Impact Harvest Forum
Investing in Inclusive Businesses

23 - 24 May 2024
United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

To meet the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the private sector will need to play a greater role. Inclusive businesses are companies that: "provide goods, services, and livelihoods on a commercially viable basis, either at scale or scalable, to people living at the base of the economic pyramid making them part of the value chain of companies' core business as suppliers, distributors, retailers, or customers."

There are valuable models of inclusive business – including many agribusinesses - across Asia and the Pacific that are commercially viable and have social impact at scale. Inclusive business models are effectively supporting smallholder farmers, providing them with technical assistance, access to finance, and facilitating integration into regional and global value chains. Inclusive businesses are harnessing technologies and business innovations to improve productivity and create entrepreneurship opportunities.

Access to finance remains an issue for many inclusive businesses seeking to expand their operations or deepen their impact. Businesses face multiple challenges including the cost of capital and the scarce availability of affordable finance beyond the early stage. Investment readiness is also an issue, with companies facing difficulties in measuring and demonstrating impact.

The Impact Harvest Forum will identify opportunities to invest in and finance inclusive business models and facilitate their scaling up.

Objectives

- To explore opportunities for investing in inclusive businesses in agriculture and food systems.
- To identify concrete actions to promote and facilitate investments in inclusive businesses.
- To inspire more inclusive business models through masterclasses and knowledge sharing.
- To facilitate networking and explore partnerships among investors, governments agencies, development partners and firms.
- To showcase inclusive business models in agriculture and food systems.

Organizers

Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the collaboration of ANGIN, Impact Hub, India Impact Investors Council (IIC), Global Impact Investors Network (GIIN), the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE), Value for Women, and Endeva.

Participants

The forum will welcome 150 participants including business leaders, impact investors, government agencies, financial institutions, development partners, and inclusive business facilitators.

Two tracks

Nurturing the environment:

- Sessions targeted to ecosystem players (such as government agencies, investors, private sector organisations, development partners), and
- Masterclasses and co-creation workshops.

Cultivating change:

- Sessions targeted to firms, and
- Masterclasses and matchmaking opportunities.

A diversity of sessions

Keynotes

Inspirational talks by prominent leaders in the field of investing, impact and inclusive business, sharing insights, experiences, and a vision for the future of inclusive business.

Masterclasses

Interactive skill-building workshops offering participants practical strategies, tools and insights.

Co-creation workshops

Participants co-create solutions, in terms of finance, support and incentives, for businesses to scale up their impact.

Matchmaking: inclusive businesses meet investors

Companies with inclusive business models will have the opportunity to meet individually with potential investors and investment managers.

Fireside chats and panels

Inspiring discussions featuring government officials, industry experts and thought leaders that explore emerging trends and best practices in promoting inclusive businesses.

Spaces for sharing and networking

Pitching platform

Business with inclusive business models will have the opportunity to pitch their model to the audience. Eight companies will be invited to pitch their business throughout the forum and there will open spaces for spontaneous pitches.

Booths

Booths and exhibition space will be made available for partner organisations to showcase their work and to provide mentoring or training “pit stops” to participants.

Networking opportunities (coffee breaks, cocktail and lunches)

Spaces to connect with peers, share experiences and build relationships with other professionals passionate about diversity and inclusion.

Call to Action

Participants will identify and support concrete actions to implement inclusive practices within their organizations, advocate for policy changes, or support initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in business.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 23 May 2024

