

FOLU India CREST Partners Meeting

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Participation:

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Virtual

Discussion Points

- Changes in the global PMU structure
 - Shared between five global organizations including Systemiq, EAT, among others.
 - There is a move/transition towards a more centralized structure.
 - The transition / change has been predicted to favor private sector engagement and given the upcoming COPs, private sector expenditure increases are expected
 - FOLU India PMU will facilitate networking and given the upcoming Food Systems Summit, which will be an opportunity for partners to network with key stakeholders.
 - Currently, FOLU India is finalizing USP and ToC
 - In terms of the strategic change, there is formalization at country platform level as well as role definition is happening at country platform level.

- Challenges that CREST faces
 - Ensuring more active participation of founding partners via equal commitment to the coalition
 - In terms of challenges, a lack of funding has also been identified as a barrier
 - It is important to note that ultimately that resources are all received from the same agency in relation to FOLU India and partners.
 - WBSCD has expressed interest on work on CREST and at the time of minutes getting prepared, there is an opportunity for CREST and FOLU to partner together at a roundtable at the WBCSD India Connect being held on June 24-25

- Current activities that are in the CREST pipeline
 - The briefing paper will be circulated among partners for their perusal.
 - The briefing paper entails a lack of attribution to companies that have contributed research, and, in this regard, it is envisioned that comments by partners will be on a substantive basis and not on a representation basis

- As part of the dissemination phase, it will be shared with practitioners, companies, and actors in the space.
 - State of the Report on Responsible Sourcing, which is being undertaken by IDH-Sattva-CRB under which three biennale reports will be developed with each report being dedicated to one thematic areas
 - Corresponding brief on the precis will be shared with partners.
 - Other core activities proposed for CREST are as follows:
 - A FOLU India CREST co-hosted session has been proposed to be held at the 11th edition of India¹ and Sustainability Standards conference
 - Continuation of updating of CREST webpage² and corresponding LinkedIn³ page
- Scope of Action by CREST
 - In terms of scope of action by CREST, it is important that it is a coalition and not all stakeholders have to be aligned.
 - There is a possibility that there will be a proposal approving process during 2025-30 period, and accordingly CREST in relation to proposing proposals will have to keep this in mind.
 - Broadly, proposals that are proposed are encouraged to mind the broad ToC of FOLU Global and in turn, of FOLU India
- Suggestions to take the work forward of FOLU India CREST
 - At the India level, it was suggested how to take the agenda forward, namely if all partners agree that responsible sourcing is an area of interest, consider approaching stakeholders such as Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Chairperson of Finance Commission as well as Ajay Shah
- Role of government in relation to positioning CREST activities
 - In this regard, it is important to understand that when approaching the area of responsible sourcing of commodities in relation to India from the angle of the government, then it is important to note that it will be a central-state issue with a bigger focus on central related aspects. However it is suggested that we can approach this broad area from the point of view of state specific change.
 - It was also highlighted that financial support cannot be relied upon from the government but instead, credibility can be sought and accordingly, FOLU India CREST can get visibility in policy circuits
 - It was also shared that it has not been possible to get the trade and responsible sourcing communities together
 - Going forward, especially as we develop a footprint in the sector, we can act in the policy recommendation space

Way Forward

- In terms of way forward, it is planned to develop a detailed work plan
- An in-person, full day meeting has been planned for the week of 22nd July – a [Doodle poll](#) to be circulated and accordingly calendars will be blocked

¹ <https://www.sustainabilitystandards.in/>

² <https://c4rb.org/folu-india-crest/>

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/company/food-and-land-use-coalition-folu-india-crest>

- The meeting is proposed to facilitate all founders and partners to sit together and think about ideas that are close to home/ of interest
- The timeline of execution for ideas to be brainstormed can be for 2024 and beyond