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MSMEs in BRICS Economies:
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Akhilesh Kumar Sharma*

Abstract: *This paper examines the state of MSMEs across BRICS economies in terms of their scale, performance, constraints and emerging transformation. Using secondary sources and weighted estimates from the World Bank Enterprise Surveys, it highlights substantial heterogeneity in MSME definitions, productivity, employment size, capacity utilisation and innovation. The analysis also finds uneven progress in digitalisation, green transition and internationalisation, alongside country-specific constraints related to finance, taxation, infrastructure, skills and institutions. The findings suggest that there is no single BRICS model of MSME development and underline the need for differentiated national policies alongside stronger BRICS cooperation in finance, technology, digitalisation, sustainability and market integration.*

Keywords: MSMEs, *BRICS, Labour Productivity, Innovation, Digitalisaiton, Green Transition, Internalisation, MSME Policy and Cooperation*
JEL Classification: *L25, L26, F15, O14, O33, Q56*

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1. Introduction

The BRICS[1] has emerged as an intergovernmental grouping of major emerging and developing economies for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues. Through fostering cooperation in multiple areas, particularly economic, financial, political, and people-to-people initiatives, it has become a platform for a stronger voice in global affairs. Following its expansion, the grouping has 11 members including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and United Arab Emirates.

The significance of BRICS lies in its collective economic contribution, its representation of the global population, and its substantial natural resource base. Together, the member countries account for about 48.5 percent of the world's population[2], implying that nearly one in two people worldwide lives in a BRICS economy. The grouping also accounts for around 40 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) at purchasing power parity (PPP) and approximately 26 per cent of global merchandise trade[3]. In addition, BRICS economies account for a major share of global production of crude oil and petroleum products, natural gas, and coal and possess a substantial share of global rare-earth mineral reserves[4].

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are an important component of the entrepreneurial and industrial structure of BRICS economies. Though their definitions and coverage vary, they contribute significantly to economic output, employment generation, inclusive growth, innovation, and entrepreneurial activities across member countries. They are an important economic instrument for integrating women, youth, and other emerging entrepreneurs into economic activities (Alibhai et al., 2017). Given their presence across diverse production and service activities, they are crucial to strengthening local, regional, and international production systems. As suppliers, subcontractors, distributors, and service providers, they form an integral part of domestic supply chains and increasingly participate in regional and global value chains. Their flexibility to operate and scale-up, and capacity to adopt new technologies have broader implications for

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1 The term 'BRIC' was originally coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001 for the economic classification of 4 emerging economies viz. Brazil, Russia, India and China. The beginning of political cooperation among these 4 emerging economies marked by the first informal meetings of their finance ministers on the side-lines of the United National General Assembly in September 2026. The first BRIC Leaders' Summit was held on 16 June 2009 in Yekaterinburg. With South Africa becoming its full member in 2011, the acronym changed from BRIC to BRICS. With the expansion of BRICS through the inclusion of six new member countries during 2024-2025, namely Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran, the BRICS membership has reached to 11. Allowing interested nations to deepen cooperation without becoming full members in 2025, BRICS also introduced 10 countries as partner countries including Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

2 BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2026

3 BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2026

4 BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2026

competitiveness, resilience, and the digital and green industrial transformation of BRICS economies.

Given the significance of MSMEs for the BRICS economies, this paper broadly aims to understand status of MSMEs across BRICS economies in terms of structure, performance, industrial transformation, challenges, policies and scope of cooperation in BRICS countries for the growth of MSMEs. It is primarily based secondary data sources including World Bank Enterprises Survey and reports/publications.

2. Heterogeneity in MSME Definitions across BRICS Countries

Despite the global recognition of the significance of MSMEs in socio-economic development, there is no uniform definition of MSMEs across countries (International Finance Corporation [IFC], 2019). The term 'MSME' broadly refers to small businesses. However, its coverage depends upon definitions of MSMEs across countries. Each country has a tailored definition of MSMEs suitable for its industrial landscape, level of development and policy objectives. The broad definitional criteria of MSMEs across BRICS countries are shown in Table 1 (for details, see Table A1 in the Appendix). Along with variation in the definitional criteria of MSMEs, there is also a significant variation in the thresholds across countries. Some countries apply uniform national thresholds, whereas others use sector-specific thresholds. Further, size categorisation of MSMEs in terms of micro, small and medium also varies across countries. Some countries categories small business only as small and medium enterprises while other categories as micro, small and medium enterprises. Therefore, cross-country comparisons based on nationally reported MSME populations and related statistics should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Predominant Definitional Criteria for MSMEs in BRICS Countries

Definition Criteria	*BRICS Countries*
Financial criteria	Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia
Employment and financial criteria	Russia, Saudi Arabia
Sector-specific employment/financial criteria	China, Ethiopia, South Africa and United Arab Emirates
Employment/statistical classification with institutional variation	Iran

Source: Author's compilation

3. Data and Methodology

Primarily, this paper is based on secondary data sources including World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) and various country-specific reports and publications. The WBES uses a standardised procedure for conducting surveys, allowing cross-country comparison and reducing measurement error and sampling biases. The survey data collected is

representative of an economy's private sector manufacturing and services[5]. It covers various business environment topics, including access to finance, corruption, infrastructure, crime, competition and performance measures. The recent panel data covers around 181 countries for a period 2009-2025. Given the focus of this paper, WBES data for BRICS countries have been used for the analysis. Among the 11 BRICS member countries, it has data for only 9 counties including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. Thus, in the sections where WBES data has been used, analysis about Iran and the United Arab Emirates has not been included. Country-level estimates are calculated using the survey weights provided in the WBES database. Accordingly, the results represent weighted estimates rather than simple averages of surveyed establishments. Further, the WBES database does not include micro enterprises. Thus, the analysis is restricted to SMEs, defined as enterprises with fewer than 100 workers for the purposes of this study. Therefore, a total of 45806 enterprises have been covered in this study.

Since there is variation in the definition and coverage of small businesses across countries, the terms 'MSMEs' and 'SMEs' have been used interchangeably for small businesses depending upon the context and data sources used for the analysis.

4. Size of MSMEs across BRICS Countries

Given the heterogeneity in definitional criteria and related thresholds across BRICS countries, it is difficult to estimate comparable numbers of MSMEs across these countries. However, country-wise available information can be used for an indicative analysis of MSME sector. Table 2 depicts reported/estimated number of MSMEs across BRICS countries. The largest MSME population has been reported by India (about 93.9 million), followed by Indonesia (about 65.5 million), China (around 60 million), and Brazil (around

[5] Formal (registered) enterprises from manufacturing and services sectors were mainly considered in the survey. Enterprises belong to industries with ISIC codes 15-37, 45, 50-52, 55, 60-64, and 72 of ISIC Rev.3.1 were classified as the manufacturing sector. Whereas enterprises from construction, retail, wholesale, hotels, restaurants, transport, storage, communications, and IT industry constituted the services sector. Again, enterprises from agriculture sector, extractive industries and enterprises with full (100%) government/state ownership were excluded from the survey. The stratified random sampling process was followed for sample selection with the sector of activity, firm size, and geographical location as the strata. In terms of geographical location as the strata, the objectives were to cover the economic centers of each country for full representativeness. In terms of size of the enterprise as strata, enterprise size was stratified into three categories: (i) firms with less than 19 workers; (ii) workers with 20-99, and (iii) more than 100 workers. Stratification with respect to sector of activity was based on the size of the economy, i.e., for very small economies, only two strata, namely, manufacturing and services (including construction, transport and communications) were considered; for small economies, retail and other services in the services acted as third strata; and for the medium and large economies, the stratification strategy involved subdividing manufacturing into two-digit industries with industries chosen according to their contribution to value-added, employment and number of establishments.

22.7 million). A considerably small number of MSMEs have been reported by Russia (around 6.6 million), Egypt (around 3.65 million), Iran (around 3.2 million), South Africa (around 2.67 million), Saudi Arabia (around 1.5 million) and the United Arab Emirates (around 0.56 million). Though these estimates are conditional on the variation in definition and coverage of small businesses across BRICS countries, they, taken together, emphasize the size of MSMEs across BRICS countries and the significance of MSMEs in the industrial and entrepreneurial landscape of BRICS economies. It also highlights the huge potential for strengthening intra-BRICS business linkages, investment, trade, technology cooperation and knowledge exchange among small businesses.

Table 2. Reported/Estimated Number of MSMEs in BRICS Countries

Country	*MSMEs (million)*	*Reference year*	*Coverage / nature of estimate*	*Source*
Brazil	22.70	2025	Active micro and small enterprises, including MEIs; calculated as 93.8% of 24.2 million active enterprises	MEMO, Government of Brazil – Mapa de Empresas[6]
Russia	6.60	2026	Micro, small and medium enterprises/entities in the Unified Register of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	Federal Tax Service of Russia – Unified SME Register[7]
India	94.91	2026[8]	MSMEs classified under Udyam Registration + Udyam Assist Platform	Ministry of MSME – Udyam Registration[9]
China	63.00	2026	Registered SMEs	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), China[10]
South Africa	2.99	2025	Estimated SMMEs; Based on the SMMEs owners	Department of Small Business Development (DSBD)[11]
Egypt	3.65	2017/18	Micro and small establishments; proxy derived from CAPMAS Fifth Economic Census	CAPMAS Economic Census; Financing Sustainable Development in Egypt; corroborated by OECD, SME and Entrepreneurship Policy in Egypt[12]
Ethiopia	2.29	2025	N.A.	United Nation Capital Development Fund, Ethiopia[13]

[6] https://protecao.com.br/destaques-da-revista-protecao/reportagem-especial-sst-nas-pequenas-empresas-muito-a-crescer/

[7] https://www.nalog.gov.ru/rn62/news/activities_fts/16637515/

[8] India figure refers to **94.91 million classified MSMEs as of 9th September 2026**, comprising 94.33 million micro, 0.542 million small and 0.042 million medium enterprises under Udyam Registration and the Udyam Assist Platform.

