FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

WORKSHOP ON INTRODUCTION TO CIRCULAR FOOD ECONOMY

Hotel Soaltee Westend, Nagarkot, Nepal | May1-3, 2024

ORGANIZED BY THE FEED THE FUTURE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION INNOVATION LAB, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

CONDUCTED BY THRIVING SOLUTIONS

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Thriving Solutions
Reimagining our food systems to sustain our future

Tufts UNIVERSITY | GERALD J. AND DOROTHY R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

Waste is a human-made byproduct that is not in sync with nature; all natural systems are innately circular. Our linear economic module based on the take-make-discard approach, has been increasingly polluting the planet and infringing on our planetary boundaries. Switching to a circular economy provides a path towards economic and social wellbeing, while protecting and regenerating nature.

To meet the food needs of a rising global population, (estimated to reach 10 billion in three decades), it is imperative that we take swift action to shift our food systems to circular and regenerative ones. This is critical, especially when we consider that agriculture is a primary contributor to the climate crisis, biodiversity predicament and unabated pollution. Circular regenerative approaches, aim to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use to the furthest extent, and regenerate natural ecosystems. A circular food economy can support most of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

WORKSHOP GOALS

Participants will distinguish between linear and circular business models and appreciate the importance of adopting a circular food system approach, and its role in alleviating pressure on
Earth's systems.

Participants will:

- Recognize the differences between linear economy and circular economy.
- Describe the food system and recognize its inherent complexity.
- Explain the sustainability challenges associated with producing our food and what it means to live within our planetary boundaries.
- Analyze the three principles of circular economy and how they relate to the food system.
- Compare the different levels of the Food Loss and Waste Hierarchy, interpreting their advantages and challenges.
- Summarize the advantages and trade-offs of food packaging and the role of packaging innovation in designing out waste.
- Discuss the role food product design and sourcing of ingredients has in advancing circular food systems.
- Appraise the links between circular food systems and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

The three-day workshop organized by USAID Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab and conducted by Thriving Solutions, will be held from May 1-3, 2024, at the Soaltee Westend Resort in Nagarkot, Nepal. The 3-day workshop (15 hours in total) will include 40% theoretical and 60% interactive sessions with real-life case studies and examples. Materials and instructions will be provided in English.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

May 1, 2024, Wednesday

Time	Session	Topics/Speakers
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening	Welcome Remarks Shibani Ghosh, Director, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University Opening Remarks Ahmed Kablan, Senior Science Advisor, USAID, Bureau of Resilience, Environment and Food Security (REFS) Introduction by Thriving Solutions Introduction of Workshop Participants
10:00 -11:00 AM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Introduction to Food Systems Group Activity and Discussion
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Tea Break	
11:15 - 12:30 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Environmental Dimensions of Food Systems Group Activity and Discussion
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Introduction to Circular Food Economy and its Components Group Activity and Discussion
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Circular Food System Dimension 1: Food Waste Group Activity and Discussion

May 2, 2024, Thursday

Time	Session	Topics
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Day 1 Review	Review of Day 1 & Present Agenda for Day 2
9:15-10:15 AM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Dimension 2: Packaging / Plastics Group Activity and Discussion
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Tea Break	
10:30- 11:00 AM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Circular Food System, Dimension 2: Food Packaging Case Studies Group Activity and Discussion
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Circular Food System, Dimension 3: Sourcing of Ingredients Group Activity and Discussion
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00- 1:30 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Circular Food System, Dimension 3: Sourcing of Ingredients continued Group Activity and Discussion
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Dimension 4: Healthy and Sustainable Diets Group Activity and Discussion
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Group Work	Group Activity

May 3, 2024, Friday

Time	Session	Topics
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	Enabling Environment Group Work
9:30 – 10:45 AM	Application (Group Work)	Group Work
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Tea Break	
11:00- 11:30 AM	Substantive Lecture & Group Work / Discussion	SDGs and the Food System Discussion
11:30 -12:00 PM	Application (Group Work)	Group Work
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Application (Group Work)	Group Work
1:45 – 3:15 PM	Application (Group Work)	Presentation of Final Projects to Class
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Closing Session	Concluding Remarks USAID Nepal FSN-IL