



INCLUSIVE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM NETWORK

An initiative by

ecociate

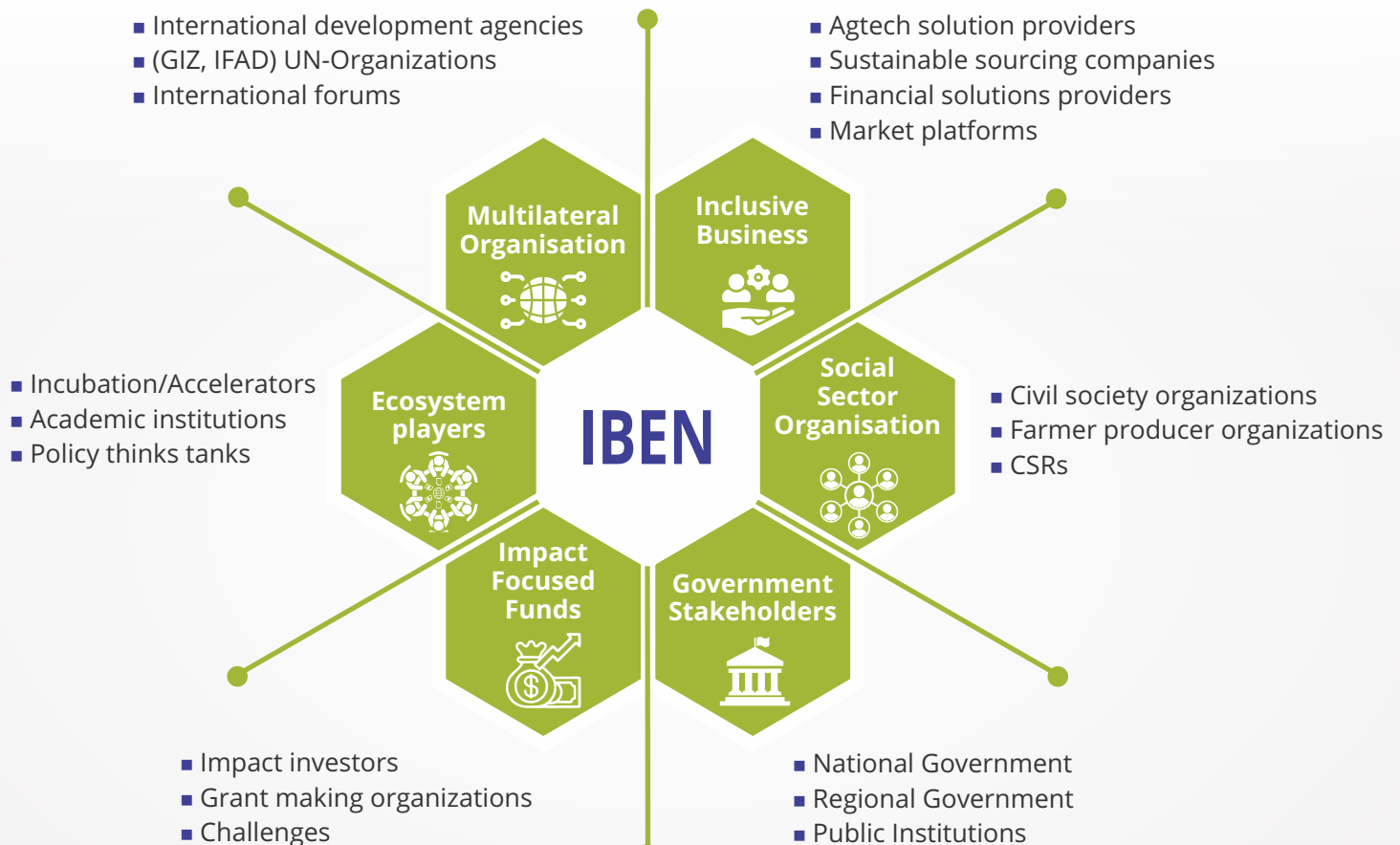
- ✓ Globally **84%** of the world's **570 MILLION** farms are smallholdings, and more than **2 BILLION PEOPLE** depend on them for their livelihoods
- ✓ Less than **20%** of landholders worldwide are women, despite comprising nearly half of the world's agricultural workforce and producing up to **80 PER CENT** of food in developing countries.
- ✓ Farmers belonging to tribal groups or residing in remote areas have not benefited from innovations in the Agri and food sectors.

About IBEN

The Inclusive Business Ecosystem Network (IBEN) is a collaborative platform that fosters an environment for inclusive, impact-driven organizations and businesses in the agriculture and food sectors. By bringing together inclusive business in the agriculture and food sector, social organizations like NGOs and FPOs, government bodies, multilateral organizations, and impact investors, IBEN focus on facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations to support smallholder farmers, promote gender inclusivity, and encourage sustainability. IBEN engages with policymakers and think tanks in India and the Global South to develop supportive policies and advocate for a favourable regulatory environment for businesses creating impact in the agriculture and food sectors.

