



## PEF President's Message

The PEF board members met in Davis to discuss the organization's future direction, focusing on partnerships and scaling activities. It is difficult to see the closure of institutions like the Horticulture Innovation Lab after 16 years of postharvest breakthroughs and global collaborations, but we remain confident that its legacy will continue to inspire future research and progress in the field. We are all excited about the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> AAPHCE in September 2025. The call for abstracts, plenary sessions, and side events is now open. Mr Gill will represent PEF at the 'IFC 12<sup>th</sup> International Food Safety Forum' in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss innovative solutions towards global food security. PEF is also proud to support the 'Rescue Fruits and Vegetables Program,' an initiative aimed at reducing food waste by redirecting surplus produce to food-insecure communities. We welcome contributions to help expand this program's global reach.



**Dr. Vijay Yadav Tokala**  
**President**

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## 5th All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE)

The **5th All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE)** is set to take place from 16th to 19th September 2025 at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The event brings together experts, stakeholders, and innovators to address critical challenges in postharvest management and food systems. The theme for this year is "**Securing the Harvest: Postharvest Management Solutions for Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems.**" The call for abstracts, plenary sessions and side events are now open. For more details and registration, visit AAPHCE website [www.aaphce.com](http://www.aaphce.com)

African Union



### 5<sup>TH</sup> ALL AFRICA POSTHARVEST CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION (5<sup>TH</sup> AAPHCE)

**Venue:** African Union Headquarters,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Save  
the  
Date

**16<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER  
2025**



## PEF Annual Board Meeting



PEF Annual Board Meeting -2025 was held in Davis, USA with **Lisa Kitinoja, Diane Barrett and Gurbinder Singh Gill**. Vijay Yadav joined virtually. There was a fruitful discussion, reflecting on the achievements of our current projects and outlining a strategic direction that focusses impact, innovation, and global collaboration. PEF look forward and anticipate a year rich with valuable

partnerships and advancements in our efforts to minimize food losses and enhance postharvest systems around the globe.

## BEYOND SILOS - Strengthening Nexus Collaboration to Power Food Systems with Off-Grid Solar

The white paper discuss the connection between food systems, infrastructure, and energy supplied by **off-grid solar (OGS) systems**. The infrastructure that supports food systems is significantly dependent on fossil fuels, which represent at least 15% of global fossil fuel consumption. This publication emphasizes the opportunity to enhance

agricultural and economic outcomes within Africa's agricultural sector, as well as the role of off-grid solar in powering various food system processes. It investigates how increased collaboration between the food and energy sectors can amplify positive impacts while mitigating negative consequences. [[Download the document](#)]



## Why agroecology is a cornerstone for food systems

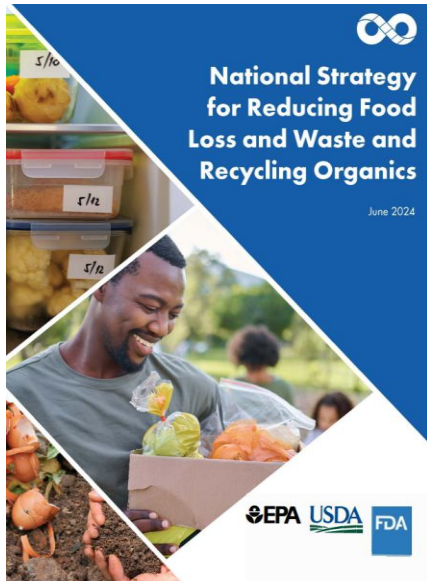
The UNDP White Paper - "**Supporting Food Systems Transformation Towards Sustainability and Resilience**," highlighted importance of agroecology in addressing contemporary challenges, emphasising its potential to promote ecological sustainability, social justice, and health. [[Download Background Briefing](#)]







