

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



EUROPEAN UNION CORPORATE
SUSTAINABILITY DUE
DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE: THE
GLOBAL SOUTH GAZE
NEHA TOMAR

THE '30 BY 30' INITIATIVE
FOR BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION: ROLE OF
DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS
ADITYA PETWAL

SUSTAINABLE
PRODUCTION OF PALM
OIL IN INDIA
DR KALIDAS POTINENI

From the CEO's Desk

In his speech at the Think20 (T20) Inception Meeting in January 2023, Shri Amitav Kant, G20 Sherpa emphasised that the T20 was best suited and most capable (he referred to it as the Brain Trust) to help the India G20 mould the global G20 agenda going forward.

CRB is delighted and most honoured to have contributed three policy briefs to the T20 Engagement Group, viz.:

- Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Enabling Action Through the Target-Measure-Act Approach
- Driving Sustainable Consumption through Policy Innovations in Value Chains
- A Broader Trade Facilitation Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Global Value Chains

Details of this and the related engagement of CRB with the G20 are available here: <https://c4rb.org/g20/>

One of the policy briefs refers to innovative policy options to promote sustainable consumption. This is particularly important for the success of the cynosure scheme – Mission LiFE (Lifestyles for the Environment), which aims to create a battery of pro-planet people, globally, starting with India. For long, CRB has maintained that demand-side interventions are as critical as supply-side initiatives related to sustainable/responsible business practices.

In the absence of ‘pull’ in the market, sustainable enterprises and products will suffer from consumer indifference. However, businesses can also go overboard in window dressing to attract consumers and run the risk of indulging in greenwashing. The incidence of greenwashing has increased across advanced countries, with regulatory actions being initiated for strict actions in a number of them including UK, The Netherlands, Canada, Singapore, Australia and so on.

The question remains, how well are we in India prepared to address greenwashing, as companies try to woo consumers, especially young millennials, with their sustainability claims. We need an agile and effective policy and regulatory framework to protect consumers and market-players from greenwashing. This is certainly an area worth discussion and outreach to Indian policymakers. CRB is working on a briefing paper on this issue, and we look forward to sharing the same with you in the next quarter.

On 29th June 2023, the European Union (EU) adopted the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), a regulatory instrument developed as a part of its ambitious EU Green Deal that encapsulates Europe’s strategy to become a climate neutral continent by 2050. In addition to the EU, the US had passed the ‘Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade’ or the FOREST Act, 2021 – with the objectives of halting deforestation resulting from the production or trade of forest-risk agri-commodities and to regulate their entry into the US market. Similar legislations are underway in the United Kingdom as well.

Going forward, strict due diligence would be applied in international trade and commerce of major agri-commodities and processed goods/value-added products containing them.

Most of these commodities (viz. palm, soy, rubber, cocoa, etc.) have complex value chains crossing national boundaries, with millions of people's livelihoods dependent on them, in addition to implications on the local environment and the communities. Many of the countries producing these commodities are located in the global south like Indonesia and Malaysia for oil palm; and Brazil and Argentina for soy.

Even processing countries like India fall in this geographical domain. However, there is little or no participation of the mostly 'southern' producing and processing countries in global governance of agri-commodities. The system seems to be heavily skewed towards the 'northern' buyers and consumers with the global policy and regulatory framework of agri-commodities value chains being driven by the 'north'.

Any effort to curb deforestation and land degradation in the supply chain of the major agri-commodities should involve a balanced dialogue and calibrated actions involving the North (buyers and consumers) and the South (producers and processors). Given that the G20 members remain committed on this agenda; contour of an initiative that balances the interests of producing, trading and consuming countries could be initiated under the auspices of the G20 India Presidency and taken forward to the Brazilian and South African Presidencies.

CRB will continue to monitor these developments and engage with both northern and southern stakeholders to develop sustainable and inclusive value chains.

Rijit Sengupta
CEO, CENTRE FOR
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS



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THE '30 BY 30' INITIATIVE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: ROLE OF DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS

Aditya Petwal

Assistant Director, Centre for Responsible Business



India covers 2.4% of the world's geographical area and accommodates 11.4% of the planet's plants (about 48,000 species) and 7.5% of its animal population (about 96,000 species).¹ But this biodiversity is under threat. According to the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in India, at least 97 mammals, 94 bird species, and 482 plant species are threatened with extinction. With habitat destruction, over-exploitation, climate change, pollution, and expansion of invasive species, as the prominent reasons, globally, biodiversity is under severe threat. Several different reports from WWF, IUCN, and UNEP suggest that not just diverse species around the world but their habitats are also endangered.