[9] https://www.udyamregistration.gov.in/

[10] https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202609/03/content_WS6a9962ebc6d00ca5f9a0cfce.html

[11] https://www.dsbd.gov.za/sites/default/files/2026-03/DSBD_2026-27%20APP_30%20March%202026.pdf

[12] https://mped.gov.eg/AdminPanel/sharedfiles/6_financing_sustainable_development_in_egypt_feb_28-compressed.pdf

[13] https://www.uncdf.org/where-we-work/ethiopia

Country	*MSMEs (million)*	*Reference year*	*Coverage / nature of estimate*	*Source*
Iran	3.20	2025	N.A.	As per a quote by Pool-o-Tejarat, Ahmad Javanmardi, Director of Market Development and International Affairs at the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization[14]
United Arab Emirates	1.33	2026	They account for more than 85 per cent of jobs in the private sector.	UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourisms – SMEs[15]
Saudi Arabia	1.50[16]	2024	MSME population reported in official national programme documentation	Monsha'at / National Transformation Program[17]
Indonesia	64.00	2025	NA	Economic Coordinator Ministry, Republic of Indonesia[18]

Source: Author's compilation from different sources
Note: Figures are based on respective national definitions and national statistical or administrative systems and are therefore not directly comparable across BRICS economies. Countries differ in their MSME definitions, including criteria such as employment, turnover/revenue, investment, capital, and sector-specific criteria. Statistical coverage also varies: some figures are based on administrative registers, while others are derived from censuses, surveys or estimates. The reference years consequently differ. N.A. = not available.

5. Performance: Productivity, Size, Capacity Utilisation and Innovation Activities

5.1 Labour Productivity of MSMEs across BRICS Countries

The estimates indicate considerable variation in labour productivity, measured as sales per worker, across BRICS countries and over time (Table 3). Among the countries with multiple survey rounds, Egypt and India show particularly strong improvements. In Egypt, average sales per worker increased from 0.08 in 2013 to 3.54 in 2025. India also records a sustained increase, from 1.18 in 2014 to 2.08 in 2022 and further to 4.76 in 2025. Brazil similarly experienced a substantial increase in sales per worker, from 0.54 in 2009 to 2.41 in 2025. The productivity trajectory is more moderate or uneven in other countries. Ethiopia records a relatively steady improvement in sales per worker, from 0.53 in 2011 to 0.70 in 2015 and 1.18 in 2025. Russia experienced an initial decline from 3.37 in 2009 to 2.50 in 2012, followed by a substantial increase to 7.45 in 2019. South Africa also records a moderate improvement over the period covered. In contrast, China shows a decline in

[14] The Time of Tehran, https://khabarfarsi.com/u/227013266
[15] https://www.moet.gov.ae/en/-/second-edition-of-the-national-forum-for-smes-government-procurement-2026-offers-government-contracts-and-tenders-worth-aed-2.445-billion
[16] Saudi Arabia's figure should not be confused with the 1.6 million commercial registrations reported at the end of 2024, since commercial registrations and MSMEs are not necessarily identical statistical concepts.
[17] https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/media/xfpheojb/ntp_english_annual_report_2024.pdf
[18] https://ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/6152/pemerintahdorong-umkm-naik-kelas-tingkatkan-kontribusi-terhadap-ekspor

average sales per worker from 0.94 in 2012 to 0.50 in 2024. Indonesia displays a particularly unusual pattern: average sales per worker increased from 109 in 2009 to 7,190 in 2015, then fell sharply to 189 in 2023. It requires further research. Saudi Arabia has only one observation for 2025; therefore, its productivity trend cannot be assessed.

Overall, the results suggest that sales per worker increased over time in most of the BRICS economies covered by the analysis, indicating improvements in the revenue-generating capacity of labour among surveyed formal enterprises. However, sales per worker is a measure of revenue-based labour productivity rather than physical or value-added productivity. Changes in the indicator can therefore reflect not only improvements in productive efficiency but also changes in output prices, product composition and market conditions. Since sales are expressed in nominal local currencies, variation in absolute productivity levels may also reflect changes in prices. Therefore, the above findings and variations are indicative and should be treated with caution when comparing across countries or over time.

Table 3: Average Labour Productivity (Sales per Worker) of SMEs across BRICS Countries

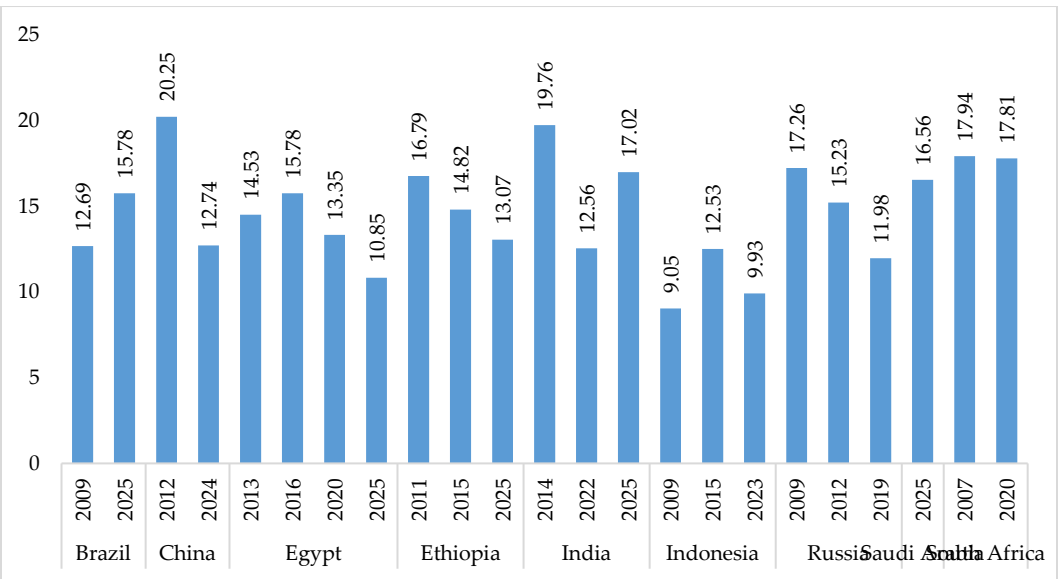
Country	*Year*	*Productivity (in millions)*
Brazil	2009	0.54
Brazil	2025	2.41
China	2012	0.94
China	2024	0.50
Egypt	2013	0.08
Egypt	2016	0.31
Egypt	2020	0.42
Egypt	2025	3.54
Ethiopia	2011	0.53
Ethiopia	2015	0.70
Ethiopia	2025	1.18
India	2014	1.18
India	2022	2.08
India	2025	4.76
Indonesia	2009	109.00
Indonesia	2015	7190.00
Indonesia	2023	189.00
Russia	2009	3.37
Russia	2012	2.50
Russia	2019	7.45
Saudi Arabia	2025	0.28
South Africa	2007	0.33
South Africa	2020	0.61

Source: Author's estimate based on WBES database of formal enterprises

5.2 Employment size of MSMEs across BRICS Countries

There is a considerable variation in the average employment size of SMEs across BRICS countries and over time (Figure 2). In the latest available survey rounds, South Africa records the highest average number of workers per SME (17.81), followed closely by India (17.02) and Saudi Arabia (16.56). Brazil (15.78) also has a relatively higher average employment size, while Indonesia records the lowest at 9.93 workers per SME. The temporal pattern is mixed. Average employment per SME declined notably in China, from 20.25 workers in 2012 to 12.74 in 2024, and in Russia, from 17.26 in 2009 to 11.98 in 2019. Egypt and Ethiopia also show an overall decline. In contrast, Brazil experienced an increase from 12.69 to 15.78 workers, while India declined between 2014 and 2022 but increased to 17.02 in 2025. Overall, the results suggest differences in the employment scale of SMEs across countries, with a tendency towards smaller average enterprise size in several countries over time.

Figure 2: Workers per SMEs



Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

5.3 Capacity utilization of Physical Capital by SMEs across BRICS Countries

The capacity-utilisation distribution shows substantial variation across BRICS countries and over time (Table 4). In most country-year observations, category 4 (representing capacity utilisation in the range of 76-100 %) accounts for the largest share of SMEs, although its dominance varies considerably. In the latest available survey rounds, the concentration in category 4 is particularly high in India (81.23%) and South Africa (80.68%), followed by Brazil (63.94%), Egypt (61.10%), Indonesia (60.10%) and Russia (58.30%). By contrast, category 4 accounts for 41.59% in China and 37.46% in Ethiopia. Saudi Arabia is

distinctive, with enterprises almost evenly concentrated between categories 3 (50.91%) and 4 (48.84%). The changes over time are also heterogeneous. India shows a pronounced shift towards category 4, rising from 56.22% in 2022 to 81.23% in 2025. Russia similarly rises from 39.24% in 2012 to 58.30% in 2019. In contrast, China records a substantial decline in category 4, from 88.60% in 2012 to 41.59% in 2024, accompanied by increasing shares in categories 1–3. Indonesia also shows a decline in category 4 from 77.08% in 2015 to 60.10% in 2023.

