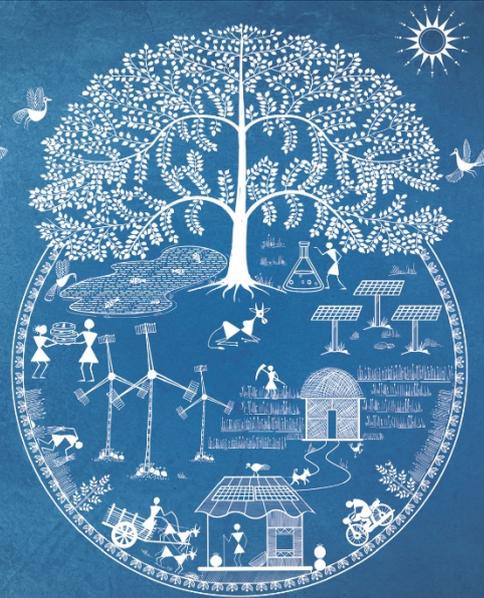




# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2023

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

February 22-24, 2023  
New Delhi



**Title: No Time to Waste: How Circular Economy Principles can Address India's Waste Related Emissions**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

**Time: 11:30 am-1:00 pm IST**

**Venue: Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre**

## **Background**

Though waste management in cities has improved a lot since advent of Swachh Bharat Mission, most Indian cities and states still lack proper waste management practices and their infrastructure is poorly designed or non-existent. Major metropolitan cities are hotspots of legacy waste issues and have unscientific landfills, illegal dumping and burning, leading to public health risks and release of methane emissions—a GHG and a major source of ground-level ozone pollution. Further, despite being one of the leading food producers in the world, India suffers from massive post-harvest food loss and waste, leading to food and nutritional insecurity, and adding to waste-related methane emissions if not properly managed or segregated at source.

According to India's 2021 Biennial Update Report, over a 20-year period, methane emissions are responsible for over 40% of total GHG emissions and per the 2022 Global Methane Tracker 19.8% of methane emissions in India come from the waste sector including solid waste and wastewater. According to 2022 UNEP Global Methane Assessment, with increase in economic growth and population, methane emissions from waste are expected to increase by 13 megatons per year over the next decade alone, with most emissions coming from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. According to 2021 UNEP Food Waste Index Report, about 50 kg/capita/year of household food is wasted in India, leading to a total of over 68 Mt of household food waste per year.

Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) with 84 times the global warming impact of carbon dioxide on a 20-year timescale. Therefore, for India to meet its NDC target of 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2070, it must tackle methane emissions from the waste sector. And, it must do so using circular economy principles that are good for the people and the planet.

Further, as India takes the global centre stage with the G20 Presidency with Mission LiFE as a centrepiece, making strides in waste management can serve as a model for other countries in the Global South, as well as initiate sharing of best practices across countries so that collectively we can slash waste-related methane emissions within this decade, and deliver improved air and water quality, health, livelihoods, and dignity to all citizens and communities.

The objectives of this track are to (i) elevate the importance of managing the food loss and waste in India given the nutritional, health, and livelihoods benefits and potential for methane reductions; (ii) identify the current gaps and challenges in applying circular economy principles to waste management; (iii) share current best practices that are applied in India and globally to address this issue; (iv) discuss how robust data and technological interventions drive better decision-making at the subnational and national level, while delivering better health, livelihoods and nutritional benefits to people and communities.

## Guiding Questions

Here include 2-3 questions that will be posed to the speakers.

To subnational government speakers (Delhi/Mumbai/ South Africa):

1. What are the current waste management practices you are undertaking in your city, especially in terms of diversion and treatment of organic MSW? And can you highlight some progress and challenges?
2. Can you tell us about the current targets you have in the waste sector in your state/local climate action plans and what current barriers are you seeing in helping meet those targets?

To CSO speakers (WRI/RMI)

1. What role is your organization playing in managing the organics MSW from a circular economy lens?
2. What available tools exist for policymakers to make better policies and interventions for waste management? What are the gaps?

*Bonus question (if time):* How do you think this platform can be used for South-South collaboration for technical exchange and financial investment to imbibe circular economy principles for waste management across the Global South?

### **About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)**

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 22nd edition of the annual flagship event is being held from 22-24 February 2023 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action.