

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

APRIL 2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this framework was done under the aegis of the Promoting Responsible Value Chains in India for an Effective Contribution of the Private Sector to the SDGs (PROGRESS) project, supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and undertaken by CRB in collaboration with Aston University, UK. This project studied the contributions to the SDGs, particularly, SDGs 4, 8, 12 and 13, respectively in the value chains of multiple sectors, including the agricultural sector. CRB was introduced to the work of IFHD during the course of the PROGRESS project, and embarked on the development of this Framework for FPOs.

The stage of conceptualization of the Framework was informed by stakeholder consultations, which featured industry representatives, academics, multilateral organisations and experts. We are thankful to senior experts who guided the initial conceptualisation of this idea, including - Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS (*Retd.*); Dr. C Shambu Prasad, IRMA; Sumit Roy, WWF; Alay Barah, ICCSPL; Dr. K M Jayahari, FOLU, WRI India; and Debashish Mitra. We are also thankful to senior officials from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED); Tamil Nadu Consortium of Farmers Producer Company Limited; Madhya Bharat Consortium of Farmers Producer Company Limited. We are grateful to all the other organisations who CRB and IFHD consulted in the process of conceptualisation and development of this framework.

Special thanks to Ritu Vaishnav, Kim Maria Misao and Hemalatha Devarajulu from IFHD and Nitya Chhiber from CRB - for doing all the hard work in shaping and drafting this framework. We are thankful to Devyani Hari of CRB for her contribution in shaping this framework and to Siya Chopra for presenting it on this user-friendly format.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and smallholders are the dominant force of Indian agriculture, given 87% landholding are below 2 hectares and 71% under 1 hectare (NSO, 2021). Experts and practitioners agree that collectivisation of smallholders help them better integrate into agri-value chains, access inputs and production techniques better and strengthen linkage with the market. Over the years, Government of India has designed schemes/programmes to support smallholders, with the landmark scheme introduced in the year, 2020 to form 10,000 FPOs by 2023-24.

A Producer Organisation (PO) is a legal entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen. A PO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members. Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) is one type of PO where the members are farmers. While, there has been steady progress in the growth of FPOs, experts and practitioners believe several areas need attention for FPOs, including - strengthening governance systems; improving capacity; better access to technology and investments; boosting infrastructure and ensuring robust market linkages.

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) have teamed up to develop this framework. The aim of this framework is to underline opportunities for FPOs, especially the small /marginal farmers, to engage market actors by strengthening and disclosing their performance on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This assessment of the performance of the FPOs vis-à-vis SDGs, is based on a set of indicators that were developed jointly by the two organisations with inputs from experts and practitioners in the agri-food sector and validated by a group of FPOs and organisations working with FPOs from across a few states.

A number of agri-food businesses in India have strong public commitments to promote sustainable, inclusive and climate smart agriculture practices, along their value chains. FPOs are expected to use this framework to attract attention of such market actors, by self-assessing their performance using this framework. This exercise is also expected to support improvement of internal processes and systems to help them better engage with the market.

CRB and IFHD will continue to refine this framework by applying it through pilots together with FPOs in a few States – and look forward to partnering with organisations that have experience and interest of working for smallholders and in farming communities.



Gathering of CRB and IFHD representatives as well as FPO members who attended the Consultation on Framework for FPO – Industry Partnership guided by SDGs, as part of the process of validation of the Framework held in Bengaluru on 3 August 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

With the amendment of the Companies Act, 1956 in the year 2003, the Indian government introduced the concept of 'producer companies', with an objective to embed basic business principles within farming communities, to bring industry and agriculture closer together, and to boost rural development (Kumar Sharma, 2008).

A Producer Organisation (PO) is a legal entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen. A PO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members. In some forms like producer companies, institutions of primary producers can also become a member of PO. PO is a generic name for an organization of producers of any produce, e.g., agricultural, non-farm products, artisan products, etc. Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) is one type of PO where the members are farmers¹.

