



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

17-21 October 2022

FAO  **SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION**
FORUM

Harnessing science, technology
and innovation for transforming
our agrifood systems



19 October

11:00 - 12:45

Lebanon Room
FAO, Rome

MAINSTAGE EVENT:
**FOOD LOSS AND
WASTE REDUCTION**
*HOW CAN WE BETTER INTEGRATE
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN
OUR ACTIONS?*

REGISTER

Special event organized by FAO

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Significant levels of food loss and waste (FLW) occur in the food supply chain from production to consumption. Globally, up to 14 percent of food produced for human consumption is lost from harvest up to but excluding retail, while 17 percent is wasted at the retail and consumer stages. FLW have negative impacts on food security and nutrition, occurring within a context where some 828 million people in the world are undernourished and 3.1 billion cannot afford a healthy diet. FLW contribute significantly to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to environmental pollution, degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity loss, and represent a waste of the resources used in food production, such as energy, water and land. Reducing FLW helps address the challenge of promoting economic prosperity and sustainably feeding a world population projected to reach almost 10 billion in 2050, without accentuating pressure on the environment and the natural resources underpinning the agri-food system.

Science and context-specific innovations are critical to catalyse, support and accelerate the transformation of agri-food systems to improve their efficiency, sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience, thereby leading to FLW reduction and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Innovations in this context include innovations in the policy, regulatory and institutional framework, as well as innovations in technologies, social and market relationships, finance products and business models that contribute to reducing FLW in a sustainable way (economically, socially and environmentally). On the other hand, science generates new insights and the basis for these innovations, while also serving to identify targets and actions for pathways towards reaching those targets¹. We need to capitalize on scientific and technological advancements to transform agri-food systems to be more efficient, resilient, sustainable and inclusive, leaving no one behind.

OBJECTIVES

The event will gather perspectives and experiences from stakeholders from different parts of the world regarding applying science and leveraging innovation to sustainably reduce FLW. The event will also discuss possible response options and make concrete recommendations to achieve lower levels of FLW at scale within a sustainable agri-food systems context.

¹ von Braun, J., Afsana, K., Fresco, L.O., Hassan, M. (eds). 2021. Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation and Summit Actions. Papers by the Scientific Group and its partners in support of the UN Food Systems Summit. ScGroup of the UNFSS. <https://bit.ly/3rD0fo6>

AGENDA

Moderated by:
Kimberly Sullivan
Office of Communications
FAO

11:00 - 11:05

WELCOME AND TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

11:05 - 11:15

KEYNOTE REMARKS

Máximo Torero
Chief Economist
FAO

11:15 - 11:40

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Setting the scene

Felicitas Schneider
Coordinator of Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste
Thünen Institute of Market Analysis, Germany

Jayantha Wijeyaratne
Chairman
The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Sri Lanka

Marianella Gamboa Murillo
Associate Professor and Extensionist, Agribusiness School
Technological Institute of Costa Rica

Q&A

11:40 - 12:25

PANEL DISCUSSION

Science and innovation in solutions to reduce food loss and waste

Moez Elshohdi
President
Egyptian Food Bank, Egypt

Roxana Saravia
Manager for innovation and development
GS1 Argentina

Issac Sesi
Founder and CEO
SESI technologies, Ghana

Seta Tutundjian
Founder and CEO
Thriving Solutions, UAE

Q&A

AGENDA

12:25 - 12:30

THE GLOBAL PLEDGE TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Science and innovation angle

Liz Goodwin

Senior Fellow and Director
World Resources Institute

12:30 - 12:40

CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Divine Njie

Deputy Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division
FAO

12:40 - 12:45

CLOSING REMARKS / END OF EVENT