

## Meeting Minutes of CREST Quarterly Partners Meeting (Virtual)

20 December, 2022



Present: Dr. Jayahari (FOLU India), Devisha (FOLU India), Dr. Ruchika (WRI India), Karishma (WWF), Unmesh (IDH), Rijit (CRB), Aditya (CRB), Nitya (CRB)

### Feedback on Session

- Certain aspects were not discussed openly by the panel discussants and they were cautious in giving their responses
- Establishing of contact with CEOs of private sector companies who were party to the Glasgow Declaration

### Discussions on shaping the Responsible Sourcing Document

- Extensive use of word 'Responsible Sourcing'
- Need to develop some sort of output which highlights pathways, options for responsible sourcing of commodities in India
- Document can be prepared with inputs from the private sector
- Development of a joint, collaborative document which will be the basis of a capacity building tool
- Post its development, there is a need to pass it through a process with key stakeholders such as procurement heads of companies in the private sector, government stakeholders
- There can also be the development of a factsheet/ how on responsible sourcing in India, which becomes the basis for responsible sourcing in India
- This document can eventually be used as a means to engage with the private sector, going forward

### Elements that the Responsible Sourcing document can incorporate:

- Need to break it Down to key elements on what are priority areas for companies and the reference to the sustainability matrix was made

- Key criteria in case there is a decision to zero down on key commodities
- Commitments/interests that align with key policy makers
- Aspect of aligning with key relevant frameworks such as GRI, as well as incorporating elements of regenerative agriculture, certifications, amongst others
- Alignment with COP 26 goals including Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogues and this overarching goal on which FOLU CREST is founded on needs to be kept in mind
- Work in tandem with policy makers and with the private sector; agreement about the point of stakeholder consultations in order to develop the document as well as a need to keep in mind the key relevant commitments of key entities such as FICCI
- Expectations of Document
  - The document will be the basis for action; ensure an active platform
  - Idea is to create capacity using an understanding of what practices have proved to be effective and what has not worked
  - Incorporation of an array of practices that have worked across the board
  - Capacity building and support (doing live projects on the ground)
  - Focus on how to make responsible sourcing will work

#### Gaps discussed in relation to proposed Responsible Sourcing Document

- Need to understand that subsidiaries may not be carrying out responsible sourcing or they are not informed internally and the fact that on the ground, responsible sourcing may not be happening; this is keeping in mind that companies have made commitments but are looking for opportunities for engagement
- There is a gap in the MSME Sector/ amongst smaller players who may need informing of responsible sourcing

#### Fundraising conversations

- Briefing document should be available as it can be useful to touch base with interested stakeholders such as Laudes Foundation
- Share a short 1 to 2 page brief ahead of the meeting with Laudes Foundation by Dr. Jayahari and Devisha (to be held in the second week of January)

#### Discussion on G20

- Start with work on Policy Brief; expand work on abstract and take it to a policy brief level in a collaborative manner
- Regardless of whether it gets accepted or not, let partners commit to development of a policy brief and then accordingly work with G20 secretariat and other actors in the space so that our combined thinking gets to the right audience

#### Action Points

- Development of a Responsible Sourcing document, which will highlight the Best Practices on Responsible Sourcing and will accordingly be used for capacity building
- Developing of Abstract and to be submitted by Deadline followed by the development of a policy brief (as in the Call found here: <https://t20ind.org/call-for-policy-briefs-abstracts/>); Karishma to take lead
- Circulation of Proceedings by CREST Co-ordinating Unit with all Partners of the CREST session held in ISS 2022 for their feedback, which is to be finalized by the first week of January
- Next Meeting date has been scheduled for January 24, 2022 at the WWF India offices in New Delhi