



Press Release

HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON ENSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- *Thiru M K Stalin, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurates the Foundation Day and Consultation of MSSRF*
- *Global Experts, Policy-makers and Scientists participate in the three-day events*
- *Experts dwell on the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and Climate Change – to find solutions to food and nutrition insecurity*

Chennai (August 4, 2021): The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M K Stalin, will inaugurate the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation's Annual Day and Virtual Consultation **on Friday, 6 August 2021**, at M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.

National Policy-makers, Scientists, and the Global experts on Climate Change, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition will attend the three-day annual events.

The high-level virtual consultation is intended to refocus the global narrative around food and nutrition security concerns in the time of climate change, which had been sidelined by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Experts dwell on ways to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic induced Food and Nutrition crisis.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected food security and threatened livelihood opportunities for millions of people. The government-imposed lockdown to stop the spreading of the COVID-19 Pandemic disrupted the food system at its core and triggered an economic slowdown. Its impact is stalling the global efforts to meet the "Zero Hunger" challenge and crushing livelihood opportunities.

At the same time, vulnerabilities on account of Global warming and other aspects of climate change are intensifying floods and droughts, in turn affecting food production and livelihoods. The temperature rise created a significant impact on food production and nutrition security.

Now, there is a twin challenge from the COVID-19 Pandemic, which goes beyond the health toll and crushing livelihood opportunities. The Pandemic raises the risk of changes in funding priority affecting longer-term sustainability in the food system due to climate change. There is an immediate need to address policy and practices aiming to improve human health and ecosystem health.

In this context, the MSSRF organizing a three-day consultation to understand the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the time of climate change and to find solutions to food and nutrition insecurity concerns while addressing issues of livelihoods.

The three-day virtual consultation will see limited physical attendees (due to COVID-19 Pandemic) and a high number of virtual attendees. There will be seven high octane virtual sessions dealing with different aspects of food and nutrition security, including a special lecture by this year World Food Prize Laureate 2021, Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, on Food Security of Coastal Communities by Sustainably managing Ecology of Coastal Areas.

There will be dedicated sessions which dwell on nutrition security through lenses of Climate change, Fisheries, Cultural heritage, and Role of women in nutrition security and the need for policy changes for India and South Asia.

When

Friday, August 6, 2021 (Inaugural Event 11:00 AM)

Monday, August 9, 2021 (Session 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 (Session 6, 7 & 8)

Where

Sambasivan Auditorium, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and broadcast live and on-demand on

MSSRF 2021 Conference webcast:

<https://bit.ly/3ypMI51>

Speakers to include:

- Prof M S Swaminathan, Founder Chairman, MSSRF
- Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, WorldFish, World Food Prize Laureate 2021
- Mr Gernot Laganda, Chief of Climate Disaster Risk Reduction Program, United Nations–World Food Programme, Bangkok

- Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, Director-General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad
- Mr N Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Group
- Dr Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Dr Revati Phalkey, Health and Climate Change Unit, Public Health England
- Dr Maria Isabel Andrade, World Food Laureate, International Potato Centre, Peru
- Prof Donald Bundy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Dr Reetika Khera, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization, Geneva
- Dr Vinod L Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India, New Delhi
- Tmt Supriya Sahu, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests
- Thiru C Samayamoorthy, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Programme and full list of Speakers and Social Media details:

<https://www.mssrf.org/annualevent2021>

#MSSRF2021

#MSSRFideas

Twitter: @MSSRF

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mssrf.org>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mssrf-chennai/>

Instagram: @mssrf_official

For more information:

Mr Jitendra

Mobile: 9650-680-491

E-mail: Jitendra@mssrf.res.in

END