

# THE MSP GUIDE

HOW TO DESIGN  
AND FACILITATE  
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER  
PARTNERSHIPS

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THE NETHERLANDS  
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## THE MSP GUIDE

In recent years, multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) have become popular for tackling the complex challenges of sustainable development. This guide provides a practical framework for the design and facilitation of these collaborative processes that work across the boundaries of business, government, civil society and science. The guide links the underlying rationale for multi-stakeholder partnerships, with a clear four phase process model, a set of seven core principles, key ideas for facilitation and 60 participatory tools for analysis, planning and decision making.

The guide has been written for those directly involved in MSPs – as a stakeholder, leader, facilitator or funder – to provide both the conceptual foundations and practical tools that underpin successful partnerships.

What's inside draws on the direct experience of staff from the Centre of Development Innovation (CDI), at Wageningen University & Research Centre, in supporting MSP processes in many countries around the world. The guide also compiles the ideas and materials behind CDI's annual three week international course on facilitating MSPs and social learning. This work has been inspired by the motivation and passion that comes when people dare to "walk in each other's shoes" to find new paths toward shared ambitions for the future.

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### ENDORSEMENTS:

"...Multi-stakeholder partnerships are, although not the easiest, certainly the most effective way forward to make sure no one is left behind when taking decisions that affect us all. I am struck by the amount of experience and quality of insight gathered in this guide, which echo many situations we encounter at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) throughout our continuing learning journey to ensure inclusive policies for zero hunger and malnutrition." - Gerda Verburg, Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

"...'The MSP Guide' is a welcome and invaluable management tool for identifying the core principles, tools and considerations needed to optimise your organisation's approach to engagement..." - Paul Hohnen, Sustainability Strategies, Amsterdam, and Associate Fellow, Chatham House

"What I like about this manual – and I like it a lot – is the way the authors have drawn on a rich tapestry of global experience and wide range of professional disciplines to enable those who read it to tackle the innumerable challenges of collaboration with increased confidence and competence." - Ros Tennyson, Partnership Brokers Association

"Managing multi-stakeholder partnerships is both an art and a science. This guide offers both practical guidance and unique insights drawn from real experience, providing the most comprehensive resource available on the subject." - Lisa Dreier, Head of Food Security and Agriculture Initiatives, World Economic Forum USA