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.

Scaling Sustainable Packhouse Design for Agriculture: Lessons from India for Global Cold Chains

Date: 27 October 2026

Time: 13:00 CET / 08:00 EDT / 17:30 IST

Duration: 60 minutes

REGISTRATION

Background

Packhouses are a critical first-mile link in agricultural cold chains, connecting farms to markets through sorting, grading, packing, pre-cooling and staging before supplying fresh produce onwards through reefer transport. Still, across many emerging markets, packhouse infrastructure is being developed without sufficient consideration of energy efficiency, cooling performance, climate resilience and lifecycle costs.

In September 2026, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) and UNEP Cool Coalition launched India's National Packhouse Design Guidelines, providing a practical framework for energy-efficient, climate-resilient and integrated packhouse design.

The Indian experience creates an opportunity to explore how these principles could inform more sustainable first-mile cold-chain infrastructure globally, including the elements that can be replicated across countries, the adaptations required for different crops, climates and markets, and the pathways for translating guidance into projects, investment and implementation at scale.

This Cool Talk will bring together policymakers, development partners, technical experts and industry to explore a pathway from national guidance to global replication, and the role the Cool Coalition and its members can play in enabling that transition.

Event Objectives

- Showcase India's National Packhouse Design Guidelines as a practical model for more sustainable and climate-resilient first-mile cold chains.
- Identify pathways for global adaptation and replication across different countries, crops, climates and market contexts.
- Explore how guidance can translate into implementation, including policy, investment, technology deployment and project development.
- Define opportunities for Cool Coalition members and partners to support replication through technical expertise, finance, demonstration and peer learning.

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
13:00 – 13:05 (5 min)	**Opening remarks**	**Dr Khushboo Gupta**, Principal Research Associate, AEEE
13:05 – 13:15 (10 min)	**Keynote: India's Packhouse Guidelines – A Model for Scale**	**Angshuman Siddhanta**, Senior Cold Chain Expert, UNEP Cool Coalition
13:15 – 13:40 (25 min)	**Panel discussion: Scaling Sustainable Packhouses Across Markets**	• **Stephanie Muchiri**, Renewable Energy Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) • **Jeremy Tait**, Sustainable Products Director, Tait Consulting GmbH • **Öznur Öztürk**, Super Pollutant Specialist, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) • **Sunil Nair**, Managing Director, Food Service Network Moderator**: Dr Khushboo Gupta**, Principal Research Associate, AEEE

13:40 – 13:55 (15 min)	**Q&A session**	Moderator**: Angshuman Siddhanta**, Senior Cold Chain Expert, UNEP Cool Coalition
13:55 – 14:00 (5min)	**Closing**	**Dr Khushboo Gupta**, Principal Research Associate, AEEE