

Press Release for Workshop on Tuesday, 4th October, 2016 at New Delhi

‘Indo-Norwegian cooperation on SDGs necessary for mutual research in science and technology’



‘Indo-Norwegian cooperation on SDGs necessary for mutual research in science and technology’, said Minister Counsellor Hanne Meldgaard, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway, New Delhi while delivering the chief guest remarks at the workshop on ‘Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade’. She also mentioned the importance of ‘everything is connected to everything’ and since the time is long past for hungry people, we need to fasten our initiatives on ensuring food security.

The event was jointly organized by CUTS International and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) South Asia Office, New Delhi on 4th October, 2016 at the NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi under the 'Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade (FOODSEC)' project funded by Research Council of Norway and supported by the Embassy of Norway in New Delhi.

The project was coordinated by Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo and Akershus University College for Applied Sciences, Norway. Apart from CUTS and IFPRI, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway was also a partner in this project. The project aims to understand the mechanisms causing food insecurity, i.e. how various kinds of food production, distribution institutions, and public programmes operate and interact to produce a combination of entitlements that can ensure food security among poor households.

In his welcome address, P. K. Joshi, Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) South Asia Office, stressed on the importance of approaching in a holistic manner to counter the impacts of climate change on food security issues in India.

Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International concurred with him in his chairperson remarks and highlighted the few positive initiatives like unified e-platform for National Agricultural Marketing and issuance of ration cards in the name of the female head of the family under the Food Security Act in India. Bruno Dorin, Head, Economics and Development Research Area, Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, in his keynote address, talked about mitigation and adaptation for climate change resilient agriculture. He added that understanding the agro-ecology as a science for better management of food security issues in India was imperative. An introduction to the project objectives and accomplishments were also discussed by Arne Dulsrud, Head of Research, Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo.

The workshop included presentations by the project partners under four different work packages of impact of climate change on agriculture, economic geography in the context of

food trade, impact of food policies on communities and households and an advocacy module for promoting food security in India.

The project has four work packages (WP) led by its four partners to explore a model for analyzing household food security in India through the interactions of climate change, economics, politics and trade. The study has focused in particular on two Indian states, Bihar and Karnataka.

WP1 conducted by IFPRI was a macro-level analysis highlighting potentially vulnerable areas associated with climate change through models that link climate impacts with agricultural production zones.

WP2 done by NUPI was a meso-level analysis of the economic geography and logistics of food trade, and how this might change under different scenarios; including “inland” trade between Indian states as well as international trade.

WP3 undertaken by SIFO with CUTS’s support was an assessment of the implications of changes in food politics, production and trade on local community and household food security and vulnerability.

WP4 done by CUTS includes an advocacy module that bridges the three research themes to disseminate broader policy findings to a range of stakeholders and decision makers, sensitizing them to the interface between climate change, agricultural production and distribution systems, and the implications for poor households.

Arne Dulsrud, Head of Research, Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo and the project lead, also added the importance of building partnerships in relevant sectors and future scope of the project.

The event concluded with remarks from Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International, stressing on the pathways for change for enabling trade markets and food crop trade not only among Indian states but also among neighboring countries and looking forward to future partnerships.