

MoS Shobha Karandlaje inaugurates International Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in South Asian Region at New Delhi

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the International Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in South Asian Region today at New Delhi. The workshop, organized on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in South Asian Region was organized jointly by The Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the Thünen Institute, Germany. Deputy Director General (NRM) – ICAR, Dr. SK Chaudhari, Research Director, Thünen Institute, Germany, Dr. Gerd Lange, Deputy Director General (Ag. Engg.) – ICAR, Dr. SN Jha and around 120 delegates from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, France, Germany, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were present on the occasion. In her address, Sushri Karandlaje appreciated the efforts made by ICAR and Thünen Institute, Germany to address an important social and economic issue concerning both to the farmers and the consumers. She stated that approximately 3 billion tonnes of food go to waste each year across the world, outlining the scale of problem of food loss and waste. She opined that the proven technologies and practices of developed as well as developing countries should be brought forward so that the losses and wastage across the globe could be reduced using methods acceptable to the societies. She stated that the social organizations need to play a vital role in spreading awareness among various stakeholders and also should practice the methods to minimise food waste. She also pointed out that loss of food is not only a direct loss to the consumers but also has been a burden on the environment and the society. She said that the ICAR and Thünen Karandlaje said that South Asia a major producer as well as consumer of food and it is our moral responsibility as well as economic necessity to reduce the food loss and waste. She called to identify the primary causes of food loss and waste, education and awareness among all the stakeholders; efficient harvest and storage; smart distribution; industry involvement; donation and food banks; innovation in food packaging; and consumer responsibility, etc. She emphasized that wasting food is the crime and ethical sin. She urged our children to teach our children to eat only what is required, not to waste food, and to be responsible.

She was hopeful that the three days workshop would help plan and act together to arrive at some meaningful policy. Stefan Lange mentioned the mitigating and preventing food loss and food waste is the biggest and most effective level of intervention. He reaches to the needy. He further informed that "Collaboration Initiative "Food Losses & Food Waste" has been functioning to promote the global exchange of research results and practical experience in fighting food losses and waste. Go to the front of the line as a vital role in influencing neighbouring countries initiating individual as well as collaborative efforts to cut food loss and waste. Mr. Clementine O'Connor of United Nations Environment Programme, France appreciated the losses and wastes metrics and the role of sustainability of agriculture and environment. She pointed out that pandemic, climate change and wars also have serious bearing on food loss and waste. She emphasised the policy development to ensure learning and sharing of best practices across the globe and to create awareness among consumers.