Understanding 30 by 30 CBD Resolution: At the international level, the Convention on Biological Diversity has been initiating different initiatives for global biodiversity conservation, earlier also, but has not had much success to this effect. The "30 by 30" initiative, also known as "30x30", is a global call for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030.² This initiative is not just a number but a commitment to the planet, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity conservation in the face of rapid environmental changes.

Launched by the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People in 2020, the "30 by 30" initiative has garnered the support of over 100 countries by October 2022. The initiative was proposed to mitigate climate change and expand nature conservation efforts, highlighting the interconnectedness of climate and biodiversity.³ The initiative is crucial for biodiversity conservation, especially in the face of the ongoing sixth mass extinction. However, it has attracted controversy over indigenous rights issues. Balancing conservation with socio-economic development remains a challenge, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach.

Government of India's Stand on the "30 by 30" Initiative: India has expressed confidence in achieving the "30 by 30" target comfortably, asserting that it can protect at least 30% of its biodiversity-rich land and water areas by 2030. As per to India's Environment Minister the country has already achieved close to 27% of the area under conservation which includes reserved forests, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, mangroves, Ramsar sites, and eco-sensitive zones.⁴ However a noteworthy thing is that a recent study done by a team of scientists across academia, research, policy, and conservation NGOs who conducted a prioritisation analysis to help India meet the 30x30 biodiversity conservation targets, found a large proportion of landscapes of extremely high importance for nature and human well-being fall outside the bounds of current Protected Areas.⁵

Role of Diverse Key Stakeholders:

International Agencies: For this kind of a program targeting global action and for a global impact, international cooperation and partnerships are vital. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) plays a pivotal role, with the "30 by 30" initiative being agreed upon at the COP15 meeting and later this becoming a target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Indigenous Communities: Similarly at local level the role of indigenous communities and local populations in conservation efforts and working in consonance with forest conservation department, is paramount. Their traditional knowledge and practices often align with contextual and practical sustainable conservation methods.

Role of Businesses: Business organizations by adopting sustainable practices, green technology investments, and conservation supportive corporate social responsibility can share the intent and raise moral of conservation organisations. By ensuring their operations and supply chains are environmentally friendly, businesses can significantly reduce their ecological footprint. Furthermore, through green marketing, businesses can influence consumer behaviour and drive market demand towards more sustainable products and services, ultimately creating a push factor for conserving and maintaining large landscapes more sustainably.

Role of Citizens: Individuals also have a significant part to play in achieving the "30 by 30" goal. By adopting sustainable living practices and supporting responsible businesses, individuals can contribute to conservation efforts in their daily lives. Additionally, community involvement, education, and advocacy can help raise awareness and foster a sense of shared responsibility for the environment. Finally, through donations and volunteering, individuals can support organizations working towards the "30 by 30" target, making a direct contribution to these efforts.



References

1. Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.d.). Biodiversity Facts - India. Retrieved on 4 Aug 2023 from <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=in>
2. International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2023). Insight | The Global Biodiversity Framework and the "30x30" Target. Retrieved on August 4, 2023, from <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/global-biodiversity-framework-30x30-target>
3. Campaign For Nature. (2023). Support for 30x30 — Campaign For Nature. Retrieved on 4 Aug 2023 from <https://www.campaignfornature.org/support-for-30x30-geneva>
4. Outlook India. (2022). India can comfortably achieve 30x30 biodiversity target: COP15 delegate. Retrieved on 4 Aug 2023, from <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/india-can-comfortably-achieve-30x30-biodiversity-target-cop15-delegate-news-244463>
5. The Hindu. (2023, February 7). Team of scientists conduct study to help India meet the 30x30 biodiversity conservation targets. Retrieved on August 4, 2023, from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/team-of-scientists-conduct-study-to-help-india-meet-the-30x30-biodiversity-conservation-targets/article66481899.ece>

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF PALM OIL IN INDIA

Dr. Kalidas Potineni

Principal Scientist at ICAR- IOPR



Introduction: India requires nearly 25 million tonnes of vegetable oil annually of which more than 60% is imported¹. To reduce the gap between demand and supply of vegetable oils, the Government of India has initiated the *oil palm development programme* in the farmers' fields during the 1980s².

