

INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Wednesday, 24th
June, 2026

India Habitat Centre
(IHC) New Delhi

Our Partners



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



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**FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION
AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**
Indian Institute of Technology 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**

INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Inaugural Session & Keynote Address

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

SPEAKERS



MR. ROHIT KANSAL IAS
Secretary, MoRD



MS. RUPA CHANDA
Director, TII Division
UN-ESCAP



MR. GERALD GUSKOWSKI
Program Director &
Cluster Coordinator,
GIZ India



**MR. KIRTI PRASANNA
MISHRA**
Director, Ecociate



Timing

09:30 - 10:30 am



Date

24th June

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Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Session 1

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.



Timing

10:15-11:30 am



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



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für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SPEAKERS

(MODERATOR)



MR. RAJEEV AHAL

Co-founder
CConsortium for
Agroecological
Transformation
(CAT)



MS. NEHA KHARA
Project Director,
GIZ India



MS. SMITA SIROHI
M.S. Swaminathan ICAR
Chair, National Professorship



**MS. BHUVANESWARI
BALASUBRAMANIAN**
Contry Director
GAIN



MS. TANNYA GARG
Sustainability Head,
Farmart



MR. RANGU RAO
CEO, Safe Harvest



MR. NIRANJANA YADAV
Program Manager, DMKS

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Session 2

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.



Timing

12:00 - 13:15



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



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SPEAKERS



MS. PRAMILA BACHHANIYA
BOD, RRPCL



MR. ABHIMANYU BEHERA
Sarpanch, Saptasajya GP,
Dhenkanal, Odisha

(MODERATOR)



DR. NIRAJ KUMAR

Professor, Rural
Management-
XIM University,
Bhubaneswar



MS. SYAMALA GOWRI
Sustainability Manager,
Jayanti Herbs & Spices



MR. PURAN SINGH
Co-founder,
EF Polymer



**MR. NIRMALENDU
JYOTISHI**
Technical Support Officer
FES



MR. SHUBHENDU DASH
Sr. Vice President, Ayekart

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Session 3

Inclusive Technology

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.



Timing

12:00 - 13:15



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



SPEAKERS

(MODERATOR)



MR. ASHWINI CHANDAK

Co-founder
Ecociate



MR. ALOK YADAV IAS
District Collector, Shamli,
Uttar Pradesh



DR. AKRITI SHARMA
CEO, PUSA Krishi



MR. SERISH VENKATA
GANDIKOTA
Co-founder, Frugal AI Hub



MR. RAJAT VARDHAN
Founder
ScaNxt



MR. JAGADIS GUPTA
KAPUGANTI
Founder,
Fruvetechnology



MR. VIVEK SARAF
Founder
Sun Seed AV

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Session 4

Innovating Finance for Inclusive Food and Agriculture Systems

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.



Timing

14:00 - 15:15



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



SPEAKERS

(MODERATOR)



MS. PALLAVI TAK
Co-founder
ThinkAg



MR. SUBHADEEP SANYAL
Partner
100X100



MR. HEMENDRA MATHUR
Co-founder, Advisor
ThinkAg



MR. SANJIV RANGRASS
Co-founder
Agri Collaboratory



MR. DHEERAJ MUTREJA
Consultant
Rabo Foundation



MR. PIYUSH KANAL
Program Policy Officer, IFAD



MR. GANESH NEELAM
Director, Sustain Plus



MR. TARUN KATOCH
Co-founder,
Dvara E-Registry

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Session 5

Nurturing future leaders for Inclusive growth

The next generation of leaders will be key to advancing India's inclusive growth agenda. This session explores how academia, industry, and development organisations can collaborate to equip young professionals with the skills, innovation, and leadership needed to drive sustainable social and environmental impact.