Table 4: Capacity Utilization of Physical Capital in SMEs across BRICS Countries (in percent)

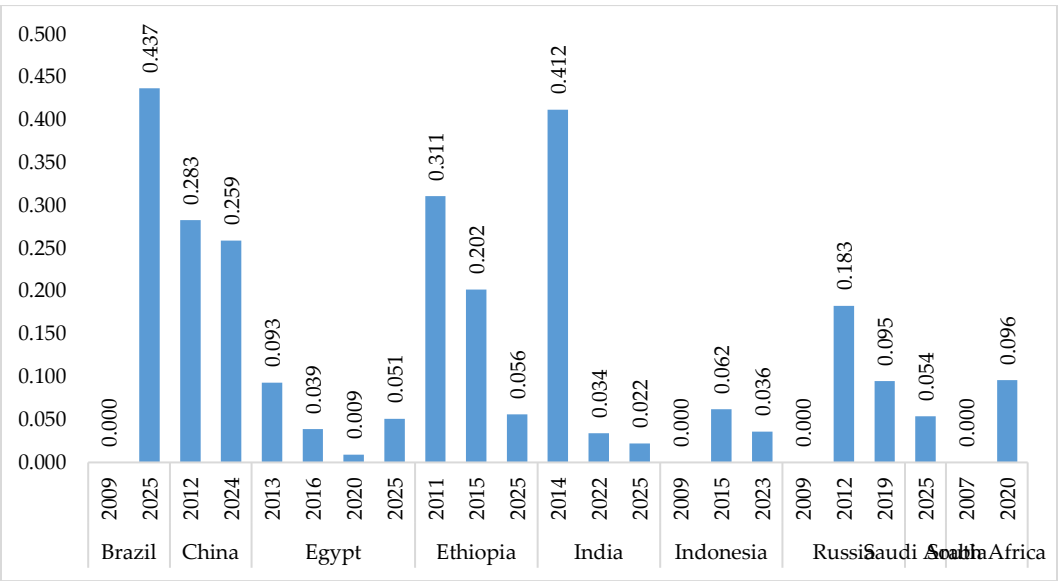
Country	*Year*	*Category Range*			
		1 (0-25)	*2 (26-50)*	*3 (51-75)*	*4 (76-100)*
Brazil	2009	6.05	5.82	20.72	67.41
	2025	3.53	9.39	23.15	63.94
China	2012	4.93	2.52	3.96	88.6
	2024	18.36	16.32	23.74	41.59
Egypt	2013	10.41	19.58	18.09	51.92
	2016	5.88	25.59	40.88	27.65
	2020	4.86	10.75	26.04	58.35
	2025	15.16	9.46	14.28	61.1
Ethiopia	2011	13.74	13.74	29.12	43.41
	2015	5.35	15.56	58.25	20.84
	2025	3.08	17.64	41.82	37.46
India	2014	1.45	5.53	27.79	65.23
	2022	15.76	9.13	18.89	56.22
	2025	1.1	0.73	16.94	81.23
Indonesia	2009	16.25	4.19	7.81	71.76
	2015	19.23	0.88	2.81	77.08
	2023	33.29	1.85	4.77	60.1
Russia	2009	8.74	11.83	32.28	47.15
	2012	6.66	17.41	36.69	39.24
	2019	5.4	7.63	28.68	58.3
Saudi Arabia	2025	0.25	0	50.91	48.84
South Africa	2007	0.38	8.1	27.02	64.5
	2020	10.35	2.82	6.15	80.68

Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

5.4 Innovation Activities among SMEs across BRICS Countries

Innovation and R&D activities have been measured using an index that captures product and process innovation and R&D activities in SMEs across BRICS countries. The innovation index captures firms' engagement in product innovation, process innovation and R&D activities; higher values indicate greater engagement in innovation activities. The Innovation Index reveals substantial variation in innovation activity among SMEs across BRICS countries and over time (Figure 1). Among the latest available observations, Brazil records the highest mean Innovation Index (0.437 in 2025), followed by China (0.259 in 2024). The index is considerably lower in the remaining countries, including South Africa (0.096), Russia (0.095), Ethiopia (0.056), Saudi Arabia (0.054), Egypt (0.051), Indonesia (0.036), and India (0.022).

Figure 3: Innovation (Product, Process and R&D Activities) in SMEs across BRICS Countries



Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

The temporal pattern is also heterogeneous. Brazil shows a substantial increase between 2009 and 2025, whereas China records only a modest decline from 0.283 in 2012 to 0.259 in 2024. More pronounced declines are observed in Ethiopia, from 0.311 in 2011 to 0.056 in 2025, and India, from 0.412 in 2014 to 0.022 in 2025. Egypt also declines overall, although its index improves from 0.009 in 2020 to 0.051 in 2025. Overall, the results point to marked cross-country differences and generally weak innovation intensity among SMEs in several BRICS economies, with Brazil and China standing out in their latest survey rounds. However, the trends should be interpreted cautiously because survey years differ and the exact zero values in some earlier rounds may reflect differences in the availability of the underlying innovation variables rather than a genuine absence of innovation.

6. Key Constraints to MSME Development

The table 4 reveals substantial cross-country variation in the constraints faced by SMEs across BRICS countries**.** There is no single dominant obstacle common to all countries. Tax rates emerge as the largest constraint in Brazil (29.56%), India (18.23%) and Russia (22.54%), whereas access to finance is particularly important in China (25.02%), Indonesia (28.79%) and, most strikingly, Saudi Arabia (52.76%). Infrastructure and institutional conditions dominate in some countries. Electricity is the most important obstacle in South Africa (54.57%) and Egypt (16.23%), while political instability is the leading constraint in Ethiopia (32.30%). Egypt also reports relatively high concerns regarding corruption (14.87%), informal-sector competition (13.24%) and political instability (11.05%), indicating a comparatively dispersed set of constraints.

Table 4: Major Constraints faced by MSMEs in BRICS Countries

Biggest obstacle	*Brazil*	*China*	*Egypt*	*Ethiopia*	*India*	*Indonesia*	*Russia*	*Saudi Arabia*	*South Africa*
Year	*2025*	*2024*	*2025*	*2025*	*2025*	*2023*	*2019*	*2025*	*2020*
Access to finance	3.06	25.02	7.85	27.58	11.54	28.79	14.82	52.76	16.05
Access to land	0.86	10.65	0.06	4.35	6.52	2.86	1.97	2.17	0.65
Business licensing and permits	2.76	1.01	4.92	0.01	3.99	3.01	5.77	2.6	0.01
Corruption	0.61	0.16	14.87	3.33	11.18	10.04	6.26	0.93	5.82
Courts	0.63	1.69	0.2	0.2	0.98	0.54	0.58	—	2.64
Crime, theft and disorder	1.64	0.64	7.77	2.45	13.4	15.44	2.84	—	3.69
Customs and trade regulations	0.33	1.97	2.84	6.62	2.81	1.6	1.23	10.5	0.54
Electricity	1.01	1.45	16.23	4.98	2.32	1.58	1.14	—	54.57
Inadequately educated workforce	26.51	14.52	7.76	0.53	2.12	3.42	7.67	8.77	0.02
Labor regulations	7.37	3.09	0.78	—	2.3	3.51	0.8	9.66	0.75
Political instability	8.48	3.36	11.05	32.3	2.57	11.29	5.75	—	13.25
Practices of competitors in informal sector	8.04	15.83	13.24	0.73	15.2	7.28	9.61	2.29	0.84
Tax administration	8.29	0.69	1.67	2.2	3.66	1.59	7.88	1.53	0.5
Tax rates	29.56	14.32	6.52	12.7	18.23	5.95	22.54	0.87	0.55
Transport	0.85	5.59	4.25	2.02	3.2	3.1	11.13	7.92	0.11

Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

Other constraints are important in particular contexts. Inadequately educated workforce is especially prominent in Brazil (26.51%), while competition from informal-sector firms is significant in China (15.83%) and India (15.20%). Crime, theft and disorder are also relatively important in India (13.40%) and Indonesia (15.44%). Overall, the results suggest that SME constraints across BRICS are highly country-specific, encompassing financing,

taxation, infrastructure, skills, competition and institutional conditions. This heterogeneity indicates that measures to improve the SME business environment need to reflect country-specific bottlenecks rather than relying on a uniform policy approach.

7. Emerging Transformation of BRICS MSMEs

7.1 Digital Technology Adoption

Digital capability/technology adoption among SMEs has been measured in terms of a composite index calculated by averaging digital presence (having a website or social-media account), digital sales and digital purchase. The digitalisation index indicates considerable variation in digital technology adoption among SMEs across BRICS countries. Among the latest available observations, Brazil records the highest index (0.931), followed by China (0.741), Saudi Arabia (0.721) and India (0.678), suggesting relatively greater adoption of digital presence and electronic transactions among SMEs in these countries. Ethiopia (0.567) and Egypt (0.413) occupy intermediate positions. Indonesia (0.143), Russia (0.195) and South Africa (0.265) show substantially lower index values. However, these results should not be interpreted as evidence of substantially lower digitalisation because their latest surveys are older and, importantly, their observed index has a maximum of only 0.333, compared with 1 for the recent surveys.

Table 5: Digital Technology Adoption among SMEs across BRICS Countries

Country	*Year*	*Mean Digitalisation Index*	*Std. Dev.*
Brazil	2025	0.931	0.154
China	2024	0.741	0.188
Egypt	2025	0.413	0.34
Ethiopia	2025	0.567	0.301
India	2025	0.678	0.224
Indonesia	2023	0.143	0.165
Russia	2019	0.195	0.164
Saudi Arabia	2025	0.721	0.142
South Africa	2020	0.265	0.134

Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

7.2 Green Transition

Green transition across SMEs has been measured in terms of a composite index derived from the presence of monitoring carbon footprint practices, renewable technology adoption, and adoption of measures to reduce emissions, waste, or pollution. The Green Transition Index indicates that the adoption of green practices among SMEs remains relatively limited even in the countries covered by the recent WBES rounds (Table 6). Among the comparable recent observations, India records the highest mean index (0.231),

followed by Brazil (0.175), China (0.131) and Ethiopia (0.109). This suggests that SMEs in these countries have made some progress in adopting renewable energy, monitoring CO_2 emissions and/or undertaking measures to reduce emissions, waste and pollution, but the relatively low index values indicate considerable scope for further transition. Green-transition activity appears particularly limited in Egypt (0.006) and Saudi Arabia (0.005) according to the constructed index. Overall, the results point to considerable heterogeneity in the extent of green transition among SMEs, while also suggesting that green practices are not yet widespread. However, the zero values for Indonesia, Russia and South Africa may not be interpreted as absence of green transition. There may be reporting issues.

Table 6: Green transition of SMEs across BRICS Countries

Country	*Year*	*Mean Green Transition Index*	*Std. Dev.*
Brazil	2025	0.175	0.219
China	2024	0.131	0.233
Egypt	2025	0.006	0.064
Ethiopia	2025	0.109	0.225
India	2025	0.231	0.227
Indonesia	2023	0.000	0.000
Russia	2019	0.000	0.000
Saudi Arabia	2025	0.005	0.045
South Africa	2020	0.000	0.000

Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

7.3 Internationalisation

Internationalisation of SMEs has been measured using a composite index based on the presence of foreign-market participation (both direct and indirect), international sourcing, and international technology linkages. The Internationalisation Index reveals substantial variation in the extent of international integration of SMEs across BRICS countries. Saudi Arabia records the highest index (0.599), followed by Ethiopia (0.263), Russia (0.206), Brazil (0.192), and Egypt (0.157), suggesting relatively stronger engagement of SMEs through exports, foreign inputs, and/or foreign technology linkages. In contrast, internationalisation appears relatively limited among SMEs in India (0.021), South Africa (0.062), China (0.065) and Indonesia (0.072). Overall, the findings suggest that international integration is uneven among BRICS SMEs, with substantial scope to strengthen their linkages with foreign markets, inputs, and technologies.