United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

08.30-09.00	**Registration**	
09.00-09.20	**Opening remarks** H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Mr. Alkesh Wadhwani, Director Poverty Alleviation for India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Video)	Conference Room 4
09.20-09.35	**Keynote** Mr. Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Anand Milk Union Limited (AMUL)	
09.35-10.45	**High-level Panel on Policy Perspectives on Fostering Inclusive Business Growth** *Several governments have put in place policies, strategies and programmes to promote Inclusive Business (IB). For example, ASEAN economic ministers have endorsed the Guidelines for Promoting Inclusive Business in ASEAN. In this High-level panel discussion, the panellists from the public and private sectors will share their experience with developing these types of business models, as well as the strategies that they are implementing to promote IB, especially in agriculture and food systems.* ***Moderator:*** *Mr. Jonathan Tsuen Yip Wong, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise and Investment, TIID, ESCAP* ***Speakers:*** • Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; IT, Electronics & Communications Department, Government of Telangana • Ms. Trinh Thi Huong, Deputy Director General, Agency for Enterprise Development, Viet Nam • Ms. Beverley Postma, Executive Director, Grow Asia • Mr. Bradley Kopsick, Head of Cambodia, Insitor Management	
10.45-11.15	**Networking Coffee/Tea Break – Pitching**	

	Nurturing the environment		Cultivating change	
11.15-12.30	Masterclass 1 **Recognising Inclusive Businesses: Building Accreditation Systems** *Explore why the public sector seeks to implement accreditation systems and what attracts private sector businesses to participate.* *This masterclass will draw from the United Nations ESCAP accreditation manual and real-world experiences, offering interactive exercises and discussions to deepen your understanding of accreditation processes and their practical implications.* *Facilitated by ESCAP and Endeva*	Meeting Room H	Masterclass 2 **Measuring Impact: Effective Measurement and Reporting for Businesses** *Starting the journey of effective impact measurement can be daunting for inclusive businesses, facing hurdles in articulating data efficiently, standardizing accounting methods and estimating impact. Yet, with stakeholders like impact investors demanding impact reporting, the pressure is on.* *This session offers actionable insights that draw from peer perspectives, and tools to navigate these challenges, including on how to choose frameworks, key indicators, and professionalize impact measurement systems.* *Facilitated by Impact Hub*	Meeting Room A
12.30-13.30	**Networking Lunch**			
13.30-15.00	Presentation and Fireside Chat **Measuring Impact: Valuing Impact in Investment Decisions** *Impact investing is marked by an intentional desire to contribute to measurable social and/or environmental benefits which require utilizing data to design investments that maximize these benefits, as well as their commercial return.* *This panel offers practical insights into how impact investors integrate Impact Measurement & Management (IMM) into their processes and decisions, addressing challenges and recent benchmarks in the field.* *Facilitated by the Global Impact Investors Network (GIIN)*	Conference Room 4	Masterclass 3 **Investment Readiness Accelerator for Businesses** *Investment readiness involves crucial insights like understanding investment needs, identifying appropriate investors and engaging with them confidently to establish mutually beneficial terms.* *With the aim to support businesses in this fundraising journey, the masterclass offers strategies, tools and critical insights.* *Facilitated by ANGIN*	Meeting Room A

15.00-15.30	**Networking Coffee/Tea Break – Pitching**			
15.30-17.00	Co-Creation Workshop 1 **Designing Financial Incentives for Inclusive Businesses** *In 2020, ASEAN economic ministers endorsed the Guidelines for Promoting Inclusive Business, which includes an array of policy instruments and financial incentives such as tax incentives, subsidies, facilitating access to capital and/or prioritization in public procurement, amongst others.* *This session explores the financial incentives currently used, addressing issues such as limited private investment, inequitable access to incentives, and the need to rethink the role of CSR.* *Facilitated by raiSE and ESCAP*	Meeting Room H	Matchmaking *Unlocking the potential of inclusive business often hinges on finding the right financial backing. Through this tailored matchmaking exercise, there is the opportunity to network with investors and businesses, and cultivate relationships based on shared visions, expertise, and resources, and which have the potential to propel business towards its full potential.* *Facilitated by ANGIN*	Asia-Pacific Foyer
17.00	**Reception**			

