

Climate-Smart Food Systems: Enhancing Sustainability, Supply Chains, and Consumer Welfare

Climate change, with its multifaceted impacts, influences every sphere of our lives, with food systems being no exception. As the need for sustainable solutions grows, the concept of Climate-Smart Food Systems has emerged promising a blend of Resilience, Adaptability, and Sustainability. This session will revolve around strategies that support sustainable agricultural production and focus on responsible consumer choices. Furthermore, innovative approaches in strengthening supply chain resilience to weather climate disruptions will be explored.

A significant component of the session will address the indispensable role of climate-smart food systems in fortifying food security, especially for the most vulnerable populations. Strategies to bolster access to nutritious food will be underscored. Additionally, from a consumer welfare perspective, the manifold benefits of these systems, including promoting healthier diets, curtailing food waste, and ensuring equitable food access, will be examined.

Food security, an enduring concern, will occupy a prime focus. The session endeavors to unravel the nuances of how climate-smart food systems can enhance food security, emphasising measures to uplift the vulnerable sections of society. Attendees will understand the multifaceted approach needed to provide nutritious food access to all. From the lens of consumer welfare, it is important to analyse the myriad advantages climate-smart systems can bring: be it healthier dietary choices, reduction in food wastage, or fostering equitable access to quality produce.

Highlighting the pressing challenges, the discourse will delineate the adversities climate change imposes on agriculture and food distribution, stressing the urgency of immediate and effective interventions. Key discussion points will include insights into the dynamic relationship between climate change and global food security; the effects of sustainable farming on Greenhouse Gas emissions; and resource-efficient tactics to minimise food wastage. The transformative power of technology has the potential to foster climate-smart agriculture, while at the same time, consumers can play a pivotal role through informed and sustainable food choices. Robust policy frameworks and global collaborations play a significant role in transitioning towards these advanced food systems, illustrated by case studies from regions that have actively embraced climate-smart strategies. Specific questions for discussion in this session will include:

1. How can climate-smart food systems contribute to global sustainability goals and mitigate climate change?
2. What practical steps can individuals, businesses, and governments take to enhance the sustainability of food systems?
3. How can supply chains be made more resilient to climate-related disruptions?
4. What role does food security play in climate-smart food systems, and how can it be improved? What are the societal and economic benefits of transitioning to climate-smart food systems?
5. How can climate-smart food systems be achieved while promoting equitable access to food for all?

The discussion will be led by senior-level distinguished panellists, tailored to resonate with a broad spectrum of attendees. This includes policymakers, researchers, agricultural professionals, environmentalists, nutritionists, food industry stakeholders, and students.

Panel Organisers

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