

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 15 July 2021 15:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Reducing Food Loss and Waste in China: Towards sustainable food systems transformation
CONVENED BY	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) , World Food Programme (WFP) , International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP-CSAM)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30382/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	China, No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

361

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

5	0-18	116	19-30	133	31-50	31	51-65	2	66-80		80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

197	Male	157	Female	7	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

126	Agriculture/crops	23	Education	2	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	3	Communication	6	Nutrition
1	Livestock	13	Food processing	10	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	3	Food retail, markets	3	Utilities
12	Environment and ecology	12	Food industry	3	Industrial
12	Trade and commerce	5	Financial Services	58	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

7	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
2	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	2	Local authority
12	Small-scale farmer	52	Government and national institution
6	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
3	Large-scale farmer	39	United Nations
8	Local Non-Governmental Organization	10	International financial institution
17	International Non-Governmental Organization	4	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
4	Indigenous People	20	Consumer group
47	Science and academia	47	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The dialogue was co-convened by FAO, WFP, IFAD and ECASP-CSAM in accordance with the Principles of Engagement through the framing of the dialogue format, the choice of sub-themes and selection of discussing participants, and through the moderation of each session by the respective Heads of Agencies.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue was designed as to building upon the independent and national dialogue events which have already taken place around the theme Food Waste and Loss, with the goal of identifying solutions which are complementing upon existing discourses and adding new perspectives. The hosting agencies paid particular attention to "acting with urgency" in relation to the growing levels of global hunger since before the start of the pandemic, the climate crisis, and the need to find sustainable solutions for Food Waste and Loss. The choice of sub-themes for the dialogue was chosen to highlight the complexity of the issue. The participants in the deliberations in the three sessions were chosen to embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity by inviting the perspective from representatives of multiple sectors such as government, academia, private sector, finance and farmer's cooperatives.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

☒

Yes

☐

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The major focus of the dialogue is on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in lines with the national focus of China in regards to the Food System Summit and the International Conference on Food Waste and loss, to be organised later in 2021.

Food systems touch every aspect of human existence and Food Loss and Waste (FLW) is identified as the focus of this joint webinar by the RBAs (FAO, WFP, and IFAD) and ESCAP-CSAM in China, for two-fold considerations:

Firstly, out of the five Action Tracks (AT), FAO is the UN Anchor Agency of AT 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; IFAD is for AT 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution; WFP is for AT 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. Reducing FLW through the whole value chain contributes to all these three ATs, as well as AT 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, and AT 3: Boosting nature-positive production at sufficient scale. Moreover, sustainable agricultural mechanization and related technologies, which are the focus of CSAM's work, can offer key solutions to address FLW in support of all five ATs.

Secondly: globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail. Significant quantities are also wasted in retail and at the consumption level. That is why, in 2019, the 74th United Nations General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. In the context of China, this April, Chinese government adopted a law against food waste. Prior to this law, a "Clear Your Plate" campaign gained steam across the country. Therefore, reducing food loss and waste contributes to building pathways towards resilient, robust and sustainable food systems.

The objective of the dialogue was to showcase experiences and exchange lessons learned from China's domestic accomplishments as well as some international practices, with a specific focus on reducing FLW, which could be further upscaled in the context of the food waste law in China and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The dialogue included deliberations to outline inputs and recommendations to inform the UN Food Systems Summit as well as the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste.

ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail. Reducing food loss and waste contributes to building pathways towards resilient, robust and sustainable food systems, aligned with target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, halving per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030, as well as reducing food losses and waste along the production and supply chains.

Drawing upon practices and lessons learned from China's domestic accomplishments as well as some international practices, this independent dialogue provided many illustrative examples of what it takes, in practical and innovative ways, to transform food systems at local and country levels to become more resilient.

The effective and efficient implementation requires an enabling environment of governance mechanisms and technical innovations that facilitate consultation across sectors and all key stakeholders, such as Chinese governments, development financial institutions, private sectors, academia, grass-roots level farmers' cooperatives, United Nations agencies, as well as scientific research institutions.

Reducing food loss and waste in food systems requires systematic thinking and approaches, with additional policy attention to developing effective market systems, especially for perishables. The market access could be improved by supporting the formation through farmer groups, cooperatives, associations and link them to markets, encourage contractual farming and long-term contractual agreements between growers and processors.

Improve infrastructure for roads, energy and markets especially in rural areas where most of the production occurs, is critical in facilitating the transformation of local food systems.

China has established a legal and policy system to promote food saving from the government level. Major measures include cultivating consciousness for saving food, developing laws and regulations, as well as monitoring and evaluating the implementations.

Innovative technologies, such as green grain storage technology, cleaning drying technology and equipment, as well as grain logistics technology, play a key role in post-harvest loss practices.

