

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), since its inception in 2011, has played an influential role in driving sustainability, circularity, and social responsibility within India's textile and apparel industry. CRB has engaged in the sector through targeted interventions, strategic partnerships, and evidence-based research across several high-impact initiatives. Our engagements have sought to identify and facilitate key policy and practice interventions that can provide impetus to nudge the Indian Apparel and Textile (A&T) sector onto a circular path and thereby support balanced and sustainable growth of the industry.

## KEY STATES AND CLUSTERS



## INTERNATIONAL

Indonesia | Sri Lanka | Vietnam

## MODES OF ENGAGEMENT AND INTERVENTIONS



Capacity Building and Training

Action and Policy Research



Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

Strategic Advisory Services



## IMPACT



~ 1000

SMEs ENGAGED



10

CLUSTERS REACHED

## FOCUS AREAS

Circular Economy | Regenerative Agriculture | Social Sustainability and Gender Empowerment | Climate Action and Decarbonisation | SME Competitiveness and Certification

## Our Interventions - Ongoing

### Demonstrating Decarbonisation Pathways through Pilots in Textile SMEs | Panipat, India

This initiative pilots decarbonisation strategies specifically for textile SMEs in Panipat, a prominent recycling hub known for processing significant amounts of textile waste. The project aims to build capacities and a supportive environment to encourage SMEs to adopt low-carbon technologies and practices. Through focused interventions in reskilling, technology adoption, policy advocacy, and financing, the goal is to reduce carbon emissions, promote gender equality by prioritising women's participation, and foster a replicable model for sustainable growth across other textile clusters. Learn more about the project [here](#).

### Accelerating the Indian Textile Sector Transition to Circularity (InTex India) | Surat and Karur, India

Implemented in collaboration with UNEP and India's Ministry of Textiles, the InTex India project supports SMEs in India's key textile hubs, including Surat, Karur, Salem, Dindigul, and Perundurai, to adopt circular business models and life cycle approaches. Through targeted capacity-building, training, technical support, and policy advocacy, the project aims to accelerate eco-innovation, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance the overall sustainability and competitiveness of India's textile sector, with particular emphasis on SME needs. Learn more about the project [here](#).

### Developing Capacity, Coalition, and Communication Around Regenerative Agriculture in India | Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, India

In partnership with Solidaridad Asia, CRB has been working on an initiative to promote regenerative agriculture practices, specifically targeting the cotton sector. Activities have included extensive stakeholder engagements, multi-stakeholder workshops, and capacity-building programmes.

Furthermore, CRB along with partners Solidaridad Asia and regenari, established the [Alliance of Cotton and Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture \(ACRE\)](#), to strengthen industry awareness and generate policy-level support for regenerative agriculture.

### Roadmap for Circular Textile Cluster | Ludhiana, India

In collaboration with the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) and supported by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), this project identifies priority actions to advance circular economy practices within Ludhiana's textile clusters. The project looks at intervention areas such as clean energy adoption, wastewater management, sustainable chemical usage, and textile waste reduction. By facilitating stakeholder interactions, developing an actionable industry roadmap, and recommending supportive policy interventions, the initiative aims to catalyse circularity, highlight existing innovations, and encourage responsible business practices within the textile sector. Learn more about the project [here](#).

### Narrative Building on Circular Economy for Sustainable Development (Asia-Pacific)

In partnership with IDRC, CRB is working on the adoption of circular economy practices in the Asia Pacific region to address climate challenges and advance sustainable development, with a strong focus on SMEs. The initiative aims to influence policies, develop frameworks, and engage stakeholders through detailed analyses and dissemination of best practices, effectively integrating Southern perspectives into global circular economy debates. Learn more about the project [here](#)

## Our Interventions - Past

### Mapping of Sustainability Certification for the Indian Textile Sector with Special Focus on Increasing Export Competitiveness of MSMEs

CRB, in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the develoPPP program, launched an initiative to enhance the export competitiveness of MSMEs in India's textile sector. The project focused on navigating the landscape of sustainability certifications to strengthen the industry's capacity to implement circular approaches and improve environmental and social performance. Learn more about the project [here](#)

### Exploring Opportunity & Challenges to Operationalise Family Friendly Policies in India's Apparel and Textile Value Chain | Delhi NCR and Bangalore, Karnataka

In partnership with UNICEF India, CRB undertook a scoping study to explore how family-friendly workplace policies can enhance inclusivity and sustainability in the textile sector. With a focus on improving outcomes for women and children—particularly in a sector with a high concentration of female workers—the study highlighted the business case for adopting supportive practices. Learn more [here](#)

### Promoting Circularity in SME Clusters

Jointly with TERI under the EU-India Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Partnership programme, the initiative focused on conducting a detailed needs assessment followed by the development of a practical guide to aid SMEs in adopting circular practices, thereby enhancing their sustainability performance and market competitiveness.

