

# NEWSLETTER



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## MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

IBBI membership has grown to 37 business signatories with the joining of new member from Spice Sector: AVT McCormick



AVT McCormick Ingredients Pvt Ltd is one of the largest producers and exporters of value added spice Ingredients in India. Established in 1994, it is a 50:50 Joint Venture between A.V.Thomas Group (India) and McCormick & Co., USA.



**CII-ITC Centre of Excellence  
for Sustainable Development**



Confederation of Indian Industry  
Business and Beyond  
125 Years: 1895-2020

*Celebrating 125 Years of Service to the Nation*

INDIA MATTERS

#cii4india

# LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity plays a critical role in providing food and feed, energy, medicines and genetic resources as well as a variety of materials fundamental for human well-being. Natural ecological and evolutionary processes, support by sustaining the quality of air, fresh water and soils, distributing fresh water, regulating the climate, providing pollination and pest control and reducing the impact of natural hazards.



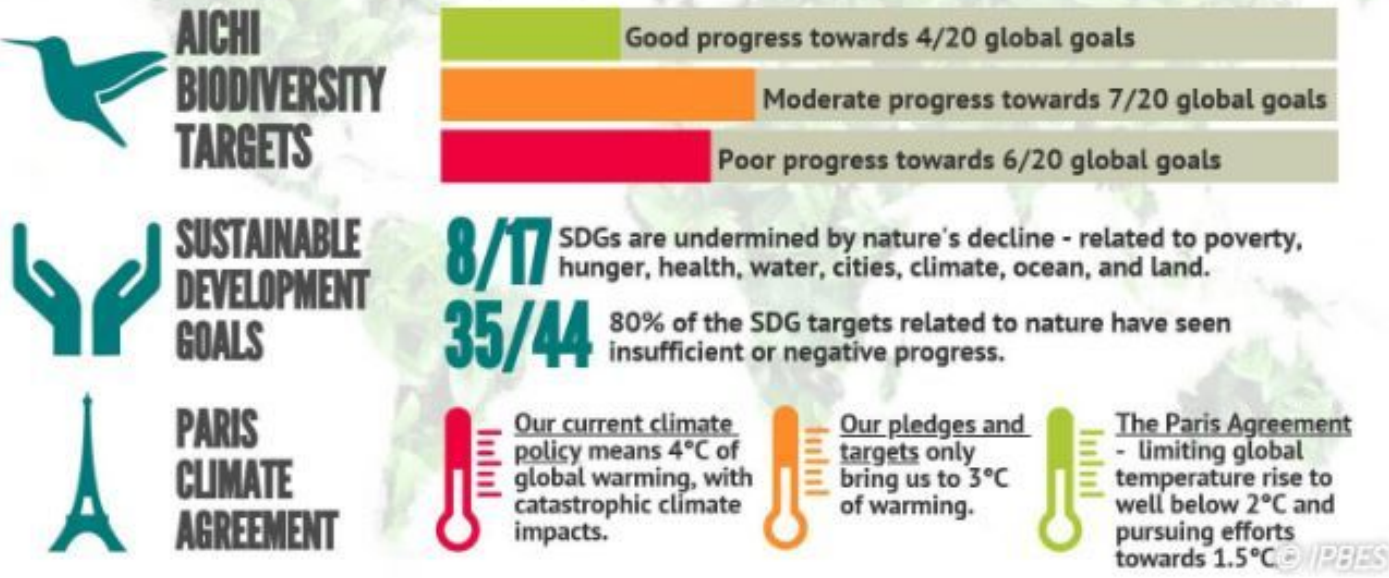
*From individual species through entire ecosystems, biological diversity is vital for human health and well-being. The quality of the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe all depend on keeping the natural world in good health.*

-António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Activities like agriculture, industrialization, energy production and increased harvest of materials have led to losses of local biodiversity, including endemic species, ecosystem functions and the ability to provide important ecosystem services. The rapid and faster alterations in biodiversity and ecosystems are creating uncertainty with respect to sustainability of people and planet.