Table 7: Internationalisation of SMEs across BRICS Countries

Country	*Year*	*Mean Internationalisation Index*	*Std. Dev.*
Brazil	2025	0.192	0.251
China	2024	0.065	0.155
Egypt	2025	0.157	0.218
Ethiopia	2025	0.263	0.197
India	2025	0.021	0.088
Indonesia	2023	0.072	0.177
Russia	2019	0.206	0.221
Saudi Arabia	2025	0.599	0.177
South Africa	2020	0.062	0.163

Source: Author's estimate using WBES database of formal enterprises

8. Comparative Assessment of MSME Development across BRICS

The above analysis highlights considerable heterogeneity in the scale, performance, capabilities and constraints of MSMEs across BRICS economies. This heterogeneity begins with the institutional definition of MSMEs itself. Member countries use different combinations of employment, turnover, investment and sector-specific criteria, which limits the direct comparability of nationally reported MSME statistics. Nevertheless, available estimates demonstrate the considerable scale of the sector across BRICS, with particularly large MSME populations reported in India, Indonesia, China and Brazil. Collectively, this underscores the importance of MSMEs to the entrepreneurial and industrial structure of BRICS economies and the potential scale of intra-BRICS cooperation.

The performance indicators do not, however, suggest a uniform pattern of MSME development. Labour productivity, measured as sales per worker, has increased over time in several economies, particularly Egypt, India and Brazil, while Ethiopia and South Africa show more moderate improvements. Russia records an uneven but ultimately rising trajectory, whereas China shows a decline between its available survey rounds. At the same time, employment size has tended to decline in several countries, including China, Russia, Egypt and Ethiopia, although Brazil records an increase and India shows a recovery in its latest survey round. Thus, changes in productivity do not necessarily coincide with expansion in the average employment size of SMEs. Moreover, as productivity is measured using nominal sales per worker in local currencies, its levels and changes need to be interpreted cautiously.

Capacity utilisation provides a further indication of differences in enterprise performance. In most country-year observations, the largest proportion of SMEs falls in the highest capacity-utilisation category (76–100 per cent). In the latest observations, this share is particularly high in India and South Africa, at above 80 per cent, and exceeds 60 per cent in Brazil, Egypt and Indonesia. By contrast, the corresponding shares are lower in China

and Ethiopia, while Saudi Arabia's enterprises are almost evenly distributed between the 51–75 and 76–100 per cent categories. The changes over time are similarly heterogeneous, suggesting that utilisation of productive capacity has evolved differently across member economies.

Differences are even more pronounced in innovation and emerging transformation capabilities. Brazil and China record the highest innovation indices in their latest survey rounds, while innovation activity appears considerably weaker in most other economies. The digitalisation indicators present a somewhat different picture: Brazil leads, followed by China, Saudi Arabia and India, while Ethiopia and Egypt occupy intermediate positions. These findings indicate that progress in digital transformation does not necessarily translate into equally strong innovation outcomes. Comparisons for Indonesia, Russia and South Africa require particular caution because their latest surveys are older and the range of the digitalisation index differs from that observed in the more recent surveys.

The green transition appears to be at a relatively early stage across the countries for which comparable recent information is available. India records the highest Green Transition Index, followed by Brazil, China and Ethiopia, but even these values remain relatively low. The evidence therefore suggests substantial scope for strengthening renewable-energy adoption, carbon monitoring and measures aimed at reducing emissions, waste and pollution among SMEs. Similarly, internationalisation remains uneven. Saudi Arabia records the highest Internationalisation Index, followed by Ethiopia, Russia, Brazil and Egypt, whereas the index is relatively low for India, South Africa, China and Indonesia. This indicates that strong performance in one dimension of MSME transformation does not necessarily imply strength in others: for example, countries with relatively high digitalisation may still exhibit limited international integration or green-transition activity.

The business environment further reinforces this diversity. There is no single dominant constraint common to BRICS SMEs. Tax rates emerge as the principal obstacle in Brazil, India and Russia; access to finance is particularly important in China, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia; electricity constitutes the leading constraint in South Africa and Egypt; and political instability is most prominent in Ethiopia. Skills shortages, informal-sector competition, crime and other institutional constraints are also important in particular economies. These differences suggest that MSME development across BRICS is shaped by distinct combinations of financial, infrastructural, institutional and capability-related bottlenecks.

Overall, the comparative evidence suggests that there is no single BRICS model of MSME development. The countries occupy different positions across scale, productivity, employment, capacity utilisation, innovation, digitalisation, green transition and internationalisation. More importantly, leadership in one dimension does not consistently coincide with leadership in others. MSME development across BRICS may therefore be viewed as a multidimensional and uneven transformation process, rather than a simple

progression based on enterprise numbers or productivity alone. This diversity also creates complementarities: differences in capabilities, constraints and areas of relative strength provide a basis for knowledge exchange, technology cooperation, financing initiatives, supplier linkages and other forms of intra-BRICS MSME cooperation. Any such comparative assessment should nevertheless recognise differences in national MSME definitions, survey years and data coverage, particularly because the WBES-based analysis covers nine of the eleven BRICS members and focuses on formal SMEs with fewer than 100 workers.

9. MSME Policy Ecosystems and Scope for BRICS Cooperation

The policy ecosystems for MSME development across BRICS economies reflect considerable diversity in institutional arrangements and policy instruments. Nevertheless, the country experiences documented in this study reveal several common pillars of MSME support, particularly access to finance, technology and innovation, digitalisation, cluster development, market access, entrepreneurship development and green transition (See Table A2 in the Appendix). Rather than relying on a single policy instrument, many countries are increasingly developing integrated ecosystems combining financial and non-financial support. South Africa's NISED Strategic Framework, for example, combines improved MSME data, regulatory reform, targeted financial and non-financial assistance and public-private partnerships, while its SEDFA brings finance, business development and cooperative banking support within an integrated institutional framework.

Access to finance remains a central component of MSME policy. The approaches adopted across countries range from concessional lending and credit guarantees to movable-collateral systems, receivables financing and growth equity. Indonesia's KUR provides government-supported affordable working-capital and investment credit to viable but not yet bankable enterprises, while Ethiopia combines SME financing with a movable collateral registry that enables enterprises to use machinery, inventories, receivables and other movable assets as collateral. India similarly employs multiple financing mechanisms, including MUDRA for collateral-free lending, CGTMSE for credit guarantees, Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System (TReDS) for receivables financing and the Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund for growth equity. These experiences illustrate the value of developing a diversified financing ecosystem addressing different stages and types of MSME financing needs.

A second important policy pillar is technology, innovation and productivity enhancement. Brazil's Brasil Mais Produtivo combines productivity diagnostics, technical consultancy, management improvement, energy efficiency and digital transformation, while SEBRAETEC connects smaller enterprises with specialised technology providers. China's tiered MSME development system provides differentiated support to innovative, specialised and technologically capable SMEs, complemented by industrial clusters designed to strengthen innovation, digital and green transformation and industrial

collaboration. Russia's industrial and technology parks similarly provide shared production facilities, infrastructure and business services. These initiatives demonstrate the importance of moving beyond generic enterprise support towards capability-building, technology upgrading and stronger integration of MSMEs with industrial ecosystems.

Digitalisation and formalisation constitute another emerging feature of MSME policy. Indonesia's Online Single Submission system combines digital business registration with risk-based licensing and facilitates access to government support and formal markets. Russia's MSPRF platform provides a unified digital gateway through which SMEs can access public support measures, finance, training and advisory services. Iran's digital commerce framework focuses on e-commerce, payment infrastructure and digital market access. Such experiences indicate the potential for digital platforms not only to promote technology adoption but also to reduce information and administrative barriers facing smaller enterprises.

The emerging policy architecture also increasingly incorporates sustainability and green transformation. Brazil's Empreender Clima combines capacity building, green business development and access to climate finance, while India's MSE-GIFT[19] supports adoption of green and energy-efficient technologies through interest subvention and risk-sharing arrangements. India's ZED certification further integrates quality improvement with energy efficiency, resource conservation and environmentally sustainable manufacturing. These initiatives are particularly relevant given the relatively limited adoption of green practices identified among SMEs in the preceding analysis.

Taken together, these country experiences provide considerable scope for strengthening BRICS cooperation on MSME development. Given differences in levels of development, institutional systems and MSME capabilities, cooperation need not seek to harmonise national policies. Instead, it can facilitate the exchange and adaptation of successful practices and develop mechanisms where cross-border cooperation creates additional value. Priority areas could include MSME financing and credit-guarantee systems; digital platforms and interoperability; technology transfer and innovation networks; cluster-to-cluster and supplier linkages; common approaches to skills and managerial capability development; green finance and sustainability capabilities; quality standards and certification; and improved access to regional and global markets.

In this context, BRICS cooperation could progressively move from exchange of best practices towards practical institutional linkages among MSME support agencies, financial institutions, technology centres, incubators, clusters and business associations. Such cooperation could facilitate joint capacity-building programmes, business-to-business linkages, technology partnerships and greater participation of MSMEs in intra-BRICS trade and value chains. The diversity of policy experiences across BRICS should therefore

[19] MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation (MSE-GIFT) Scheme - a central sub-scheme launched under the World Bank-supported RAMP program. It helps micro and small businesses adopt clean energy and eco-friendly technologies.

be viewed not merely as institutional heterogeneity, but also as an opportunity for mutual learning and complementary cooperation, enabling member countries to draw upon each other's strengths in building more productive, innovative, digitally enabled, internationally connected and environmentally sustainable MSMEs.

