



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Day of Awareness
of Food Loss and Waste

STOP FOOD LOSS AND WASTE. FOR THE PEOPLE. FOR THE PLANET.



Get Involved!

The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFWLW) observed for the second time on 29 September 2021, will make a clear call to action for both the public (national or local authorities) and the private (businesses) sectors, as well as individuals, to prioritize actions and move ahead with innovation to reduce food loss and waste towards restoring and building back better and resilient-ready, food systems.

THEME

For many people on the planet today, food is a given. But for the staggering estimated 811 million people who are hungry, and the additional 132 million people threatened by food and nutrition insecurity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, sufficient food is not a guarantee.

Yet, approximately 14 percent of the world's food, valued at USD 400 billion, is lost each year between harvest and retail and an estimated 931 million tonnes of food, or 17 percent of total food available to consumers in 2019, went into the waste bins of households, retailers, restaurants and other food services.

Now, more than ever, there is the need to recognize that food is worth more than its price and to acknowledge the values associated with food, as well as the farmers who produce it, the natural resources that go into producing it and the increasing number of people who go without it.

Ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition necessitates a focus on making our food systems – from production to consumption – more sustainable, inclusive, resilient and nutrition-driven. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need to take action and change course to transform our food systems towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 12.3: by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, and to build back better from the pandemic.

Reducing food loss and waste is a significant lever for realizing broader improvements to our food systems towards achieving food security, assuring food safety, and improving food quality and nutritional outcomes. Reducing food loss and waste would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as pressure on land and water resources. Innovations along the food chain that create new products, services, business models and technologies are crucial for reducing both the amount and extent of food loss and waste worldwide.

With nine years left to reach SDG goal 12, target 12.3; there is an urgent need to accelerate action to reduce food loss and waste.



DID YOU KNOW

- Data and measurement are key in creating a feedback loop to inform actions to reduce food loss and food waste and to monitor impacts.
- Approximately **14 percent** of the food produced for consumption globally each year is lost between harvest and the wholesale market.
- An estimated **17 percent of total global food production is wasted** (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail).
- **Food that is lost and wasted accounts for 38 percent** of total energy usage in the global food system.
- **Food-system emissions contributed up to 34 percent** of total GHG emissions in 2015
- **Packaging now contributes approximately 5.4 percent of global food-system emissions**, more than any other supply-chain factor including transportation.

Did you know that 2021 is the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables?

Respect food from farm to table

Fruits and vegetables are worth more than their price. Maintaining their quality and assuring their safety across the supply chain, from production to consumption, reduces loss and waste and increases their availability for consumption.

Innovate, cultivate, reduce food loss and waste

Innovation, improved technologies and infrastructure are critical to increase efficiency and productivity within fruit and vegetable supply chains to reduce loss and waste.



CALLS TO ACTION

Reducing food loss and waste for transforming food systems to deliver improved food security and nutritional outcomes is a shared responsibility that necessitates the action of stakeholders at all levels – governments, the private sector, civil society, development agencies, research and academic institutions, and consumers.

Collaboration is needed at all levels, and particularly, among the public and private sectors, and with research and development institutions.

What can governments and decision makers do?

- **Target investments and create incentives to bolster efforts** to reduce food loss and waste and ensure the food security of the poor and vulnerable.
- **Promote greater recognition of the values associated with food.** Food is worth more than its price.
- Develop innovative **policies and legislation** to reduce food loss and waste along the supply chain.

Private actors in the food supply chain

- **Work toward improving communication and transparency among all participants in food supply chains.** Improve the way information is shared across the food system.
- **Reduce, re-use or improve food packaging.** Excessive or persistent plastics add to the environmental cost of food.
- **Invest in research and innovation and take action to apply and scale up successful innovations** to reduce food loss and waste across the supply chain.

Research and academia

- **Engage in interdisciplinary and applied research** to tackle the complexity of food loss and waste issues.

Consumers

- **Better consumption habits are needed.** A significant part of total food wastage occurs at the consumer level; in some places this is a trend that continues to rise.
- **Better storage of food in the household is needed.** Stock and store food properly in the household; pay attention to date marking to reduce food waste; and, where possible, donate unwanted, unopened and intact food to charities that can redistribute the food to those in need.



COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Here is a list of materials produced to promote the IDAFLW in the six FAO official languages, which are accessible on the [IDAFLW website](#) and in the [IDAFLW 2021 Asset Bank](#). Please share them with external partners or providers and follow our website for updates as new material will be added over the coming months.

What is the IDAFLW 2020 Asset Bank?

The [IDAFLW 2021 Asset Bank](#) provides links to a range of downloadable IDAFLW communications materials in low resolution (to share digitally) and high resolution (for printing or production). Before looking at it, read through the information on content available below. Most products are already available in the six FAO languages and others will be uploaded by August 2021. [IDAFLW 2021 Asset Bank](#) can be easily shared with external partners who wish to produce or promote **#FLWDay** products.

IDAFLW poster

The IDAFLW poster can be downloaded from the [IDAFLW 2021 Asset Bank](#). The standard measurement is 100 x 70 cm, with both landscape and portrait formats available.



