



Food Loss Award

co-hosted with [United Nations Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\)](#)

According to the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), around 14 percent of the world's food (valued at USD 400 billion per year) is lost after it is harvested and before it reaches retail shops. Reducing food loss is enshrined in SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production – specifically in Target 12.3, which calls for the [reduction of food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030](#). This Award, co-hosted with [United Nations Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\)](#) Innovation Lab, focuses on the need to find innovative solutions to optimally reduce food losses around the world, especially in the Global South, at the intersection of UNIDO's priority areas of ending hunger, climate action and sustainable supply chains.

The objective of this Award is to challenge global startups to propose innovative technological solutions to help reduce food loss within global agrifood systems, which focus on a single or multiple interventions within agrifood supply chains, starting from post-harvest until right before retail chain.

Ten (10) finalists will join the WFF-UNIDO Startup Accelerator Program designed to implement and scale their solutions on the ground in a/multiple pilot country(s) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America & the Caribbean. Two (2) finalists will receive travel allowance to pitch their company live on stage during the World Food Forum (WFF) flagship event in 14-18 October 2024 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The scale of innovation may be at farm level, local, regional or global; with stage of intervention at any point of the supply chains (production, storage, processing, packaging or distribution) before the food reaches retail stages. Ideally, multiple solutions can be developed and implemented together resulting in a systemic approach across the chains.

The proposed innovation/solutions should demonstrate a proof-of-concept, market readiness, and scalability to be easily adapted and deployed in comparable contexts.

The startups may send their applications until the **8th of June 2024** to be eligible for this Award.

Finalists and winners will receive:

- A spot in WFF-UNIDO Joint Startup Accelerator Program and opportunity to implement their solutions in selected pilot country(s)
- Personalized mentorship from globally recognized FAO and UNIDO food loss experts
- Travel allowance for 2 startup finalists to attend the Finals at the WFF flagship in Rome, Italy on 14-18 October 2024
- Up to USD 15 000 cash prize for the Award winner
- Virtual communication boot camp for the Final pitches at the WFF flagship event
- Access to a global audience of young leaders and organizations from the public and private sectors, including FAO, UNIDO, and the United Nations network
- Branding and promotion through the WFF, FAO and UNIDO communication platforms