

FOOD WASTE

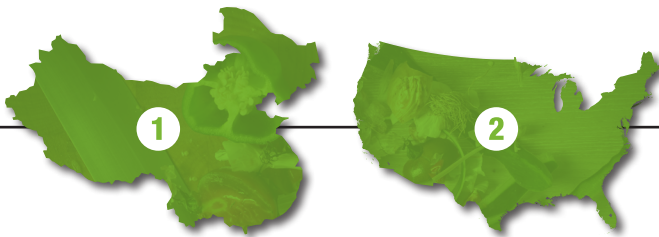
WHAT is food waste?

Food waste is the loss of food suitable for human consumption along the value chain.¹ A **food value chain** consists of all those who participate in the activities needed to produce food.² Food waste occurs at every stage of the food value chain from the producer to your plate: on the farm, in transport, processing, grocery stores, restaurants, and at home.



A HUGE PROBLEM

Almost **800,000** people go to sleep hungry every night.³ Food waste is a contributing factor to world hunger and malnutrition.



Food loss and waste generates about **8% of global greenhouse gas emissions**. If it were a country, food loss and waste would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter behind China and the United States.⁴

With world population predicted to grow to **9.2 billion by 2050**, much more needs to be done to ensure that we can feed everyone on the planet and less food is wasted. In 2014, Canadians alone wasted more than **31 billion dollars' worth of food!**⁵

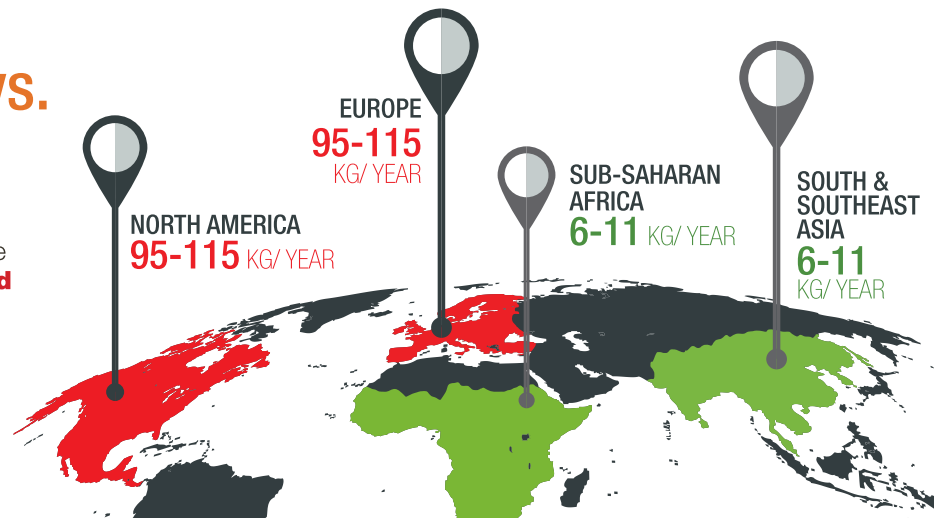
FOOD IS WASTED ALL OVER THE WORLD

An estimated one-third of all food is lost or wasted worldwide as it moves from where it is produced to where it is eaten.⁶ Globally, food waste adds up to tonnes of food and billions of dollars.

The loss of food that could be eaten by people is a waste of resources used for growing food, including water, land, energy, labour, equipment, as well as inputs (seeds, fertilizer, etc.). Lost food that decomposes also contributes to global warming and climate change.

Developing countries vs. industrialized nations

Per person, much more food is wasted in the industrialized world than in developing countries. The per capita food waste by consumers in **Europe and North America is estimated at 95-115 kg/year**, while this figure in **sub-Saharan Africa and South/Southeast Asia is only 6-11 kg/year.**⁷



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CAUSES OF FOOD WASTAGE

The causes of food losses and waste in low-income countries are generally related to farming conditions and getting food to market. In countries such as Canada, it's more about consumer behaviour.



ADVERSE GROWING CONDITIONS

- Insect damage
- Weeds
- Drought
- Wind, hail, flooding
- Diseases



SOCIO-ECONOMIC/ POLITICAL ISSUES

- Political instability
- Poverty
- Insufficient skills/knowledge
- Lack of access to technology and innovation



Flea beetle damage to canola seed pod



DISTRIBUTION CHALLENGES

- Insufficient/improper storage
- Transportation issues
- Lack of refrigeration
- Disconnections between participants in the food chain



CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

- Demands for “perfect” food
- Discarding food past the “best before” date
- Not using leftovers
- Over-purchasing
- Demands for excessively large restaurant portions

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Value Chain Management International⁸ – focuses on identifying and reducing waste along the food chain

SAVE FOOD⁹ – aims to encourage dialogue between industry, researchers, politicians and consumers on food losses

Waste Reduction Action Plan (WRAP)¹⁰ – educates consumers about the role of packaging in extending food's lifespan

The Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard¹¹ – outlines standards for companies, countries and others to manage food loss and waste

