



PRESS RELEASE

Grow Asia and the Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) Announce New Partnership to Accelerate Inclusive Business Design in Agriculture

- Global initiative iBAN to issue grant to Grow Asia to support the platform's efforts to improve smallholder farmers' livelihoods and productivity in Southeast Asia
- The grant will be used to accelerate Grow Asia's work enhancing regional digital capabilities and developing inclusive business models

Singapore/Germany, 21 December 2018 – Grow Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that catalyses action on inclusive agricultural development in Southeast Asia, today announced a new partnership which will strengthen its work to increase the productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability of smallholder agriculture through innovative solutions and inclusive business models. The Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN), a global initiative which supports the scaling and replication of inclusive business models to improve the lives of the poor and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), supports Grow Asia with grant financing.

“We are proud to support the work of the Grow Asia Partnership,” said **Christian Jahn, Executive Director, iBAN**. “Grow Asia's extensive knowledge and expertise in convening multi-stakeholder partnerships will allow us to reach Southeast Asia's smallholder farmers in need while spurring innovation along the value chain, strengthening linkages and building effective operations,” he added.

The grant will fund two main work streams: Digital and Inclusive Business Design and Development, which will be led by the Grow Asia Secretariat. The goal is to provide smallholder farmers with access to essential information, knowledge, markets and finance by sharing best practice and tools with agricultural stakeholders to facilitate inclusive and sustainable value chains.

Digital technology has the potential to revolutionize the agriculture industry by enhancing the efficiency of food production, developing sustainable solutions and improving the lives of smallholder farmers. Grow Asia's Digital activities and work stream aim to accelerate digital capability building by targeting business leaders to help build partnerships, share learnings and encourage farmer-centered growth in the use of digital technologies to create impact on small farms in the region.

As part of the Digital work stream, Grow Asia will produce an open-source Digital Solutions Directory to share valuable knowledge and promote digital tools available to support smallholder supply chains. The partnership will also facilitate a three-day village immersion experience for business leaders and start-up CEOs to consult with farmers and design digital solutions which meet farmer's core needs. Grow Asia will continue hosting a series of Digital Learning Events to help business leaders understand how technologies can be used in inclusive projects and value chains.

Under the Inclusive Business Design and Development work stream, Grow Asia will support locally-led country partnerships to define their strategies, engage new partners and develop innovative solutions by engaging working group consultants with expertise in value chain design and development. Additionally, a knowledge paper on Inclusive Business Models will be commissioned by Grow Asia to showcase the learnings from its working groups and best practice guidance from companies on developing inclusive business models.

“Grow Asia's 44 working groups across Southeast Asia are already reaching nearly 700,000 farmers through inclusive business models. Our unique multi-stakeholder approach is helping smallholder farmers to

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improve their income and productivity, and is injecting much-needed cash flow in rural communities to help address poverty,” said **Grahame Dixie, Executive Director, Grow Asia**.

“We are thrilled to partner with iBAN to help take our work even further and reach more smallholders. By bringing start-ups, agriculturalists and development professionals together, exciting breakthroughs can happen, and we look forward to seeing the impact of our collaboration,” he added.

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About The Grow Asia Partnership

Grow Asia is a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that aims to reach 10 million smallholder farmers by 2020, helping them access knowledge, technology, finance, and markets to increase their productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability by 20%. Grow Asia brings together Southeast Asia’s smallholders, governments, companies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains that benefit farmers. It launches and supports locally-driven Country Partnerships, helping them define their strategy, engage new partners and develop innovative solutions.

Grow Asia enables stakeholders from different disciplines to leverage one another’s expertise, share insights and learn from regional experiences. Today Grow Asia collaborates with over 480 partners across five Country Partnerships, reaching nearly 700,000 smallholder farmers.

Grow Asia was established by the World Economic Forum, in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, to convene, facilitate, and help scale action-focused partnerships. Grow Asia builds on the experience and success of the Forum’s New Vision for Agriculture (NVA) initiative, which facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships across the world focused on agriculture development to deliver food security, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity.

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About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise with worldwide operations. It supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education. Through its work, GIZ helps people and societies shape their own future and improve their living conditions.

About iBAN

The Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) is a global initiative supporting the scaling and replication of inclusive business models. Through its strategic pillars iBAN blue and iBAN weave, iBAN manages an innovative online knowledge platform on inclusive business (www.inclusivebusiness.net) and offers a focused Capacity Development Programme for selected companies and policymakers in developing and emerging countries. iBAN creates a space where evidence-based knowledge transforms into learning and new partnerships. With its focus on promoting the upscale of inclusive business models and consequently improving the lives of the poor, iBAN is actively contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. iBAN is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union. It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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