The Inclusive Business Ecosystem Network (IBEN) is founded on the belief that inclusive business can drive transformative social, environmental, and economic impact in the agriculture sector. By empowering smallholder farmers and embracing gender-inclusive strategies, these businesses hold the key to a more sustainable and equitable future. However, to fully unlock their potential, they require support in designing and executing inclusive solutions that make a tangible difference on the ground.

IBEN is committed to providing this critical support, enabling businesses to create lasting value for both communities and the planet while ensuring the commercial viability of these businesses.

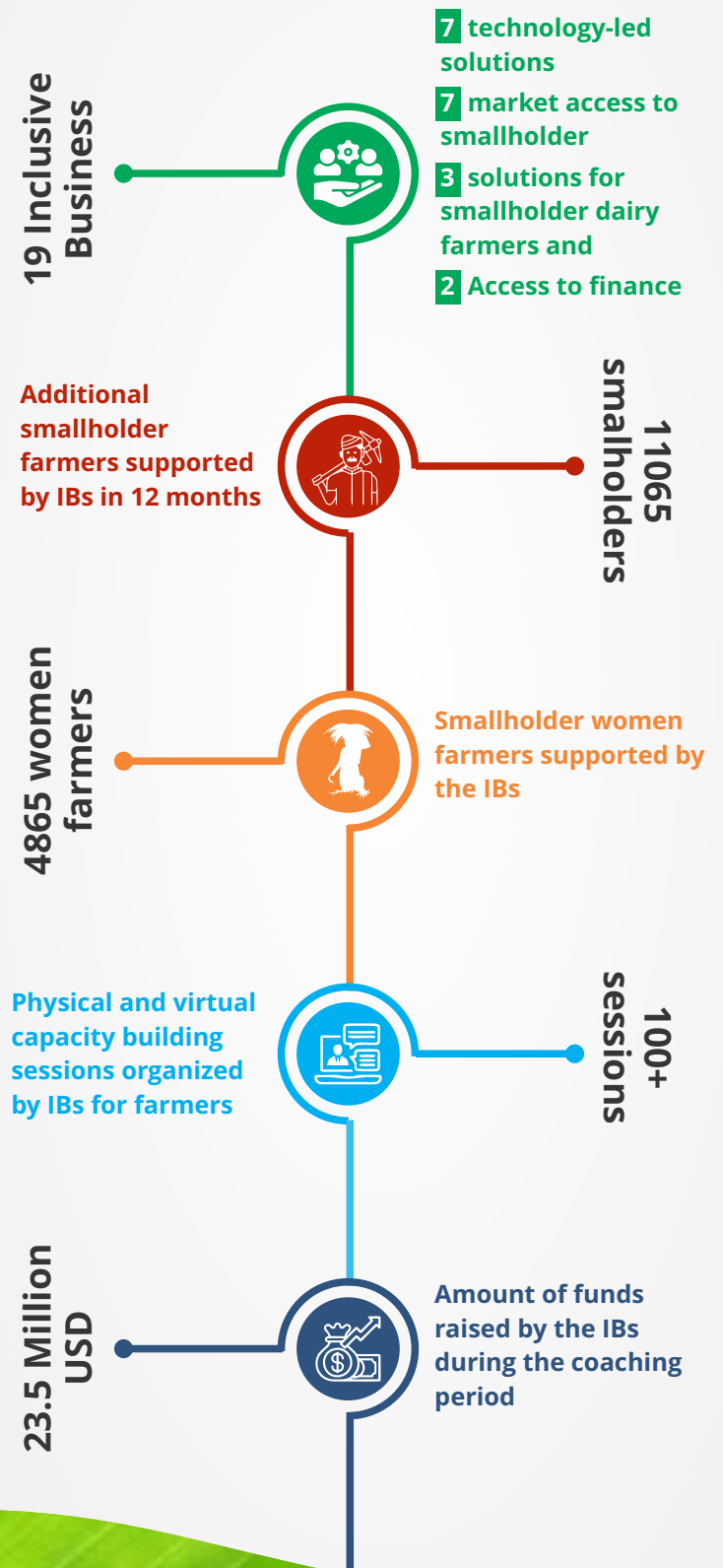


Genesis of IBEN

Ecociate, in collaboration with Endeava, provided inclusive business coaching to 19 agribusiness companies in India as part of an UN-ESCAP and BMGF-supported inclusive business in the Agriculture and food sector program. The initiative empowered companies to create innovative solutions that benefit smallholder farmers, with a strong emphasis on supporting women farmers and other vulnerable groups. These solutions included digital and physical inclusive technologies for smallholder farmers, ensuring fair and remunerative prices, promotion of sustainable and regenerative practices, establishing linkages with farmer producer organizations and supporting farmers in accessing government subsidies and other schemes. The companies successfully implemented these solutions, leading to measurable positive impacts on the farmers, the environment and the company's financials. Through targeted support, these companies scaled their operations, gained industry recognition, and secured crucial funding. This growth not only expanded their impact but also reinforced the value of inclusive business models.