Timing

14:00 - 15:15



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



SPEAKERS

(MODERATOR)



MR. SANTOSH GUPTA

Director
Ecociate



DR. PARTHA SAHA

Assistant Professor, School of
Public Policy and Governance,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University,
Delhi



MR. ALOK VARMA

Director
HCL Foundation



MR. SAROJ MAHAPATRA

Executive Director,
PRADAN



MR. RAHUL TIDAKE

Asia Operations-Global AE
Academy IFC (The World
Bank Group)



MR. RAVISH VASANI

CEO, XCITE - XLRI Council
for Innovation Technology &
Entrepreneurship



MS. AISHWARYA R

Future Leader-Inclusive
Business

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Indian Institute of Technology Delhi



INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Cultural Programme: Kathak Performance

Kalashram, New Delhi
The prestigious Kathak institution founded by Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj Ji, dedicated to preserving, promoting, and advancing the rich traditions of the Lucknow Gharana through excellence in performance, training, and choreography.



Timing

15:45 - 16:00



Date

24th June

KATHAK DANCER



MS. HIMANSHI GOGINI



MS. SHUBHANGI GOSWAMI

Renowned Kathak Dancer
Kalashram, Institute by Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj Ji

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

**Special Talk on – Fostering Inclusion
through innovative genetic disease testing
& management, food and nutrition**

SPEAKERS



DR. G.R.CHANDAK

MD, DNB, Ph.D., Sir J C
Bose Fellow, CSIR-CCMB,
Director, Manasthya
Foundation



Timing

16:00 - 16:15



Date

24th June

Session Partner:



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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Session 6

Ecosystem Building

The next generation of leaders will be key to advancing India's inclusive growth agenda. This session explores how academia, industry, and development organisations can collaborate to equip young professionals with the skills, innovation, and leadership needed to drive sustainable social and environmental impact.



Timing

16:15 - 17:00



Date

24th June

Session Partner:

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SPEAKERS

(MODERATOR)



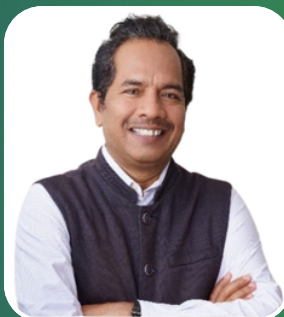
MR. KIRTI PRASANNA
MISHRA
Co-founder
Ecociate



MR. RAMAN WADHWA
Director, DAY-NRLM



MR. KRISHNAN PALLASSANA
Sr Specialist, Strategy and
Partnerships at the FAO
Country Office]



MR. ANJANI KUMAR
Senior Program Officer,
Gates Foundation



MR. SUBRATA SINGH
Executive Director, FES

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

Impacting the Agriculture and Food Systems

Inclusive Business Award



Timing

1700 - 17:30



Date

24th June

Session Partner:

ecociate

**INCLUSIVE
FINANCE
AWARD**

**INCLUSIVE
TECHNOLOGY
AWARD**

**INCLUSIVE
MARKETING
AWARD**

**SPECIAL JURY
AWARD**

**INCLUSIVE
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR**

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Indian Institute of Technology Delhi



INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

24th June 2026



09:30 – 10:15 am Inaugural Session & Key Note Address

- Dr. Gerald Guskowski [Program Director & Cluster Coordinator, GIZ India]
- Mr. Kirti Prasanna Mishra [Director, Ecociate Consultants]
- Ms. Rupa Chanda [Director, TII Division, UN-ESCAP]
- Mr. Rohit Kansal, IAS [Secretary, MoRD] - TBC

10:15 – 11:30 am Inclusive Food Systems

- Mr. Rajeev Ahal [Co-founder, Consortium for Agroecological Transformation (CAT)] (Moderator)
- Ms. Neha Khara [Project Director, GIZ India]
- Ms. Smita Sirohi [National Professor, ICAR-M.S. Swaminathan Chair]
- Ms. Tannya Garg [Sustainability Head, FarMart]
- Ms. Bhuvaneswari Balasubramanian [Country Director, GAIN]
- Mr. Rangu Rao [CEO, Safe Harvest]
- Mr. Niranjan Yadav [Program Manager, DMKS]

