

Thursday, 15 October 13:30– 15:00

Red Room

Dialogue on access, recovery and redistribution of food: actions to expand food supply and reduce food losses and waste #19

ORGANIZERS

Brazil

Italy

FAO

Abstract: Different stakeholders have been implementing a wide range of initiatives to promote the recovery and redistribution of food, with the shared role of reducing food losses and waste (FLW) and promoting food and nutrition security. These initiatives involve, for example, making food that would be otherwise wasted available to those who need it (by connecting major food retailers to low-income communities) or linking family farmers to local community markets or institutions to reduce losses. In June 2015, G 20's Development Working Group on Food and Nutrition approved the "Implementation Plan of the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework". Under the item "Actions to increase productivity sustainably to expand the food supply", it is foreseen that "expanding the food supply will require improvements in handling, processing, transportation and consumer habits to reduce food losses and waste ". In this context, the side event should allow the CFS stakeholders to kick-start a dialogue about social technologies that turn food losses into nutritious food and compost. Experiences along the food supply-chain (from production, wholesale, retail and consumption) will be presented, with the aim of debating further actions needed to expand food supply and increase access to food, within CFS , FAO and other fora. Links with the CFS work streams (for the use of the CFS Secretariat, as appropriate): The side event relates to the CFS mandate and work streams, especially in the following areas: Follow-up on the policy recommendations of the Roundtable on Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems; Linkages with the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets – particularly on initiatives aiming at bringing family farmers closer to consumers, that avoid food losses all while promoting better access to nutritious food for the those in need; Synergies of CFS work with other international fora, particularly the G20 and the "Implementation Plan of the G20 Food Security and Nutrition.

KEYWORDS: Actions to expand access, recovery and redistribution of food, Social technologies to improve the food supply-chain (from production to consumption) , Reduction of food losses and waste G 20 Development Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition.

Languages: EN,PO

Summary:**Key speakers**

- Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UN Agencies in Rome
- BRAZIL: Mr. Arnaldo de Campos, National Secretary of Food and Nutritional Security in the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger
- ITALY: Mr. Felice Assenza, Director General for International Policies, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies
- FAO: Mr. Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
- NORWAY: Ms Catherine Steinland, Director of the Department of Food Policy in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- GLOBAL FOODBANKING NETWORK: Mr. Craig Nemitz, Director of Field Services

Moderated by Ms. Silvia Gaiani, University of Bologna

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES:

The event promoted a dialogue about policies and initiatives to turn food losses and waste into nutritious food and compost. Concrete experiences along the food supply-chain (from production, wholesale, retail to consumer level) were presented by different stakeholders, fostering a debate on further actions needed to expand food supply and increase access to food, within CFS , FAO and other fora.

In light of the recent commitments on reducing food losses and waste (FLW) within the CFS, the G20, the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, participants recognized the need for strengthening cooperation and collaboration among Governments, civil society and the private sector, in order to promote access to healthy food by preventing food loss and waste in all stages of the food supply chain.

Recognizing the context specificity of solutions and the different challenges faced by low-income and other developing countries and developed countries, the debate shed light on the importance of promoting experience sharing and best practices, which could inspire similar initiatives elsewhere.

SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS:

FAO's representative presented an overview with facts and figures about the theme, reaffirming the need for action and improved participation from all stakeholders to achieve the SDG 12.3. Mr. Wang cited the HLPE Report on Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems, which has framed the debate within CFS, and encouraged stakeholders to take part in the FAO Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction and its Save Food Network.

Following the overview, panelists presented their experiences along the supply chain to promote access, recovery and redistribution of food.

With a focus on losses in the production stage, Norway's representative mentioned the prioritization of the issue in the national agenda and made reference to recent initiatives, such as the elaboration of maps of FLW as a guide to companies. It was also indicated that all national stakeholders were encouraged to build a network to join efforts to prevent FLW along the chain, from a bottom-up perspective and with the support of the Government.

Focusing on the wholesale stage, the Brazilian representative highlighted the importance of addressing FLW reduction and its potential impact on reducing food prices for consumers. He shared the experience of Brazil on food banks, to recover food that would be otherwise lost and redistribute it to the most in need. The role of social protection systems to promote food and nutrition security and improve the sustainability food chain was also highlighted.

In the same topic, the civil society organization LIBERA shared its practical experience on the ground, through the redistribution of confiscated land from mafia groups to family farmers.

In retail, the representative from the Global Foodbanking Network deepened the discussion on food banks, by sharing its experience on assisting the creation of food banks in more than 34 countries. Food banks can be a good solution in countries that have food surplus. He emphasised the need for banks to follow international standards and also the role played by education, mentioning that sometimes simple solutions – such as educating about the expiration dates - can achieve significant results in reducing FLW.

On this matter, the Brazilian social organization from the private sector, SESC (Serviço Social do Comércio), presented their initiative “Mesa Brasil”, which reallocates food surplus to people in need. The 20 year-old program, which exists in more than 500 municipalities, engaging more than 6.000 institutions and 3.000 donors, has recuperated and redistributed more than 30 thousand tons of food in 2015. The need for the private sector and Government collaboration was stressed.

Another practical experience presented was the Banco Alimentare Italiano, whose representative referred to its work on recovering food from the retail sector and stressed the need for efficient management, legislation and communication.

Moreover, in order to minimize food losses in the production process, the representative of Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies stated that changes have to be done at every stage of the human food chain.

Lastly, from the consumption level, the representative of Italy, Ambassador Pierfrancesco Sacco, presented the efforts made in addressing the challenges of FLW. Recognizing the difficulties of recovering wasted food in the consumption stage, he highlighted the role of education and also innovative technologies (apps, anti-waste packages, etc.). The need for Government's commitment, including through effective legislation, and cooperation among all sectors, including the support of the civil society, was also pointed out.