



Explore Potential of Sovereign Principles led Enterprising Actions for Youth Engagement in Sustainable Actions like Green-Energy, Agroecology, Circular-Living, Food & Nutrition, and Climate Resilient Health System

The Wicked Challenge

Climate change threatens Indigenous communities by disrupting their traditional, eco-aligned systems, highlighting the urgent need to restore decentralized governance and Indigenous knowledge for resilient development.

BUT

Reviving indigenous knowledge and community sovereignty offers an inclusive, low-cost, and sustainable path to climate resilience through time-tested practices and civil society collaboration.

Responses from Open Discussions

Farmers open to organic farming, but low demand is a barrier.

Funds are allocated but unused by the panchayat; trained youth can hold panchayats accountable

Eco/agritourism can help train youth to generate income sustainably while preserving the local environment and community ties

Youth as volunteers can conducted surveys to understand the issues at the village level - lack of sewer systems, water, no roads etc.



Moderator
Avneet Kaur
Principal, Bridgespan

Youth engagement in sustainable practices through enterprising actions rooted in sovereign principles—spanning green energy, agroecology, circular living, and climate-resilient health systems.

Potential Solution



Promote assisted entrepreneurship by supporting first-time rural entrepreneurs with mentorship and resources



Strengthen financial inclusion through climate financing models like umbrella loans and mobile business schools



Build local capacity by training youth in sustainability, governance accountability, and enterprise skills



Create demand for organic and green products through branding, marketing, and consumer education



Encourage eco-based livelihoods like agri-tourism to generate income without harming the environment



Speaker
Anagha Kamat
Founder, KickStart Girls, Mann Deshi Foundation

Never provide poor solutions to people.

Working with tribal and rural women in Maharashtra, expanded work to youth in 2019

The people have recognised disruption in agricultural patterns (sowing and harvesting) -

Agenda of Mann Deshi:

1. Climate financing - umbrella loans designed for street vendors, mortgage gold in banks to buy fodder for their animals, "business school on wheels", "best out of waste" - creating green business.
2. Educating the youth - at school level itself, community radio show. The youth have been encouraged to study the soil of the land.



Speaker
Shirish Joshi
Consultant Organisation Design and Strategic HR

Fund the entrepreneur, not the project

Project with BAIF in collaboration with EU - uplift 3000 people from BPL in 11 districts - 800-950 people started enterprises with the help of this scheme

Cluster development officers gave power to the community to decide about the spending of the budget and the actions to be taken - successful because of the partnership and collaborative nature

There should be assisted entrepreneurship to help them establish themselves, at least for the first-level entrepreneur

NGOs also help with the capacity building of the marginalised