Factors need to be addressed for sustainability in oil palm cultivation: To make the crop more sustainable and thereby to produce more sustainable palm oil, emphasis on factors like "*land selection and soil conservation, water management and suitable environment*" needs to be given while raising the crop.

Selection of suitable land is prime criteria for oil palm cultivation. Soils having good water infiltration capability with low topography and water availability are most preferred. Wetlands and deep black cotton soils are not preferred for sustainable cultivation. The success in South Indian states which is mainly because of the use of red/light soils for its cultivation, paved the way to select such areas in other states like Gujarat, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and the North Eastern states like Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh etc. Presence of good and yielding crop growth as seen in Negicherra and Baspadua areas in Tripura, Lower Dibang valley and Pasighat areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Aizawal and Kolasib areas in Mizoram, Navsari and Valsad areas in Gujarat, Jagadapur and Bijapur areas in Chhattisgarh and Gosaba wet lands in Sunderbans of West Bengal states indicate the suitability and sustainability of areas for oil palm cultivation.

Environment vs. crop sustainability:

The high photosynthetic rate of the crop enables it to produce between **8 to 10 times** more oil per ha/yr than other oil seeds such as rapeseed or soybean or groundnut³. Availability of more sunlight (108000 lux) makes the crop more sustainable.

The crop emits 8 to 10 times more oxygen (O₂) and absorbs up to 10 times more CO₂ per ha/yr than other annual crops. One hectare of oil palm plantation produces 21.96 tonnes of O₂ per annum compared to other oil seeds crops that produce only 2.54 tonnes only.

Accordingly, the human oxygen requirement of 1 tonne per annum (at 2gms per minute) can be supplied by mere 7 oil palm plants. This confirms the sustainability of the crop towards human health and environment.

Action to be taken for achieving the goals:

Soil health management: Implementation of soil conservation measures like *no or little tilling, contour ploughing, terracing, and cover cropping* are important factors to follow to prevent erosion and maintain soil health. Four principles namely a) minimum disturbance by means of no or minimum tillage operations, b) maximum soil cover with vegetation, c) Maximum biodiversity maintenance by means of raising cover and intercrops and d) maximize the presence of living roots need to be followed to improve soil health.

Since excessive tilling leads to soil degradation and loss of organic matter it should be minimized. Raising cover crops and intercrops to cover maximum soil area will not only save soil health but also promote biodiversity of the area. This will further help in maintaining the ecological balance and prevent habitat loss. Since all the above features are being followed in Indian oil palm growing areas, hence it leads to sustainable palm oil production.

Water management: Oil palm requires less water (1875 ltrs) to produce 1kg product which is very less compared to other crops like Soya (7000), Olive (17312), Cotton (22500), Sugarcane (1500-2500) and Rice (3000-5000)⁴. The water use efficiency of the crop is estimated at Rs 8.00 for every 100 ltrs of water used which is far superior over others. Optimized water use through efficient irrigation systems such as drip/micro jet or precision sprinklers irrigation is another important factor for sustainable cropping. Use of water-conserving practices such as mulching, which reduces evaporation, weed growth and helps retain soil moisture.

Crop management: Implementation of Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPM & IDM) techniques to minimize the use of inorganic synthetic pesticides and encouraging the use of biological control practices like parasitoids and microbial agents for effective management of pest problems are other factors of sustainability. Similarly, adoption of responsible nutrient management practices like optimum use of fertilizer based on soil test data, use of organic and bio fertilizers to enhance soil fertility and reduce dependence on synthetic fertilizers are few practices that make sustainable yields.

Implementation of all the said practices in systematic manner in farmers' fields makes the oil palm cultivation more sustainable, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible thus leads to sustainable palm oil.

1. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/huge-edible-oil-imports-compromise-indias-interest-imperative-to-become-self-reliant/articleshow/92796952.cms?from=mdr>

2. https://www.nfsm.gov.in/ReadyReckoner/Oilseeds/BriefNote_OS2018.pdf

3. http://www.mpoc.org.my/upload/7123115POTS_India_2012_TanSriYusof.pdf

4. <https://www.bpdp.or.id/en/Study on Water Footprint Shows Oil Palm Plantations Not A Threat to Water Sources - BPDp>

EUROPEAN UNION CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE: THE GLOBAL SOUTH GAZE

DUE DILIGENCE

Neha Tomar

Senior Programme Manager, Centre for Responsible Business



The European Union (EU) has taken an important step towards promoting corporate sustainability and responsible business practices with the introduction of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). The CSDDD requires companies to identify, prevent and mitigate the actual and potential negative impacts of their activities on the environment and human rights. The proposal was published by the European Commission in February last year and adopted by the European Union and Parliament in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The final Directive is currently being negotiated and is expected to be rolled out by the end of 2023.

The CSDDD's goal is to hold companies (of certain threshold), including those outside the EU, accountable for their environmental and social impacts across their value chains. The *scope and applicability* of the Directive is illustrated in the Table below.

Table 1 Scope of Companies Covered as proposed by European Commission

Group	Type of Company	Criteria for Inclusion
One	EU Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 500 employees • Net worldwide turnover of over EUR 150 million in the last financial year
Two	EU Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 250 employees • Net worldwide turnover of over EUR 40 million • At least 50% of this turnover generated in a high-impact sector
Three	Non-EU Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net turnover of over EUR 150 million in the EU in the last financial year
Four	Non-EU Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net turnover of over EUR 40 million in the EU • At least 50% of worldwide turnover generated in a high-impact sector

Given the EU's share in global trade, 17% in goods and services, the Directive is expected to make significant ripples across global value chains.¹ EU is the second-largest exporter and third-largest importer in the world. In the wake of the CSDDD, it becomes imperative to unpack its significance and implications on global value chains, specifically the manufacturing segments or the Global South. Further, as the Directive moves towards finalisation, it is important that it considers the economic and social nuances of the developing markets. Below are some reflections that need to be tabled for careful consideration.

First, while the Directive expects companies to ensure due diligence through disclosures, assurance, and reports from suppliers on social and environmental indicators, it does not delineate the duties and responsibilities of the buyers, or the brands very well. To ensure equitable, resilient, and inclusive global value chains, both brands and suppliers will have to shoulder responsibilities and demonstrate ethical behaviour. Hence, prioritizing shared responsibility and equity are quintessential elements of the EUCSDDD.

Second, the CSDDD expects that companies under its scope will publish sustainability reports per the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). Given multiple existing reporting frameworks, coupled with existing national frameworks and requirements, companies down the value chain may be expected to report on multiple disclosures and reports. Such duplicity may accrue cost as well as time inefficiency.

Third, the Commission's proposal extends the company's obligation to its full value chain. The earlier Draft restricted the extent to the downstream, limiting the scope to distribution, transport, storage, disposal and waste management. While this is a more comprehensive approach, in the current scenario, applicability to the entire value chain would add complexity for businesses in the Global South. They will have to conduct due diligence not only within their supply chains but also consider the impacts resulting from the use of their products and services. Neglecting this responsibility could result in legal liability for the business. Going forward it would be important to factor in the complexities (social, cultural, historical etc) so as to avoid the situation of throwing the baby with the bathwater.

Fourth, continuing in the same vein companies within the scope of CSDDD will have to implement various measures, such as establishing due diligence policy, complaints procedure, and environmental standards in alignment with the Paris Agreement. Further, they will have to develop sustainability reports in line with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). Embracing these responsibilities will necessitate significant investments and increased compliance costs. Given the potential financial burden and adjustments, a transition period may be provided to the manufacturing segment to prepare, allocate resources and adopt practices in line with the CSDDD.

Lastly, the Directive omits parts of a crucial provision from the original Draft, the reference list of key human rights and environmental rights that companies ought to consider. The previous Draft carried a comprehensive list of Declarations and Conventions. The current Drafts omits some key Conventions such as the Convention of Child Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This makes room for companies to continue business as usual with disregard to important social nuances.

The CSDD proposal, while maintaining ambitious aspects, faces potential challenges that may undermine its effectiveness. For the Global South, this Directive presents both challenges and opportunities. Adapting to the CSDDD's requirements will require substantial investments in sustainability, supply chain transparency, and compliance. Further, embracing the sustainability initiatives will not only facilitate access to the EU market but also position manufacturers as responsible and competitive players. However, given EU's significant position in the global market, to ensure level playing field and ensure human rights and environmental checks and balances, the Directive should consider the Global South gaze.

