

Meeting Minutes
FOLU India CREST Partners Meeting
22 September 2023

Present: Rijit Sengupta (CRB), Siddharth Edake (WRI India), Kalyan Verma (WWF India), Vishal Dev (WWF India), S Vijay Kumar (FOLU), Pratibha Baweja (WWF India), Nitya Chhiber (CRB)

Agenda Points

- Research on Sustainable Supply Chains in Forest and Agri-linked Commodities
- Discussion on the FOLU India CREST co-hosted session
- AOB

Discussion Points

- Feedback on Research on Sustainable Supply Chains in Forest and Agri-linked Commodities
 - Understanding whether there is a sectoral focus of the research.
 - In this regard, there was a Presentation on the Review of Agri-Commodities Exports from India to Select EU Countries as part of AOB.
 - Suggestion to embark upon a Case Study on geo-politics of sustainable sourcing and in this regard, a box will be included in the Briefing Paper mainly in relation to the impact of the Ukraine- Russia war on sustainable sourcing.
 - In relation to the Presentation on Review of Agri-Commodities Exports from India to Select EU Countries, special note is the commodity of guar gum of where there is not much research available.
 - It was suggested that CREST can work to identify what these challenges are in terms of importing.
 - It was requested to understand what the premise is given the selection of the commodities in the presentation to which it was responded that they were high value commodities from a trade perspective.
 - Thee approach that was recommended was one that entailed accepting the challenge/s in relation to sustainable sourcing of commodities while at the same time to ensure a solutions focused approach and accordingly stakeholders can be engaged with that emphasize a solutions-oriented focus.
- Discussion on ISS 2023
 - When going over the proposed Session Flow /Agenda in the Draft Background Note, some suggestions for Speakers include the following:
 - Smt. Pushpa Subrahmanyam, IAS (Retd.)
 - Representative from DPIIT was also put forward
 - In terms of suggestions towards the LinkedIn live ahead of the FOLU India CREST co-hosted at ISS 2023, which is held as a curtain raiser ahead of the session, some suggestions for speakers are as follows and which can be finalized in collaboration with Partners:
 - Senior Fellow T Nanda Kumar
 - FOLU Ambassador/s
 - FOLU Global Leader/s
 - Action Point: Partners are welcome to suggest additional suggestions over and above those mentioned above towards the Proposed Agenda of the Session; accordingly, discussions can be held with Partners, as appropriate
- Next Steps
 - Partners are welcome to identify and engage with agri-commodity companies using the Questionnaire to get insights towards research on Sustainable Supply Chains in Forest and Agri-linked Commodities

- o Partners to share their suggestions regarding Speakers for the FOLU India CREST co-hosted session at ISS 2023, accordingly, Speaker-level invitations can be sent