



World Localization Day: Fostering a Favorable Ecosystem for Local Green Enterprises

On behalf of Vikalp Sangam, National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF), Kalpavriksh, Bhoomi College, and Development Alternatives came together to organise a dialogue series as part of World Localization Day. Development Alternatives facilitated the second session as part of this series as **Dialogue2047** format.

Participants in the session represented the business community, government, media, students, academia, development professionals and civil society – were representatives of the Local Futures and Green Economy Coalition (GEC) by bringing a global voice to advance the localisation movement.

The speakers for the event included –Mr Kapil Mandawewala, Founder, CEO, Edible Routes; Dr Suman Sahai, Activist and Founder, Gene Campaign; Mr Mirko Zuerker, Head of SEED Asia, Co-Lead Policy; and Prof. Shambu Prasad, Professor, Strategic Management, Institute of Rural Management, Anand.

The purpose of the session was to discuss and deliberate on possible ways to enable a supportive business ecosystem for Local Green Enterprises (LGEs) laying emphasis on the food system.

One of the main issues that emerged during the discussion was how LGEs face many systemic challenges which require support from multiple stakeholders. It was agreed that this would require facilitating easier access to knowledge and information, technology, finance, market linkages, improved operational and economic efficiency and capacity building of entrepreneurs to assess their performance on financial and nonfinancial aspects while retaining profits locally and enhancing resilience. Different perspectives on the need to scale-up and scale-out also came to the forefront.

In addition, it was agreed by all members of the panel that vulnerability faced by food and related systems owing to the COVID-19 pandemic deserves special attention. Farmers and enterprises working across the Local Food System value chain need to rework their strategies with support from an enabling

ecosystem. For this purpose, sustainable practices need to be internalised such that the agri-food system is looked at as a whole including production, distribution and consumption.

The panel members in their time, shared case studies and experiences of those who have successfully adopted sustainable food production practices that strengthen local economies by generating livelihoods locally and integrating the resilience of systems at the local level. They also showcased grassroots stories on how various individuals/organisations and various sections across India have managed to demonstrate resilience in challenging circumstances.