

ecociate



# INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the **Agriculture and Food Systems**

Wednesday, 24th  
June, 2026

India Habitat Centre  
(IHC) New Delhi

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# THE MANDATE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

As India advances toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy, the agriculture, food, and allied sectors remain the bedrock of rural prosperity contributing nearly 18% to national GDP and supporting around 45% of the workforce. Economic Survey 2025–26 highlighted that while agriculture has sustained a decadal growth rate of 4.45%, the composition of this growth is shifting as livestock (7.1%) and fisheries (8.8%) are significantly outpacing the crop sector (3.5%), signalling a move toward more diversified and high-value food systems. At the same time, with nearly 80% of farmers being small and marginal, and the share of women in agriculture rising from 57% (2017–18) to 64.4% (2023–24), the sector is becoming increasingly representative of India's most vulnerable yet vital communities.

India is also building the world's largest Digital Agriculture Infrastructure, with over 90 million farmers already onboarded with digital identities, helping bridge the 'phygital' divide. Coupled with a growing emphasis on natural farming, food processing, and allied sectors, along with strong export momentum, India's food system is poised for a future that is decentralised, technology-enabled, and entrepreneur-driven.

## PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

**The conference, co-hosted by Ecociate and IBEN, is designed to move the needle from participation to partnership. The key objectives of the Inclusive Growth Conference are :**

- To bring together leaders and practitioners from government, private sector, investors, civil society and community institutions to share their experiences and exchange ideas and thoughts for co-creating solutions for an inclusive growth of India's agriculture and food systems.
- Provide a platform for forging meaningful collaboration and partnerships among the stakeholders for combining their efforts and accelerating growth.
- Develop an ecosystem of like-minded individual and organisations to foster an enabling environment for strengthening and supporting inclusive businesses in India.
- Celebrate and showcase pioneering enterprises through the Inclusive Business Awards

# LEVERAGING THE SOCIAL CAPITAL BASE

India has successfully fostered one of the world's most robust networks of community-owned institutions, transitioning from individual subsistence to collective enterprise. Today, India boasts over 10,000 Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs), empowering millions of smallholders with greater bargaining power and market linkages. This is further bolstered by the monumental success of the Self-Help Group (SHG) movement, which now encompasses nearly 10 million groups and over 100 million women, effectively becoming the backbone of rural credit and entrepreneurship. The revitalisation of the Cooperative sector, supported by a dedicated Ministry, manages a vast network of over 8.5 lakh cooperatives—ranging from primary credit societies to world-class dairy and fertiliser federations. By leveraging these existing community assets, India is uniquely positioned to turn top-down economic momentum into a bottom-up revolution of shared prosperity. India's unparalleled strength in Social Capital serves as the foundational architecture for inclusive growth.

This transformation brings a critical imperative: Growth must not only be measured by GDP, but also by its ability to be inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. Ensuring that this progress meaningfully benefits smallholder farmers, women, rural entrepreneurs, and vulnerable communities, while safeguarding our already stressed ecological systems.

## **Achieving this requires:**

- **Deeper dialogue across sectors**
- **Stronger collaboration between public, private, and development actors**
- **Aligned, action-oriented partnerships that translate intent into impact**

In this context, we are pleased to announce the Inclusive Growth Conference 2026 – Impacting Agriculture and Food Systems for a Resilient Future, scheduled for 24th June 2026 at the India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. This conference is envisioned as a high-impact platform to bring together sector leaders, policymakers, businesses, FPOs, and development practitioners to co-create practical, scalable, and inclusive solutions for the future of India's agriculture and food systems.

# CONFERENCE THEME

The conference centres on four interconnected pillars: Inclusive Marketing, Inclusive Tech, Inclusive Investment, and Inclusive Food Systems. Together, these drivers reshape the agricultural landscape, with Social Inclusion serving as the critical benchmark for success. Inclusive Marketing generates the demand necessary to reward both producers and consumers, while Inclusive Food Systems ensure these market links promote local nutrition and boost rural food-entrepreneurship. This transition is strengthened by Inclusive Tech, utilising climate-smart innovations to bolster productivity and resilience. To fuel this at scale, Inclusive Investment provides the resources required for long-term sustainability.

Ultimately, the above themes are ensured by two vital outcomes - Social Inclusion, which ensures that marginalized groups are the primary architects of innovation, and Inclusivity Measurement, which provides the rigorous data needed to track, validate, and continuously improve our impact.

- 1 **Leveraging social capital**
- 2 **Inclusive Food Systems**
- 3 **Inclusive Markets**
- 4 **Inclusive Climate Technologies**
- 5 **Inclusive Finance**
- 6 **Nurturing Future Leaders**
- 7 **IB Award & Ecosystem Building**

SESSION 1

## Inaugural session

### Leveraging social capital for inclusive growth

This session will set the context of workshop along with key notes from sectoral leaders from Government and private sector. This session will focus on leveraging the India's vast social capital for partnership with private sector players for an inclusive growth

**Key voices-** Key note address by two leaders from social and business sector

SESSION 2

## Inclusive Food Systems

This session will focus on the different layers of food systems transformation from highlighting local food entrepreneurs who are bringing indigenous crops (like millets and local pulses) to urban markets, enterprises reducing food losses and wastage. We will discuss how processing food closer to the farm can create jobs, reduce waste, and preserve local food traditions while meeting modern safety standards.