The standardization and efficiency of field management could facilitate addressing the food loss in harvesting, which can be achieved by implementing quality standards for harvesting machinery, as well as operational norms for harvesting operations, planting and agronomic norms, with attention to promote land merging and appropriate grain varieties.

Technological improvements in drying equipment could maintain moisture and nutrients of thermal-sensitive grains to minimizing deterioration and preserving higher economic value.

Scaling up the availability of technologies, information and innovative solutions is significant to accelerating the transformation of food systems, while ensuring that possible trade-offs are minimized as a consequence of the transformative process.

E-commerce could build a bridge between small farmers and consumers to reduce food loss in the process, transferring the demand from the consumer side to the production side to short the supply chain of agricultural products.

Establishing the supply chain system suitable for fresh agricultural products could further improve the efficiency of agricultural products circulation and reduce food loss and waste. Based on digitalization, investment in the construction of cold storage, fresh cold chain logistics system and other related infrastructure nationwide will promote the development of transformative food system.

Financial innovation and incentive mechanisms is one of the key actions in the food system to reduce food loss and facilitate the transformation of food system. With a loan system designed by policy banks to cover all segments of the food supply chain, a series of credit products could be harnessed to benefit small farmers and serve the whole industry of grains and oil in the processes of production, storage, purchase and sales, circulation, processing, supply etc.

Within food systems, interaction is needed among smallholders and agribusinesses. Through collaboration with farmer cooperatives in the operations, local "grain banks" could prevent food losses and increase farmers' income by providing storage, credit and exchange solutions of agricultural products.

Machinery Professional Cooperative Association could empower member farmers to gain access to heavy agricultural machinery with multiple ways of reducing food loss at various stages of the production cycle and storage, as a lever in transformative change of food system.

During the dialogue, all stakeholders stressed the importance of, and are commitment to, disseminating game-changing solutions centered around reducing food loss and waste; pioneering actions to facilitate the transformation of food system and enhance food security; increasing sustainability through the food value chains; and promoting the efficiency, inclusiveness and resilience of food systems within the context of SDGs.

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✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

1: Reducing food loss in production, and processing

Assistant Prof. Huang Jiaqi, Agricultural Information Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS):

- Reducing FLW in food systems with systematic approaches from pre-harvest farm-level losses to post-harvest losses, where additional policy concerns are given to vegetables, fruits and the perishables wastes which accounting for 20-30% of total FLW, not merely the grain losses.

2. Mr. Zhang Chengzhi, National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA)

- Whole value chain approach for FLW reduction and increase of grain production while aiming at carbon neutrality approach.
- Develop anti-food loss regulations and rules to cultivate consciousness of saving food and supervise the implementation of laws from the government level.

3. Mr. Cao Guangqiao, Deputy Director General, Nanjing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs China

- Implement harvesting machinery quality standards reducing waste, as well as operational norms for harvesting operations, planting and agronomic norms with attention to promote land merging and appropriate grain varieties for field management standardization and efficiency.
- Strengthen professional qualification management for agricultural machinery operators, develop specialized and socialized service organizations and carry out regular technical exchanges and trainings, as well as provide weather warning notices, operation market conditions and other early warning information to farmers.

4. Mr. Liu Dan, Executive General Manager, Debont (Wuhu) Agricultural Machinery Co., Limited.

- Promote energy-efficient drying equipment to maintain moisture and nutrients of thermal-sensitive grains to minimizing deterioration and preserving higher economic value.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

2: Reducing food loss and waste in supply chain

Prof. Cao Baoming, Dean, Institute of Food Economics, Nanjing University of Finance & Economics
Intangible Croplands from Sustainable Food Supply Chain

- Cropland protection could well facilitate farmland development and food loss reduction virtually protects cropland resource. As one of key objectives of FSS, building Sustainable Food Supply Chain could contribute to the food loss reduction in supply chain as well as carbon emission reduction, which aims to achieve a sustainable food chain with resource efficient use upon less investment for ecological environment while producing quality and nutritious food.

- The cooperation and engagement among international community, national governments, private sectors, and social organizations are critical for reducing food loss and waste. More efforts could be focused on

1. Enhancing food supply chain with efficient inputs

2. Building systemic technologies achieving food loss and waste reduction through food chain covering post-harvest, storage and warehousing, processing, transportation and distribution, and consuming section.

3. Strengthening advocacy for food loss and waste reduction (e.g. global initiative) with more active engagement of UN agencies, NGOs, and private sectors

Mr. Shao Hui, General Manager, Food and Agriculture Department, Inspur Group

ICT for sustainable supply chain:

- Based on Cloud Computing, Cloud Services, Big Data, IoT and other digitalized tools with integration of information and communication technologies, packaged service aiming food loss and waste could benefit the whole food value chain.

