

Minutes of Meeting

FOLU India CREST Partners' Meeting

February 20, 2023

Virtual

Present: Rijit Sengupta, Aditya Petwal, Nitya Chhiber, Dr. T.R. Manohoran, Mr. S. Vijay Kumar, Devisha Poddar, Vishal Dev

Questionnaire for Companies

- It has been proposed that the Interviews with Companies (with the representation tentatively being 6 MNCs and 6 Indian head-quartered companies), all interviews along with the Collation of Findings to be completed by end of June 2023
- To follow up with all Partners in terms of incorporation of any inputs be it in terms of adhering to Internal Processes and /or any other additional inputs as it has been recommended to start scheduling the interviews within February 2023

Policy Brief Abstract Submission

- To share the Policy Brief Abstract with the Partners
- Mention of the word deforestation may not have aligned with government sensitivities
- There is a need to be thoughtful of the prerogatives that the Government of India would prefer to highlight
- The Way Forward that has been agreed upon is that FOLU India CREST Coordinating Unit to submit it to the Dropbox on the T20 website

Discussion on Positioning Paper for G20 on FOLU India CREST

- Looking at the trade aspects of Climate-smart Agriculture, Natural Farming in each of the G20 countries, it must pass multiple channels so that it can be accepted; there is a need to look at the import-related criteria as well and thereby a 360-degree approach is recommended of looking at both export and import related aspects
- Keeping in mind the two sides of production and trade; there needs to be a focus on minimal accessible policies pertaining to sustainability so that trade can occur and accordingly, the advocacy approach of FOLU India CREST can be incorporated
- Priority is to complete the note and share with Jagjeet who can in turn share with his connect at the G20 Secretariat and depending on whether we receive a positive response, we can develop a Discussion Paper
- Points from the meeting that can be incorporated into the Positioning Paper along with the inputs already shared by Jagjeet and Karishma:
 - To include Natural Farming, Climate Smart agriculture with the opportunity to attract investment in India through trade negotiators
 - Build capacity of trade negotiators to understand advances made on the ground on the production side

- Aligning with some international standards which are now critical for exports
- To not just talk about exports but that there is a need to also consider imports; to include adherence to climate smart agriculture and natural farming and other interesting initiatives that are happening in the gambit of import-based criteria
- Policy required towards minimal sustainability standard for trade

Discussion on Fundraising

- Tabled for next time towards an Extraordinary/ Additional Partners' Meeting whose sole agenda item will be Discussion on Fundraising as there is a lack of quorum today in terms of Partner representation
- Fundraising is a joint responsibility of all partners

Update on Meeting between FOLU India and Laudes Foundation

- It has been shared that Laudes Foundation will not support FOLU India CREST and instead support the on-going project in MP under the aegis of FOLU India and WRI India

Action Points

- CREST Coordinating Unit to finalise the Positioning Paper on FOLU India CREST for G20 with all inputs and share it with Jagjeet who will accordingly share it onwards with his connect in the G20 Secretariat and accordingly see the response
- CREST Co-ordinating Unit to work on finalizing the Questionnaire with all Partners' Inputs
- CREST Coordinating Unit to adapt the Policy Brief Abstract into a Dropbox Submission