

Food loss and food waste

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Evidence

Food loss

Around the world, more than enough food is produced to feed the global population—but as many as 811 million people still go hungry. After steadily declining for a decade, world hunger is on the rise, affecting 9.9% of people globally.

Globally more than 30% of food is lost or wasted, of which around 14% is lost between harvest and retail.

In developing countries, 40% of losses occur at post-harvest and processing levels while in industrialized countries more than 40% of losses happen at retail and consumer levels.

Food waste

1.3 billion tons of wasted food at 1 trillion USD costs

45% of all fruit and vegetables is wasted

35% of all fish and seafood is wasted

30% of cereals is wasted

20% of all dairy products is wasted

20% of all meat and poultry is wasted

Factors

Food loss

- Overproduction of food
- Unstable markets
- Insufficient storing
- Insufficient infrastructure for food transport and marketing
- Insufficient or outdated farming techniques

Food waste

- Lack of planning (shopping lists)
- Confusing labels
- Improper consumer behaviour: buying only the “perfect” products

Solutions

Food loss

- Funding proper infrastructure
- Encouraging proper and modern farming techniques
- Putting restrictions on food factories
- Encourage the farmers to harvest the „imperfect“ fruits and vegetables

Food waste

- meal planning
- thoughtful and responsible shopping
- shopping list
- freezing products
- planning and preparing the night portions of food

Technologies

Food loss

- Modern farming equipment
- Solar powered storing devices
- Data labs in both storages and markets that help track the expiration date of products

Food waste

- RFID technology allows the tool to easily identify products that are approaching or have expired, enabling stores to accurately monitor inventory levels and efficiently rotate goods
- Electrical compost machines (for people living in apartments)
- Apps for decoding misleading or unclear labels

Studies

Food loss

- Food Loss–Food Waste–Food Security: A New Research Agenda
- FAO Food Loss Index methodology and policy implications

Food waste

- UNEP Food Waste Index Report
- “How to Fight Food Waste” (Nord.Sense.com)

Institutions

Food loss and food waste

- Caritas
- World Trade Organization
- World Resources Institute
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Experts

Food loss

- Tara Garnett – Food Climate Research Network; Oxford University; U.K.
- Mattias Eriksson – Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences; Sweden.
- Selina Juul – Founder of Stop Food movement;



Food waste

- Bradley Rickardson
- Simon Somogyi
- Ralph C. Martin
- Mike Wastenborf



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Thank you for your attention