

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje Inaugurates International Workshop on Food Loss & Waste Prevention

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shobha Karandlaje on Monday, October 30, 2023 inaugurated the International Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in South Asian Region in New Delhi.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) in collaboration with the Thünen Institute, Germany is organizing the workshop.

Deputy Director General (NRM) - ICAR, Dr. SK Chaudhari, Deputy Director General (Ag. Engg.) – ICAR, Dr. SN Jha, Research Director, Thünen Institute - Germany, Dr. Stefan Lange with over 120 delegates from India, Germany, France, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka were present on the occasion.

In her inaugural speech, Minister Shobha Karandlaje said food wastage has become a serious problem which needs to be solved as early as possible. The minister said that with the help of the proven technologies and good practices of developed as well as developing nations food loss across the world could be reduced. She urged social organizations to come forward and help in spreading awareness among various stakeholders. The minister is quite hopeful that this workshop would help them plan and act together to arrive at a meaningful policy.

Dr. K Narsaiah, ADG (PE), ICAR gave an introductory presentation on the historical perspective of food losses along with examples of indigenous methods to prevent food loss and waste practiced by different societies across the world. During this session, all the delegates took a pledge to prevent food loss and waste in families, offices, and communities.

DDG (NRM), Dr SK Chaudhari & Deputy Director General (Ag. Engg.), ICAR, Dr. SN Jha welcomed all the delegates and guests. In his address, he told participants that post-harvest losses and food waste differs among geographies in the world, it mainly depends on the crops and commodities, climate, duration of storage, technological interventions, traditions, human behavior etc.

Research Director of Thünen Institute, Dr. Stefan Lange said that a "Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses & Food Wastes" has been working to promote the global exchange of research results & practical experience in curbing food losses and waste. He added that the Indian Government can play a key role in influencing all neighboring countries in starting individual as well as collaborative efforts to prevent food loss and waste.