

Sector Challenges

The future of food security, nutrition, and farmer's livelihoods are each highly sensitive to the effects of climate change. Smallholders (farmers with holdings of less than 2 hectares) cultivate roughly 85% of Indian farmland, but due to volatile global produce prices and growing production risks caused by climate change, managing these land-holdings is progressively becoming unviable. These factors have resulted in increasingly vulnerable farmer and agricultural labor livelihoods and have been linked directly with tens of thousands of farmer suicides. While the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has gained traction, their capacity to develop viable business ideas and translate them into sustainable operating enterprises is missing. At present, the sector lacks a supportive ecosystem that can assist the FPOs through their journey from inception to becoming a self-sustaining, member-controlled organization with the capacity to successfully operate a business and strengthen farmer livelihoods for individual, community, market and national impact.

Outcomes Catalyzed



INCLUSIVE LENDING
Enabling financial
inclusion through
local banks with
tailored products



FINANCING
Tailoring financial
services and
products to
seasonal cycles



RESILIENCE
Mitigating risk &
conserving water by
selecting climate
appropriate crops



HIGHER QoL Creating healthier & more efficient work environments for farmers



ASSET OWNERSHIP
Supporting the creation of wealth through facilitating technology purchases



Market Leve

System Level

MARKET LINKAGES
Leveraging public
private partnerships
to explore new
business models



SUSTAINABILITY
Positive global
impact through
sustainable, GMOfree crop choices



INCLUSIVITY
Buy-in from national
financial institutions
to create inclusive
lending practices



Banks gain access to new client segments once considered to be "un-bankable"

Our Approach

S3IDF partners with farm collectives such as Self-Help Groups, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, and Farmer Producer Organizations to improve the employment opportunities of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. We enhance value capture through small infrastructure improvements such as mills, fodder cutters and organic composting units. S3IDF enables access to critical processing technology, financial literacy training, and formal working capital, each of which allows farmers to integrate ecologically responsible practices into their livelihoods while improving their incomes and increasing their resiliency to weather events.