Smallholders comprise the major chunk of the farming sector in India, with 87% landholdings less than 2ha and 71% landholdings less than 1ha (NSO 2021). The 'Committee on Doubling of Farmer's Income' (Dalwai Committee, 2017) held, "There is a need to aggregate farmers in order to offset fragmentation in land holding and bring benefits of economies of scale. Organising producers into formal management practices helps to initiate collective decisions on cultivation to make the best use of market intelligence, as well creates opportunities for producers to get involved in value adding decisions and activities such as input supply, credit, pre-conditioning, processing, marketing and distribution. The aggregation of farmer into FPOs (cooperatives/SHGs/Producer company), aid their integration into the supply chain, and in taking up roles traditionally by market intermediaries²."

In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare introduced an ambitious scheme to form 10,000 FPOs in the country by 2023-24³. While, there has been steady progress in the growth of FPOs (Fig1 below)⁴. Experts and practitioners believe several areas need attention for FPOs to meet the envisaged objective viz., strengthening governance systems; improving capacity; better access to technology and investments; boosting infrastructure and ensuring robust market linkages. To enhance productivity through efficient, cost-effective and sustainable resource use and realize higher returns through better liquidity and market linkages for their produce and become sustainable through collective action.

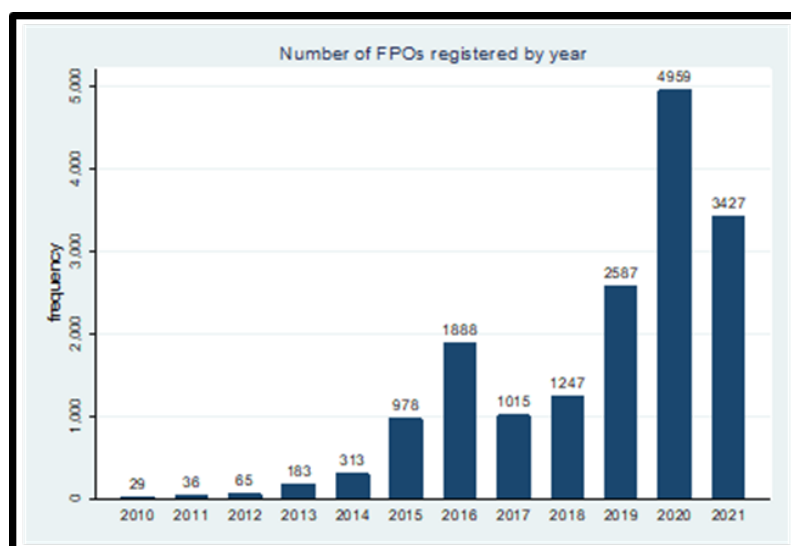


Fig1: Year-wise registration of FPOs in India

¹ <https://www.nabard.org/demo/auth/writereaddata/File/FARMER%20PRODUCER%20ORGANISATIONS.pdf>

² <https://agricoop.nic.in/Documents/DFI%20Volume%204.pdf>

³ <http://sfacindia.com/UploadFile/Statistics/Formation%20&%20Promotion%20of%2010,000%20FPOs%20Scheme%20Operational%20Guidelines%20in%20English.pdf>

⁴ <https://tci.cornell.edu/?blog=assessing-indias-fpo-ecosyste>

As envisaged in the UN Food Systems Summit (2021), business community ranging from Small and Medium Enterprises to Multinational Corporations has an important role to play through sustainable business practices and innovative solutions to make food systems more sustainable, resilient and equitable⁵.

The FAO highlights the importance of smallholder farmers for enabling a transition to a more sustainable society, since resilient and equitable food systems underpinned by sustainable agriculture are essential to tackling poverty and environmental issues (FAO, 2014b). Organising smallholders around FPOs can help integrate smallholders to national and global value chains, thereby increasing the possibility of better returns for the farming community. Not only large multinational corporations (MNCs) but an increasing number of national food and agri-based businesses in India, are interested in ensuring their interventions create positive impacts down the value chain. A common language that could bring the farmers/ FPOs and the agri-food companies together to pursue sustainable development goals seems to be an imperative.