## NATURE'S DECLINE & THE GLOBAL GOALS. WE ARE NOT ON TRACK

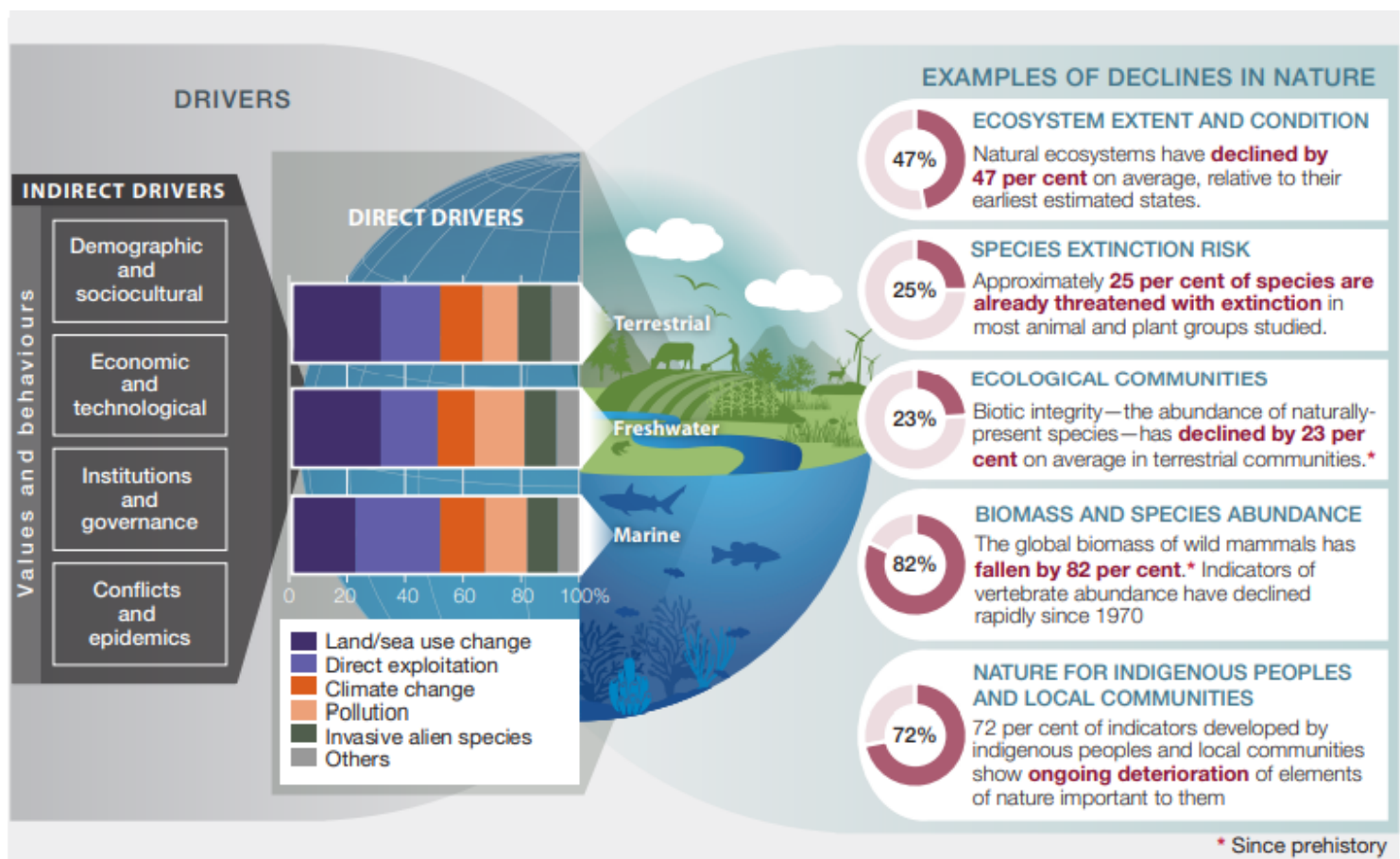
Protecting nature, solving the climate crisis and achieving sustainability cannot be reached by current business as usual. We need a radical transformation of our society if we are to stand a chance in front of ecological breakdown. Governments and businesses are not doing enough.



## Drivers of Biodiversity Loss

Rate of global change in nature during past 50 years is unprecedented in human history. The direct drivers of change in nature with the largest global impact have been: changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution; and invasion of alien species.

These five direct drivers are a result of an array of underlying causes – the indirect drivers of change – which are in turn underpinned by societal values and behaviours that include production and consumption patterns, human population dynamics and trends, trade, technological innovations and local through global governance. The rate of change in the direct and indirect drivers differs among regions and countries.