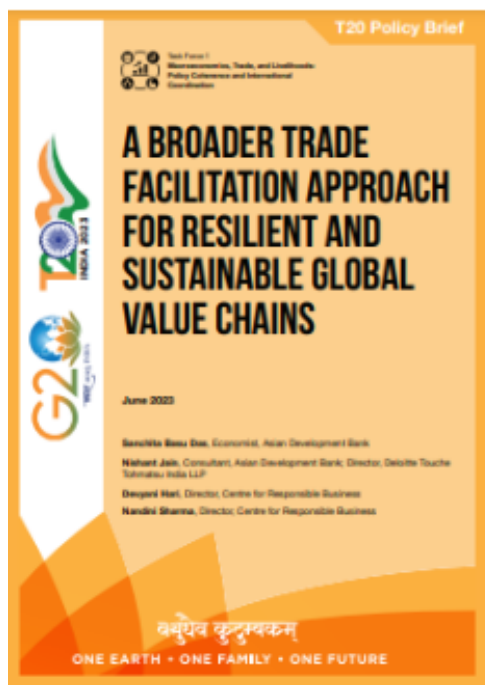
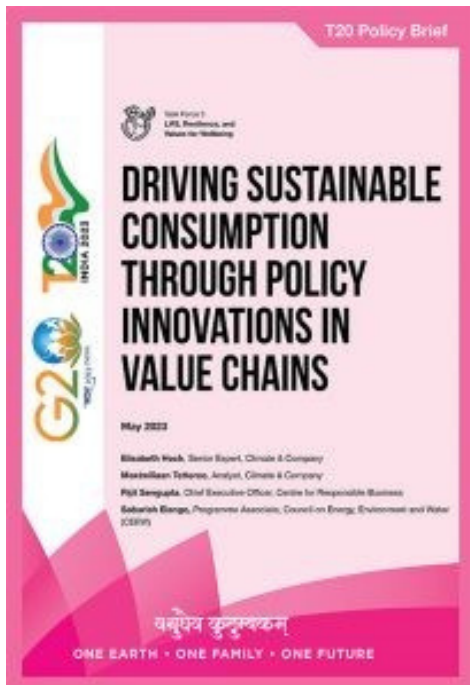


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ENGAGEMENT OF CRB WITH THE G20

The Think20 (T20) stands as the official engagement group of the G20. It serves as an 'ideas bank,' for the G20 by gathering prominent think tanks, research centres and experts from around the globe together on one platform to engage on discussions on policy matters that are relevant to the agenda of the G20. The Centre for Responsible Business, has been actively engaged with the activities of the T20 and has contributed to the development of a few policy briefs and a few side events.

- Policy brief 1: Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Enabling Action Through the Target-Measure-Act Approach. To read the policy brief: [click here](#)
- Policy Brief 2: Driving Sustainable Consumption through Policy Innovations in Value Chains. To read the policy brief: [click here](#)
- Policy Brief 3: A Broader Trade Facilitation Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Global Value Chains. To read the policy brief: [click here](#)



CRB ACTIVITIES

CONVENING

CONSULTATION ON FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP ON SDGS 2 May 2023

Centre for Responsible Business & India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) co-hosted a virtual session on "Consultation on Framework for Community Institutions and Industry Partnership on SDGs" on 2 May, 2023 during Catalyst2030 week, convened by Catalyst 2030.

During the event, Centre for Responsible Business and India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) proudly announced the official launch of the "**Framework for FPO Industry Partnership on Sustainable Development Goals**" by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Government of India.

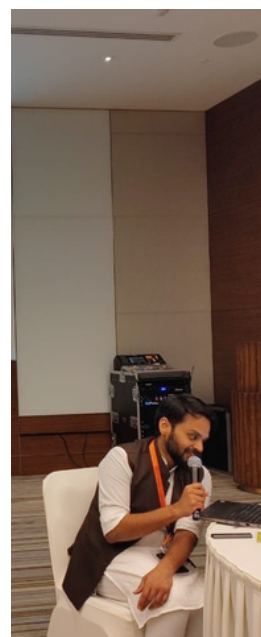
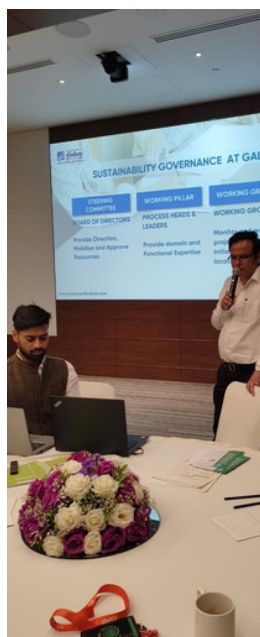
The launch occurred in the presence of industry representatives and on-ground practitioners. View the session [here](#).