### Promoting Responsible Value Chains in India for an Effective Contribution to SDGs (PROGRESS)

Through the PROGRESS initiative, CRB partnered with Aston India Centre for Applied Research (AICAR), Aston University, and IDRC Canada to examine and enhance the contributions of private sector actors to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The textile and apparel sector formed a critical area of focus, with CRB developing practical toolkits and documenting case studies on circular economy practices. This helped brands integrate sustainability into their value chains effectively, directly supporting SDGs related to decent work, gender equality, climate action, and responsible production. Learn more about the project [here](#)

### Circular Apparel Policy Innovation Lab (CAPIL)

CRB in collaboration with Laudes Foundation, Intellectap, and Fashion for Good worked on the CAPIL initiative to explore and recommend essential policy interventions to support the textile sector's transition towards circularity. The project fostered dialogue among a diverse range of stakeholders, including brands, manufacturers, policymakers, and academic institutions, resulting in comprehensive recommendations for informed circular policy adoption in India. Learn more about the project [here](#).

### ReFashion Hub

Under the ReFashion Hub project, CRB worked to address textile wastewater management by collaborating with government authorities, industry bodies, and businesses. The initiative emphasised the importance of wastewater reuse and management, promoting regulatory compliance and sustainable practices within the industry through consultations and multi-stakeholder engagements. Learn more about the project [here](#).

# Our Interventions - Past

## Promoting Circular Economy in Textile Manufacturing | Delhi NCR, India

In partnership with Novozymes, CRB conducted a scoping exercise through a pilot project in the Delhi NCR region to assess existing awareness and practices related to the circular economy in textile manufacturing. The project aimed to explore the potential for extending circularity beyond post-consumer recycling into broader value chain operations. It focused on building basic awareness among textile manufacturers and key stakeholders about the opportunities and challenges associated with transitioning towards circular apparel

## DISHA Programme

Under the DISHA programme, CRB collaborated with the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and the Ministry of Textiles to promote social and environmental responsibility through a voluntary Common Code of Conduct (CCC). CRB's role included developing implementation methodologies, training facilitators, and implementing practical interventions to enhance sustainability and ethical practices among SMEs.

## Training on Rights and Responsibilities of Workers | Tamil Nadu

CRB, in collaboration with the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), carried out targeted training programmes in Tamil Nadu's spinning mills. These trainings focused on worker rights, responsibilities, and sustainable workplace practices, significantly improving workplace culture and management-worker relations.

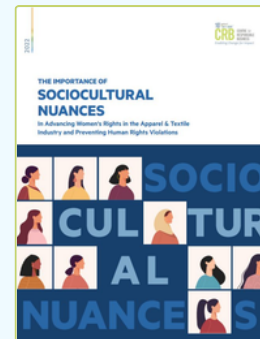
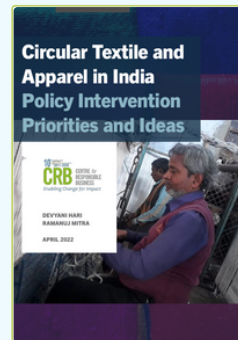
# Way Forward

CRB aims to deepen its interventions in different A&T clusters with an objective to drive change from the ground up. At the same time, we will aim to facilitate cross-cluster learning, enabling the replication of best practices and fostering a shared understanding of circular and sustainable solutions.

Moving forward some of our priorities include:

1. Advancing Policy Interventions
2. Decarbonisation and Green Transitions for SMEs
3. Promoting a Sustainable Handloom Industry
4. Encouraging Sustainable Consumption
5. Empowering Women and Workers

## KEY INSIGHTS



**Devyani Hari**  
Senior Director  
E : devyani@c4rb.in

**Dr. Prabhat Bhuddha Dev**  
Senior Programme Officer  
E: bhuddha@c4rb.in

**Liza Nagpal**  
Senior Programme Officer  
E: liza@c4rb.in

**Shubham Trivedi**  
Programme Officer  
E : shubham@c4rb.in