### Key drivers of biodiversity loss

- **Land-use change:** for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, land-use change has had the largest relative negative impact on nature since 1970.
- **Direct exploitation:** in particular over-exploitation, of animals, plants and other organisms mainly via harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing.
- In marine ecosystems, direct exploitation of organisms (mainly fishing) has had the largest relative impact, followed by land/sea-use change.
- **Climate change:** is increasingly exacerbating the impact of other drivers on nature and human well-being. Humans are estimated to have caused an observed warming of approximately 1.0°C by 2017 relative to pre-industrial levels, with average temperatures over the past 30 years rising by 0.2°C per decade.
- Many types of **pollution**, as well as **invasive alien species**, are increasing, with negative impacts on nature. Marine plastic pollution in particular has increased tenfold since 1980, affecting at least 267 species, including 86 per cent of marine turtles, 44 per cent of seabirds and 43 per cent of marine mammals.
- In the past 50 years, the **human population** has doubled, the global economy has grown nearly 4-fold and global trade has grown 10-fold, together driving up the demands for energy and materials.
- **Harmful economic incentives and policies** associated with unsustainable practices of fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture (including fertilizer and pesticide use), livestock, forestry, mining and energy (including fossil fuels and bio-fuels) are often associated with land/sea-use change and over-exploitation of natural resources, as well as inefficient production and waste management.
- The **areas managed** (under various types of tenure and access regimes) **by indigenous peoples and local communities** are facing growing resource extraction, commodity production, mining and transport and energy infrastructure, with various consequences for local livelihoods and health.

Read More [Here](#).

# SPECIAL FOCUS

## Global Risks 2020: An Unsettled World

The economy, the environment, technology, public health and stakeholders must find ways to act quickly and with purpose in the context of an unsettled global landscape. Recent editions of the Global Risk Report warned of downward pressure on the global economy from macroeconomic fragilities and financial inequality. As these pressures continued to intensify in 2019, a challenging economic climate may persist this year: according to the Global Risk Report, members of the multi-stakeholder community see economic confrontations and domestic political polarisation as the top risks in 2020. Along with these, failure of climate mitigation and adaptation is the number one risk by impact; second most impactful being biodiversity loss.

## 2020 WEF Top 5 Global Risks

in Terms of Likelihood

- 1. Extreme weather
- 2. Climate action failure
- 3. Natural disasters
- 4. Biodiversity loss
- 5. Human-made environment disaster

in Terms of Impact

- 1. Climate action failure
- 2. Weapons of mass destruction
- 3. Biodiversity loss
- 4. Extreme weather
- 5. Water Crisis

Source: WEF

Read the full report [here](#).

15

LIFE ON LAND

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

RED LIST INDEX:

BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS HAPPENING

AT AN ACCELERATED RATE

THE RISK OF SPECIES EXTINCTION HAS WORSENERD BY ALMOST 10% OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS

RED LIST INDEX TRACKS DATA ON MORE THAN 20,000 SPECIES OF MAMMALS, BIRDS, AMPHIBIANS, CORALS AND CYCADS. THE HIGHER THE VALUE, THE LOWER THE CONCERN

Read about SDGs [here](#).

## Sustainable Development Goal : 15 Life on Land

Human activity continues to erode the health of ecosystems on which all species depend. The loss of global biodiversity is accelerating, moving us closer towards unknown and irreversible changes to the Earth's ecosystems. According to the Red List Index, which tracks data on more than 20,000 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads, the risk of species extinction has worsened by about 10 per cent over the last 25 years. The primary drivers of that assault are habitat loss from unsustainable agriculture, deforestation, unsustainable harvest and trade, climate change and alien invasive species. Accelerated action is needed to safeguard critically endangered species and mainstream extinction risk reduction across agriculture, industry, trade and other sectors. Many countries are taking measures to conserve, restore and make sustainable use of those invaluable natural resources. They are adopting legal mechanisms to ensure the fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources, protecting more Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and implementing sustainable forest management plans. But those efforts must be scaled up—urgently. The severity of the situation requires immediate action and a fundamental transformation of our relationship with the Earth to halt biodiversity loss and protect ecosystems for the benefit of all.

# Business for Nature

Business for Nature is a global coalition bringing together influential organizations and forward-thinking businesses. Together, it demonstrates business action and amplifies a powerful business voice calling for governments to reverse nature loss. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with global institutions is partner to Business for Nature and supports the coalition through engagement of Indian businesses.

