

# West Asia Future Lab for Innovation and Policy

## Part of the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy

### Future Proof Solutions for Green Textile-Fashion SMEs

September 20th, 2022 | 10:00-14:00m (KSA/GMT+3) | Digital

The West Asia Future Lab for Innovation and Policy – a collaborative partnership between [SEED](#), [GO4SDGs](#) and the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy – offers a platform for green SME stakeholders, such as policy makers, financiers and entrepreneurs, to make the textile and fashion sector ready for 2030 by developing future-proof solutions for today's challenges. The lab focuses on the clothing and apparel industries and addresses challenges along the value chain from production to consumption. The participatory lab process will connect policy makers, intermediaries and SMEs in a co-creation setting in order to develop tailored solutions in five action areas such as Innovation, Non-Financial Support, Finance, Policy and Market. The co-created solutions will provide concrete action items in how to better support West Asian green SMEs applying circular technologies or business models operating in the **textile and fashion sector**. To drive this systematic change, the participants of the lab will discuss priority areas such as shifting consumption patterns, improved practices and infrastructure investments.

The West Asia Future Lab was designed to engage a community of 30-40 participants leveraging the expertise of key green SME stakeholders across the region. The West Asia Lab is organized in collaboration with the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy and UNEP and is part of a Global Lab Series that engages green SME stakeholders in the Agri-Food and Textile-Fashion sectors across Africa, Asia, Latin America and West Asia. The practical insights of the regional labs will inform a New Green SME Action Agenda supporting the global advocacy efforts of the growing green SME community leading the way for future SME policies and frameworks.

## Key Objectives and Outcomes

The objective of the **Future Lab** series is to

- Support the design of future-proof solutions that serve the needs of SMEs to embrace innovation for circularity, covering key regional priority sectors such as textiles, construction, agriculture-food or plastics.
- Leverage expertise, experience and assets of key green SME stakeholders to co-create future-proof solutions that scale-up financing and policy actions for green SMEs

The **Future Labs** intend to generate the following outcomes

- The Labs will connect key green SME stakeholders in the co-creation of future-proof solutions that scale-up financing and policy actions for green SMEs while informing the New Sustainable SMEs Action Agenda.
- The Labs will increase the knowledge of SMEs and SME stakeholders on the critical role of resource efficiency, circularity and access finance for green SMEs

## Target Audience

The Future Lab targets green SMEs and organisations, who work at the interface of business, civil society and politics supporting green SMEs or circular economy solutions. It aims to advance an evidence-based joint action agenda engaging key policy makers, intermediaries and Green SMEs. It is designed to forge direct collaboration and to co-create future-proof solutions addressing the needs of green SMEs.

## Agenda, September 20th, 2022 – 10:00 – 14:00 (KSA/GMT+3)

10:00-10:10	<b>Check-in and Welcome</b>
10:10-10:30	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to the role of SMEs in the 2030 Agenda</li> <li>• Intro to the Sustainable SME Action Areas</li> </ul>
10:30-10:40	<b>Opening Reflection and Stocktake in Groups of Three</b>
10:40-10:50	<b>Break</b>
10:50-11:35	<b>High-level panel: Scale up future-proof solutions for West Asian green SMEs in the textile sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stocktake and Ambitions:</b> Where are we today? Where do we need to go?</li> <li>• <b>Insights around the five Actions Areas:</b> Innovation, Non-Financial Support, Finance, Policy and Market</li> </ul> <b>Format:</b> Panel discussion followed by Q&A
11:35-11:45	<b>Break</b>
11:45-13:45	<b>Deep-Dive Working Groups: Scale up future-proof solutions for West Asian green SMEs in the textile sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Step 1: Solutions:</b> What are future-proof solutions to support green textile SMEs by 2030?</li> <li>• <b>Step 2: Actions and Recommendations:</b> What are the critical next steps to get there by 2030?</li> </ul> <b>Format:</b> 1h 45min parallel break-out groups followed by 15min plenary discussion informing the action agenda
13:45-14:00	<b>Synthesis and Way forward on New Sustainable Action Agenda</b>

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