I-SPOC OPEN DAY 5 May 2023

The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC) conducted its first Open Day on 5 May 2023. The event saw in attendance sustainability experts from AAK (Dheeraj Talreja), Patanjali Foods - Ruchi Soya (Amitt Chhabra), Galaxy Surfactants Limited (Harshal Thakare), and Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) (Bhavna Shah) who talking about their sustainability journey, the transition to sustainable palm oil and the need to make the transition.

The session was facilitated by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and I-SPOC Secretariat, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB).



MULTI - STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SDGs 8 May 2023

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted an event earlier this week on "Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for Collaborative Actions on Sustainability and SDGs" on May 8, 2023, in Kolkata, India.

This event is part of a series of roundtables organized by Centre for Responsible Business supported by the Delegation of the European Union to India.

The event was inaugurated by Smt. Vandana Yadav (IAS), Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal and attended by over 50 participants including business, civil society, government, academia and practitioners. The dialogue concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to work together to pursue and achieve some #SDGs in the State, especially gender equality (SDG 5), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).



STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABILITY OIL PALM PRODUCTION IN INDIA 24 May 2023

Centre for Responsible Business in collaboration with The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC), Rainforest Alliance, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and WWF-India hosted the 'Stakeholders Dialogue on Sustainability Oil Palm Production in India' on May 24th 2023 New Delhi. The event aimed towards deliberating and garner inputs of relevant stakeholders including government, businesses and policy makers on integrating sustainability into the Domestic Production of Palm Oil in India with special focus on the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). To read the summary report click [here](#): [Stakeholder Conclave on Sustainable Palm Oil](#)



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE GROUP FOR LITERACY ON SUSTIANABILITY AND SDGS IN THE NORTH EASTERN REGION

31 May 2023

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and the Media Management Group for Literacy and Development (MMGLD) successfully hosted the “Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on sustainability and SDGs in the North Eastern Region” on May 31, 2023, in Guwahati, Assam. This event marked the second gathering in a series of roundtables organized by CRB with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to India.

The event brought together senior practitioners from the government, businesses, CSOs, and entrepreneurs, who gathered to identify potential ideas for collaborative actions on specific SDGs, with a particular emphasis on women entrepreneurship, youth, and empowerment.



BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WEBINAR

16 June 2023

Nandini Sharma and Neha Tomar conducted a Webinar on the global trends and expectations from businesses on Business & Human Rights (BHR). The Webinar was attended by over 35 JSW employees and culminated with an engaging open floor discussion.

REPRESENTATION

9TH MEMBERS I-SPOC MEETING

12 April 2023

Rijit Sengupta, Bhavya Sharma and Nidhi Choudhary represented CRB at ISPOC’s 9th Members Meeting on 12th April 2023 in Mumbai. More than 20 organisations attended the meeting. Other than giving an overview of the activities of I-SPOC and collecting insights from members and observers regarding achievements, issues, challenges and support needed, there was a launch of two knowledge products:

- [Policy Input Note on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation – Production of Sustainable Palm Oil in India](#)
- [Practitioner & Guide on Mitigating Risks in Financial Agro-Commodities](#)





STANDARDS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: LEVERAGING SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS FOR REPORTING ON SDG PROGRESS

9 May 2023

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines an ambitious vision for people and the planet, with goals ranging from ending hunger to conserving natural resources.

Rijit Sengupta represented CRB as a speaker in a webinar on “Standards and the SDGs” that also launched a new IISD SSI report examining how governments can work with voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs) to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and better track and report on their progress toward achieving them. View the recording [here](#).