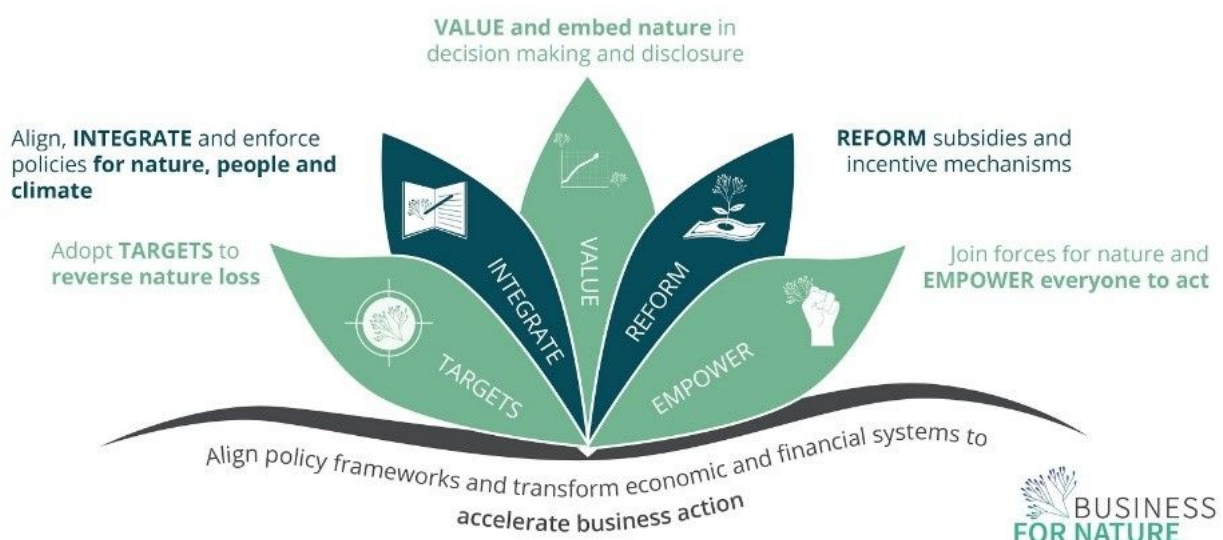
## Business Commitment towards Nature

Forward-thinking businesses understand that global economic prosperity relies on a healthy natural world, and that to resolve the climate crisis and reduce inequality, we must protect and restore nature. Today many businesses understand the value of nature and are voluntarily shifting their practices towards sustainability and longer-term thinking. Over 360 businesses have already made commitments to help reverse nature loss. By doing so, they are contributing to the mitigation of very real and significant risks that are posed to economies, communities and livelihoods.

In 2020, world leaders have a unique opportunity to forge international agreements to reverse nature loss as they did for climate change in 2015. Business action helped shape the Paris Agreement by demonstrating that fighting climate change is both good for the planet and an economic imperative. To achieve the same in 2020 for loss of nature, the business community has to demonstrate with a coherent voice that safeguarding nature makes economic sense.

Business for Nature has engaged with over 200 companies representing 15 sectors from around the world as well as many other organizations to articulate, strengthen and shape five high-level policy recommendations.

WE ARE CALLING FOR POLICIES TO **ACCELERATE BUSINESS ACTION**



These bold actions on nature - if adopted - have the potential to unleash new opportunities and support business to do even more, which in turn leads to greater policy ambition. To know more and contribute visit [here](#).

# TRAFFIC INDIA

TRAFFIC was established in 1976 and has developed into a global network, research-driven and action-oriented, committed to delivering innovative and practical conservation solutions based on the latest information. TRAFFIC is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee, a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN. A central aim of TRAFFIC's activities is to contribute to the wildlife trade-related priorities of these partners. TRAFFIC also works in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

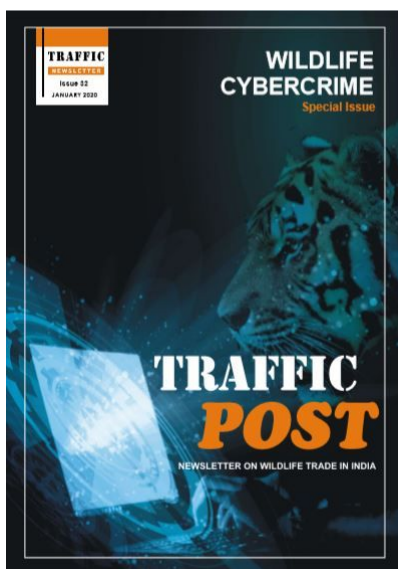
is a strategic alliance of



TRAFFIC's Vision is of a world in which trade in wild plants and animals is managed at sustainable levels without damaging the integrity of ecological systems and in such a manner that it makes a significant contribution to human needs, supports local and national economies and helps to motivate commitments to the conservation of wild species and their habitats.

