Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Enterprises

Empowering Indian MSMEs and Workers for a Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Future
Why MSMEs?

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of India's economy, contributing 30% to India's GDP and employing more than 110 million people. However, climate change is already affecting workers as well as the profitability and productivity of MSMEs in India. This, along with low carbon shifts in technology and changing market demands, can adversely impact this already vulnerable sector.

- Livelihoods and productivity impacts due to climate change induced heatwaves and floods
- Growing pressure to monitor and mitigate emissions
- Transition towards green technologies
- Lack of access to skilling and finance

About RISE

Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Enterprises (RISE) aims to help build the resilience and competitiveness of MSMEs in the automotive cluster in Tamil Nadu and the textile cluster in Gujarat, while enabling an inclusive and just transition to a low carbon future.

By 2026, under RISE, WRI India will engage with MSMEs and local communities, industry associations and experts, skilling and financing agencies and local and national governments to support at least 1000 workers in 100 MSMEs to help them manage climate impacts, implement climate actions and acquire skills for better livelihoods.
What We Will Do

Under RISE, WRI India will identify gaps, build capacity, showcase case studies and mobilize stakeholders to:

- Prepare MSMEs to manage climate change impacts
- Build capacity to reduce emissions
- Upskill and reskill workers and entrepreneurs for future-ready MSMEs
- Build awareness and capacity to access finance

What Will MSMEs Gain?

- Understand and manage impact of climate on business and workers for increased productivity, profits and worker wellbeing
- Reduce operational costs and risks through climate action and become competitive
- Learn about global and sectoral shifts in the sector
- Identify new business and job opportunities in green technologies and products
- Contribute to national efforts on meeting India’s climate commitments and developmental goals
- Connect with and learn from other MSMEs, large companies and buyers, industry experts and financial institutions
Ares Charitable Foundation
Established in 2020, the Ares Foundation seeks to accelerate equality of economic opportunity through grants to nonprofit organizations whose programming provides Career Preparation & Reskilling, encourages Entrepreneurship and deepens individuals’ understanding of Personal Finance.
www.aresfoundation.org

Climate Resilient Employees for a Sustainable Tomorrow ("CREST") is a five-year grant-funded initiative by the Ares Charitable Foundation that intends to prepare and reskill individuals for climate-resilient jobs in the US and India. It is also expected to train and place at least 25,000 individuals in clean energy jobs, while further raising awareness of climate-resilient careers among 100,000 individuals.

WRI India
WRI India, an independent charity legally registered as the India Resources Trust (IRT), is a research organization that turns big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and human well-being.
www.wri-india.org

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