10. Conclusions and Policy Implications

MSMEs constitute an important component of the industrial and entrepreneurial landscape of BRICS economies, contributing to production, employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive development. Their large collective presence also provides considerable potential for strengthening production, trade, investment and technology linkages within BRICS. At the same time, the analysis demonstrates substantial heterogeneity across member countries, beginning with differences in national definitions and statistical coverage of MSMEs. These differences, together with variation in survey years and data availability, imply that cross-country comparisons need to be interpreted cautiously.

The evidence suggests that there is no single pattern of MSME development across BRICS. Labour productivity has improved over time in several economies, although the magnitude and trajectory differ considerably, while average employment size and capacity utilisation also exhibit heterogeneous patterns. More importantly, performance across different dimensions does not necessarily move together. Countries performing relatively well in digitalisation, for example, do not necessarily exhibit correspondingly high levels of innovation, green transition or internationalisation. The green transition remains at an early stage in many of the economies covered, while international integration through foreign markets, inputs and technologies is also uneven. Overall, MSME development across BRICS is therefore better understood as a multidimensional and uneven process of structural and technological transformation, rather than simply in terms of the number or size of enterprises.

The constraints faced by SMEs reinforce the need for differentiated policy responses. Access to finance is particularly important in China, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia; tax rates are prominent constraints in Brazil, India and Russia; electricity is a major concern in South Africa and Egypt; and political instability is particularly important in Ethiopia. Skills, informal competition, crime and institutional conditions also matter in individual economies. Thus, a uniform policy approach would be inappropriate; national MSME policies need to respond to country-specific financial, infrastructural, institutional and capability-related bottlenecks.

At the same time, the diversity of national experiences creates opportunities for policy learning and cooperation within BRICS. Existing policy ecosystems provide useful models in areas such as concessional finance, credit guarantees, movable-collateral systems, receivables financing and growth equity. The evidence suggests that MSME financing strategies should increasingly move towards a diversified ecosystem capable of addressing

the financing requirements of enterprises at different stages of development rather than relying predominantly on conventional bank credit.

A second policy priority is to strengthen enterprise capabilities, innovation and technology upgrading. The experiences of Brazil, China and Russia demonstrate different approaches involving productivity diagnostics, technology consultancy, differentiated support for innovative SMEs, industrial clusters, and shared technology and production infrastructure. Such approaches indicate the potential benefits of linking MSME support more closely with broader industrial, innovation and technology policies. Digitalisation should similarly extend beyond basic digital presence towards digital transactions, e-commerce, access to government services and integration with markets and financial systems. Digital platforms can simultaneously reduce administrative and information barriers and facilitate enterprise formalisation and access to public support.

The relatively limited adoption of green practices also calls for greater emphasis on green transformation of MSMEs. Policies could combine access to green finance with technology support, energy-efficiency improvements, environmental certification, capacity building and information on low-carbon business opportunities. Existing initiatives combining financial incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, technical assistance and sustainability certification illustrate how environmental objectives can be integrated with productivity and competitiveness enhancement.

Finally, the findings provide a strong rationale for moving BRICS MSME cooperation from primarily an exchange of experiences towards practical institutional and business linkages. Cooperation need not seek uniformity in national MSME policies; rather, it can build upon complementarities among member countries. Priority areas include cooperation among credit-guarantee and MSME financing institutions, technology transfer and innovation networks, interoperable digital platforms, cluster-to-cluster partnerships, skills and managerial capability development, green finance and sustainability standards, and stronger supplier and market linkages. Such cooperation could help MSMEs participate more effectively in intra-BRICS trade, investment and value chains while supporting their transition towards more productive, innovative, digitally enabled, internationally integrated and environmentally sustainable enterprises.

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Appendix

Table A1: MSME Definitions across BRICS Countries

Country	*Micro enterprise*	*Small enterprise*	*Medium enterprise*	*Main criterion(s)*	*Legal / official basis*
Brazil	Annual gross revenue ≤ R$360,000	Annual gross revenue >R$360,000 and ≤R$4.8 million	No medium category under the principal Micro and Small Enterprise Statute	Annual gross revenue	Complementary Law No. 123/2006, as amended. Brazil's principal statutory framework is for *Microempresas (ME)* and *Empresas de Pequeno Porte (EPP)* rather than MSMEs in the three-tier sense. (Senate Legislation)
Russia	≤15 employees and income ≤ RUB120 million	≤100 employees and income ≤ RUB800 million	Generally 101–250 employees and income ≤ RUB2 billion	Employees; annual business income; ownership conditions also apply	Federal Law No. 209-FZ on Development of SMEs; Government Resolution No. 265/2016. The Federal Tax Service applies these criteria in the Unified SME Register. (Federal Tax Service)
India	Investment in plant/machinery/equipment ≤ ₹2.5 crore and turnover ≤ ₹10 crore	Investment ≤ ₹25 crore and turnover ≤ ₹100 crore	Investment ≤ ₹125 crore and turnover ≤ ₹500 crore	Investment + annual turnover	Revised MSME classification effective 1 April 2025, under the MSMED framework. (MSME Registration)
China	Sector-specific. Example—industry: <20 employees or revenue <RMB3 million	Industry: generally 20–299 employees and revenue RMB3–19.99 million	Industry: generally 300–999 employees and revenue RMB20–399.99 million	Employees, operating revenue and/or assets; thresholds differ substantially by industry	*Provisions on Classification Standards for SMEs* (2011) and NBS *Statistical Classification of Large, Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (2017)*. (miit.gov.cn)
South Africa	Generally 0–10 paid employees; turnover ceiling varies by sector	11–50 employees; sector-specific turnover ceiling	51–250 employees; sector-specific turnover ceiling	Full-time-equivalent paid employees + annual turnover	Revised Schedule 1 of National Small Enterprise Act, Government Gazette No. 42304, 15 March 2019. Turnover limits vary considerably by sector. (Government of South Africa)
Egypt	Existing enterprise: annual business volume < EGP1 million; newly established: paid-up/invested capital < EGP50,000	Existing enterprise: EGP1 million–<EGP50 million annual business volume; new industrial: EGP50,000–<5m capital; new non-industrial: EGP50,000–<3m	Existing enterprise: EGP50 million–≤EGP200 million; new industrial: EGP5–15m capital; new non-industrial: EGP3–5m	Annual business volume; capital for newly established enterprises	MSME Development Law No. 152 of 2020.
Ethiopia	Industry: capital ≤ETB100,000. Services/trade etc.: capital ≤ETB50,000	Industry: >ETB100,000–<ETB1.5m; services/trade: >ETB50,000–≤ETB500,000	Industry: >ETB1.5m–<ETB20m; services/trade: >ETB500,000–≤ETB5m	Primarily capital in the administrative statistics; other Ethiopian frameworks also use employment	Ministry of Labour and Skills labour-market information based on Ministry of Trade and Industry registration data. Earlier National MSE Strategy also uses employment, particularly ≤5 for micro and 6–30 for small enterprises. (mols.gov.et)
Iran	Statistical Centre convention: 1–9 employees	10–49 employees	50–99 employees	Mainly employment; no single universally applied national definition	Statistical Centre of Iran classification reported in official-statistics-based studies; other Iranian agencies use different definitions. The Ministry of Industry has also treated industrial/service units with <50 employees as SMEs. (Econstor)
United Arab Emirates	Trade: ≤5 employees or ≤AED3m revenue; Industry: ≤9 or ≤AED3m; Services: ≤5 or ≤AED2m	Trade: 6–50 or ≤AED50m; Industry: 10–100 or ≤AED50m; Services: 6–50 or ≤AED20m	Trade: 51–200 or ≤AED250m; Industry: 101–250 or ≤AED250m; Services: 51–200 or ≤AED200m	Employees or annual revenue; sector-specific	Cabinet Resolution No. 22 of 2016 on Unified Definition of SMEs, pursuant to Federal Law No. 2 of 2014. (UAE Legislation)

Country	Micro enterprise	Small enterprise	Medium enterprise	Main criterion(s)	Legal / official basis
Saudi Arabia	1–5 employees; annual revenue SAR0–3m	6–49 employees; revenue >SAR3m–40m	50–249 employees; revenue >SAR40m–200m	Primarily revenue; employment used particularly where revenue data are unavailable/new enterprises	Definition approved by the Board of the General Authority for SMEs (*Monsha'at*); also applied by SAMA. (SAMA Rulebook)
Indonesia	Business capital ≤IDR1 billion, excluding land/building; or annual sales ≤IDR2 billion	Capital >IDR1–5 billion; or annual sales >IDR2–15 billion	Capital >IDR5–10 billion; or annual sales >IDR15–50 billion	Business capital or annual sales	Government Regulation (PP) No. 7 of 2021, implementing the amended MSME framework. (JDIH BPK)

Source: Author's compilation

Table A2: Best practices for MSMEs across BRICS Member Countries[20]

Country	Best Practices/ Schemes	Description
Republic of South Africa	The National Integrated Small Enterprise Development (NISED) Strategic Framework	NISED Strategic Framework was launched by South Africa's Department of Small Business Development in 2023 covering a 10-year period (2022-23 to 2032). Beneficiaries under this strategy include all MSMEs across the sectors, including informal and cooperative enterprises employing fewer than 50 people, with special focus on youth, women, people with disabilities, and rural-based businesses. NISED rests on four pillars: better MSME data and research, policy and regulatory reform to reduce red tape, targeted financial and non-financial support, and stronger public-private partnerships, aiming at boosting MSMEs' contribution to GDP, formal employment, formalization, and productivity enhance across the economy. (Source: Department of Small Business Development, https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202302/48063gon3054.pdf)
	The Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SED FA)	SEDFA, established on 1 October 2024 under the DSBD, merged SEFA (small enterprise finance agency), SEDA (small enterprise development agency), and CBDA (Cooperative Banks Development Agency) into a Schedule 2 entity providing integrated financial, business development, and cooperative banking support across South Africa's nine provinces. The merger created a single agency offering integrated business development, loan finance, and cooperative banking support to small enterprises across all nine provinces. SEDFA is mandated to foster the growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of MSMEs and cooperatives, contributing to inclusive economic growth, job creation, and transformation in South Africa. (Source: https://www.onesedfa.org.za/en-za/about)
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	100% Foreign Ownership of Companies	Federal Decree-Law No 20 of 2020 removed Article 10 of the prior Commercial Companies Law that required at least 51% of share capital of any mainland UAE company to be held by UAE nationals. Department of Economic Development maintains a published list of eligible companies for 100% foreign ownerships. Along with that, Free zone companies continue to operate their pre-existing 100% foreign ownership rules. (Source: Ministry of Economy and Tourism, UAE: https://www.moet.gov.ae/en/-/100-company-ownership)
	Tax Policy Framework	The UAE has no personal income or capital gains tax. Under Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022, effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 June 2023, a 9% corporate tax applies to taxable profits exceeding AED 375,000, while profits up to this threshold remain tax-free. Businesses with annual revenue up to AED 3 million may elect Small Business Relief until 31 December 2026. Qualifying Free Zone entities remain eligible for a 0% tax rate on qualifying income. Businesses register with the Federal Tax Authority, making the regime particularly advantageous for MSMEs and investors. (Source: Law 47 of 2022: https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1582/download)
	Golden Visa Program	The UAE Golden Visa (officially launched in 2019) is a renewable 5- or 10-year residence permit that enables entrepreneurs and innovators to establish and expand businesses without

[20] The country-specific best practices presented in this table draw upon inputs from experts and country representatives during various activities organised by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, under the BRICS PartNIR Track during India's BRICS Chairship in 2026.