TRAFFIC's Mission Statement:

"TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature."



## Illegal wildlife trade in India

Over the years illegal wildlife trade has emerged as a form of organised transnational crime that has threatened the existence of many wild species across the globe. In India, it includes diverse products including mongoose hair; snake skins; Rhino horn; Tiger and Leopard claws, bones, skins, whiskers; Elephant tusks; deer antlers; shahtoosh shawl; turtle shells; musk pods; bear bile; medicinal plants; timber and caged birds such as parakeets, mynas, munias etc. A large part of this trade is meant for the international market and has no direct demand in India. India has a strong legal and policy framework to regulate and restrict wildlife trade. Trade in over 1800 species of wild animals, plants and their derivative is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Read more about wildlife cybercrime- a growing threat to endangered flora and fauna [here](#).**

There is an urgent need for knowledge and action to bring legal wildlife trade within sustainable levels and stop all illegal wildlife trade that has threatened and even pushed many species towards extinction. Towards this TRAFFIC works closely with the National and the State Governments and various agencies to help study, monitor and influence action to curb illegal wildlife trade and bring wildlife trade within sustainable levels.

**To know more and support in wildlife conservation visit [here](#).**

# IBBI ACTIVITIES

## Stakeholder Engagement on Biological Diversity Act Implementation in Tamil Nadu

IBBI in collaboration with GIZ organised a workshop on 7 February 2020 at Chennai, to bring together leading actors from biodiversity boards, businesses and civil society at the state level for an exchange of dialogue and identifying challenges and solutions with respect to implementation of the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002.

**Background:** Biological Diversity Act 2002 (BD Act) was developed in India to implement the three objectives of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) i.e. conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair & equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge. The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is the third important objective of the CBD and in the BD Act. The ABS is also a tool for meeting the financial requirements for achieving all the objectives of BD Act. ABS can also play a very critical role in businesses that are dependent on biological resources for sustainable management of supply chain and opportunities to explore global market with ABS complied products.

### Challenges:

- a) There is no awareness on how stakeholders are benefited by complying with the BD Act.
- b) There is no information on how the fee collected will be ploughed back into the community or how it will be used for conservation and protection of biodiversity.
- c) There is duplication of information in application processes especially, for pharma and Ayurveda, across different departments or authorities and there is no inter-linking of this to simplify the process and make it industry friendly.
- d) Non availability of best practice examples, success stories or case studies on implementation of BD act from businesses as well as Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB).
- e) There is no open discussion/ knowledge sharing platform for dialogues with TNBB.

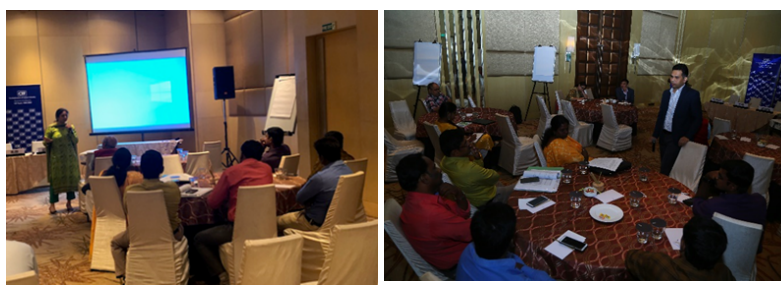
- f) Long-term plan for BD Act implementation, conservation objectives and expected financial requirements are not in place at the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) level and there is no incentive/recognition or benefits for industries for complying to the BD Act.

