Dehradun: A two-day workshop on climate change adaptation practices was organised jointly by WFP and the Government of Uttarakhand on February 4 and 5 to help agriculture-dependent communities adapt to climate change.

Uttarakhand’s Agriculture Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat spoke of the need to protect arable land in the state from degradation. He said, “Building resilience against climate change is a prime concern for our government. We are aware of the challenges and are committed towards the welfare of the poor.”

WFP Representative Mihoko Tamamura said, “WFP has a track record in addressing hunger resulting from weather and climate related phenomena, and we welcome the chance to share some innovative approaches we have developed with governments and other partners.”

On the agenda for the workshop were different adaptation strategies aimed at countering the effects of climate change. The workshop has recommended Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping in the state for which WFP has already drafted a list of food security indicators vis-a-vis climate change. This will be shared at an upcoming conference of Chief Ministers of Himalayan States next month.

Rural Development Minister Vijaya Barthwal addressing the workshop

FORTIFIED BISCUITS FOR IRAQI REFUGEES

Mundra: Iraqi refugees in Syria will soon receive 643 metric tonnes of fortified biscuits rich in micronutrients as part of WFP’s food assistance to them. These biscuits have been manufactured in India through a generous donation from the Government of India. The first lot of biscuits sailed off from the port in Mundra in Gujarat on February 10.

WFP PARTNERS WITH STATE GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Experts brainstorm on food insecurity in urban India

New Delhi: An expert consultation on the State of Food Insecurity in Urban India was organized on February 25 to discuss the draft Food Security Atlas of Urban India jointly prepared by WFP and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation. Prominent participants included Dr. C Chandramouli, Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Mr. Mukesh Khullar, Jt Secy, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. F. Ram, Director, International Institute for Population Sciences, Supreme Court Commissioner Dr. NC Saxena and Principal Advisor, Right to Food Campaign Dr. Biraj Patnaik, among others.

Prof. Swaminathan presided over the consultation. He said the draft atlas provided an update of urban food insecurity as well as key recommendations for action. He also mentioned that neglecting strategies for increased production and increasing prices have long term impact on food security. The consultation highlighted some of the larger urban food insecurity issues including migration stress, quality of services, impact on the vulnerable, legal status of the slums and strategies to address these issues.

Students awarded for ideas on tackling hunger

Bhopal: School students who wrote essays about innovative strategies to fight hunger in India were awarded in a ceremony by WFP Deputy Country Director Matthew Mcilvenna on February 23.

The essay-writing competition was organised by WFP to mark World Food Day, 2009 and attracted submissions from 299 students in grades nine to twelve from 8 schools within the Bhopal Region. The competition was designed to promote understanding about hunger and malnutrition.

The winners with the WFP team

The essays were judged by Prof. Seema Raizada, Nutan College, Bhopal. All participants received a t-shirt and certificate. The prizes were sponsored by the Britannia Nutrition Foundation.

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