

Bamboo Capital Partners exits investment from Svasti Microfinance after growing its portfolio of borrowers over twenty times and number of employees over tenfold

- **Since Bamboo's investment in 2011, Svasti Microfinance has serviced over 300,000 women customers across 57 branches in four Indian states.**
- **Bamboo helped grow Svasti's portfolio of borrowers over twenty times and number of employees over tenfold since its investment in 2011.**

Luxembourg, 2 December 2019 – Bamboo Capital Partners ('Bamboo'), the impact investing platform, has successfully exited its stake in one of the leading microfinance institutions in India, Svasti Microfinance ('Svasti'). Bamboo's stake in Svasti will now be held by Nordic Microfinance Initiative, among other investors.

Founded in 2008, Svasti brings about positive change in society through providing access to finance for all sections of society using innovative technology, with a special focus on women. The firm offers products and services designed for women with different requirements – from starting businesses, to enhancing what they have, to purchasing goods and services for themselves and their families – with the ultimate goal of transforming the lives of 10 million women by 2030.

Since Bamboo's investment via its Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) in March 2011, Svasti has reached a total of over 300,000 women borrowers. The number of active borrowers was over 190,000 by December 2019, compared to 9,050 in March 2011. Svasti's portfolio has reached around Rs 380 Crores (USD 53 million) at the end of 2019. Svasti aims to reach a total loan portfolio of Rs. 550 Crores (USD 77 million) by FY 2020 and Rs. 1,100 Crores (USD 154 million) by FY 2021.

Since 2011, Svasti has grown from 73 employees to a team of 783 people and expanded to 57 branches in four Indian states. The exit saw the fund realise proceeds in excess of two times its investment in the company.

Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and Managing Partner at Bamboo Capital Partners commented: *"Our exit from Svasti Microfinance showcases the success of impact investing and microfinance in India. For the previous decade, we have been committed to investing in financial inclusion companies which ensure that consumers underserved by traditional financial institutions in emerging markets can enter the formal economy."*

“Svasti Microfinance has made remarkable progress in the last nine years, positively impacting hundreds of thousands of women in India. Our investment has helped more female micro-entrepreneurs and low-income earners access loans and drive financial inclusion, supporting the local economy. We are excited for the next stage of Svasti Microfinance’s journey and have no doubt that the business will continue to grow and reach the ambitious targets it set for itself in the next decade.”

Arunkumar Padmanabhan, Co-Founder & CEO of Svasti Microfinance, commented: *“We are grateful to Bamboo Capital Partners for providing early stage funding support to Svasti and for guiding us through some challenging times. Their nominee on our Board has, over the years, added tremendous value to our business. We are happy that we have managed to give them a good exit. We are confident that we will build on the platform that has been laid with their support and take Svasti to greater heights in the future.”*

-ENDS-

Note to Editors

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About Bamboo Capital Partners:

Bamboo Capital Partners (“Bamboo”) is an impact investing platform founded by Jean-Philippe de Schrevel in 2007, which provides innovative financing solutions to catalyse lasting impact. Bamboo bridges the gap between seed and growth stage funding through a full suite of finance options – from debt to equity – which it activates unilaterally or through strategic partnerships. Bamboo aims to generate lasting impact and improve the lives of the world’s most marginalised communities while delivering strong financial returns. Since its inception, Bamboo has raised over \$400m for developing countries, positively impacting over 152 million lives and supporting over 40,000 jobs, including 14,000 jobs for women, through its investments in over 30 countries. The firm has a team of 30 professionals active across Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. For more information, please visit www.bamboocp.com or follow @bamboocp.