- The ICT-based toolkit remarkably improves the efficiency of grain purchasing and marketing to reduce the post-harvest loss, which provides space to attain digitalization, visualization, standardization of grain supply chain, traceability and reduce the risk of grain reserves management.

- The smart grain warehouse management system enables surveillance, temperature control, nitrogen conditioning, risk monitoring and alarming to prolong grain shelf life, lower the management cost, and maintain grain quality in grain warehouse, so as to reduce the food loss and waste.

Ms. Hou Kaidi, Vice President, Pinduoduo

E-commerce to reduce the loss of agricultural products

- E-commerce platform focusing on agricultural production with cold-chain logistics network could improve procurement efficiency from smallholder farmers to consumers, well connecting transportation and retailing, contributing to food loss and waste reduction.

Mr. Alexey Kravchenko, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

Reducing food loss in international trade:

- One measurable aspect of food loss is through border rejections due to non-compliance with regulations, including unnecessary delays and inconsistent decision making by border officials. Addressing unnecessary delays can also reduce food waste at retail and consumption level by prolonging shelf lives of food products. Streamlining boarder procedures both outward and inwards is crucial, however careful balance must be ensured because poor sanitary and phytosanitary measure implementation can spread diseases and pests.

- Four ongoing studies have been started in the region trying to estimate the extent, causes and propose solutions for food loss due to international trade, and pilot countries includes India, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

3. Inclusive access to finance and use of digitization in market estimates to enable food loss reduction

Ms. Yan Ruoru, Deputy General Manager, Grain, Cotton, and Edible Oil Department, Agricultural Development Bank of China

For many farmers, particularly smallholders, lacking financial means to implement food loss-reducing investments such as better storage solutions is a major impediment. One of the key actions needed in the food system to reduce food loss is therefore to financial innovation and incentive mechanisms. Since 1994, the Agriculture Development Bank of China (ADBC) was set up as one of China's Policy Banks with a set mandate to contribute to agricultural development and poverty alleviation. ADBC has introduced a loan system that covers every segment of the food supply chain, which includes a series of credit products to serve the whole industry of grains and oil in the processes of production, storage, purchase and sales, circulation, processing, supply etc. All these advancements have the potential to reduce food waste through making processes more efficient and streamlined. Furthermore, ADBC implement preferential credit policies to support and further incentivize reduction of grain waste and losses.

Mr. Bai Chengyu, Director of UN Project Division III, the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), Ministry of Commerce, China:

To transform the food system, a better understanding of the food market will be needed to identify the causes of food loss and possible solutions. This will include how inefficient relations between supply and demand contributes to food loss. From the demand side, awareness raising is needed and the making of accurate consumption plans in advance can reduce food loss. From the supply side, in case food prices are undervalued, price adjustments are required; mismatch of demand and supply leads to loss and waste, which can be addressed by promoting more closely demand-drive production, including by using digital platforms to make agricultural product sales efficient and to mitigate asymmetric supply and demand information.

Recent innovations in this area provide information to be used in big data calculations and AI-based food demand analysis to better predict demand and adjust production accordingly.

Financial policy should be designed to support an efficient management mechanism between demand and supply side and establish direct links between the two sides. Furthermore, the supply chain system should be built on proximity to support locally produced commodities and avoid unnecessarily long transport, thus minimizing gaps in timing and distance.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

4. The "Grain Bank" solution to prevent food loss

Mr. Zhang Chengzhu, General Manager, Gansu Huanxian County Xinliyu Supply and Marketing Co. Ltd., Chairperson of Gansu Zefengxingcheng Agro-Products Farmer Cooperative:

The Gansu Huanxian Xinliyu Grain Bank operates a business model that has been proven to prevent loss of food and farmer's income in several ways; by providing storage, credit and exchange solutions of agricultural products. Gansu Huanxian Xinliyu Grain Bank is a subsidiary of Gansu Huanxian Xinliyu Supply and Marketing Co., Ltd. which does grain trade and processing business. The Company collaborates with Zefengxingcheng Farmer Cooperatives in this grain banking business. The business model was developed based on the basic function of regular banking and related management concepts but transformed into an agricultural operating method, which incorporates aspects of digital agriculture, finance, quality control, logistics, and safe, efficient storage. The basic idea is to provide cooperative member farmers with "banking" of physical products which allows deposit and exchange of grain such as flax, wheat, corn and also for fertilizers etc. Farmers can at any time go to any of the branches of the Bank to do an account withdrawal of the same product, or exchange them for other products and goods.

The framework structure of the Grain Bank includes one head office and multiple branches; the head office is responsible for the county's general database, and is responsible for the settlement of many branches and depositors throughout the county. The branch is responsible for the collection and storage of wheat, flax, corn and other crops. It is also responsible for food banking services such as printing passbooks and exchanging goods.

