

Regional Dialogue: **Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption and the Shift to Healthy Diets in Asia through Farm to Fork Concept**

27 JAN. 2022 | 10:30 AM – 13:20 PM (GMT+7 BANGKOK TIME)

Background

The EU-funded SWITCH-Asia programme aims at supporting the development of green economy and the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and a more circular economy in Asia promoting economic growth while decoupling it from environmental degradation. The SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, is designed to strengthen the dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national policies on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in Asia.

In spite of the fact that Asia is the largest contributor to global food production, it is home to a large portion of the world's poor, hungry and food-insecure people. Food accessibility remains one of the key challenges in the region, especially among low-income households. There is rapid urbanization over large parts of Asia and currently, about 50% of the population lives in an urban area. Studies have shown that urbanization influences both the quantity and diversity of food consumption (Bhartendu et al., 2020) while risks such as climate change, natural disasters, price volatility, etc., impacts the food accessibility of lower-income households.

In Asia, increasing food consumption by a growing population, together with changing dietary habits, poses an immense challenge for the global food system and is associated with health and environmental impacts, such as diseases due to unhealthy diets, increasing use of harmful chemicals to increase production,

and increasing food wastage. Shifting to more sustainable food consumption patterns would greatly aid in shifting towards a sustainable, equitable, resilient and nutritious food system in Asia. Improving access to food and facilitating a transition towards a healthier and sustainable diet are essential aspects of green growth and sustainable development in the region. Policy and evidence-based, regenerative, innovative and technological solutions are urgently needed across Asia to overcome the diversity of problems that exist in meeting the challenges of food systems transformation.

A Sub-Regional Dialogue: Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Southeast and Northeast Asia through Farm-to-Fork Concept, held by RPAC in partnership with Asian Institute of Technology on 14 September 2021, shared insights on food consumption patterns, policies and ways towards sustainable food consumption in Asia. Among which, healthy and nutritious diets for the vulnerable population were highlighted as one of priority areas in Asia to transform food consumption patterns, while technology, innovation, and policy were addressed as important tools.

In this context, RPAC in partnership with the TERI School of Advanced Studies and AIT is organizing a regional dialogue based on the concept of Farm-to-Fork and will further discuss sustainable food consumption with focuses on ensuring healthy and sustainable diets for the low-income households, with key stakeholders and experts in the region to gather first-hand insights.

Objectives

The objective of the regional dialogue is to enrich existing knowledge and identify opportunities to promote sustainable and healthy diets in Asia through engaging wider stakeholders into the discussion on:

- ① Practical enablers that enhance healthy and sustainable diets in Asia

- ② Challenges and solutions that will encourage transformation towards more sustainable food systems and promote sustainable and healthy diets
- ③ Existing best practices that showcase impactful yet easily implementable solutions/actions that can bring about radical changes in the way we consume as a society.



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CONTACT

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Agenda

INAUGURAL SESSION

Session Moderator: Dr. Fawzia Tarannum, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India

10.30-10.40

Welcome Remarks
Dr. Mushtaq Memon
EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC).
Prof. Prateek Sharma
TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India

10.40-10.45

Opening Remarks
Dr Michael Bucki
EU Delegation to India and Bhutan

10.45-10.55

Keynote Speech 1:
Policies and Experiences on Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating the shift to healthy and sustainable diets by EU
Mr. Benoit Sauveroché
Delegation of the European Union to India

10.55-11.05

Keynote speech 2:
Promoting healthy and sustainable diets through the 'farm to fork' approach: A case study on Meghalaya, India
Mr. James Sangma
Minister of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Forests & Environment, Health & Family Welfare

11.05-11.15

Background on sustainable food consumption in Asia and instructions for group discussions
Dr. Chubamenla Jamir
TERI School of Advanced Studies

SESSION I: Panel Discussion – Practical Enablers towards sustainable food consumption and Healthy Diets in Asia

11.15-12.05

Moderator: Dr. Nazmun N. Ratna, Faculty of Agribusiness and Commerce, Lincoln University, New Zealand
Panelist 1: Business
Dr. Bhavani Shankar
Department of Geography, University of Sheffield UK
Panelist 2: Technology
Prof. LIU Xiaojie
Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Panelist 3: Policy
Dr. Tilkavati Karupaiah
Taylors University, Malaysia
Panelist 4: Capacity building and awareness
Dr. Bandana Shakya
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal

12.05-12:15

BREAK

SESSION II: Moderated Group Discussion

12:15-12:55

Group 1: Business
Case Study Presenter:
Community Supported Agriculture: Reconnect people with land,
Dr. Shi Yan
Farmer Shared Harvest Organic Farm, China
Facilitator: Prof. Sapna Narula, School of Management Studies, Nalanda University, India
Group 2: Technology
Case Study Presenter:
Gravity Good Ropeways for enhancing livelihood and nutritional security in Nepal
Mr. Diwakar KC, Griffiths University, Australia
Facilitator: Dr. Jyotiraj Patra, Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA), Oxfam in Asia
Group 3: Policy
Case Study Presenter:
Policies for Nutritional Security in Bhutan
Ms. Ugyen Yangche
College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan
Facilitator: Prof. Kiran Bains, Punjab Agriculture University, India
Group 4: Capacity building and awareness
Case Study Presenter 1: *Creating awareness on nutrition and health for women and child development*
Mrs. Ram Pyari, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Rajasthan, India.
Case Study Presenter 2: *Capacity building to eliminate hunger among the vulnerable groups in the society?*
Ms. Radhika Maheshwari, Jodhpur Chapter, Robin Hood Army, India
Facilitator: Ms Bhargavi Nagendra, Socratus Foundation, India

SESSION III: Closing Plenary

12:55-13:20

Report back of each group (5 minutes per group),
Facilitator: Dr. Chubamenla Jamir
Closing Remark:
Prof. Shaleen Singhal
TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India



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