

COP26 Event Summary

Sustainable Cold Chain for the People, For the Planet: Addressing Climate Change, Hunger and Energy

Date: 2 November 2021 **Time:** 10:15-11:00 GMT **Location:** Nordic Pavilion

Hosted by: Cool Coalition, United For Efficiency, Sustainable Energy for All

Event at: 26th Conference to Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 26) in Glasgow, UK

Summary Notes & Key Messages

Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO (Moderator remarks):

- Sustainable cold chains matter in the climate and development agendas, as they reduce food loss and related emissions, in a rapidly warming world where population is increasing and far too many people still go to bed hungry.
- Lack of effective food refrigeration today is estimated to directly result in the loss of 13% of total food production. Food loss and waste generate 8% of all anthropogenic GHG emissions
- At the same time, equipment used in cold chains contribute around 1% of global emissions.
- Increasing access to sustainable cold chain will bring multi-faceting benefits for both people and the planet, reducing food loss, increasing farmers resilience, reduce emissions and help achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- Transformational action in the cold chain sector is the need of the hour.

Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy

- The Cool Coalition has been a key initiative to convene global stakeholders to accelerate action on the sustainable cooling agenda globally. SEforALL greatly values our partnership with Cool Coalition, and we see it as key partner in delivering on our shared goals.
- I congratulate the Cool Coalition for developing the Global Status Report on Sustainable Cold Chains, which will help take action starting from a well-defined baseline.
- Action on cooling makes the difference between achieving SDG 7 quicker or not achieving it at all, as the lack of cooling effects millions of people today, a problem made even cleared with the inequitable access to cold chain for COVID vaccine distributions.
- Lack of cooling and cold chain impact 1 in every 8 people in the world. Lack of cooling services and cold chain denies people developmental benefits such as increase farmer income, better healthcare and nutrition, economic growth.
- World Bank along with partners including GCF has taken a big step and approved a 157 Mn USD fund to leverage further generate 750 Mn USD towards sustainable cooling. It great to know that a large amount of this funding will go towards cooling in the agriculture sector.
- NCAPs are working as tool for countries to understand the current situation and better strategies for future towards cooling transition.
- The establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains in Rwanda is a great step towards sustainable cooling for all in Africa, a continent victim of climate change impacts and not the cause.
- Cold chains are key to solve the vaccine distribution and loss problem, hence key to ensure a rapid and equitable recovery from the current pandemic.

- We are really pleased that Cool Coalition came up with a Energy Compact at the HLDE in September: I urge countries and others to join the Compact and commit to action to bring us closer to sustainable cooling and cold chain for all.

Jürgen Fischer, President, Danfoss Climate Solutions

- Global food loss emissions are almost equal to China's, making it a significant contributor to global emissions and an urgent action area for climate mitigation.
- The food loss challenge has different faces in different countries. A big factor is the lack of effective cold chain and refrigeration in developing countries, with most of the loss occurring at the farmgate end, and food lost due to lack of immediate cooling.
- Solutions to expand access to cooling while avoiding a rise in emissions exist.
- We need to promote natural refrigerants and improved energy efficiency at equipment level.
- To ensure efficient operations, refrigeration as a service is very important and can be a game changer, provided the high initial capital cost.
- Danfoss is working LAC countries and India to build the capacity of working professionals and providing training. In Brazil we are collaborating with universities to train students on cooling technologies and operations.
- Data availability is a big issue globally in the cold chain sector. Data is key to spur technological innovation. Danfoss along with Clean Cooling Collaborative and GFCCC has been advocating for data availability to improve data driven decisions in the sector through studies to better data gathering at local level.
- We have developed CO2 based physical containers and sending them in various counties to train local workforce on this technology of these sustainable container.
- Given the current situation, in a short term, we should promote highly efficient cold chain equipment with relatively low GWP HFCs without leakages. But the in the long term, we should promote products with natural refrigerants.
- Best equipment is useless, until it is being not handled by skilled or trained person.
- Cold chain developers should focus on making a strong business case that works for local people and provides adequate benefits.

Hermann Hakuzimana, Rwanda Environment Management Authority:

- Lack of efficient cold chain access contributes to 13% of food loss and around 8% of global emissions. The situation in Africa is particularly worse, as in the Africa the 30-50% of food is being lost in the supply chain. This is associated with lack of food aggregation, lack of market access, and the major cause for this is lack of cold chain infrastructure.
- Rwanda has shown leadership and taken first steps to address this challenge. We started an important initiative and established the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains to facilitate collaboration among African countries and identify and test solutions that work locally, train technicians, raise awareness with users.
- At ACES, we will build local capacity as we move forward to implementation. We have already conducted several activities, including study tours and capacity building workshops.
- No country can run effective vaccine program without sufficient cold chain infrastructure. The initiative encourages countries to build demonstration laboratories for cold chain practices.
- We invite other countries to join this important initiative, including governments in and beyond Africa, academic institutions, industry and civil society. We need to cooperate, collaborate and put together efforts to solve our common problem.