



FOLU India CREST Partners Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

September 19, 2024

Virtual

Discussion Points

The Way Forward on Funding and implications for CREST

- It was shared by FOLU India representative that there is not going to be any support to CREST beyond December 2024. In this regard, some details are yet to be confirmed such as with regards to whether there is a contingency plan in place to support the PMUs across the country platforms
- In addition, two types of fundraising requirements were highlighted: one for the operations of the PMU at the country level and second to support collaborations between partners and other organisations, as appropriate
- CRB noted that given its organisational based experience, it appreciates the challenge that CREST faces with regard to uncertainty of funding

Discussion on holding a Retreat in December 2024 for CREST partners

- To zero down on a date that is suitable for all CREST Partners
- It has been proposed to structure the retreat in a way that CREST partners carry out a Review of CREST activities so far since its launch three years ago followed by a brainstorming of activities for CREST envisioned to be conducted during the next three years
- The idea of holding a Retreat for partners was commended given the need to take a stock of CREST's path thus far and reiterated the importance of looking at trade and commerce from the point of view of sustainability and greening

Discussion on planning for FOLU India CREST co-hosted session at ISS 2024

- It was suggested to hold a policy level dialogue with insights from the session feeding into developing an Action Agenda that could inform the activities during the next three years of FOLU India crest action coalition
- It was reiterated that there is a lot more scope of work to be conducted involving the continuum between the practitioners and policy actors in the space of responsible sourcing

- It was also observed that there is not enough market signal to invest in sustainability of supply chains and in turn it was shared that teams viz. sustainability, marketing and procurement, respectively are working in silos at the operational level

Discussion on Partner-related events

- FOLU India provided some details of the FOLU India – Bharat Krishaj Samaj co-organised Food Systems Summit which is structured so that there are four pavilions managed by four of the FOLU India core partners and it has been shared that one of the proposed outputs from the Summit is a compendium which will be presented to government-level representatives so that they have a high level perspective of the state food systems as a transformation agenda is concerned including activities undertaken, current knowledge and expertise and assets available

Way Forward

- The CREST Co-ordinating Unit to share a Doodle link to understand Partners' availability for one full day in December to help plan the Partners Retreat
- The CREST Co-ordinating Unit to work on a Draft version of the Background Session note towards the FOLU India CREST co-hosted session and circulate among Partners for inputs