11:30 – 12:00 pm Networking Break

12:00 - 13:15

Inclusive Technology

- Mr. Ashwini Chandak [Co-founder, Ecociate Consultants] (Moderator)
- Mr. Alok Yadav, IAS [District Collector, Shamli]
- Mr. Rajat Vardhan [Founder, ScaNxt]
- Mr. Serish Venkata Gandikota [Co-founder, Frugal AI Hub]
- Mr. Jagadish Gupta Kapuganti [Founder, Fruvetechn]
- Dr. Akriti Sharma [CEO, PUSA Krishi]
- Ms. Monika Shukla [Co-founder, Humble Bee]
- Mr. Vivek Saraf [Founder, SunSeed APV]

Inclusive Markets

- Dr. Niraj Kumar [Professor, Rural Management-XIM University, Bhubaneswar] (Moderator)
- Ms. Pramila Bachhaniya [BOD, RRPCL]
- Mr. Shubhendu Dash [Sr. Vice President, Ayekart]
- Mr. Puran Singh [Co-founder, EF Polymer]
- Mr. Nirmalendu Jyotishi [Technical Support Officer, FES]
- Ms. Syamala Gowri [Sustainability Manager, Jayanti Herbs & Spices]
- Mr. Abhimanyu Behera [Sarpanch, Saptasajya GP, Dhenkanal, Odisha]

13:15 – 14:00 Lunch Break**14:00 – 15:15
Inclusive Finance**

- Ms. Pallavi Tak [Co-founder, ThinkAg] (**Moderator**)
- Mr. Sanjiv Rangrass [Co-founder, The Agri Collaboratory]
- Mr. Subhadeep Sanyal [India Lead, Wavemaker Impact]
- Mr. Hemendra Mathur [Co-founder & Advisor, ThinkAg]
- Mr. Ganesh Neelam [Director, Sustain Plus]
- Mr. Dheeraj Mutreja [Consultant, Rabo Foundation]
- Mr. Piyush Kanal [Program Policy Officer, IFAD]
- Mr. Tarun Katoch [Co-founder, Dvara E- Registry]

Nurturing Future Leaders for Inclusive Growth

- Mr. Santosh Gupta [Director, Ecociate Consultants] (**Moderator**)
- Dr. Partha Saha [Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy and Governance, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi]
- Mr. Alok Varma [Director, HCL Foundation]
- Mr. Saroj Mahapatra [Executive Director, PRADAN]
- Mr. Rahul Tidake [Consultant, Global Agri-Entrepreneurship Academy]
- Mr. Ravish Vasan [CEO, XLRI CITE]
- Ms. Aishwarya R [Future Leader, Inclusive Business]

15:15 – 15:45 Networking Break**15:45 - 16:00 Cultural Programme: Kathak Performance**

Ms. Himanshi Gogini & Ms. Shubhangi Goswami
Kalashram, New Delhi, The prestigious Kathak institution founded by Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj

16:00 - 16:15 Special Talk on – Fostering Inclusion through innovative strategies (testing, counselling, food and nutrition) for comprehensive management of diseases

Dr. G R Chandak, MD, DNB, Ph.D., Sir J C Bose Fellow, CSIR-CCMB, Co-founder & Director, Manasthya Foundation

16:15 - 17:00 Ecosystem Building

- Mr. Kirti Prasanna Mishra [Director, Ecociate Consultants] (**Moderator**)
- Mr. Krishnan Pallassana [Sr Specialist, Strategy and Partnerships at the FAO Country Office]
- Mr. Raman Wadhwa [Director, DAY-NRLM]
- Mr. Anjani Kumar [Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation]
- Mr. Subrata Singh [Executive Director, FES]

17:00 – 17:30 Inclusion Business Awards Ceremony