

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 20 September 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Sustainable cold chain and the Rome Declaration: delivering efficient ozone and climate-friendly cold chains to ensure nutritious and healthy food for all
CONVENED BY	Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition UNEP Ozone Secretariat Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/42208/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

105

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The panellists were chosen following multistakeholder and geographic representation. Presentations and discussions highlighted the complexity of the food systems and of cold chains.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue brought together different perspectives on the cold chain and reflected multidimensional nature and complexity of the issue towards common understanding and complementarity.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

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3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

The dialogue was designed in alignment with the methods and recommendations of the reference manual. There were two curators who also played the role of facilitators: one from UNEP Cool Coalition for Session 1 and one from UN FAO for session 2. Participants were appreciative of the performance of both curators/facilitators and richness of the dialogue. For additional details, please refer to Section 4.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The event aimed at highlighting the key role of sustainable food cold chains in ensuring food safety and security, reducing food waste and loss, mitigating and adapting to climate change preventing the depletion of the ozone layer. As such it related to several Action Tracks – AT1/ ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; AT2/, shift to sustainable consumption patterns, and AT5/ 5 build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress - as well to the newly defined Action Areas of the UNFSS, in particular AA1/Nourish All People; and AA4/Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses. Another objective of the event was to demonstrate how the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, universally ratified multilateral environmental agreement, its Kigali Amendment, and its Rome Declaration on Sustainable Cold Chain Development can contribute to mobilizing and scaling up solutions for delivering sustainable cold chains. The Rome Declaration aims to foster exchange of information and strengthening cooperation and coordination among governments and other stakeholders in the area of the cold chain and the contribution of the cold to SDGs, and the Dialogue contributed significantly towards this objective.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

A total of 20 organizations (from governments, farmer and industrial associations and international organizations) made contributions to the dialogue. They first discussed challenges related to the cold chain for food (and also vaccines) which demonstrated various facets of cold chains in the area of food and healthcare. The following key challenges in scaling up sustainable cold chain solutions in a meaningful way are as follows:

- ❑1) Poor awareness of food cold chains benefits among food chain and cooling sector actors at international and national level;
- ❑2) Access to cold chain is uneven both within countries and between developed and developing countries
- ❑3) A siloed approach to cooling and cold-chain development, resulting in a sub-optimal outcome, e.g. insufficient consideration to the close linkages between access to cooling and cold-chain services and access to sustainable, reliable and affordable energy; e.g. efficiency of sub-system instead of effectiveness of the entire system
- ❑4) Insufficient consideration to the multi-dimensional character of food cold chains development, resulting in benefits from food cold chains being available in a fragmented manner, e.g. the lack of coordination between the food and health sectors regarding the possibility to combine cooling action benefits 'from farm to fork' with those from "vaccine manufacturer to arm".
- ❑5) Transition to from outdated and polluting existing technologies to ozone and climate friendly cold and energy efficient chain technologies due to the operational and commercial limitations of current more sustainable refrigerant options, insufficient skilled technicians in developing countries, underdeveloped or weakly implemented standards and regulations for safety and energy efficiency
- 6) Other identified challenges include paucity of robust evidenced based data and forecasts on impacts of food cold-chain, limited, research funding;
- 7) Projected growing project demand for more cold chains driven by the various factors which compounds these challenges but also present an opportunity.

In the second part of the dialogue, the panelists presented various initiatives as scalable solutions for cold chains in the food sector and beyond. These included:

- Overview of available more sustainable technologies (e.g. by Global Food Cold Chain Council, industries in EU and China),
 - Database model for cold chains to understand the cold chain extent in developing countries and to identify opportunities for expansion of cold chain benefits (e.g. by Bahrain and Paraguay with support of OzonAction),
 - Enabling strategies and policies to ensure better coordination and integrated approaches to cooling and cold chains for compliance with the MEAs (Montreal Protocol and Paris Agreement), agricultural development and achieving SDGs (e.g. India and EU)
 - Cooling for all needs assessments and National Cooling Action Plans (e.g India)
 - The Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain (Rwanda);
 - Best practices and lessons learned from projects on already available energy-efficient, low-global warming potential and ozone-friendly cold chains technologies and capacity building activities in specific sectors, i.e. supermarkets, including the role and instruments existing multilateral financial mechanisms to promote these solutions (UNIDO, AREA)
 - The role of the cold chain in health care ensuring more equitable and efficient roll of vaccinations programmes
 - Summary for policy-makers from case studies and status assessment on cold chains (Cool Coalition, CCAC, FAO, Ozone Secretariat, UNEP OzonAction).
- Participants agreed that sustainable cold-chains are key for improving human well-being, boosting economic growth and delivering socio-economic development through the SDGs, while simultaneously achieving the climate change targets of the Paris Agreement and Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Sustainable cold chain is critical for ensuring food safety and security, reducing food waste and loss, mitigating climate change and preventing the depletion of the ozone layer.
- Further development of policies, strategies, plans and actions for sustainable cold chain needs:
 - robust systems-level thinking;
 - to enable logistics connectivity from farm to fork
 - needs-driven integrated approaches;
 - multistakeholder, multi-sectoral coordination;
 - cross-sectoral decision-making mechanisms;
 - collaboration at all stages of the sustainable cold chain development and implementation, including within the research community and through formal cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms within governments; and development partners, including the donor community;
 - robust data and sound comprehensive (including financial, economic, environmental, social and gender aspects) cost-benefit assessment are key to de-risk and optimize investments in sustainable cold chains
- The Rome Declaration under the Montreal Protocol on “the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to Food Loss Reduction through Sustainable Cold Chain Development” is an important platform for political commitments and actions for states and other stakeholders. Parties to the Montreal Protocol are encouraged to sign on to it if they have not yet done so.
- The commitment to deliver on sustainable food systems transformation and sustainable cold chain solutions can help countries also deliver on the Kigali Amendment, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.
- Energy-efficient ozone and other climate-friendly technologies powered by renewable energy and integrated approaches and game-changing solutions approaches are needed for sustainable cold chain development.
- Foster knowledge exchange at all levels, collection and dissemination of information and awareness raising on available and feasible solutions for developing sustainable cold chains are important. Initiatives such as the sustainable cold chain virtual exhibition, Global Food Cold Chain Status report, and further dialogues such as are useful tools in this regard.
- Awareness raising required on a systems approach and multiple benefits of effective and sustainable food cold-chain
- Technical assistance, capacity building and training required on use of cold-chain systems and low-GWP technology including deployment, operation and maintenance but also on logistics of an effective cold-chain
- The synergetic benefits of sustainable cold chains to both the food and health sectors should be given due consideration in prioritising development programmes, in particular those related to post-pandemic response.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

While there was some differences of opinion on what aspects to prioritise to scale up sustainable food cold chains, there were no major divergences as regards the challenges, ways to address them, and possible ways forward to make sustainable food cold chains happen for all.

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