

COOL TALKS

The UNEP Cool Coalition Webinar Series

Cool Talks spotlight innovative solutions, policies, and partnerships across the sustainable cooling landscape. From passive cooling and refrigerants to finance, technology, and just access, each session brings together global experts to exchange knowledge, inspire action, and accelerate progress toward a cooler, more resilient future.

Cooling Under Pressure: Water-Smart Solutions for Food Security and Heat Resilience

Date: 21 July 2026

Time: 15:00 CEST / 09:00 EDT / 18:30 IST

Duration: 60 minutes

REGISTRATION

Background

In a warming world, cooling is increasingly a resource-systems challenge, with direct implications for water security, food systems resilience, public health and infrastructure planning.

As temperatures rise, cooling demand is expanding across sectors that are critical to development and climate adaptation. Agricultural cold chains are needed to reduce post-harvest losses, protect farmer incomes, preserve nutritional value and improve food system resilience. Buildings, health facilities, schools and workplaces require cooling to protect people during extreme heat. Digital infrastructure and data centres also depend on thermal management systems that can place additional pressure on local water and energy resources.

These demands are converging in regions where water stress, grid constraints, rapid urbanisation and climate vulnerability already overlap. Cooling can therefore no longer be assessed only through energy efficiency or refrigerant transition. It must also be considered in relation to water withdrawals and consumption, local infrastructure capacity, competing sectoral demands, food loss, heat-health exposure and the distributional impacts of heat risk.

This Cool Talk will examine how water-smart, efficient and resilience-oriented cooling can help reduce food loss, protect health and manage resource pressures. It will bring together technical and policy perspectives from cooling, water, food systems and health to identify practical pathways for integrated planning and implementation.

Event Objectives

- Map where cooling demand is creating new pressures on water, food systems and public health.
- Examine how sustainable cold chains can reduce post-harvest losses while managing water and energy constraints.
- Identify water-smart cooling measures for buildings, cold chains and infrastructure, including passive design, efficient systems, siting and reuse.
- Discuss how cooling can be embedded in food security, heat-health and resilience planning before resource trade-offs intensify.

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
15:00 – 15:05 (5 min)	Welcome	Marisofi Giannouli , Communications Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition
15:05 – 15:10 (5 min)	Opening keynote	Dr Eleni "Lenio" Myrivili , Global Chief Heat Advisor, United Nations and Atlantic Council's Climate Resilience Center
15:10 – 15:20 (10 min)	Evidence spotlight: Sustainable cooling, cold chains and resilience	Angshuman Siddhanta , Sustainable Cold Chain Expert, UNEP Cool Coalition
15:20 – 15:40 (20 min)	Panel discussion: Rethinking Cooling Demand	• Dr Beatrice Ekesa-Onyango, Lead Global Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD • Larissa Nogueira, Team Lead, Energy Planning, IRENA • Dr Muhammad Wakil Shahzad, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Chair of Advanced Energy and Sustainability, Northumbria University
15:40 – 15:55 (15 min)	Q&A session	<u>Moderator:</u> Dr Eleni "Lenio" Myrivili , Global Chief Heat Advisor, United Nations and Atlantic Council's Climate Resilience Center



15:55 – 16:00 (5min)	Closing	Marisofi Giannouli , Communications Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition
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