



World Environment Day

(5th June, 2013)



Message


World Environment Day is observed on 5th June every year to focus on the need for environmental management & sustainable development to keep mother Earth habitable for all species including ourselves. The Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. This year's theme is "Think.Eat.Save". The theme focusses on food waste and food loss. UN statistics suggest that about 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted in the world every year, wherein 1 out of 7 people go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. In the world of plenty, where food production outstrips demand, yet 870 million people are undernourished. While the planet Earth is struggling to provide resources for sustaining its fast growing population which currently is 7 billion, huge wastage of food is draining our resources & damaging the environment.

About 1000 litres of water is required to produce 1 litre of cow milk. 16,000 litres of water go into cow's food to make a hamburger. Global food production requires 25% of all habitable land and about 70% fresh water, 80% of deforestation and 30% greenhouse gas emissions. Thus food production becomes the single largest driver of bio-diversity loss and land-use change. Hence, reduction in wastage of food will reduce usage of environmental resources and abuse of environment. We need to reduce our food print.

Presently only about 15% of country's agricultural produce is transported by the Indian rail network. The critical factor in carrying perishable food products is ensuring efficient movement under conditions that maximise the potential life of the product and maintain its quality, suitability and safety. The creation of the Dedicated Freight Corridors, will provide safe and fast bulk movement of food grains, farm products, perishable food items, farm equipment etc. among others and directly contribute in their quicker transportation and distribution. This will help in reduction of wastage of food products.

I solicit your cooperation for timely completion of dedicated freight corridors and achieving desired goals of environment protection and sustainable development. I request all of you to imbibe the theme of 'Think.Eat.Save' in your personal lives for benefit of the nation.

Jai Hind


(R.K.Gupta)
Managing Director