Keeping in mind the Government's policy push to support and strengthen FPOs, and the increasing convergence of agri-food value chain stakeholders on sustainability, the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and the India Foundation for Humanistic Development (IFHD) envisaged this *Sustainability Framework for FPOs* as a tool to promote FPO-Industry partnership on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- To enhance productivity through efficient, cost-effective and sustainable resource use and realise higher returns through better liquidity and market linkages
- To provide handholding and support to new FPOs in all aspects – viz. management of production; processing and value addition; market linkages; credit; and use of technology; among others
- To contribute towards sustainable and inclusive agri-value chains, balancing the interest of agri-dependent communities, natural resources that sustain agriculture and economic returns from agri-trade



Photo by Prahlad Inala on Unsplash

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/making-food-systems-work-people-planet-and-prosperity>

2. VISION OF FPO-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK ON SDGS

This framework has been conceptualised and developed through a dynamic and iterative process, based on interactions throughout the stages of its conceptualisation and development with experts in the agri-food sector and insights from FPOs, from the ground. It emerged that no such framework for FPOs was available that considered ground realities and local context in the Indian agri-value chain. CRB and IFHD have registered positive interests from a number of national and international organisations on this framework, and are creating the ground currently for its application soon.

From the time of its conceptualisation, this framework was agreed to be bottom-up and participatory, placing the interest of smallholders (small farmers) and agri-communities at its core. This would help FPOs become competitive, resilient and with better access to finance and markets. Based on the prevailing market realities, it is evident that traceability of the impacts at the farm/community level is becoming a non-negotiable expectation from buyers, and would therefore attract the attention of agri-food companies and related agencies while doing procurement.

The aim of the framework is to bring together the industry and the FPOs in a partnership with the vision of 'Sustainable and market ready FPOs that are guided by principles of responsible business and forge strong partnership with market actors'.

At the outset, the framework will operate on the following set of principles:

- Aligned with the National Guidelines on Responsible Business (NGRBC) and the 17 SDGs
- Bottom-up approach involving FPOs to meet relevant sustainability requirements of buyers
- Consider environmental, social, and economic elements as indivisible
- Keep the interest of smallholders/small farmers at the core
- Help FPOs become competitive, resilient with access to finance and markets
- Be cognisant of requirements of buyers in relation to sustainability and traceability parameters
- Enable better access to the market for FPOs

3. UNDERSTANDING THE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Development Process

CRB and IFHD embarked on a thorough and iterative process for the development of this framework, as has been enumerated below:

- The two organizations mutually agreed that embarking upon the development of a Sustainability Framework for FPOs was an idea worth pursuing, keeping in mind the growing interest of sustainable procurement among many buyers as well as the need for FPOs to be sustainable and create positive impacts on local communities and the environment
- A series of four consultations were held to develop and continuously refine the contour/outline of the proposed framework
- Subsequently, a stakeholder roundtable was held where views of a group of senior experts and practitioners from the sector were sought for finalisation of the contour/outline of the framework
- The analytical framework that supported this framework was derived from the Sustainable Development Goals, given that it forms the universal language and the basis for pursuing sustainable development, for all stakeholders. The CRB and IFHD team also consulted the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) Principles, in this process
- For both the teams, it was clear that a bottom-up approach would be critical and therefore be the USP of this framework, unlike existing supply chain sustainability frameworks, that are top-down and often compromise the interest of actors at the bottom of the value chain
- The finalisation phase included a validation workshop (and process) wherein detailed discussions were held with representatives of FPOs and organizations that work directly with FPOs, to ensure that the framework (and the indicators, therein) aligned with the realities, context and abilities at the ground-level

3.2 Deducing 'Indicators' for the Framework

Given its universality, the framework relied on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**. It used the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Targets** as the starting point to identify a set of **relevant (social, environmental and economic) parameters** which are critical for FPOs and the agri-communities they represent. Subsequently, a set of **specific indicators** were drawn from the *SDGs National Indicators Framework* of India⁶ for each of these identified relevant parameters. Finally, a set of **corresponding (social, environmental and economic) indicators** were developed based on experiences of FPOs and organisations working with FPOs. The finalised set of corresponding indicators - linked to specific SDGs, form the basis of this framework.