The experience underscored the value of a network that includes businesses, NGOs, and government agencies. A collaborative ecosystem is essential for creating opportunities, fostering partnerships, and driving grassroots impact. In response to these insights, the Inclusive Business Ecosystem Network (IBEN) was established. IBEN was created to unite inclusive businesses and stakeholders on a single platform, addressing the identified needs and enhancing the overall impact of inclusive agribusinesses.

Highlights of Inclusive Business Coaching Program



Initiatives and Activities of IBEN

By offering tailored support, IBEN drives impact across the inclusive business ecosystem. It facilitates partnerships between agribusinesses and civil society, provides technical assistance for adopting inclusive solutions, and champions gender empowerment in agriculture. Additionally, IBEN advocates for policies promoting inclusivity, sustainability, and market access, creating a holistic ecosystem that fosters social, environmental, and economic resilience in the agriculture and food sectors.



Creating Impact at the Grassroots

Support companies in developing and implementing inclusive solutions and technologies for smallholder farmers with a strong emphasis on gender-inclusive approaches.



Creating Synergies Among Stakeholders

IBEN promotes collaboration between businesses, government agencies, social organizations, and investors to develop holistic, sustainable solutions.



Facilitating Collaboration Among Stakeholders

IBEN organizes forums, workshops, and events to foster partnerships and collective action among stakeholders.



Knowledge Dissemination and Dialogues

Through research, reports, customized coaching and mentoring sessions, IBEN shares best practices and insights for inclusive business strategies.



Policy Advocacy for Inclusive Business

IBEN engages with policymakers to influence supportive regulations and incentives for inclusive businesses.

Coaching and Mentoring Support to Inclusive Business

IBEN offers expert guidance to inclusive businesses on strategy, operations, and market opportunities, helping them grow and scale sustainably.



Interface with Impact-Focused Funds and Investors

IBEN connects inclusive businesses with impact-focused investors, facilitating access to crucial financial resources.



Facilitating South-to-South Global Exchange

IBEN promotes global exchange and learning by facilitating South-to-South collaborations among the IBs and other partners.



Recognition and Awards

IBEN celebrates exemplary inclusive businesses through recognition programs, promoting innovation and impact.



Facilitating Inclusive Business Accreditation

As an IB support organization IBEN will facilitate the accreditation process for IBs which can enhance their market position and attract investment.



IBEN Partnerships and Global Impact

IBEN's network is rapidly expanding, with over 75 members already onboard, including inclusive businesses, social organizations, international partners, academics, investors, and other ecosystem players. This diverse and growing community enables meaningful collaboration and exchange of ideas,

driving impactful solutions for smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups in agriculture. As IBEN continues to add new members daily, it strengthens its capacity to create a transformative and inclusive ecosystem that fosters sustainable growth on a global scale.



40+ Inclusive Business

- ✓ Agtech companies
- ✓ Sustainable sourcing companies
- ✓ Financial institutions



20+ Social sector partners

- ✓ NGOs
- ✓ FPOs
- ✓ CSRs



10+ International partners

- ✓ Multilateral organizations
- ✓ Global networks
- ✓ Consulting companies
- ✓ I-NGOs



10+ other partners

- ✓ Academics
- ✓ Impact funds
- ✓ Ecosystem players

Purpose of IBEN

As a catalyst for change, IBEN is committed to developing a supportive ecosystem in India and the Global South that fosters the growth and success of inclusive businesses, driving equitable and sustainable development in the agriculture and food sectors.

IBEN, in collaboration with its network partners, aims to reach **1 million smallholder farmers** over the next three years by facilitating delivery of inclusive business solutions at the grassroots.



CALL FOR ACTION

Get Involved and Learn More

Join the Inclusive Business Movement:

IBEN is a growing network, actively seeking partnerships with companies, investors, and civil society organizations. By joining, you contribute to the creation of an equitable and sustainable food system.



Scan the QR code or visit our website to fill out the form to express interest in joining IBEN

- Also, visit the [IBEN website](https://iben.org.in) to assess the inclusivity of your organization by using our simple and impactful 'Inclusive Business Barometer'
- Write to us at contact@iben.in or santosh@ecociate.com for more information

