

Wednesday , 14 October 8:30– 9:30

Red Room

The global conference no more food to waste-global action to stop food losses and food waste: highlights and initiated actions #24

ORGANIZERS

The Netherlands

Ministry of Economic Affairs

FAO

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

World Resource Institute (WRI)

Abstract: The Global Conference NO MORE FOOD TO WASTE (The Hague, June 2015), forms part of a global movement to decrease Food Losses and Waste (FLW) across the supply chain, while improving the sustainability of the food system, welcoming all stakeholders to participate actively. Highlights and initiated actions will be presented from different perspectives, by partners who teamed up for action. To meet the global food demand of a projected 9 billion people in 2050, it is estimated that 60 percent more food is needed. When approximately one-third of all food produced for human consumption is either lost or wasted, reducing food loss and waste can efficiently and economically help close the hunger gap. The conference laid bare the link between FLW, food security, climate change, and sustainable development. An ambitious agenda identified points of leverage across the Zero Hunger Challenge, the road through Paris and Sustainable Development Goals, integrating FLW into the international initiatives that will shape our future.

Partners will present identified areas with greatest potential to trigger action; pitch solutions for scaling up; highlight innovative approaches for cross-sectoral investment/collaborative financing; and Champion active partnerships working to minimize FLW throughout the food supply chain – specifically ‘Champions 12.3’.

KEYWORDS: Food loss and waste , Sustainable Development Goals , Champions 12.3

Languages: EN

Summary: This symposium presented current work and country experience on investments along the agriculture and food value chain that can provide nutrition-sensitive outcomes for more diverse and healthy diets.

The main themes addressed:

The ICN2 follow up, and in particular the Framework for Action recommendations on investments with a healthy food system objective in different types of food systems;

Examples of how countries with a different type of food system prioritize and implement selected recommendations from the ICN2 Framework for Action to combat malnutrition in its different forms according to the country specific context. Representatives from Brazil (food system type 3, transitioning) and Germany (food system type 2, mixed) shared specific examples that work in their countries.

Summary points:

Countries facing a high burden of overweight and obesity like Germany may opt for measures addressed to food manufacturers and focus on well-informed consumers. These include, in the case of Germany, product reformulation to reduce salt, sugars, and oils in manufactured foods, as well as dietary standards for school meals and behavior change communication and incentives to improve diet.

In countries that face a double burden of malnutrition actions to halt and reverse the rise in overweight and obesity must be undertaken along with continuous efforts to combat undernutrition. Brazil for example uses a twin track approach which includes social protection measures addressing undernutrition along with measures addressing overweight/obesity which include among others an increased production of fruits and vegetables and locally-sourced foods for schools as the means to achieve higher consumption of healthy food.

The event was a valuable contribution to the discussion on CFS’ role in advancing nutrition. It stimulated participants to reflect on ways for the CFS stakeholders and Member States to ensure that nutrition is adequately approached in the newly planned CFS workstream in line with CFS mandate and comparative advantage, and thus contributes to accelerated progress in eliminating malnutrition in all its forms.

Key messages that came out of the discussions:

The ICN2 Framework for Action provides a menu of voluntary policy options and strategies to address all forms of malnutrition, including overweight and obesity.

Every food system has the capacity to produce healthy food and can contribute to nutrition and health outcomes of people.

Investments to support healthier food systems are at hand for countries that wish to implement the ICN2 Framework for Action. They range from large-scale infrastructure improvements, to small-scale technical and marketing support, regulatory and voluntary measures, all the way to consumer education and incentives.

Significant gaps remain and need to be closed in the knowledge available to countries and investors about how to select among the investment choices, and which to prioritize for given food system and nutrition context.

It is hoped that development banks and other financial institutions will work with the food security and nutrition community to provide contextualized financial information about the promising interventions, so that informed choices among investment alternatives can be made by countries with any type of food system.

The detailed report is available on the UNSCN website.