

## India - Australia Development Partnerships in Agriculture and Agribusiness

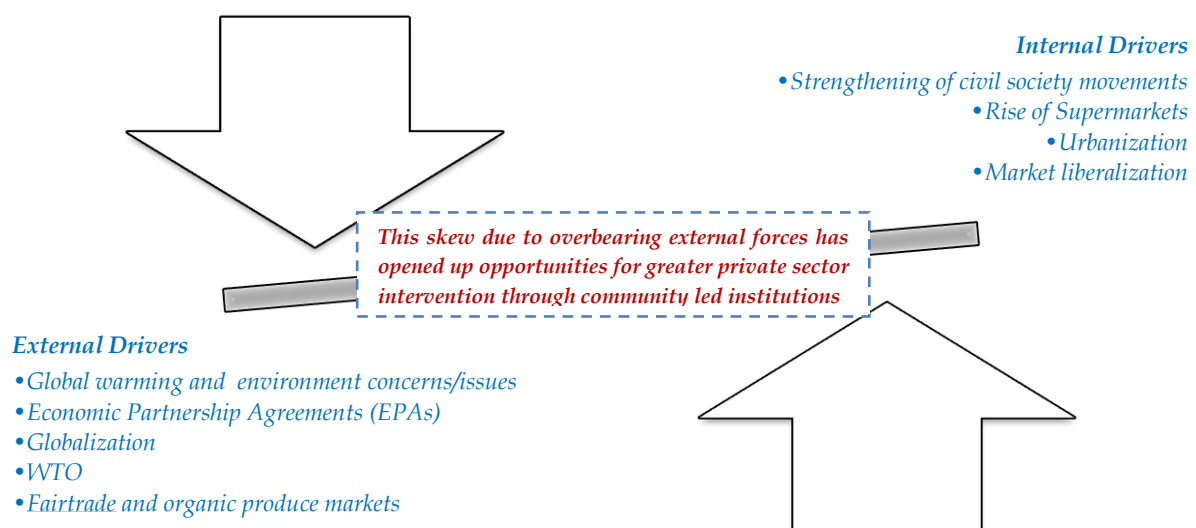
### *Role of Private Sector*

#### Agriculture in India and Australia - Building up on Commonalities:

1. From a geopolitical and agricultural perspective, Australia can act as a 'bridge' between the East and the West
2. So far, most of the multilateral/ bilateral research in agriculture has leaned towards the western countries (US/ EU/ Israel among others), and Australia has come in as another vital partner that can balance developmental perspectives to assist in solving India's unique challenges for the agriculture sector
3. Looking at the long term, with India's burgeoning population putting pressure on the availability of farming land, Australia might well emerge as a future off-shore farming base for India
4. Akin to Australia being the anchor point for Oceanic countries in the Southern Hemisphere, the developing economies of the Indian Ocean pivot around India in the Northern Hemisphere, making India Australia's strongest ally in the region, both countries being strong proponents of democracy.
5. Similarity in climate extremities, especially dryland geographies and variability due to climate change
6. Best practices in technology, farm management and government policy
7. Australia's water management modules are of high relevance to India as it aggressively pursues food security and inclusivity goals

#### Importance of Private Sector in Developmental Partnerships from Indian Context:

1. While last mile benefits would accrue from ground level aggregation (Farmer Organizations/ Collaborative Community Structures) that provides better access to inputs, knowledge and capital, the private sector plays a critical role in ensuring the business sustainability through creation and management of value chains.
2. Their role is also critical in translating government and academic research to the farmer, especially in technical aspects like farm mechanization, precision farming & post processing, and leveraging institutional finance as small farmers/ farmer groups upscale.



**Innovative modalities and practices to improve Australia's contribution to agricultural development, better nutrition and inclusive economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region**

1. Identifying the lacunae in Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Collaborative Community Structures evolving into competitive Producer Companies: Emphasis on creating equitable cost-sharing mechanisms and economies of scale
2. Structure projects and pilots that focus on the aspects of improving institutional structures in the agriculture sector, especially the private sector-community interface at the grassroots
3. Interventions in post harvest management -technology and value chain innovations
4. Study the dynamics of Horizontal Cooperation at the Grassroots
5. Intensively training for communities/ farmers to undertake complex tasks like managing joint assets apart from coordinating marketing and procurement
6. Rural/ Community Entrepreneurship: Essential to infuse the dynamics of process innovation and learning-by-doing

**Suggestions for development partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness in promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region**

1. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Producer Companies (PCs)
  - a. Self-certification and product Differentiation
  - b. Agriculture Extension Services
2. Non-farming Income Models:
  - a. Agri-tourism/ Farm-tourism
  - b. Involvement of women
3. Broaden the scope of participation of Financial institutions
4. Proponents of Social Equity in Agriculture to be centered around Collaborative Community Structures that can provide:
  - a. Equitable administrative responsibilities
  - b. Scalability from Production to Marketing, Logistics and Consumer Engagement
  - c. Balance Social Benefits with Rural Requirements
5. Institutions for Training Farmers, Agriculture and Financial Institutions on Developing PPP Expertise