

## SEC CONFERENCE DAY SPARKS GROUND-UP SUGGESTIONS TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE IN SINGAPORE

### *Paradigm shifts needed to tackle worsening local food loss situation*

**Singapore, 25 November 2019:** Ideas, view points, and audience polls from the two panel discussions at the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards (SEAA) and Singapore Environment Council (SEC) Conference Day 2019 brought to light some interesting points for serious consideration and action.

“The panellists, comprising professionals from the food industry, from farmers to researchers and chefs, came up with very interesting and potentially fruitful solutions for reducing food loss. We wanted to get a full picture from across the entire food supply chain to be inclusive and effective,” said Mr Mohit Grover, Sustainability Services Leader, Deloitte Singapore.

Mohit added “The conversation triggered fresh viewpoints and suggestions that could successfully lessen current food loss and waste. In particular, there was a focus on highlighting potential new technologies in farming practices we can adopt in Singapore and scale up across our existing agricultural industry. We hope that increasing our local agricultural yields will lessen dependence on food imports where much of the food loss occur as shown in our study.”

### **Key panel takeaways point to upstream innovations**

The panel discussions produced insights applicable across all streams of the supply chain, including:

1. Identifying operational gaps and leveraging technology to pre-determine food loss and waste along the supply chain, before taking necessary steps to avoid such losses
2. Greater industry collaboration across all supply chain streams

3. Adopting new technologies, obtaining technology investments, and making infrastructural improvements to iron out local inefficiencies and reduce food loss and waste
4. Designing smart labels for users so they can make informed buying decisions (these labels may indicate where the food is from, et cetera)
5. Enabling end-of-life food waste by turning food into compost
6. Making it a legal requirement to monitor and track food loss and waste
7. Transforming the local food production arena through steps that include assembling financial support for the agri-technology economy, converting old buildings into farms, and promoting farming as a worthy cause and noble vocation

The panel discussions also shone the spotlight on current gaps in the supply chain, which included:

1. Difficulty in obtaining funding and financial assistance, which serves as a barrier for agri-technology businesses
2. Silo mentality and breakdown in communications along the supply chain, which among other things have led to excessive food imports and subsequent wastage
3. Mindset and cultural influences, resulting from Asian consumers believing that an abundance of food equates status and wealth
4. Lack of skilled farm labour, leading to less than optimal resources and industry support

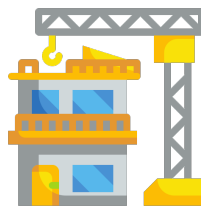
The audience were also given the opportunity to have their say through real-time opinion polls.

Polling results revealed that technology and automation, as well as infrastructural improvements, were pivotal to making progress on improving the food loss and waste situation. Equally, robust votes were given to the need to set industry standards and support given by the right legislation and policies. These along with the need to develop skills and knowledge in the food sector are crucial in achieving a circular food economy nationwide.

### Key Resources and Support Required for Change from Audience Polls



**Technology  
and automation**



**Infrastructural  
improvements**



**Industry  
standards**



**Right legislation  
and policies**



**Skills and  
knowledge  
development**

### Moving forward

Other steps were proposed to develop Singapore into a production hub and bustling agri-technology sector. There were also calls to support locally produced food, building a national narrative for local food through promoting its fresh and desirable qualities, promoting farming as a noble profession,

and maximising all food produce to achieve minimal wastage.

Audience opinions indicated a pressing need for greater industry collaboration and better food redistribution through the industry ecosystem. Consumer education was also a recurring theme highlighting the need for bottom-up awareness to plug the gaps in a fully integrated way.

“Adopting novel and innovative technologies along with consumer education are essential for making a permanent change to our existing food loss and waste solution,” said Ms Jen Teo, Executive Director of the SEC. “Our panel discussions indicate that there is a pressing need to bolster the growing agri-technology industry in Singapore through leveraging new technologies and encouraging Singaporeans to explore farming as a profession. Through education and legislation, change is wholly possible.”

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**\*\* END OF MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

**ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL**



Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-governmental organisation (NGO). As Singapore’s first United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP)-accredited environmental NGO, we influence thinking of sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in the nation.

We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors. SEC continuously engages all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: Eco-F&B. In addition, we build a

pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme. Our Training and Education arm provides the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a

sustainable future. Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.

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#### 新加坡环境理事会简介

新加坡环境理事会（SEC），成立于 1995 年，是非政府组织（NGO），也是非盈利机构。我们致力于推广新加坡可持续发展项目同时协调环境改善事务。在 2018 年，新加坡环境理事会被联合国环境规划署授予认证。

我们是一个获得认可的慈善机构，捐赠者可享受税务优惠。通过举办一系列整体项目如新加坡环境成就奖(Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards)、亚洲环境新闻奖(Asian Environmental Journalism Awards)、SEC-星和校园绿化奖(SEC-StarHub School Green

Awards)、新加坡绿色标签计划(Singapore Green Labelling Scheme)、绿化办公室计划(Project: Eco-Office)、绿化商店计划(Project: Eco-Shop)和绿化餐饮计划(Project: Eco-F&B)，新加坡环境理事会持续在社会各个领域发挥作用。

通过志愿环保战士 (Earth Helpers) 项目新加坡环境理事会组织了一支队伍协助和改善环境。我们的培训与教学部门旨在提高人民、政府部门及各领域的环保意识，知识与技能，并提供相关教材。多年以来，新加坡环境理事会一直支持并引导着新加坡的环保运动，通过与企业、政府机构和其他非政府组织建立密切的合作关系以更积极的行动达成改善环境的远景，这对于我们项目的可持续发展是至关重要的。