50	Introduction to forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Varun Sood, Vice President, Invest India Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (TBC) 	
09:50-11:00	Session 1. High-level panel discussion on inclusive business in agriculture and food systems <i>High-level panel discussion during which government officials and private sector representatives share why it is critical to promote inclusive business (IB) in agriculture and food systems, focusing on why they seek to promote this type of business models and their experiences in doing so.</i> Moderator: Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Huong Thi Trinh, Deputy Director General, Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam Ms. Kosumas Wimonkan, Deputy Director-General, Office of SMEs Promotion, Thailand India Telangana India Central government Business association Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 	
11:00-11:15	Networking Coffee Break	
11:15-12:30	Policy track	Business track
	Session 2a. How can governments promote inclusive business in agriculture? <i>Several governments have put in place policies, strategies and programmes to promote IB. For example, ASEAN economic ministers have endorsed the Guidelines for Promoting Inclusive Business in ASEAN. In this session, government officials will share the strategies that they have or are implementing to promote IB and explore what may be needed to promote IB in agriculture and food systems.</i> Questions to be explored by the panellists:	Session 2B. Expanding market opportunities and social impact with inclusive business in agriculture <i>In this session, business leaders will share their experience in supporting the livelihoods of low-income farmers and marginalized groups through commercial business models.</i> Questions to be explored by the panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the current opportunities to make agriculture more inclusive for men and women? How are IB models supporting access to inputs,

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

Moderator: *Marta Perez Cuso, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP*

Panellists:

- *Mr. Gaurav Sishodia, Sr. Asst. Vice President, Invest India*
- *Ms. Melanie Moleño, IB Policy Expert, The Philippines*
- *Viet Nam*
- *Cambodia*
- *ASEAN*
- *India Haryana State*

markets, finance, technology and extension services, in particular for men and women small holders and other marginalized groups?

- *How are IB models in agri-business supporting the development of capabilities in safety, sustainability and traceability along their value chain, in particular with men and women small holders and other marginalized groups?*

Moderator: *Naina Sharma, Sector Lead (Animal Husbandry and Dairy desk), Invest India*

Panellists:

- *Mr. Arvind Narula, CEO, Urmatt, Thailand*
- *Ms. Lisa Huyen, Director, VinaSamex, Viet Nam*
- *Others to be confirmed*

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-13:45

Launch of the IB Agr Community of Practice

13:45-15:15

Policy track	Business track
<p>Session 3a. Accreditation of inclusive business as a promotion tool</p> <p><i>The accreditation of IB is a powerful instrument to recognise, incentivise and support enterprises that go beyond commercial objectives. This session will present in detail the accreditation system of IB models and share the experience of several countries in registering and accrediting IB models, to explore how an accreditation system specifically for the agricultural sector may look like.</i></p> <p>Presentation of an IB accreditation system.</p> <p>Questions to be explored by the panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What is a typical accreditation system for IB models? What would an accreditation system specifically for the agricultural sector look like?</i> - <i>How do the IB accreditation systems incorporate a gender lens?</i> - <i>What is the experience of governments using registration and accreditation systems for IB models? What are some of their results?</i> 	<p>Session 3b. Measuring and managing the impact of inclusive business</p> <p><i>What gets measured, gets managed. To enhance the lives of low-income groups and to demonstrate the results, firms must measure the reach and depth of their social impact. How can firms measure the impact of their IB model? What indicators can be used? How can firms use this data to improve business performance and make better decisions? What skills and resources are needed to measure and manage impact?</i></p> <p>Questions to be explored by the panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How is inclusiveness being measured now? How do we make sure that we measure the impact on different groups of stakeholders, including women and marginalised groups?</i> - <i>What are relevant and usable benchmarks?</i> - <i>What is the evidence for the return on investment in IB and their impact on small-scale producer incomes, productivity and women's economic</i>

- *How are IB accreditation systems developed and what resources and governance structures do they require?*

Moderator: (TBC)

Panellists:

- *Mr. Duc Tung Nguyen, General Secretary, VIDA, Viet Nam*
- *Ms. Melanie Moleño, IB Policy Expert, The Philippines*
- *Ms. Lisa Joy Cheong, IB Policy Expert, Cambodia*
- *Others to be confirmed*

empowerment?

Moderator: (TBC)

Panellists:

- *Mr. Amar Gokhale, Associate Director, Intellectap*
- *Ms. Marie Lisa Dacanay, President, Institute of Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA), The Philippines*
- *Others to be confirmed*

15:15-15:45

Networking Coffee Break

15:45-17:15

Session 4A. Financing inclusive business

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

Questions to be explored by the panellists:

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

Moderator: (TBC)

Panellists:

- *Mr. Arindom Datta, Executive Director, Rabobank India*
- *Mr. Royston Braganza, CEO, Grameen Capital India*
- *Mr. R.V. Ramakrishna, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)*
- *Ms. Smita Jacob, Director Policy, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)*
- *Others to be confirmed*

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

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

Questions to be explored by the panellists:

- *As interest grows in agritech start-ups, how can we ensure that these start-ups support low-income farmers?*
- *What type of technologies are critical for smallholder farmers? How can businesses enhance access to such technologies?*
- *How companies support the transfer of technology to men and women small holder farmers?*
- *Given the difficulties of reaching the last mile, how is digital transformation helping reach the more remote farmers?*

Moderator: (TBC)

Panellists:

- *Mr. Senthil Kumar, Public Policy and Government Relations, Ninjacart*
- *Mr. Vijay Nadiminti, Chief Executive Officer, AgHub*
- *Others to be confirmed*

17:15-17:30

Closing Remarks

