



## Concept Note

# Save Food Partners Meeting

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand

20 March, 2014

9:00 – 12:00 hours

## Background

Asia and the Pacific Region is a hotspot for fruit, vegetable and rice wastage globally (FAO 2013). Approximately 50 per cent of the fruits and vegetables, up to 37 per cent of the cereals, and 20 percent of meat and dairy products produced in Asia and the Pacific Region are lost between production and the consumer. These post-harvest losses take place largely in the traditional supply chains that feed mass markets in the region and result largely from the lack of a market orientation, poor infrastructure, weak integration of supply chains, poor farm practices and a limited knowledge base. With growing incomes and changing food consumption patterns across the region, food waste, i.e. losses taking place in food retail in the food service sector and in the home – is increasing. Table waste, in particular, shows a growing trend across the region in urban centres, with increasing incomes and increased dining away from home.

Food losses and food waste have adverse impacts on the region's food security, and represent a waste of resources – land, labour, water and energy - and efforts put into food production with negative impacts on the environment. Food losses and waste also rank as the third highest emitter of green-house gasses globally. According to FAO data, cereals, meat and vegetables are major contributors to the carbon footprint of food losses and waste.

Recognising the urgent need to promote awareness of the magnitude of food losses and waste and their impacts on food security and hunger in the region, FAO launched the **Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign** in Bangkok in August, 2013 during a high level Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Food Loss and Food Waste. This Regional Campaign also seeks to advocate for solutions to addressing the issue of food loss and waste in the region.

Participants to the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation endorsed a Joint Communiqué on food losses and food waste, wherein they pledged to work together to create national and regional multi-stakeholder networks toward reducing food losses along the supply chain, and fight the growing problem of food waste.

A national Save Food Network would serve as a common platform for concerted and harmonized efforts geared toward raising awareness and advocating for the economic, social and environmental values and benefits of reducing food loss and food waste in Thailand. Possible

activities to be implemented within the framework of such a Network, may include support to awareness raising and promoting advocacy for the economic, social and environmental values and benefits of reducing food loss and food waste in Thailand; information sharing and exchange on food loss and food waste in Thailand; the implementation of joint activities under the Save Food Campaign.

Over the past year, FAO has promoted the Campaign through the development of a number of promotional materials – a logo, mascot, facebook page, a public service announcement, web-site, brochures, a photography competition, posters, an educational booklet for school children, video animations for school children, painting and drawing competitions - targeted to broadly communicate the message of reducing food losses and wastes in partnership with private sector entities, CSOs and through primary, secondary and tertiary institutions of learning. To date, Campaign activities implemented in Thailand have focused largely on Bangkok.

Against this background, FAO proposes to convene a one-half-day meeting to discuss with key stakeholders: progress made in implementing the Campaign in Thailand, the development of a national Save Food Network and to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership to upscale the Campaign across Thailand.

## **Objectives**

The meeting will:

- Review and discuss the Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign within the context of food losses and food waste in Thailand;
- Discuss potential areas for collaboration and partnership to strengthen and broaden Campaign activities across Thailand;
- Discuss the formation of a National Save Food Network in Thailand (Annex 1).

## **Outputs**

- Specific advocacy and awareness raising mechanisms to address food loss and food waste in Thailand, identified and agreed to.
- Areas for collaboration and partnership designed to strengthen and broaden Save Food Campaign activities in Thailand, identified and agreed to.
- A National Save Food Network established and a plan formulated for the implementation of joint activities under the Network.
- Clear roles and responsibilities of different partners in the Save Food Campaign identified and agreed to.

## **Participants**

- Senior level partners from private sector organisations and Associations associated with food manufacture, trade and retail in Thailand

## **Date and Venue**

The consultation will be convened on 20 March, 2014 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon, at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.