



# Food Waste

**Food loss** is defined as “the decrease in quantity or quality of food” and are the agricultural or fisheries products intended for human consumption that are ultimately not eaten by people or that have incurred a reduction in quality reflected in their nutritional value, economic value or food safety. An important part of food loss is “**food waste**”, which refers to the discarding or alternative (non-food) use of food that was fit for human consumption – by choice or after the food has been left to spoil or expire as a result of negligence.

*[Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction \(FAO 2014\)](#)*

Food waste is a problem mainly in industrialized countries, with retailers and consumers throwing away perfectly edible foodstuffs. Per capita waste by consumers is between 95 and 115 kilogrammes a year in Europe and North America. In sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia, consumers throw away only 6 to 11 kilogrammes a year.

*[Feeding the World Sustainably / by José Graziano Da Silva \(UN Chronicle, 2012\)](#)*

## UN Entities

- **Think, Eat, Save: Reduce your footprint (UNEP/FAO Campaign)**  
<http://www.thinkeatsave.org>
  - Food Loss + Waste Protocol: <http://flwprotocol.org/>
- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
  - Food Loss and Food Waste: <http://www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/en/>
  - SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction:  
<http://www.fao.org/save-food/en/>
    - Key facts on food loss and waste you should know!  
<http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/keyfindings/en/>
  - Food safety & quality:  
<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/home-page/en/>
  - Food Chain Crisis: <http://www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis/en/>
- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**  
<http://www.ifad.org>
- **Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/FoodIndex.aspx>
- **World Bank**
  - Food quality and safety:  
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/food-quality-and-food-safety>
  - Food security: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/food-security>
- **World Food Programme (WFP)**  
<http://www.wfp.org/>

## Further Information

- Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero Hunger  
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>
- Global Issues on the UN Agenda – Food  
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/food/index.html>
- Zero Hunger Challenge  
<https://www.un.org/zerohunger/>
- High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF)  
<http://www.un.org/en/issues/food/taskforce/>
- Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger  
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml>
- UNRIC in Focus: Food Waste  
<https://www.unric.org/en/food-waste>

## UN Events

- World Food Safety Day – 7 June: <https://www.un.org/en/events/foodsafetyday/>
- World Food Day – 16 October: <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/en/>

## Selected Publications available online

- SAVE FOOD Newsletter:  
<http://www.fao.org/save-food/news-and-multimedia/newsletter/en/>
- Gender and food loss in sustainable food value chains: A guiding note (FAO, 2018):  
<http://www.fao.org/3/I8620EN/i8620en.pdf>
- Food loss and waste and the linkage to global ecosystems (2017):  
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7597e.pdf>
- Make Haste No Food Waste! Tips for Reducing Food Waste (FAO, Poster, 2016):  
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-c0084e.pdf>
- Mediterra 2016: Zero Waste in the Mediterranean. Natural Resources, Food and Knowledge (FAO, 2016): <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq976e.pdf>
- Food Wastage Footprint & Climate Change (FAO, 2015):  
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb144e.pdf>
- Prevention and Reduction of Food and Drink Waste in Businesses and Households: Guidance for Governments, Local Authorities, Businesses and Other Organisations; Version 1.0 (UNEP / FAO, 2014):  
[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/save-food/PDF/Guidance-content.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/save-food/PDF/Guidance-content.pdf)
- Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources (FAO, September 2013):  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3347e/i3347e.pdf>
- Toolkit: Reducing the Food Wastage Footprint (FAO, September 2013):  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3342e/i3342e.pdf>
- Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Working Paper (UNEP / WRI -World Resources Institute, June 2013): <https://www.wri.org/publication/reducing-food-loss-and-waste>
- Global food losses and food waste (FAO, 2011):  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf>
- The role of producer organizations in reducing food loss and waste (FAO, Issue in Brief): <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap409e/ap409e.pdf>