FPOs would be required to **self-assess** their **sustainability performance (social, environmental and economic)**, using this set of corresponding indicators that would help assess their performance vis-a-vis each of the SDGs. Further details of the application process is explained in the next section.

In the illustrative example below, the SDG 2 targets have been used to explain how the final set of corresponding indicators were developed.

⁶ <https://mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/NIF.pdf>

Step 1

Based on the context and realities of FPOs, a set of **relevant parameters** are identified vis a vis each of the **Sustainable Development Goal 2 Targets**, as has been presented in the below table (Table 1)

Table 1: Relevant Parameters drawn from SDG Targets

Sustainable Development Goal	Sustainable Development Goal Targets	Relevant Parameters
SDG2	SDG2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of hunger • Food Security
	SDG2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritive value of the produce
	SDG 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Productivity • Profitability • Land Tenure • Decent Work • Market Information
	SDG 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Soil Health • Water Use • Fertiliser Management • Pesticide Use
	SDG 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity
	SDG 2.A Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.	
	SDG 2.B Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.	
	SDG 2.C Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.	

Step 2

From the list of indicators provided in the **SDGs National Indicators Framework** for India, a list of **specific indicators** pertaining to each of the 'relevant parameters' identified in Step 1 are selected. This list of specific indicators is referred to as **Framework Specific Indicator** (as presented below)

Table 2: Framework Specific Indicators developed from Relevant Parameters

Sustainable Development Goal	Sustainable Development Goal Targets	Relevant Parameters	Framework Specific Indicators
SDG2	SDG2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of hunger Food Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act 2013 Agriculture productivity of wheat and rice, (in kg per hectare)
	SDG2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritive value of the produce 	
	SDG 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Productivity Profitability Land Tenure Decent Work Market Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of Net Sown Area to Cultivable land Proportion of Net Sown Area to Cultivable land Gross Value Added in agriculture per work-er, (in Rs.) Percentage of agriculture <i>mandis</i> enrolled in e-market
	SDG 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Soil Health Water Use Fertiliser Management Pesticide Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of net area under organic farm-ing Percentage of farmers issued Soil Health Card Proportion of waste water treatment ca-pacity created vis-a-vis total generation
	SDG 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesti-cated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diver-sified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture year secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities Conservation of fish genetic resource, (in number)

	<p>SDG 2.A</p> <p>Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.</p>		
	<p>SDG 2.B</p> <p>Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.</p>		
	<p>SDG 2.C</p> <p>Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.</p>		



FPO members with IFHD representatives as they help to validate the Framework at the Consultation on Framework for FPO – Industry Partnership guided by SDGs held on 3 August 2022

Step 3

Based on experiences across FPOs, the **Framework Specific Indicators (FSI)** are broken down/adapted into a set of **Corresponding Indicators**, aligned with the **context, culture and realities** of FPOs and farmers' communities.

Table 3: Corresponding Indicators from Framework Specific Indicators

Sustainable Development Goal	Sustainable Development Goal Targets	Relevant Parameters	Framework Specific Indicators	Corresponding Indicators
SDG2	SDG2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of hunger Food Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act 2013 Agriculture productivity of wheat and rice, (in kg per hectare) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act 2013 - PDS Agriculture productivity of wheat and rice-total production of wheat and rice per area under cultivation (kg per Ha) An overall nutritional profiling of the final produces by the FPOs Percentage of sales of nutritious food out of total sales
	SDG2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritive value of the produce 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average productivity compared to averages in the area (province, department etc). Average output sales price and sales conditions the FPO is able to negotiate in the market compared to other (comparable) organisations % of produce produced by the producers that is traded via the organization. Gross Rainfed Area (Area per Ha) Area brought under protective irrigation (area per ha)
	SDG 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Productivity Profitability Land Tenure Decent Work Market Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of Net Sown Area to Cultivable land Proportion of Net Sown Area to Cultivable land Gross Value Added in agriculture per work-er, (in Rs.) Percentage of agriculture <i>mandis</i> enrolled in e-market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of instances of sustainable Agri practices e.g. Agro ecology, Natural Farming such as Zero Budget Natural Farming) Does the P.O. provide services on more than 1 crop (for example rotation crops)? Are appropriate techniques (water retention, erosion, composting, mulching, micro organisms, etc) used to maintain a high level of soil quality? Water management techniques used (pollution, disposal, irrigation, drought control, water retention in soils) and if they are effective?

