



# Food Waste Index Report 2021: UNEP

## Why in News

Recently, the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) released the **Food Waste Index Report 2021**.

- It has revealed that **17% of all food available at consumer level** (11% in households, 5% in food service and 2% in retail) **was wasted** in 2019 and around 690 million people had to go hungry.

## Key Points

### ▪ About the Report:

- It presents the most comprehensive **food waste data collection, analysis and modelling to date**, generating a new estimate of **global food waste**.
- It also **publishes** a methodology for countries to measure food waste, at household, food service and retail level, to track national progress towards 2030.
- In contrast to the **Food Loss Index**, the Food Waste Index measures total food waste (rather than loss or waste associated with specific commodities).

### ▪ Findings:

#### ◦ Food Wastage:

- This report estimates that around **931 million tonnes of food waste** was generated in 2019.
- 61% of which came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail.

#### ◦ Wastages Across All Income Groups:

- Food waste generation is found to be equally relevant across all income countries such as high, upper-middle and lower-middle income countries.
- Developed Countries like **Austria** produce very low amounts of waste at 39 kg/capita/year. On the other hand, countries like **Nigeria** are producing waste at 189 kg/capita/year. For **India**, the waste in kg/capita/year was 50.
- This diverges from earlier narratives concentrating **consumer food waste in developed countries**, and **food production, storage and transportation losses in developing countries**.

#### ◦ Lack of Data Availability:

- Global food waste data availability is currently low, and measurement approaches have been highly variable.

### ▪ Significance of Reduction of Food Waste:

- **Reduce Hunger:** Reducing food waste can slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hunger and save money at a time of global recession.

- **Aligned with SDGs:** This Food Waste Index Report aims to advance progress on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12.3)**, i.e. “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”.
- **Tackle GHG Emissions:** About 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food that is not consumed. Thus, tackling food wastage issues can further achieve **Paris Agreement** targets.
- **Suggestions by the Report:**
  - **Enhancing NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) for Food Systems:** To raise ambition in national climate strategies by integrating food loss and waste, and strengthen food security.
  - Co-create and adopt game-changing solutions to food waste through the **UN Food Systems Summit**.
  - **Regional Food Waste Working Group:** These Working Groups will provide capacity building and training to participating Member States in measuring food waste, developing a national baseline and designing national strategies for food waste prevention.

### UN Food Systems Summit

- In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the **Decade of Action** to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.

### Food Loss Index

- The Food Loss Index (FLI) **focuses on food losses** that occur from **production up to (and not including) the retail level**.
- It measures the changes in percentage losses for a basket of 10 main commodities by country in comparison with a base period.
- The FLI contributes to measure progress towards **SDG Target 12.3**.

**Source:DTE**

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