

SDG Blueprint for Sustainable Agriculture: Expert Consultation



India Habitat Center, Delhi, October 12, 2023 - In an insightful and thought-provoking gathering, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) hosted an "Expert Consultation - SDG Blueprint for Sustainable Agriculture." The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to delve into the intricate connections between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainable agriculture, with a specific focus on SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). The consultation aimed to bring stakeholders from different fields to explore and understand these connections.

This gathering was graced by diverse voices representing different sectors and expertise. Notable participants included Vaishali Kanojia, a Research Associate at Development Alternatives (DA), Marcella D'Souza, Director at WOTR, Aditya Petwal from the Centre for Responsible Business and others. These experts shared their insights on the challenges and opportunities that emerge at the intersection of sustainable agriculture and the selected SDGs.

Vaishali Kanojia, DA, emphasised the pivotal role of SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production - in sustainable agriculture. She highlighted the challenges faced by farmers, including issues related to finance and infrastructure. She advocated for increased awareness campaigns and knowledge products in local languages to bridge the gap between policies and effective implementation.

During the consultation, one of the critical discussions centred on the existing policy gaps and challenges in sustainable agriculture. Participants acknowledged the need for holistic policy frameworks that address the complexities of agriculture value chains while ensuring that these policies align with the selected SDGs.

The consensus among the participants was clear: a collaborative approach is essential to address these issues effectively. The involvement of various stakeholders, including government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector, is crucial to drive sustainable development in India's agriculture sector.

The insights generated during the expert consultation have significant implications for the future of sustainable agriculture in India. By recognising the interconnectedness of SDGs and understanding the complexities within agriculture value chains, it is possible to take substantial strides towards a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future.

The consultation concluded with a resounding call to action, highlighting the importance of collaboration and collective commitment. As we strive to address the most pressing challenges of our time, the intersection of sustainable agriculture and the 2030 Agenda offers a promising path forward.