	<p>SDG 2.4</p> <p>By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Soil Health • Water Use • Fertiliser Management • Pesticide Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of net area under organic farm-ing • Percentage of farmers issued Soil Health Card • Proportion of waste water treatment ca-pacity created vis-a-vis total generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPO members PERCEPTION regarding the amount of rain water available (is it enough), how is it distributed properly throughout the year? How is the trend? • Is there a known, respected and enforced policy on the use of NON hazardous agro-chemicals • Does the FPO monitor biodiversity? Are there policies on 'no hunting', domestic species, non-expansion? • Percentage of workers hired by FPO members for farming that are paid above a minimum wage • Agriculture productivity of wheat and rice-total production of wheat and rice per area under cultivation (kg per Ha)
	<p>SDG 2.5</p> <p>By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesti-cated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diver-sified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture year secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities • Conservation of fish genetic resource, (in number) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents of tenure rights violations • Quantum of produce traded in e-market by FPO • Percentage of farmer members registered in e-market (Number)
	<p>SDG 2.A</p> <p>Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.</p>			

	<p>SDG 2.B</p> <p>Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.</p>			
	<p>SDG 2.C</p> <p>Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food re-serves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.</p>			

Step 4

This long list of Corresponding Indicators were discussed and deliberated with representatives of FPOs and community based organisations that work with the FPOs, to arrive at a condensed list of **Final Corresponding Indicators (below)**

Table 4: Final set of Corresponding Indicators, vis-a-vis SDGs

SDG2	Final Corresponding Indicators
<p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	Average productivity compared to averages in the area (province, department etc).
	Average output sales price and sales conditions the FPO is able to negotiate in the market compared to other (comparable) organisations
	Area brought under protective irrigation (area per ha)
	Availability of instances of sustainable agriculture practices e.g. agro ecology, Natural Farming such as Zero Budget Natural Farming)
	Are appropriate techniques (water retention, erosion, composting, mulching, micro organisms, etc) used to maintain a high level of soil quality?

The full and final list of Corresponding Indicators, pertaining to each of the 17 SDGs were so developed, and have been presented in the table below:

Table 5: Full List of Corresponding Indicators vis-a-vis the SDGs

SDG No.	Corresponding SDGs	CI No.	Corresponding Indicators (CI) (Developed & customised for FPOs by CRB and IFHD)
SDG1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.1	Proportion of FPO members whose local governments have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies
		1.2	Crop loss, drying up of wells, unseasonal rains , yield declines across the crop, livestock and fisheries and aquaculture
		1.3	The number of FPO member families who avail Below Poverty Line benefits
SDG2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1	Average productivity compared to averages in the area (province, department etc).
		2.2	Average output sales price and sales conditions the FPO is able to negotiate in the market compared to other (comparable) organisations
		2.3	Area brought under protective irrigation (area per ha)
		2.4	Availability of instances of sustainable agriculture practices e.g. agro ecology, Natural Farming such as Zero Budget Natural Farming)
		2.5	Are appropriate techniques (water retention, erosion, composting, mulching, micro organisms, etc) used to maintain a high level of soil quality?
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.1	Incidents of Suicide mortality among FPO members
		3.2	Number of FPO member households using solid fuels as the main source of energy for cooking
		3.3	Availability of general health services through primary health services
		3.4	Total physicians, nurses and midwives in the village/ district
		3.5	Percentage of population vaccinated against Covid 19 and other epidemics as applicable
		3.6	The maternal mortality ratio of FPO Members and their corresponding beneficiary families
		3.7	Number of preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age of FPO Members and their corresponding beneficiary families
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.1	% of members who completed Primary education who are male
		4.2	% of members who completed Primary education who are female
		4.3	% of members who completed Upper Primary education who are male
		4.4	% of members who completed Upper Primary education who are female
		4.5	% of members who completed Secondary education who are male
		4.6	% of members who completed Secondary education who are female
		4.7	Participation rate of FPO members in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months who are male
		4.8	Participation rate of FPO members in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months who are female
		4.9	Achievement of literacy and numeracy amongst FPO members
SDG5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.1	Operational land holdings – female operated (%)
		5.2	No. of borrowers against total members (Male and Female)
		5.3	Percentage of women members having an account at a formal financial institution
		5.4	Women owning communication devices like mobile
		5.5	Proportion of women who are members in the FPO
		5.6	Proportion of women in managerial positions including women in Board of Directors of the FPO