Since the establishment of this model in 2018, the number of depositors has grown with a net increase of more than 100 each year, and the present number of depositors in the Grain Bank has reached 832. The members store an average of 15 tons of grain per household per year and an annual storage volume of 12,000 tons; the cumulative grain storage is around 40,000 Tons, of which 30,000 tons are exchanged.

The specific operation process of the bank looks as follows:

Process 1: Determine the prices of product according to market prices.

Process 2: Deposit the grain and issue passbook,

Process 3: Exchange business. According to their needs, the farmers can go to any branch of the Grain Bank to extract rice noodle oil, fertilizers, seeds, etc. with their passbook, according to the balance of their account.

The operation characteristics of food banks are

1. free deposits and withdrawals. Farmers can choose the type of grain storage according to their personal preferences.
2. Preserve and increase the value during downturns in market prices, and save the grain with interest.
3. The exchange is convenient, and the head office is connected to the convenience chain stores. Farmers can exchange different varieties of grain and oil or other daily necessities at the "grain and oil supermarket" opened by the grain bank system with their "passbook".

3. Three advantages of the "Grain Bank" solution:

(1) Advantages for farmers:

1. Increase farmers' income: Grain stored bears interest at a higher rate than commercial bank deposit rate.
2. Reduce grain loss: Grain Bank has advanced storage facilities thus prevented losses from storage by farmers themselves.
3. Guarantee of supply of commodities: The bank offers exchanges for daily necessities at the grain bank business point to meet the basic needs of farmers' daily life.

(2) Advantages for food processing actors: low-cost access to raw materials for grain processing enterprises, reducing the financial pressure of purchasing raw materials; reducing raw material inventory and transportation costs.

(3) For the government's advantages: the model can stabilize grain supply and demand, reduce risk, improve farmers' enthusiasm for growing grain, and maintain rural economic and social stability and national food security.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

5: Enabling access to harvest loss-reducing machinery through Machinery Cooperatives

Mr. Wang Haibin, President, Haibin Agricultural Machinery Specialized Cooperative, Liyang City, Jiangsu Province:

Li Yang County Haibin Farm Machinery Professional Cooperative Association was one of the first cooperatives of its kind in China. The model allows member farmers to gain access to heavy agricultural machinery with multiple ways of reducing food loss at various stages of the production cycle and storage. By the end of 2020, the cooperative owned 85 pieces of agricultural machinery, including large and medium size tractors, rice transplanter, high-performance sprayers, rice harvester etc. The area covered by the cooperative includes 10 administrative villages in two towns. The annual production of processed rice is about 15,000 tons, with sales revenue of more than 90 million yuan and the agricultural machinery service income of 10 million yuan.

To reach this point of their operations, the cooperative has benefited from a multi-channel approach of financing, including maximizing the use of subsidy policy for agricultural machinery and by making use of the loan policy issued by "Jiangsu Agricultural Financial Support Center" of the provincial Agricultural and Rural Affairs Department and loans from local financial institutions (commercial banks).

The financing allowed adequate equipment of various types of machineries and improved ways of operation by the machinery cooperative, thus contributing to reducing food loss:

In planting:

1. The cooperative gives members guidance on selection of suitable varieties of products. The grain varieties suits to local conditions, with high yield, consistency of maturity, lodging resistance to ensure good harvest and minimum loss before and after harvesting.
2. Support on scientifically proven efficient planting and mechanized transplanting etc., which are suitable to the specific crop varieties and soil conditions.

Field Management

1. Selection of the right type of machinery, based on crops yield, height, maturity etc., and conduct a comprehensive inspection and maintenance of the machines.
2. Reasonable on-site adaptation of machinery. The machines and tools should be adjusted to make each part of the machine works to its best when cutting;
3. The cooperative supports sustainable use of fertilizer and water. In order to ensure the better growing of roots, and realize better harvesting conditions after operation in the later stage.
4. Choice of a suitable harvest time, based on weather, crop maturity and soil moisture content etc.

Harvesting

1. Choose the right procedure and patch for harvesting. Adjust the cutting path to the situation of field and ridge; Adjust the operation route to the field shape and size of the field.
2. Standardize operation of machinery. Select suitable operation speed based on the conditions of crop and soil.

Transportation and drying

1. Select the appropriate transport machinery, reduce transport frequency, standardize the transport operation, and prevent leakage.
2. Standardize management of drying room. Standardize drying operation, enhance moisture control, avoid food loss caused by management disorder or improper operation (such as fire).
3. Reduce the times of grain transportation after drying.

Processing and storage

1. It is necessary to carry out comprehensive inspection and maintenance of the processing and packaging machinery on a regular basis to avoid the loss from broken or leaked rice.
2. Standardize the process of milling rice and grain storage. Eliminate the loss from comminution, damp and mildew of grain caused by mismanagement.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

n/a

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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