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
		requiring a local sponsor or employment-linked visa. Eligible applicants include founders of innovative or high-value ventures, SME owners meeting specified revenue thresholds, incubator-approved entrepreneurs, and founders of successful exited businesses. Applicants apply through ICP or GDRFA, complete medical and biometric requirements, and submit supporting financial or approval documents. The visa also permits family sponsorship and long-term residency stability. (Source: UAE government's official site: https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/visa-and-emirates-id/residence-visas/golden-visa)
	Future 100 Initiative	Future 100 is a UAE national initiative launched in December 2022 to identify, recognize, and accelerate 100 high-potential startups and scaleups annually in future economy sectors. Eligible UAE-based SMEs apply or are nominated and are evaluated on innovation, market potential, business viability, and ESG impact. Selected companies receive the Future 100 Label, year-long acceleration support, and fast-track access to investors, regulators, and commercial networks, strengthening the UAE's innovation ecosystem and promoting entrepreneurship in emerging industries. (Source: Official site: https://future100.ae/)
	Future 50 Initiative	The UAE Future 50, launched in May 2025, is a national initiative that recognizes and accelerates 50 promising startups founded by Emirati entrepreneurs in future-focused sectors. As part of the Riyada entrepreneurship ecosystem, it provides selected enterprises with targeted growth support, national recognition, investor exposure, and connections to incubators, accelerators, family businesses, and leading companies. The initiative also showcases startups through dedicated exhibitions, promotes innovation and economic diversification, and encourages entrepreneurship among UAE nationals, particularly the younger generation. (Source: Ministry of Economy and Tourism, UAE: https://www.moet.gov.ae/en/-/next50-initiative-holds-its-first-meeting-to-formulate-a-new-vision-to-promote-the-growth-expansion-of-uae-s-private-sector-companies)
Republic of Belarus	Belarusian fund for financial support of entrepreneurs (BFFSE)	BFFSE is a national financial support institution that improves SME access to finance through grants, concessional loans, subsidies, and other preferential financial instruments. It complements commercial bank lending by providing government-backed financing to support enterprise creation, expansion, and competitiveness. Priority beneficiaries include manufacturing enterprises, start-ups, and export-oriented businesses. By offering both repayable and non-repayable assistance, the Fund promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, production growth, and export development while strengthening Belarus's SME ecosystem. (Source: https://www.belarp.by/ru/subcontractation)
	Nationwide network of business support institutions	Belarus has established a nationwide business support network under its SME Strategy 2030, comprising entrepreneurship support centres, business incubators, science and technology parks, and export support institutions. The country also promotes enterprise development through six Free Economic Zones and two Special Economic Zones, Digital platform for businesses of small and medium sized, regulatory incentives to attract investment. In addition, targeted programs support young, women, and senior entrepreneurs, fostering inclusive entrepreneurship by addressing financial, institutional, and informational barriers while strengthening the national SME ecosystem. (Source: https://president.gov.by/en/belarus/economics/entrepreneurship/support-institutions)
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Small and Medium Enterprise Finance Project (SMEFP)	SMEFP launched in 2016 through a USD 200 million World Bank (IDA) loan and USD 76 million co-financing from the European Investment Bank aims to improve Ethiopian SMEs' access to finance and strengthen the business environment. Implemented by the Development Bank of Ethiopia and Ethiopian Enterprise Development, the project provides long-term leasing finance, working capital through participating banks and microfinance institutions, business development services, coaching, mentorship, and market access support. It also established the Ethiopian Movable Collateral Registry and prioritizes manufacturing, construction, tourism, and women-owned enterprises. (Source: Ethiopia Enterprise Development: https://manuf-sme.gov.et/smefp/)
	Ethiopian Movable Collateral	EMCR, established under Proclamation No. 1147/2019 and managed by the National Bank of Ethiopia, is a 24/7 online registry that enables lenders to register and search security rights over movable assets. It allows borrowers to use machinery, equipment, vehicles, livestock,

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
	Registry (EMCR)	crops, inventories, accounts receivable, and other movable assets as collateral, expanding access to finance for MSMEs, farmers, and entrepreneurs without immovable property. The registry establishes lenders' priority rights, reduces credit risk through transparent searches, and strengthens secured lending. By December 2024, it had recorded over 109,000 registered notices. (Source: National Bank of Ethiopia. Ethiopian Movable Collateral Registry: https://emcr.nbe.gov.et/)
	The Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX)	ESX, established with infrastructure support from the SMEFP provides Ethiopia's first modern platform for trading, clearing, and settlement of capital market securities. The project financed the exchange's core technological infrastructure, which was subsequently transferred to ESX for operation. Working closely with the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA), ESX aims to expand SMEs' access to equity and debt financing by developing SME-friendly listing platforms, market-making mechanisms, and alternative financing solutions, thereby complementing traditional bank lending and strengthening Ethiopia's long-term entrepreneurial finance ecosystem. (Source: Ethiopian Securities Exchange. https://esx.et/)
Republic of Indonesia	Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR)	Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR) is Indonesia's flagship government financing programme, launched under Presidential Instruction No. 6 of 2007 to expand MSMEs' access to affordable working capital and investment credit. The programme targets productive and viable businesses that are feasible but not yet bankable, with loans delivered through banks and other financial institutions under government-supported guarantee and subsidy schemes. KUR strengthens MSME capital, promotes financial inclusion, and accelerates private sector development. The programme offers multiple financing schemes for micro, small, sector-specific, and migrant-worker enterprises while encouraging beneficiaries to eventually transition to commercial financing. (Source: Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR). https://kur.ekon.go.id/)
	MSME digital onboarding formalization	Indonesia's Online Single Submission (OSS) system is a national digital business licensing platform that simplifies MSME formalization through risk-based licensing. Administered by the Ministry of Investment/BKPM, the OSS issues a Business Identification Number (NIB), which serves as the official business identity and, for low-risk enterprises, functions as the business license. The platform enables entrepreneurs to register businesses online at no cost, reducing administrative burdens and improving access to finance, government support programmes, procurement opportunities, and formal markets. By streamlining licensing and encouraging business formalization, OSS strengthens MSME competitiveness and promotes an inclusive business environment. (Source: Online Single Submission (OSS), Government of Indonesia, https://oss.go.id/en)
Republic of CUBA	National Institute of Non-State Economic Affairs (INAENE)	Instituto Nacional de Actores Económicos No Estatales (INAENE) established under Decree 108/2024 and headed by Merceded Lopez Acea is referred to 'National Institute for MSMEs.' The Cuban government uses the designation 'non-state economic actors' to encompass MSMEs (both private and mixed-ownership), non-agricultural cooperatives (CNAs), and self-employed individuals (TCPs). The INAENE primarily provides a regulatory and guidance framework rather than direct financial support. It works with government agencies and local authorities to oversee implementation of regulations, assess the development of the non-state sector, and recommend policy improvements. (Source: Granma. (2024, August 20). Updated regulations on the activity of non-state economic actors. https://en.granma.cu/cuba/2024-08-20/updated-regulations-on-the-activity-of-non-state-economic-actors)
Republic of Uganda	Electronic Fiscal Receipting and invoicing solution (EFRIS)	EFRIS is a digital tax administration system introduced by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) in 2021 under the Domestic Revenue Mobilization Programme to improve the transparency and efficiency of business transactions. It enables the real-time issuance and verification of electronic invoices and receipts for Business-to-Business, Business-to-Government, and Business-to-Consumer transactions. EFRIS primarily benefits VAT-registered taxpayers, while other businesses, including MSMEs, may also participate where eligible. The system promotes accurate record-keeping, simplifies tax compliance, supports faster VAT refund processing, facilitates future pre-filled tax returns, reduces invoice fraud,

