

Food Loss and Waste Prize

(Co-hosted by [FAO Nutrition and Food Systems Division \(ESN\)](#))

Food loss and waste (FLW) represents a significant global challenge, with profound social, economic, and environmental implications. Presently, an estimated 13 percent of the world's food fails to reach the retail stage of the supply chain, being lost between harvest and consumption, while an additional 17 percent is wasted in households, food services, and retail outlets.

This prize aims to drive the transformation of agrifood systems by enhancing food security and nutrition through increased food availability, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and alleviating pressure on vital resources such as land and water. Winners will gain visibility at the global flagship event in October 2024, access to extensive networks within the World Food Forum (WFF) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the opportunity to disseminate their research through FAO channels.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- New product development – for example from fruits and vegetables considered esthetically imperfect.
- Reducing food loss and waste through processing, packaging and marketing methods.
- Technical, organizational, and digital innovation solutions aimed at measurably reducing food loss and waste in the supply chain.
- Specific actions to measurably reduce food waste in households.
- Applying the circular economy to maximize the use of food.
- The development of simple technological solutions to measure and reduce food loss and waste, e.g. apps.
- Climate smart technologies to reduce food loss and waste.
- The co-existing challenges of food and nutrition insecurity while significant amounts of food are lost and wasted.
- The key role of FLW reduction in achieving climate goals.

Researchers must submit their applications by **May 15, 2024**. Finalists will receive:

- Personalized mentorship from globally recognized experts in their field to help “translate” their concept note into a concrete research output.
- Coaching to effectively pitch their research proposals during the finals at the WFF flagship event.
- Access to a global network of youth leaders and organizations from the public and private sectors, including the United Nations.

In addition to the above, two winning teams will each receive:

- \$10,000 in research grants to go from idea to action.
- Publication of research findings by WFF website.
- The opportunity to become part of a global platform for youth to showcase their innovative research ideas.
- Ongoing promotion through the WFF platforms.