

Flash Report

Regional Policy Dialogue on Food

“Innovation and Connectivity through Farm to Fork for Sustainable Food Systems and Healthier Society”



Date: Friday 13 November 2020 | 15.00 hrs.

Venue: Live Broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms:

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
CE	Circular Economy
EU	The European Union
NSTDA	National Science and Technology Development Agency
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SRP	Sustainable Rice Platforms
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWITCH-Asia RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Background:

Our world is rapidly changing. Increasing food consumption by a growing population, together with changing dietary habits, poses an immense challenge for the global food system. A crucial question is how to meet the increasing demand for food and provide healthy diets for all for the decades to come without undermining the Earth's resources and crossing planetary boundaries, beyond which the prospects for humanity may be threatened.

The world's population has increased by two billion during the last 25 years and is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.8 billion in 2050 (United Nations World Population Division 2017). The Millennium Development Goals contributed to a fall in the percentage of undernourished people from 23.3% in 1990–1992 to 12.9% in 2014–2016. Still, there remain more than 800 million undernourished persons in the world, and the absolute numbers are increasing. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the ambition not only to end poverty and hunger by 2030 but also to ensure that “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. This puts a focus on all aspects of the food systems from farm to fork, especially at a time when we are facing a pandemic of our generation that has hit hard to the food supply chain.

Case Study: A report of the EC FOOD 2030 Independent Expert group outlines an agenda for a climate-smart and sustainable food systems for a healthy Europe. The report is focused on four key areas: Nutrition for sustainable and healthy diets, climate-smart and environmentally sustainable food systems, circularity and resource efficiency of food systems and innovation & empowerment of communities. This relevant case study provides following approaches for a sustainable lifestyle focusing on Food Systems.

Logistical information about the event

The organization of the regional policy dialogue on Food: Innovation and Connectivity through Farm to Fork for Sustainable Food Systems and Healthier Society was organized as a hybrid-event via live broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Review on Participants:

More than 305 participants were registered prior to the event, and 11,015 viewers joined online which was accessible through Zoom and Live broadcast on the Facebook's Page of SWITCH-Asia, AIT Entrepreneurship Center and their networks.

Summary of Key Messages:

Welcoming Remarks



Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak
Programme Management Officer
SWITCH-Asia RPAC

“In this particular dialogue, you will be inspired by our speakers who have extensive knowledge and experience in this field and you will understand better how to enhance your sustainability in your daily life and action from the perspective of food and agriculture as a consumer as well as a producer”

Introductory Remarks



Ms. Garrette Clark
Sustainable Lifestyles Programme Officer
UNEP

“Most people do not wake up intending to harm the environment - nor to help it. They make decisions based on price, accessibility, well-being or trends. Governments and companies should support business models that make sustainable living the default option.

There is no one sustainable lifestyle. We need actionable, positive, and global narratives about the world of tomorrow we want to see.”

Impacts of COVID19 on food sector both Production and Consumption



Prof. Anil Kumar Anal
Head of the Department of Food Agriculture and Bioresources, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

An overview of the sustainable lifestyles on SCP with a focus on food systems in the context of COVID-19 was outlined that the current food systems is not fit for the future. The dynamics of food system is going to change in next 25 years. Due to the growing population and demand for food, sustainable approaches and innovations are therefore necessary to withstand food demand along with the food supply chain. In addition, the context of COVID-19 in relations to the food system can be seen from the perspectives of consumption behavior and health of the consumers.

Key Summary from Panel Discussion:

Sustainable Lifestyles as solutions to tackle impacts from COVID-19 and beyond

Prof. Sylvie Avallone
Montpellier SupAgro, France



Prof. Avallone emphasized that food is placed as one of the important factors for achieving sustainable development goals. Prof. Avallone also gave an overview on the current food system and the triple burden of malnutrition where these three burdens are at the cause of premature deaths in many countries worldwide. Filling the nutrient gap is needed to strengthen local traditional food systems for food security and nutrition by, for example, protecting fragile ecosystems and environment as well as diversify the crops and animals in local farming along the year. Consumer behavior improvement, on the other hand, needs to be practiced for promoting sustainable consumption and lifestyles.

Dr. Nongnuch Poolsawad
Researcher, National Science and Technology
Development Agency (NSTDA)



Dr. Poolsawad delivered a presentation on Bioeconomy, Circular Economy and Green Economy, so called BCG Model which has been conceptualized to underpin Thailand 4.0 policy for economic and social development. Dr. Poolsawad further outlined on the NSTDA's research and development that sustainable agriculture and food system can be benefited by the integration of BCG model in such a way that optimizes the circularity, involves renewable energy for valued added goods and services and determines keeping economy, society and environment in balance to achieve sustainable development.

Dr. William Wyn Ellis

Executive Director, Sustainable Rice platforms



Dr. Ellis gave the presentation on the importance of rice as integral to global food systems. Worldwide, 3.5 billion people consume rice and 144 million family farmers produce rice and some 90 percent of them live in or near the poverty line. As the population grows, so does the demand for rice. Meeting a growing demand poses an enormous challenge in a world with finite resources. The SRP, as a multi-stakeholder alliance, works with partners to transform the global rice sector by improving smallholder livelihoods, reducing the social, environmental and climate footprint of rice production.

Launch of the Little book of Green Nudges



Ms. Mari Nishimura

Youth, Education and Advocacy Unit
Ecosystems Division, UNEP

Assoc.Prof, Dr. Kitikorn Charmondusit

Vice President for Environment and Sustainable Development
Mahidol University

Ms. Nishimura and Prof. Dr. Charmondusit presented on ***the Little Book of Green Nudges*** as a quick guide to reducing campus' environmental impact through behavioural change. The publication summarises the evidence around what nudges work best while seeking to encourage more sustainable practices among students and staff across several behavioural categories. It also provides simple guidance on how to implement and evaluate behavioural interventions in a variety of contexts.

Snapshots of the Event



Annex:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Time (IST)	Theme
1500-1510	<p>Welcome and Introduction Session</p> <p>Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak Programme Management Officer, SWITCH- Asia RPAC</p> <p>Ms. Garrette Clark Sustainable Lifestyles Programme Officer, UNEP</p>
1510-1530	<p>Impacts of COVID19 on food sector both Production and Consumption</p> <p>Prof. Anil Kumar Anal Professor, School of Environment, Resources and Development, AIT</p>
1530-1600	<p>Panel discussion: sustainable lifestyles as solutions to tackle impacts from COVID19 and beyond</p> <p>Prof. Anil Kumar Anal Moderator</p> <p>Prof, Sylvie Avallone Montpellier SupAgro, France</p> <p>Dr. Nongnuch Poolsawad Researcher, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)</p> <p>Dr. William Wyn Ellis Executive Director, Sustainable Rice platforms</p>
1600-1630	<p>Open Discussion and Q&A from participants</p> <p>Prof. Anil Kumar Anal Moderator</p>
1630-1640	<p>Final remarks</p> <p>Prof. Anil Kumar Anal</p> <p>Prof, Sylvie Avallone</p> <p>Dr. Nongnuch Poolsawad</p> <p>Dr. William Wyn Ellis</p>
1640-1645	<p>Conclusion and Closing remarks</p> <p>Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak</p>

For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

URL: <https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/innovation-and-connectivity-through-farm-to-fork/>

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