GREEN BUSINESS IN INDIA 9 May 2023

Nandini Sharma, led a panel discussion on ‘Green Business in India’ along with Abhilasha Guleria from the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF). This event was part of a public seminar on Green Business and Circular Economy in India organized by the Center for Environment, Sustainability and Human Development (CESH) and the Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

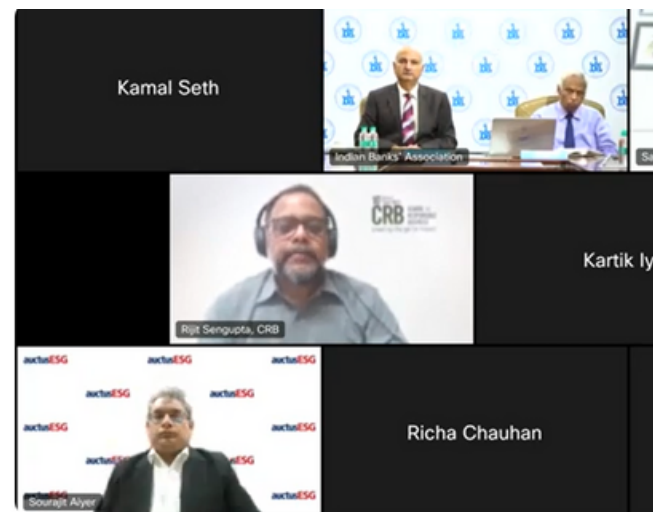


RESPONSIBLE FINANCING IN FOREST AND AGRO COMMODITIES SECTOR 26 May 2023

Rijit Sengupta represented CRB as a speaker in a webinar on 'Responsible Financing in Forest and Agro Commodities Sector' hosted by IBA in collaboration with WWF India. The session covered:

- the risks arising from rising temperatures and deforestation
- the financial impact of climate risks via asset reduction, stranded assets, income and work disruption
- action points on risk management

View the session [here](#)



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

BLOGS

[Beyond the Horizon: Scaling Out Sustainable Tourism to Beat Plastic Pollution in India](#)



[Climate Action in Policy Options and FTAs in South East Asia](#)



REPORTS LAUNCHED

Framework for **FPO Industry Partnership** on Sustainable Development Goals

[View](#)



Practitioners' Guide
Mitigating Potential Risks in Financing Agro-Commodities in India
The Case of Palm Oil

[View](#)

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

POLICY INPUT NOTE
CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
PRODUCTION OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL IN INDIA

[View](#)

DECEMBER 2022

Business and Human Rights – A Business Perspective (Vol 1)



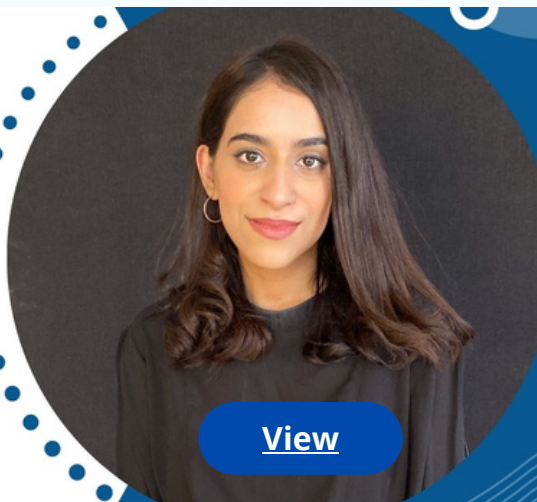
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PODCAST & VIDEO

A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE
SPORTS GOODS INDUSTRY
Pakistan

In Conversation with **Zoha Shahid**
Consultant, Business & Human Rights



[View](#)

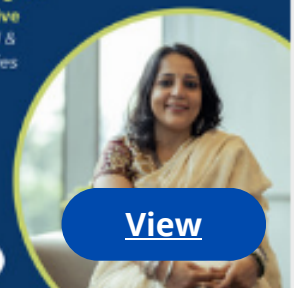
Voices for Sustainability
PODCAST

Business & Human Rights: **A Business Perspective**
Godrej Industries Ltd & Associated Companies (India)

In Conversation With **Gayatri Divecha**

Head, Sustainability & Social Impact, Godrej Industries Ltd and Associated Companies

22 June | 12:00 pm IST



[View](#)

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

NEWS ROUND UP

BY SWATI RIKHY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CARBON TAX: LIGHT A THE END OF THE TUNNEL

European Union 's proposed carbon tax, expected to operationalise in October 2023, has raised concerns in Indian metal industries, particularly steel and aluminium. IBT analyses the possible approaches that India can take towards addressing this emerging challenge. Read more [here](#).



