



SESSION DESCRIPTION

E2 Plant-forward food systems: Creating resilient and healthy food systems through local leadership

Panel discussion

Date: Thursday, 27 June 2019

Time: 13:30-15:00

Rooms: S25-26

Language: English

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Organized by: Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Health Care Without Harm, 50by40 & Proveg International

Overall description

Spanning two sessions, local and regional governments' representatives and NGO experts guided attendees through innovative food policies. Session E2 made the compelling case for why cities should shift their policies to support plant-forward food systems and briefly outline different food policy solutions already being utilized in a diverse range of cities. Session F3 offered attendees concrete strategies on how to shift their food policies and will provide an opportunity for cities to engage with the different solution models and participate in peer-to-peer learning through interactive breakout sessions.

OBJECTIVE

According to the IPCC, a global shift in dietary habits must play a key role in achieving climate goals as the current levels of production and consumption of animal products makes the achievement of the 1,5°C and 2°C goals unlikely. Cities, as centres of consumption and innovation, play a critical role in fighting climate change and improving health outcomes by driving large-scale change in diets.

This session addressed the urgency of creating resilience in the food system on the global and local level, through adopting food policies that emphasize plant-focused diets on the city level. Through showcasing and discussing various ready-to-implement, cost-effective existing solutions from cities across the globe, the session aimed to arm policymakers with the latest information and tools to future-proof their cities' food systems, while improving public health.



OUTCOMES

- Participants learned about the environmental, health and financial benefits of plant-forward diets in contributing to reduce food-related greenhouse gas emissions;
- Participants gained a better understanding about the role of local and regional governments in driving shifts towards diets with a smaller share of animal-based calories through policies and procurement;
- Participants could take this knowledge with them to apply in their own communities, cities and regions.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator opened the session with a short introduction of himself and each presenter and the background for shifting to plant-forward food policies. **(10 minutes)**
- Each presenter was given a short time to describe their work and highlight examples of policies from cities they have worked with. **(3x15 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(30 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(10 minutes)**

Guiding questions

List of questions the panel will explore and seek to answer:

1. What is the role of cities in the global reduction of the carbon footprint of meat and dairy production? How to include climate-friendly food purchasing into existing green procurement initiatives?
2. What are some of the context-specific cultural, social, environmental and economic conditions that must be taken into account while discussing shift in dietary habits and what does this represent especially to Latin American, African and Asian countries?
3. What are the most common obstacles in dietary change and what are the best ways to overcome them?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator: *Lasse Bruun, Global Director, 50by40, Berlin, Germany*

Panelist: *Chloe Waterman, Program Manager for the Climate-Friendly Food Program, Friends of the Earth, Washington, United States*

Panelist: *Reyes Tirado, Science Advisor, Greenpeace, Exeter, United Kingdom*

Panelist: *David Pedersen, Senior Strategist, 50by40, Berlin, Germany*

IPCC Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 °C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