IDAFLW ribbon

You may find that your partners cannot always use the full IDAFLW visual. For example, they may have their own branding for an event. In these cases, the IDAFLW ribbon can be used. This is an important tool for reinforcing the IDAFLW brand and message. Send an email to Food-Loss-Waste-Day@fao.org if you need the ribbon for your own events or wish to distribute it to partners.



Web banners

IDAFLW 2021 **web banners** [Long top banner (640 x 360 px) and square sidebar (480 x 271 px) formats] are provided in the [IDAFLW 2021 Asset Bank](#).



Gadgets

The [IDAFLOW 2021 Asset Bank](#) provides graphics for the local printing or production of:

- **t-shirts**
- **mugs**
- **bags**

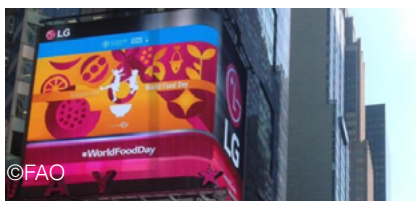


HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Organise an IDAFLW event

For this second celebration of the IDAFLW, take advantage of this important opportunity to call for action. Take a fresh approach by considering different activities or new formats for events – either by going digital or respecting any physical distancing measures. Events, such as food tastings, cooking demonstrations, concerts, festivals, roundtables or public lectures with a food loss and waste message can be successfully organized in an online format, as was shown last year!



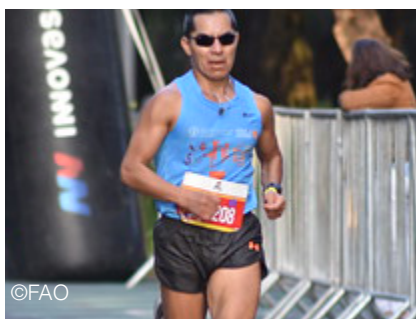
Bring the IDAFLW to your town or city

Approach municipalities, outdoor advertisers, transportation companies (e.g. city metro, buses or trains), shopping malls, cinemas or airports now, to arrange for the placement of IDAFLW visuals.



Engage young people -of all ages- in food loss and waste reduction activities

Engage students in food loss and waste reduction activities at schools, on college campuses and in youth events. This way, young people can learn about food loss and waste and change their attitudes towards becoming more proactive in reducing food waste.



Recreation and Sport

Platforms such as Skype and Zoom have become popular modes for organizing online exercise activities. Organize an online exercise class, such as aerobics, yoga or Zumba, to promote food loss and waste reduction. Encourage people to get involved in their communities, committing to take action and calling on others to do their part.



Get the media involved

Spread the key messages through your participation in talk shows, discussion panels, media briefings and radio or TV call-in shows.





Use the IDAFLW visual

Download the IDAFLW web banners, share them and add them to your own webpage, linking your users to the IDAFLW website. You can also produce a range of promotional materials – t-shirts, mugs and bags – using our free graphics. Remember to use the IDAFLW visual as much as possible across events and activities, even if online!



Spread the word

Inform, educate and engage audiences with information about food loss and waste reduction. Join the **#FLWDay** campaign by sharing our free material on digital channels. Identify and engage with local and national digital influencers in the food sector (bloggers, celebrities, public figures, photographers, chefs, experts) to amplify our messages around **#reducingfoodlossandwaste**. Publish photos, messages or videos to show your actions to reduce food loss and waste!

Let us know about your IDAFLW event!

As you can see, there are many ways to celebrate the IDAFLW. Remember to **tell us** about your events or efforts to promote. Photograph and/or record your event and send us your best photos so we can feature them in an **IDAFLW Flickr Album**. All high-resolution photos should be accompanied by photo credits and information about the event so we can publish them.



FAO INITIATIVES ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

FAO's support to the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste initiative is particularly important as FAO is the UN specialized agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and is mandated to raise levels of nutrition and reduce food loss and food waste, taking into account sustainable production and consumption practices. FAO is working in partnership with governments, the private sector, civil society and academia to promote awareness about food loss and waste and its impacts in an effort to bring about behaviour change.

- The [Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food loss and Waste](#) is a dynamic platform that serves as a gateway to FAO's work in collaboration with a range of partners, to advance food loss and waste prevention, reduction, measurement and policy.
- The [FAO food loss and waste database](#) is the largest online collection of data on both food loss and food waste and the causes thereof reported throughout the literature. The database contains data and information from openly accessible reports and studies measuring food loss and waste across food products, stages of the supply chain, and geographical areas.
- The [Food Loss Index and data collection methodology](#) developed by FAO, to measure and monitor progress on SDG 12.3 at the national level.
- An [Educational Package titled 'Do Good: Save Food!'](#) developed by FAO in collaboration with the International Food Waste Coalition, seeks to sensitize children ranging in age from 5 to 14 years on reducing food waste.
- An [on-line e-learning course](#) on the FAO food loss analysis methodology and its application.
- FAO. 2019. [The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction.](#)
- FAO. 2020. [Mitigating risks to food systems during COVID-19: Reducing food loss and waste.](#)



THE UN RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

On 19 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 74/209 proclaiming an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

Starting in 2020, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste will be observed to promote awareness and collective action to reduce food loss and waste.



Contact us!

If you have any doubts or wish to have more information,
you can send an email to

Food-Loss-Waste-Day@fao.org

www.fao.org/international-day-awareness-food-loss-waste/
#FLWDay