SDG6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1	Proportion of member households having access to toilet facility
		6.2	Percentage of households with safe drinking water sources within premises
		6.3	Percentage of water demand met through groundwater sources (households)
		6.4	Access and utilization of sewage treatment facilities in order to treat polluted water as a result of FPO operations and before discharge in rivers, as appropriate
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.1	Is the FPO doing something to move itself and its members to sustainable, renewable energy (biogas, cookstoves, LED, solar)?
		7.2	Percentage of FPO member households using clean cooking fuel (FPO and its activities using clean energy)
		7.3	Renewable energy share in the total installed electricity generation
		7.4	Installed renewable energy generating capacity in the FPO operational area
		7.5	Proportion of FPO members with access to electricity
		7.6	Number of hours of uninterrupted electricity access
		7.7	Use of LED Bulbs, Devices etc as part of FPO operations given the need to ensure energy efficiency
SDG8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.1	Share of unemployed persons in population aged 15-24 (%)
		8.2	Are man days created for members under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
		8.3	Are wages earned by members - male; female; person in regular / casual employment (Rs/Person)
		8.4	Proportion of members having Bank accounts
		8.5	Are there banking outlets in the neighbourhood?
		8.6	Ensuring safe work environment for FPO members by tracking number of accidents and ensure timely interventions on Awareness programs on OHS (Occupational Health Safety) as required
		8.7	Tracking of profits of FPOs as it forms part of the annual growth in agriculture sector
		8.8	Number of effective measures implemented to eradicate Forced Labour and Child Labour
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.1	Percentage/ Proportion of credit flow to businesses run by members vis a vis area population
		9.2	Are women SHGs accessing Bank Loans during the last one year ?
		9.3	Is new technology used by the FPO for production or value addition?
		9.4	Proportion of members with mobile connection/ internet connection
		9.5	If members live within 2 kms of an all-season road, train/ freight stations
SDG10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.1	Proportion of SC/ST/ other marginalised members in the FPO
		10.2	If SC/ST schemes are availed by SC/ST members for their livelihood/business
		10.3	Proportion of people migrating from FPO's area and their general livelihood status
			Ensure access by FPO members to appropriate/applicable Social Protection Schemes for which they are eligible for
SDG11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.1	Ease of access to Housing facility - formal /informal housing of the members
		11.2	Houses completed under govt. housing schemes by FPO members
		11.3	Convenient access to public transport by FPO members
		11.4	Are there deaths/ people affected in the area due to disasters?

SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.1	Usage of local inputs for FPO run production / products manufactured i.e. usage of natural, locally sourced, sustainable material
		12.2	Proportion of food losses at the production, post harvest storage and distribution levels
		12.3	Are available (on- and off-farm) organic waste streams (cow manure, biomass, etc) proactively upcycled for composting or energy?
		12.4	If campaigns and extension services for the Sustainable development education are conducted in the area
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.1	Do the operations of the organisation comply with the applicable local, regional and national laws regarding environmental practices (for example NPM, LIESA, SRI, Green Technologies). Are members and staff aware (and convinced) of these policies?
		13.2	Discuss with the members if they feel climate is changing? Discuss if they know what measures need to be taken? And if they are taking them? Evaluate on this.
		13.3	Are the members practicing climate smart agriculture?
		13.4	Does the organisation strive to lower its impact on nature and the environment by actively looking to reduce waste water, deforestation, soil degradation, etc. ?
		13.5	Are FPO members attending climate mitigation and adaptation training and outreach programs?
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1	Percentage use of nitrogenous fertilizer to total fertilizer (N, P & K)
		14.2	Any decrease in income from marine resources?
		14.3	Initiatives to protect marine and coastal ecosystems
SDG15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1	Total area covered by the FPO under different afforestation & restoration schemes (in hectares)
		15.2	Are nurseries run by the FPO members?
		15.3	Percentage increase in net sown area by members
		15.4	Was any degraded area restored by the FPO and/or its members?
SDG16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.1	Members subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
		16.2	Were crimes committed against Children of FPO members during the year?
		16.3	Were victims (of FPO member's family) rescued from human trafficking (by sex, age and form of exploitation)?
		16.4	Proportion of seats held by women in Local Self Government institutions
		16.5	Proportion of SC/ST/ other marginalised persons in the local elected bodies
SDG17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	17.1	Internet subscriptions among FPO members
		17.2	Instances of PPP and civil society partnership in which the FPO is engaged in
		17.3	% of birth registration and death registration among the FPO members

3.3 Application

This section provides an overview of the process of application of this framework to assess the readiness of the FPOs to engage with market actors (brands and buyers) on the basis of their social, environmental and economic performance. CRB and IFHD have tried to design this framework such that it is broad and flexible enough to accommodate context-specific variations that should be expected in every FPO that uses this framework.

3.3.1 Purpose

- Document the contribution that smallholders in India (especially through collectives like FPOs) are able to make towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Help buyers and brands to identify potential FPOs to partner through their sustainable procurement/responsible sourcing activities
- Support FPOs to strengthen their systems and processes - and engage with market actors confidently
- Create wider visibility about this framework, and enable its uptake across geographies, landscapes, commodities, etc.

3.3.2 Process

- Pre-selection: In a selected geography, FPOs that are at a certain level of maturity should be engaged first in this process of application of this framework
- Basic information: Information would be collected for each selected FPO pertaining to date of establishment, members, governance, production level, current market linkages, challenges, etc.
- Market Check: Analyse the market in the region and assess the interest of buyers/brands active in the region towards specific sustainability and climate related areas (nature based solutions, climate change, decent work, smallholder, youth entrepreneurship, women empowerment, etc.)
- Self-Assessment: Using the framework, the FPOs would self-assess their performance on each of the SDGs and the Corresponding Indicators provided (Table 5). Any documentary evidence to support the responses of the FPOs on any of these indicators would be gathered to strengthen this analysis
- Baseline Report: A short baseline report will be prepared at the end of this assessment (using the format of the framework), highlighting the 'good performance' areas and 'weaknesses'
- Annual Follow-up Assessment & Report: This assessment and report preparation can be followed-up annually

3.3.3 Expected Outcomes

- Creation of a baseline report - to help FPOs improve their performance further
- Awareness about opportunities to engage market actors on sustainability performance
- Identify areas of potential risks and vulnerabilities
- Assess organisational strengths and weaknesses
- Opportunity to integrate smallholders (through FPOs) into national and international commodity value chains

4. GOING FORWARD

Pilot Testing: CRB and IFHD will start exploring possibilities to pilot test this framework, working in partnership with interested organisations, corporates, foundations, etc.

Outreach and visibility: CRB and IFHD will be sharing this framework widely among businesses, organisations working in the agri-food sector, NGOs interested in FPOs, financial institutions, government agencies and all other organisations who are interested in this topic. It will also be disseminated widely using the social media

Periodic refinement: CRB and IFHD are conscious that the framework would have to be refined, and will review it annually after its application in a particular area





IFHD representatives showcasing a range of produce from FPOs /India Foundation for Humanistic Development

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