
Outcomes of the discussion – Key Messages:

- Sustainable cold chain is critical for ensuring food safety and security, reducing food waste and loss, mitigating climate change and protecting the ozone layer.
- Further development of policies, strategies, plans and actions for sustainable cold chain needs:
  - Robust systems-level thinking;
  - Needs-driven integrated approaches;
  - Multistakeholder, multi-sector 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 climate-friendly technologies powered by renewable energy and integrated approaches and game-changing solutions are needed for sustainable cold chain development.
- Fostering 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, Cool Coalition Working Group on Cold-Chain, and further dialogues such as this, are useful tools in this regard.
- 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.