

## 5. Conclusion

Cette étude a traité et analysé une grande quantité de données et de rapports concernant les pertes et gaspillages alimentaires. Les niveaux et les quantités de gaspillage ont été évalués à chaque stade de la chaîne alimentaire. Les causes et les différents moyens de prévention des pertes et gaspillages ont été présentés.

En raison d'un manque suffisant de données, de nombreuses hypothèses sur les niveaux de gaspillage ont dû être faites, notamment au stade de la distribution et de la consommation. C'est la raison pour laquelle les résultats de cette étude doivent être interprétés avec la plus grande précaution.

Les études menées révèlent tout d'abord le manque important de données concernant les connaissances relatives au gaspillage alimentaire au niveau mondial, et tout particulièrement relatives à la quantification des pertes alimentaires dues à des causes individuelles et aux coûts engendrés par les moyens de prévention. Et quand des données sont disponibles, elles sont souvent peu fiables.

Il est urgent de mener des recherches approfondies dans ce domaine, tout particulièrement au regard de l'importance de la sécurité alimentaire dans les nombreuses régions en développement dans le monde.

S'il est primordial d'augmenter la production primaire des produits alimentaires afin de faire face à l'augmentation à venir de la demande, les tensions existant entre production et accès à la nourriture peuvent aussi être réduites en exploitant le potentiel de réduction des pertes alimentaires. Des solutions efficaces existent tout au long de la chaîne alimentaire permettant de réduire les quantités globales d'aliments perdus ou gaspillés. Les actions menées ne devraient pas l'être seulement à certains niveaux de la chaîne alimentaire car des actions – ou un manque d'actions – à un niveau a des répercussions sur tous les autres. Dans les pays à revenu faible, les mesures prises devraient l'être avant tout dans l'optique des producteurs, par exemple en améliorant les techniques de récolte, l'éducation des agriculteurs, les infrastructures de stockage et la chaîne du froid. Dans les pays industrialisés, des solutions prises au niveau des infrastructures industrielles et productives n'auraient qu'un effet marginal si les consommateurs continuent à gaspiller les denrées alimentaires dans des proportions aussi importantes que celles actuellement constatées. Les ménages doivent être informés et doivent modifier leur comportement qui est à l'origine des niveaux élevés actuels de gaspillage alimentaire.

Un autre point qu'il convient d'évoquer est celui de la mondialisation croissante des chaînes alimentaires contemporaines. Certaines denrées alimentaires sont produites, transformées et consommées dans de très nombreuses parties du monde: l'impact de la croissance soutenue du commerce international sur les pertes alimentaires reste encore à évaluer.

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