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
		minimizes the risk of lost invoices through digital storage, and strengthens fair competition by improving tax administration and compliance. (Source: Uganda Revenue Authority, https://ura.go.ug/en/efris/)
	One-stop business centres and Online Business Registration System (OBRS)	The Online Business Registration System (OBRS), developed by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) with funding from the Government of Uganda, was launched in 2024 to digitize and streamline business registration and related services. The platform enables entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and other businesses to register and manage their businesses online, reducing the time, cost, and administrative burden associated with registration. OBRS provides real-time application processing, improves access to government services, enhances regulatory oversight, and supports business formalization. By making registration services available online from any location, the system promotes entrepreneurship, improves the investment climate, and contributes to Uganda's digital transformation and economic growth. (Source: Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, https://ict.go.ug/media/news/uganda-launches-online-business-registration-system-to-transform-business-registration & URSB user portal: https://obrs.ursb.go.ug/?trk=public_post_main-feed-card-text)
	Parish Development Model (PDM)	The Parish Development Model (PDM) is a multi-sectoral Government of Uganda programme launched on 26 February 2022 to transform subsistence households into participants in the money economy by using the parish as the lowest unit for economic planning and service delivery. The programme benefits rural households, particularly those outside the formal economy, through seven implementation pillars, with the Financial Inclusion Pillar providing access to affordable credit, savings, financial literacy, business development services, and market linkages via Parish Development SACCOs and the Parish Revolving Fund. The PDM also promotes enterprise development, employment creation, value addition, and inclusive local economic growth through coordinated government interventions. (Source: Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, https://ict.go.ug/programs/parish-development-model)
	Savings and Credit Cooperatives for Special Interest Groups	Emyooga Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) are constituency-based financial cooperatives established under the Presidential Emyooga Programme, launched in August 2019, to improve financial inclusion and support enterprise development among economically active Ugandans. The SACCOs primarily benefit MSMEs and economically active Ugandans by improving access to affordable credit, promoting a savings culture, and strengthening financial inclusion. They also receive capacity-building support in governance, financial management, entrepreneurship, and business development, enabling members to expand enterprises, improve productivity, create employment, and increase household incomes while ensuring the long-term sustainability of cooperative financial services. (Source: Microfinance Support Centre, Emyooga Portal. Government of Uganda. https://emyooga.msc.co.ug/)
Malaysia	Habatkan Perniaga Malaysia (HPM)	Hebatkan Perniagaan Malaysia (HPM) is a national strategic initiative introduced by the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development (KUSKOP) to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of Malaysia's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Aligned with the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan (2026–2030), the initiative seeks to enhance business productivity, improve access to financing, reduce regulatory burdens, and expand domestic and international market opportunities. HPM primarily benefits MSMEs and entrepreneurs through integrated government support, including capacity building, digital and technological adoption, business financing, and market development. The initiative aims to build more resilient, innovative, and globally competitive Malaysian enterprises. (Source: HPM- Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development, https://www.kuskop.gov.my/hebatkanperniagaanmalaysia/)
Federative Republic of Brazil	Programa Acredita	Programa Acredita is a socioeconomic inclusion programme launched by the Government of Brazil in 2024 to promote employment, entrepreneurship, and income generation among socially vulnerable populations. Implemented by the Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS), the programme primarily benefits

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
		individuals registered in the Cadastro Único (Single Registry), particularly Bolsa Família beneficiaries and women. It provides an integrated package of services, including professional skills training, employability support, entrepreneurship development, access to guaranteed productive microcredit, technical and managerial assistance, financial education, and business guidance. Through partnerships with government agencies, municipalities, training institutions, and the private sector, Programa Acredita seeks to strengthen economic self-reliance, reduce poverty, and improve social inclusion. (Source: Ramon, A. (2025). "Acredita" program: The new socioeconomic inclusion initiative of Brazil [PowerPoint presentation]. South-South Learning Forum 2025, Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger of Brazil. World Bank, https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/a1e81e17109a11d8c895988f83cb6e3d-0140022025/related/Harvesting-Solutions-Food-and-Nutrition-Security-Brazil.pdf)
	Programa Nacional de Apoio às Microempresas e Empresas de Pequeno Porte (Pronampe)	Pronampe) is a federal credit programme established in 2020 to expand access to finance for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in Brazil and was later made permanent by the Federal Government. Administered through accredited financial institutions with support from the Fundo Garantidor de Operações (FGO), the programme provides working capital and investment financing while reducing lenders' credit risk through government-backed guarantees. Pronampe benefits microenterprises, small enterprises, and individual microentrepreneurs (MEIs) by facilitating access to affordable credit. Under the Programa Acredita reforms, the programme was strengthened by enabling debt renegotiation and improving access to credit, particularly for women-led enterprises and other eligible small businesses. (Source: Pronampe Portal, https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/programa-acredita/pronampe)
	Brazil Mais Produtivo	Brasil Mais Produtivo is a federal programme coordinated by the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC) to enhance the productivity, competitiveness, energy efficiency, and digital maturity of Brazilian micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Originally launched in 2016 and restructured under Decree No. 11,783 of 2023, the programme provides subsidized technical consultancy, productivity diagnostics, management improvement, lean manufacturing, energy efficiency, and digital transformation services. Implemented in partnership with ABDI, SENAI, Sebrae, BNDES, Finep, and EMBRAPII, it supports MSMEs in reducing operational costs, adopting Industry 4.0 technologies, improving business management, and increasing productivity and competitiveness across all Brazilian states. (Source: Programme portal: https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/sdic/inovacao/brasilmais)
	Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas (SEBRAETEC)	SEBRAETEC is an innovation and technology consultancy programme implemented by the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE) to improve the competitiveness, productivity, and sustainability of micro and small enterprises. The programme connects businesses with accredited technology providers who deliver customized technical consultancy in areas such as product and service design, production and quality management, technological development, digital transformation, innovation, and environmental sustainability. SEBRAE subsidizes 40% to 100% of consultancy costs, depending on the state and service. Eligible beneficiaries include microenterprises, small enterprises, individual microentrepreneurs (MEIs), rural producers, and registered artisans with annual revenue of up to R$ 4.8 million, enabling them to adopt innovative technologies, reduce costs, improve quality, and strengthen market competitiveness. (Source: Official SEBRAETEC portal, https://meuatendimento.sebrae.com.br/sites/PortalSebrae/sebraetec)
	Empreender Clima	Empreender Clima is a digital platform launched during COP30 in Belém, Pará, in November 2025 to support Brazilian micro and small enterprises in the transition to a green, low-carbon economy. Developed through a partnership involving SEBRAE, the platform provides integrated support through four pillars: identifying green business opportunities, capacity building, business model development, and access to climate finance. It offers free online training, connects enterprises with Brazil's green business ecosystem, provides information on sustainable financing instruments, and includes a pre-eligibility assessment

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
		for Fundo Clima financing. The initiative primarily benefits micro and small enterprises seeking to adopt sustainable business practices, improve climate resilience, and access green investment opportunities. (Source: Official Empreender Clima portal: https://empreenderclima.org.br/quem-somos/)
People's Republic of China	Tiered MSME Development System	China's Gradient Cultivation System for High-quality SMEs is a national framework established by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) to identify, cultivate, and support innovative small and medium-sized enterprises through successive stages of development. The system classifies enterprises into Innovative SMEs, Specialized and Sophisticated SMEs, and Specialized and Sophisticated "Little Giant" Enterprises, with enterprises progressing through provincial recommendation and national evaluation based on innovation capability, specialization, market competitiveness, and technological strength. Designated enterprises receive policy support, including financing facilitation, innovation support, industrial collaboration, and market development opportunities, with the objective of strengthening industrial supply chains, enhancing technological self-reliance, and fostering high-quality manufacturing and specialized SMEs. (Source: MIIT (2022), Official document, https://www.miit.gov.cn/cms_files/filemanager/123466610/attach/20238/385b2bfcd4e443748e5177736b98d2b2.pdf)
	National Characteristic Industrial Clusters for SMEs	National Characteristic Industrial Clusters for SMEs are county-level industrial clusters established to promote the high-quality development of small and medium-sized enterprises through specialization, innovation, and industrial collaboration. Introduced by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) in 2022, the initiative focuses on strengthening leading industries, enhancing innovation capacity, accelerating digital and green transformation, improving cluster governance and public services, and fostering domestic and international cooperation. Clusters are identified through voluntary applications by county governments, followed by provincial review and MIIT approval, with recognition granted for a three-year period subject to dynamic monitoring and renewal based on performance. Recognized clusters receive coordinated policy support to improve industrial competitiveness and regional economic development. (Source: Document no 119 of 2022, MIIT, China https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/qyj/bszn/art/2022/art_95f334580374 49bd834abb3429bb79e4.html)
Russian Federation	Concessional Investment Leading Program	The Concessional Investment Lending Programme (Programme No. 1764) is a federal initiative introduced under Russian government resolution to improve access to affordable investment finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Implemented by the Ministry of Economic Development in partnership with the Bank of Russia and participating authorised banks, the programme subsidises interest rates on investment loans while the Bank of Russia provides preferential refinancing to reduce borrowing costs. From 2025, the programme operates under the federal project "Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" within the national project "Efficient and Competitive Economy", prioritising investment projects that enhance productivity, technological modernization, and the development of priority sectors of the Russian economy. (Source: Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 30, 2018 No. 1764, http://government.ru/docs/all/120116/ & Bank of Russia, https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=18440)
	Industrial and Technology Parks Development Program	Russia's Industrial and Technology Parks Development Programme supports the establishment and expansion of industrial parks, industrial technoparks, and high-technology parks to strengthen manufacturing and innovation-led SMEs. Implemented under the Federal Law No. 488-FZ "On Industrial Policy in the Russian Federation", the programme is administered by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (Minpromtorg) through federal co-financing for regional infrastructure projects. Since 2025, it has been integrated into the national project "Efficient and Competitive Economy," which aims to establish at least 100 industrial, technology, and business parks by 2030. These parks provide SMEs with ready-to-use production facilities, engineering infrastructure, and shared business services, lowering investment costs and accelerating industrial growth. (Source: http://government.ru/en/news/55055/)