Friday, 24 May 2024

09.00-09.10	**Keynote** Mr. M.L. Dispanadda Diskul. Chief Executive Officer, Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage			
09:10-09:30	Presentation & Fireside Chat **Growing your Inclusive Agribusiness: A Toolkit for Businesses** *When seeking to become more inclusive, companies must discover an opportunity, assess local conditions and potential challenges, plant solutions and nurture them with collaboration at various levels, harvesting results and finally looking for opportunities to expand. This guide has been produced with the agribusiness in mind and aims to support company managers engaging in inclusive agribusiness practices with practical tools and a comprehensive overview of potential solutions and collaborative approaches.* ***Moderator:*** *Mr. Kirti Mishra, Co-Founder, Ecociate* ***Speakers:*** • *Mr. Ajit Rangnekar, Chief Innovation Officer, Telangana State Innovation Cell* • *Ms. Nguyen Thu Hang, FIIS Vice Chancellor, Foreign Trade University - Innovation and Incubation Space (FTU-FIIS)*			Conference Room 4
	Nurturing the environment		**Cultivating change**	
09.30-11.00	Co-Creation Workshop 2 **Designing Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Inclusive Businesses** *Access to finance is key for businesses, particularly those with impact goals. Join this co creation workshop to explore existing investment tools, discuss their potential and hurdles, and to delve into factors like cost, design, due diligence, and regulations.* *This session aims to highlight available investment instruments for inclusive and sustainable businesses while pinpointing necessary adjustments and avenues for growth.* *Facilitated by India Impact Investors Council (IIC) and ESCAP*	Meeting Room H	Masterclass 4 **Mastering Gender Lens Analysis for Businesses** *This session will explore the fundamentals of gender-inclusive business practices, particularly within the agricultural sector, to foster gender equality. Attendees can expect a comprehensive framework for integrating gender inclusivity into agricultural practices, along with actionable entry points.* *Additionally, they will gain insights from inspiring case studies within the sector and access practical tools and resources to address specific gender-related challenges within their organizations.* *Facilitated by Value for Women*	Meeting Room A
11.00-11.30	**Networking Coffee/Tea Break – Pitching**			
11.30-13.00	Masterclass 5 **Empowering Portfolios: Mastering the Art of Gender Lens Investing** *This session will offer attendees an opportunity to delve into*	Meeting Room H	Matchmaking	Asia-Pacific Foyer

	the fundamentals of gender lens investing (GLI), from understanding its essence to navigating its implementation for fostering gender inclusion and enhancing business performance. Participants will gain insights into GLI's principles, acquire frameworks for fostering gender-inclusive practices within portfolio companies, draw inspiration from success stories in the agriculture sector, and access practical tools and resources to catalyze gender action among portfolio companies. *Facilitated by Value for Women*		*Unlocking the potential of inclusive business often hinges on finding the right financial backing. Through this tailored matchmaking exercise, there is the opportunity to network with investors and businesses, and cultivate relationships based on shared visions, expertise, and resources, and which have the potential to propel business towards its full potential.* *Facilitated by ANGIN*	
13.00-14.00	**Networking Lunch**			
14.00-15.30	Co-Creation Workshop 3 **Nurturing Impact through Accelerators: Seeding and Scaling up Inclusive Businesses** *Private sector engagement in inclusive practices is essential for expanding access to affordable essential services and combating poverty on a large scale. It is vital that startups and existing business transition to impact-driven approaches.* *This session aims to examine the crucial role of incubators and accelerators in fostering inclusive businesses and to propose actionable steps that can be used by governments to enhance the promotion of impact-driven enterprises.* *Facilitated by Impact Hub and ESCAP*	Meeting Room H	Matchmaking *Unlocking the potential of inclusive business often hinges on finding the right financial backing. Through this tailored matchmaking exercise, there is the opportunity to network with investors and businesses, and cultivate relationships based on shared visions, expertise, and resources, and which have the potential to propel business towards its full potential.* *Facilitated by ANGIN*	Asia-Pacific Foyer
15.30–16.00	**Networking Coffee/Tea Break – Pitching**			
16.00-17.00	**Call to Action**			Conference Room 4
17.00	**Closing remarks** *Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP*			