**Key voices-** Founders of local food brands, nutritionists, and experts in decentralized food processing.

SESSION 3

## Inclusive Markets

This theme focuses on making markets work for the smallholders. We will explore how to modernize rural haats (local markets) and use digital platforms to connect them directly to buyers and consumers. We would also be exploring different inclusive market mechanism for sourcing and distribution of the goods and services. The goal is to highlight the 'market mechanisms which not only economically benefit the smallholders but also reduces ecological foot prints.

**Key voices-** Leaders from NRLM, supply chain heads from leading companies, and founders of Agri-logistics startups, Grassroot innovators

SESSION 4

## Inclusive Climate Technologies

Climate change hits small farms the hardest. This session is about "democratizing" technology, ensuring that tools like AI-driven weather alerts, solar-powered storage, and water-saving sensors are affordable for every farmer. We will focus on "frugal innovation" that helps smallholders stay resilient without high costs.

**Key voices-** Climate tech innovators, Startups researchers, and specialists in low-cost digital tools.

SESSION 5

## Inclusive Finance

Money is the "fuel" for all the above themes. This track explores new ways to provide credit and insurance to farmers who lack traditional collateral. We will look at "Digital Credit Scoring" (using satellite data instead of bank history) and blended finance models that make it easier for FPOs and small agri-businesses to grow. We will also be exploring the impact focused investments supporting inclusive enterprises to scale their solutions.

**Key voices-** Leaders from financial institutions, social impact investors, venture funds and pioneers in Agri-Financing domain

SESSION 6

## Nurturing Future Leaders for Inclusive Growth

The next generation of changemakers will play a vital role in advancing India's inclusive growth journey. With the right skills, exposure, mentorship, and collaborative platforms, young professionals can drive innovative solutions for food systems, livelihoods, climate resilience, and rural development. This session will explore how academia, industry, development organisations, and impact enterprises can work together to nurture future leaders with practical knowledge, entrepreneurial thinking, and a strong commitment to social and environmental impact.

**Key voices-** Academic leaders, social enterprises, youth networks, and industry leaders working on innovation and inclusive development



# Special Session

## IB Awards & Fireside Chat

### Inclusive Business Award

We will recognize and honor businesses that have successfully balanced "profit with purpose." These awards celebrate companies and entrepreneurs who have made a real difference in the lives of farmers while building strong, successful businesses.

### Building Ecosystem for Inclusive Growth

This session will bring leaders from different sectors to have focused discussion on the practical pathways, policies and initiatives to build an Ecosystem for inclusive growth in India. The session will focus on both policy and private sector measures.

**The event will convene 150+ delegates and 30 expert speakers from across the ecosystem. Attendees include representatives from startups and major corporations, alongside development experts, thought leaders, and policymakers**

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

09.30 – 10.00 am

### Inaugural session & Key note address

Leveraging India's social capital to pursue inclusive growth

10.00 – 11.15 am

### Inclusive food systems

Bridging local traditions and natural farming for a healthier, safer, and more equitable future.

11.15 – 11.45 am

### Networking Break

11.45 – 01.00 pm

### Inclusive Technology

Harnessing Climate-Smart Technologies and Digital Innovations to bridge the divide, ensuring that progress serves every community

### Inclusive Marketing

Integrating last-mile producers and low-income consumers into the heart of market innovation

01.00 – 02.00 pm

### Lunch Break

2.00 – 03.30 pm

### Inclusive Finance

Redefining finance through impact-driven strategies and blended capital models that turn climate risk management into a driver of equitable growth and innovation.

### Nurturing Future Leaders for Inclusive Growth

Empowering the next generation of changemakers through skills, mentorship, and collaborative ecosystems to drive inclusive growth.

03.30 – 4.00 pm

### Networking Break

4.00 – 5.30 pm

### Special Session – Felicitation of Inclusive Business Awards & Session on building an ecosystem for Inclusive Growth



## ECOCIATE

Ecociate is a knowledge-driven organisation dedicated to creating impact and fostering positive change through community collaboration and innovative approaches. Ecociate work with both social and private sector organisations, including emerging businesses with impact potential to address critical challenges like inequalities, food insecurity, malnutrition and environmental degradation.

## IBEN

The Inclusive Business Ecosystem Network (IBEN) is a multistakeholder collaborative platform to foster an enabling environment for inclusive and impact-focused organizations and businesses. This network brings together a diverse array of stakeholders, including private sector companies, social sector organizations, government agencies, multilateral organizations, and impact focused investors among others.

**Contact us**

### **Ecociate Consultant Pvt.Ltd**

**120-4296016**  
**A-226, Sector 69, UP, 201301**  
**admin@ecociate.com**  
**www.ecociateconsultants.com**  
**www.iben.in**

**Scan here to register**



**For partnerships, reach out to : [santosh@ecociate.com](mailto:santosh@ecociate.com)**

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