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
	Unified Digital platform and AI enabled Business Services	The MSP.RF Digital Platform is Russia's unified digital gateway for small and medium-sized enterprises, developed by the SME Corporation of Russia under the national project "Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurship and Support for Individual Entrepreneurial Initiative." The platform provides SMEs and individual entrepreneurs with centralized access to government support measures, financial products, business training, digital services, and advisory resources. Integrated with the Gosuslugi through the ESIA authentication system, it enables users to access services using a single verified account. By consolidating federal and regional support programmes into one portal, MSP.RF simplifies access to public services, reduces administrative burdens, and promotes digitalisation of the SME sector. (Source: Platform's access: https://corpmsp.ru/to-business/msp-rf/)
Islamic Republic of Iran	Pardis Technology Park and the Iran International Innovation District	Pardis Technology Park (PTP), established in 2001 under the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, is Iran's leading science and technology park dedicated to supporting knowledge-based enterprises, technology commercialisation, and innovation-driven industrial development. Building on PTP, the Iran International Innovation District (IIID) was established (officially launched in September 2024) as a broader innovation ecosystem to integrate research institutions, universities, startups, technology firms, investors, and public support agencies within a single development framework. Together, PTP and IIID provide technology incubators, multi-tenant facilities, dedicated land plots, business development services, investment facilitation, technology transfer support, and networking opportunities. By strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and government, they promote the commercialisation of advanced technologies, support the growth of knowledge-based enterprises, attract domestic and international investment, and contribute to the diversification of Iran's economy beyond oil dependence. (https://en.iiid.tech/)
	Digital Commerce Development and MSME Digitalization Framework	Iran's Digital Commerce Development and MSME Digitalization Framework aim to strengthen the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) by expanding digital trade, improving payment systems, and promoting the adoption of e-commerce. The framework is led by the Iran Centre for Electronic Commerce Development (ICECD) under the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, which formulates national e-commerce policies, develops digital commerce infrastructure, and supports secure electronic commerce, digital business services, and online marketplaces through regulatory and institutional measures. Complementing these efforts, the Central Bank of Iran launched the Digital Rial in 2024 to modernise the national payment system and strengthen digital financial infrastructure. The government's five-year e-commerce strategy aims to triple transaction value, enhance consumer trust, encourage innovation in digital trade, expand secure electronic transactions, and promote greater market access, digital entrepreneurship, and wider digital technology adoption among MSMEs, enabling them to participate more effectively in domestic and international markets. (Source: Iran e-commerce report-Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, https://en-economic.mfa.ir/en/general_content/45117-Iran-e-Commerce-Report.html)
Republic of India	The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), launched in 2015 by the Government of India, provides collateral-free institutional credit of up to ₹10 lakh (enhanced to ₹20 lakh for eligible borrowers under the Tarun Plus category from 2024) to non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises through MUDRA Ltd., a subsidiary of SIDBI. The scheme promotes entrepreneurship, self-employment, and financial inclusion by supporting manufacturing, trading, services, and allied agricultural activities. Loans are categorized into Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishor (₹50,001–₹5 lakh), Tarun (₹5–10 lakh), and Tarun Plus (₹10–20 lakh for successful Tarun borrowers). Interest rates are determined by lending institutions in accordance with RBI guidelines, with no subsidy provided under the scheme. (Sources: Department of Financial Services, Government of India, https://financialservices.gov.in/pradhan-mantri-mudra-yojana-pmmy & Digital India Corporation: https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/pmmy)
	Credit	Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) is a credit

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	Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)	guarantee programme established jointly by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and SIDBI in 2000 to improve access to institutional finance for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). Rather than lending directly, CGTMSE provides a guarantee to banks and other eligible lending institutions against collateral-free loans extended to MSEs, thereby reducing lenders' credit risk and encouraging lending to new and underserved entrepreneurs. The scheme covers eligible credit facilities of up to ₹10 crore and offers higher guarantee coverage for priority groups, including women, SC/ST entrepreneurs, enterprises in the North-eastern Region, and ZED-certified MSEs, promoting entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. (Source: Official portal for CGTMSE: https://www.cgtmse.in/Home/VS/3)
	PM Vishwakarma	PM Vishwakarma, launched on 17 September 2023, is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India with an outlay of ₹13,000 crore to support artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 traditional trades. The scheme seeks to strengthen the Guru–Shishya parampara (family-based traditional skills), improve product quality, and integrate artisans into domestic and global value chains. Registered beneficiaries receive a PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card, basic and advanced skill training, a ₹15,000 toolkit incentive, collateral-free credit of up to ₹3 lakh in two tranches at a concessional 5% interest rate, incentives for digital transactions, and marketing support, thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship. (Source: Official Portal: https://pmvishwakarma.gov.in/)
	Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)	Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) is an electronic platform introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to facilitate the financing and discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The platform enables MSMEs to obtain early payment against invoices raised on corporates, government departments, and public sector undertakings through competitive bidding by multiple financiers, including banks and NBFC-Factors. Transactions are conducted without recourse to the MSME seller, reducing payment delays and improving working capital and cash flow. As of July 2026, five RBI-regulated TReDS platforms such as RXIL, M1xchange, Invoicemart (A.TReDS), C2FO, and KredX (DTX) are currently operational, promoting digital, collateral-free receivables financing and strengthening MSME liquidity. (Source: RBI, https://www.rbi.org.in/commonman/English/scripts/FAQs.aspx?Id=3138)
	Government e-Marketplace (GeM)	Government e-Marketplace (GeM), launched on 9 August 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is India's National Public Procurement Portal for the online procurement of goods and services by government ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous bodies, local bodies, and other authorized public entities. Operated by the Government e-Marketplace Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM SPV), the platform provides an end-to-end, paperless, cashless, and transparent procurement ecosystem. GeM promotes efficiency, competition, and ease of doing business by enabling direct purchases, e-bidding, reverse auctions, and timely payments. It also facilitates greater participation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), startups, women entrepreneurs, and other eligible sellers in government procurement. (Source: PMINDIA: https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-a-special-purpose-vehicle-to-be-called-government-e-marketplace/ Official portal: https://gem.gov.in/)
	Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS	Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was launched by the Government of India in May 2020 as a credit guarantee programme to support businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) under the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, the scheme provides government-backed guarantee cover to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for extending additional collateral-free credit to eligible borrowers. Initially targeted at MSMEs and later expanded through multiple phases, the scheme aimed to ease liquidity constraints, protect employment, and support business continuity. In 2026, ECLGS 5.0 was introduced to provide additional guaranteed working capital support to businesses affected by the West Asia situation. (Source: Official portal: https://www.ncgtc.in/en/product-details/ECLGS/Emergency-Credit-Line-Guarantee-Scheme-(ECLGS))

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	Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund	Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund is a Fund of Funds launched by the Government of India in 2020 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to provide growth equity to viable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Fund has a corpus of ₹50,000 crore, comprising ₹10,000 crore from the Government of India and ₹40,000 crore mobilized from private equity and venture capital funds. Implemented through NSIC Venture Capital Fund Ltd. (NVCFL), a SEBI-registered Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), the SRI Fund follows a Mother Fund–Daughter Fund structure, providing equity and quasi-equity support to MSMEs with high growth potential, enabling business expansion, employment generation, technology development, and eventual listing on stock exchanges. (Source: SRI Fund, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises https://dcmsme.gov.in/CLCS_TUS_Scheme/SRI_Fund/Scheme_Guidelines.aspx)
	MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation (MSE-GIFT)	MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation (MSE-GIFT) is a Central Sector sub-scheme under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, launched by the Ministry of MSME in December 2023. With an outlay of ₹478 crore (2023–24 to 2025–26), the scheme supports Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in adopting green and energy-efficient technologies through interest subvention, a Risk Sharing Facility (RSF) for concessional institutional finance, and information, education and communication (IEC) activities. Implemented by SIDBI, the scheme aims to promote decarbonization, resource efficiency, reduced emissions, lower energy costs, and sustainable business operations, thereby enhancing the environmental competitiveness of Indian MSEs. (Source: Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises https://green.msme.gov.in/msmeGiftScheme)
	Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)	Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is an apex statutory body established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023, with its provisions coming into force on 5 February 2024. ANRF aims to seed, grow, and promote research and development (R&D) while fostering a culture of research and innovation across India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. It provides strategic direction for research, funds competitive peer-reviewed projects, supports research infrastructure, promotes industry–academia–government collaboration, and facilitates the translation of research into innovation and technology. ANRF also subsumes the erstwhile Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and aligns India's research ecosystem with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. (Source: Department of Science and Technology, GoI, https://dst.gov.in/anusandhan-national-research-foundation-anrf)
	Common Facility Centres (CFCs)	Common Facility Centres (CFCs) are established under the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of clusters of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). CFCs provide shared facilities such as testing laboratories, common production and processing equipment, design centres, training facilities, raw material depots, effluent treatment plants, and other common infrastructures that individual enterprises cannot afford independently. The scheme aims to reduce production costs, improve product quality, facilitate technology upgradation, and strengthen market competitiveness. Under the current guidelines, the Government provides grant assistance of up to 70% of the project cost (higher for special category regions and clusters), with implementation undertaken through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) formed by cluster stakeholders. (Source: PIB: https://www.pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=97763&reg=48&lang=2)
	सह-SANKALP	Mission सह-SANKALP (Science and Advanced Networks for Knowledge-driven Action for Livelihood Promotion) is a national initiative launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India to integrate science, technology, and innovation (STI) into sustainable livelihood systems. Aligned with the recommendations of PM-STIAC, the mission aims to strengthen rural livelihoods by deploying demand-driven technologies, building institutional capacity, and promoting convergence among research institutions, government agencies, and local communities. The mission plans to pilot interventions across

Country	*Best Practices/ Schemes*	*Description*
		around 120 sites, including Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) villages and Aspirational Blocks, to develop scalable, technology-driven models for inclusive and sustainable rural development. (Source: India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal, Government of India: https://www.indiascienceandtechnology.gov.in/featured-science/mission-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%B9-sankalp-bringing-science-and-technology-closer-rural-livelihoods)
	Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED)	MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI), to promote Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) manufacturing among MSMEs. The scheme encourages enterprises to produce high-quality products while minimizing environmental impact through improvements in quality, productivity, energy efficiency, resource conservation, and sustainable manufacturing practices. Manufacturing MSMEs registered on the Udyam Portal are eligible to obtain Bronze, Silver, or Gold certification, with government support through certification subsidies, financial assistance for testing and product certification, technology upgradation, and handholding services. The scheme aims to enhance MSME competitiveness, export readiness, and adoption of globally accepted quality standards. (Source: Ministry of MSME, https://zed.msme.gov.in/)
	Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM)	Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) is a national digital platform launched on 3 January 2020 under the initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India to facilitate the sharing of publicly funded R&D infrastructure. The portal enables researchers, academic institutions, startups, MSMEs, and industry to discover, access, and book advanced scientific equipment and facilities across India through a unified online platform. By promoting optimal utilization of costly research infrastructure, reducing duplication of investments, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry, I-STEM strengthens India's research and innovation ecosystem and supports evidence-based scientific development. (Source: I-STEM official Portal https://www.istem.gov.in/rd-infrastructure-map)

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