



UN Committee on World Food Security
HIGH LEVEL DINNER
Tackling Food Losses and Waste

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - Rome Cavalieri Hotel, Rome

PROGRAMME

Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Donald Moore, Chairperson of the International Agri-Food Network and PSM

Greetings

Remarks

H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, *Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN Rome-Based Agencies*

H.E. Amira Gornass, *Chair of the UN Committee on Food Security, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Sudan to the UN Rome-Based Agencies*

Closing

Yvonne Harz-Pitre, *Director of Communications & Public Affairs, International Fertilizer Association (IFA)*

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS

During the evening, 190 Ambassadors, country representatives, NGO representatives, UN agency employees, and private sector delegation members discussed means to reduce food losses and waste in both developed and developing countries to achieve SDG 12.3.

Each table was guided by a facilitator and rapporteur. The discussion was lively, and delegates came up with concrete recommendations for tackling food losses and waste to achieve food and nutrition security. While each table's feedback was unique, the following common themes emerged in response to the question "*How can we halve global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains?*"

Infrastructure

- Invest in transportation infrastructure, including roads, railways, shipping pathways, and modern transportation technology and tracking tools
- Develop and implement innovative, context-appropriate storage to reduce spoilage before and during transportation
- Reduce costs associated with storage and transportation in order to direct larger profit shares back to producers
- Build networks of aggregators and localized food processors

Technology

- Use data to track consumer behavior and reduce waste at the household level
- Apply analytics to identify constraints and entry points in the value chain
- Set measurable, quantitative goals to hold governments and private sector bodies to account on their contributions to food loss and waste
- Grow food closer to the consumer using technology to create urban, vertical, and micro-farms

Economic & Regulatory Policy

- Implement legal frameworks with incentives to reduce food waste
- Work toward international coherence in trade policy and food safety standards
- Reconsider taxes and subsidies with attention to the entire multi-stakeholder value chain
- Encourage innovation by providing incentives to farmers and SMEs who commit to combat food loss and waste

Partnerships

- Facilitate direct partnerships between producers and consumers, using technology, media campaigns, and integration of sourcing information at retail levels
- Develop multi-actor food pathways with contingencies to rescue food at all points of the value chain
- Emphasize and incentivize multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships, including between private companies
- Invest in farmer organizations and cooperatives

Consumer Awareness

- Create consumer awareness campaigns

that provide all members of the family with complementary, rather than conflicting, messages about food

- Reformulate labeling policies (especially “best by” and “use by” labels)
- Educate consumers about food waste and empower them with tools to change personal and communal behaviors

Farmer & Producer Education

- Implement farmer-friendly tools to measure and reduce food loss during and immediately after harvest
- Invest in advisory services and farmers’ organizations
- Promote crop and market diversification to reduce risk
- Empower farmers to use traditional and technological methods of storing and preserving foods
- Establish feedback loops between producers and retailers that inform the timing and strategy of plantings and create predictability
- Commit specific effort to involve women in post-harvest and value-addition processes and payments

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

In order to fight global food loss and waste, we must embrace a multi-pronged but distinct approach that targets all participants in the food chain, from farmers to consumers and that is tailored specifically to food loss, on one hand, and food waste, on the other hand. Different interventions are necessary for each player, but throughout the process it is essential to keep the entire food landscape in mind, rather than considering any given issue in isolation.

Embracing appropriate, high-impact technological innovation, data management, and transportation infrastructure are essential to both food loss and waste. These three fields will have an even greater potential when combined with each other to create systems of tracking food throughout its entire lifecycle.

Local, national, and international regulatory and economic policies are needed to incentivize good stewardship of the food system and discourage, or eventually penalize, negligence. These policies should be developed with the entire value chain in mind, even – and perhaps especially – when that value chain spans national boundaries.

Meaningful change will never come to fruition without focused commitment to innovative, mutually-productive partnerships. These partnerships will certainly continue to involve traditional members of the food chain; importantly, however, new partnerships must span diverse sectors and expand to engage new partners in the fight against food loss and waste.

Finally, we see a distinct need for parallel education initiatives. On the production side, trainings and education programs should equip farmers to increase productivity while reducing food loss. On the consumption side, sensitization and awareness campaigns should empower retailers and buyers to manage their purchasing and consumption in a fashion that reduces food waste.

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