PRIVATE SECTOR & SDGS

USING SUPPLY CHAINS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

Tech Mahindra's data-driven approach towards sustainability, impacting positive change in communities through leveraging its business capabilities and robust supply chain integration, makes it a top performer this year. Read the full article [here](#).



BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HOW IMPORT BANS CAN HELP TACKLE FORCED LABOUR IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

Conflict, geopolitical instability, trade tensions, and inflation are some factors that are contributing towards cost-of-living crisis, compounded by the effects of climate change, resulting in increased forced labor risks for vulnerable workers worldwide. Citing a recent ILO report, the article highlights that a significant number of individuals, around 27.6 million, were estimated to be trapped in forced labor in 2021. Read the full article [here](#).



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS APPROVES GROUNDBREAKING GREENHOUSE GAS MONITORING INITIATIVE

The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative in a landmark decision, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a press note. The initiative supports urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases, which are fuelling temperature increases. The new global GHG watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework. The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof. Read more [here](#).

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT IN FIGURES: THE FIRST 4 MONTHS OF 2023 HAVE BEEN MORE DEVASTATING IN INDIA THAN 2022

While heatwaves were the most commonly occurring extreme weather event in the first four months of 2022, hailstorms took over as the dominating extreme weather event in 2023. India experienced extreme weather events on 84 of the 120 days in the first four months of 2023. These events between January and April 2023 were spread across 33 states and Union Territories (UT). Read more [here](#).



BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SUSTAINABILITY REGULATION. INDIA WATCHFUL AS EU WORKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENT DIRECTIVES FOR INDUSTRY

After taking on the EU on CBAM and Deforestation-Free norms that may hit exports, India is bracing for yet another EU sustainability regulation, this time in the form of proposed due diligence obligations with respect to human rights and the environment, and is studying its possible impact and ways of mitigation. Read more [here](#).



VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

MAKING PRIVATE SECTOR CLIMATE TALK WALK

Norms for disclosure on how climate change impacts companies issued by the G20-backed International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) is an important step to stem 'greenwashing'. Given the rising number of pledges and commitments to reduce carbon footprint and achieve net-zero over the last few years, this will be a measure of whether walk matches talk. Read more [here](#).



PRIVATE SECTOR & SDGS

GREEN BONDS, SUSTAINABLE BONDS DEMAND PICKS UP IN INDIA IN THE PANDEMIC ERA

At least a dozen Indian companies raised money through green or sustainability-linked bonds since the beginning of 2021, doubling the amount raised in all of 2020. Read [more](#).





STAFF CORNER

SUBHAM TRIVEDI

Programme Officer

An MBA graduate in Sustainable Development & Management from Nalanda University, Shubham is passionate about the world of sustainability, and is driven by a deep passion for creating a better world. His journey encompasses diverse experiences, including contributing to government policy think tanks and working on impactful infrastructure projects. His insatiable curiosity and love for books lead him to explore various aspects of environmentalism, green technologies, and personal growth. When not immersed in the world of written knowledge, Shubham finds tranquility in his own personal nursery where he nurtures and grows his plants. As an Eco-Voyager, Shubham embarks on thrilling adventures, seeking hidden gems worldwide. Shubham's journey embodies the perfect blend of passion, knowledge, and action. Through dynamic engagement, Shubham leaves a greener footprint on the world, making a lasting impact in the realm of sustainability. Join him on this transformative journey towards a more sustainable future.

ABOUT CRB

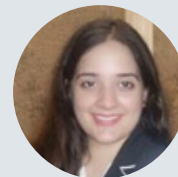
Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) was established in 2011 as think-tank to pursue its vision, 'businesses integrate sustainability into their core business practices'. Given that sustainability is a multi-dimensional problem especially in the context of India and other emerging economies, CRB has adopted a model of engaging multiple stakeholders to develop action plans for promoting sustainable/responsible business, across various sectors in India.

CRB has consolidated its programmatic activities into the following thematic areas:

- Circular Economy
- Business & Human Rights
- Private Sector & SDGs
- Voluntary Sustainability Standards
- SMEs & Sustainability

Editorial Team

SIYA CHOPRA



SWATI RIKHY



USO House, USO Road,
6 Special Institutional Area
Off Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg
New Delhi-110067 (India)

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