### Solutions:

- a) Capacity building and awareness programmes on BD Act implementation and ABS mechanism for stakeholders, industry and NGOs.
- b) Development of knowledge products on BD Act process and implementation for reference by business.
- c) Mechanism for protection and safeguarding biodiversity and benefit sharing.
- d) Guidelines for protection of raw material, supply chain management and support to communities and providers of biological resources.
- e) Documentation of case studies on benefit sharing, stories on biodiversity conservation and business cases on mainstreaming of ABS.
- f) Engaging important stakeholders like drug control authority, state licensing authority and research associations etc.
- g) Development of state level working groups including representatives from State Biodiversity Board, businesses, relevant authorities and research organisations.
- h) Engaging the state level sectoral associations for identifying the BD Act linkages and exploring the opportunities for businesses.

### Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Working Group (TNBWG)-

Provide an exchange forum for businesses and SBB. Documentation of best practices and develop guidelines Development of action plan for successful implementation of BD Act at state level by businesses.



Group Discussion to Identify Solutions for Implementation of BD Act

# Business Consultation on Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework and Climate Change

IBBI organised the 1st workshop on 28th February 2020 at Kochi, to identify the challenges and opportunities for transformative change and the ways to future proof businesses from emerging risks of biodiversity loss and climate change. Workshop is supported by GIZ, WWF and WSO

**Background:** There is enough scientific evidence about the risks to businesses due to biodiversity loss and climate change impact especially for businesses operating in the Western Ghats. It is very crucial for businesses to integrate biodiversity and climate change into their business decision-making and show commitments towards achieving respective goals and targets. India being a party to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Framework for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is planning to show case stronger commitment and action plan towards achieving its biodiversity and climate targets.

**Objective:** The workshop focused on two key aspects with relevance to biodiversity and climate change:

- (1) how businesses can play an important role in developing and implementing the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and
- (2) how to calculate green-house gases (GHG) and climate vulnerability risk in supply chain.



## Participants:

The workshop was attended by 22 participants (including top and mid level management) representing 10 companies including Spice, Agriculture and Auto sector.

## Challenges:

### A. Unsustainable Agriculture Practices:

- Over use of chemical fertilisers & pesticides
- Over extraction of natural resources like water
- Soil degradation and loss of productivity

### B. Climate Change Impacts:

- Increased events of extreme weather conditions
- Shift in cropping season due to changing weather patterns
- Increased pest & disease attack
- Non-utilisation of renewable energy
- Lack of awareness on nature-based solutions that can be adapted

### C. Market:

- Stringent standards for food products
- Increased competition in the global market
- Price fluctuation

## Commitment from participants for biodiversity conservation & climate change mitigation:

- a) Reduce water usage by 10% through sustainable and monitored irrigation
- b) 75% reduction in use of chemical pesticides.
- c) zero use of hazardous pesticides.
- d) 50% use of organic manure.
- e) Adaptation of Climate Resilient Agriculture: 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2050 in agri sector.
- f) Shift in energy usage upto 40% renewable energy by 2030.
- g) By 2025 make 25% production sustainable.

## Business ask:

- a) Access to 50% of available farming technologies at farm level by 2030 across Agri-sector.
- b) Policy intervention for managing market fluctuation
- c) Incentives for sustainable farming to companies and farmers



Write to us for participating in other regional workshops on Business consultation for Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 15TH SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



SUB-THEMES	
 Business and nature	 Food systems
 Responsible consumption	 Inclusive workplaces
 Agriculture, water and climate change	 Health systems
 Nature and economics	 Climate justice
 Air pollution	 Future of energy

2020 is the Super Year, a landmark year for the environment and sustainable development agenda. Several agreements and decisions will be witnessed during the year, ranging from the new global biodiversity framework, action on climate change and negotiations for commitments around the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The 15th edition of the Sustainability Summit will focus on Super Year negotiations and will also reflect on our past actions. The theme, Action Agenda for the Next Decade, will build on conversations around technology, innovations and systems thinking as the driving force for building a sustainable, fair and equitable future.

For Participation and Partnership interest contact: [banajyotsna.baruah@cii.in](mailto:banajyotsna.baruah@cii.in) / [sonia.dhamija@cii.in](mailto:sonia.dhamija@cii.in)

## 15TH CII-ITC SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards define the science of sustainability performance. Excellence in sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement in processes and results. In the past 14 years, cumulatively, 953 businesses have applied of which 304 have been recognised. Limited number of applications are accepted to maintain strong competition and high standards of excellence.

**Application of Intent for the awards is open.**

**Last date for receiving applications is 30 April 2020.**

**To know more about application, process and assessor training visit [here](#).**



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