## National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics

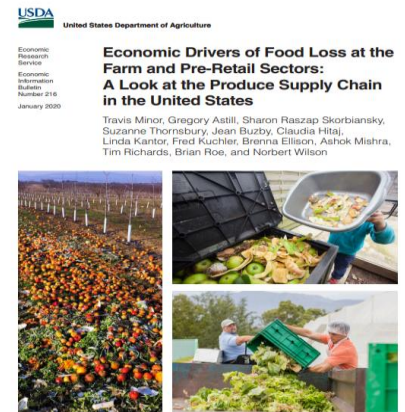


The White House, in partnership with the EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, introduced the "**National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics**"—a key step in advancing a circular economy. The strategy seeks to curb food loss and waste, enhance organic recycling, lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce costs for households and businesses, and create healthier communities. Its four core objectives focus on preventing food loss and waste, increasing organic waste recycling, and supporting policies that incentivize sustainable practices.

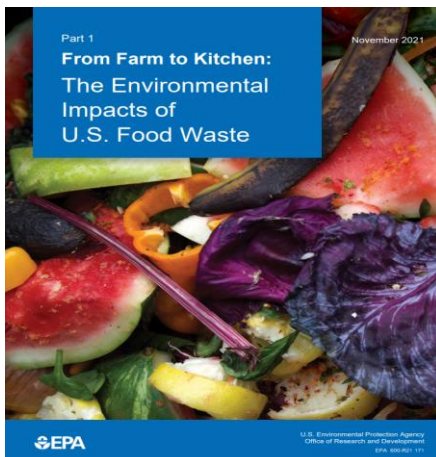
[\[Download report\]](#)

## Economic Drivers of Food Loss at the Farm and Pre-Retail Sectors: A Look at the Produce Supply Chain in the United States

The study explores the causes of food loss on farms and in pre-retail supply chains, focusing on the **economic factors that shape how fresh foods are grown, processed, and sold** in the United States. What is typically labelled as 'loss' in the pre-retail produce supply chain largely depends on how growers and distributors weigh potential costs, revenues, and risks. It pays special attention to fruits and vegetables because they spoil quickly and are essential for a healthy diet. [\[Download report\]](#)



## From Farm to Kitchen: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste



The study focuses on five key inputs in the U.S. food supply chain—agricultural land use, water consumption, pesticide and fertilizer use, and energy use—along with greenhouse gas emissions as a primary environmental impact.

It estimates the **environmental footprint of current food loss and waste** to help stakeholders communicate its significance, prioritize competing environmental goals, and design effective reduction strategies. [\[Download report\]](#)



## Rescue Fruits and Vegetables Program



### Mission and Aims of the Rescue F&V Project

#### Mission:

To connect fruit and vegetable (F&V) growers, handlers, workers, and marketers with community groups, families, and local organizations to distribute surplus or unsold produce to those in need of fresh, nutritious food.

This initiative **aims** to reduce fresh produce loss and waste, create jobs, generate income, provide healthy food, and strengthen farm communities.



**The Postharvest Education Foundation** is supporting The Company of Heaven's Help Someone Today's new project - "**Rescue Fruits and Vegetables program**". The project aims to take food that is perfectly safe and healthy to eat and redistribute it to the people in need, instead of letting it all go to waste. Your contribution towards the program will help us offer vital services to those in need, expand our outreach to support more individuals requiring assistance, enhance and sustain the quality of our programs and services, and foster long-term positive change in the lives of those we serve.

Check out the introduction video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utkmMFdPHNg>

## 7th West Africa Cold Chain Summit and Exhibition



The **7th West Africa Cold Chain Summit and Exhibition** was scheduled to bring together industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators, with focus on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in cold chain management. Participants had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, explore innovative solutions, and network with key players in the industry.

The event aimed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cold chain systems, ultimately contributing to improved food safety, reduced waste, and increased access to perishable goods across the West African region. [\[Download the event brochure\]](#)



## 16 years of innovation: The enduring impact of the Horticulture Innovation Lab (2009-2025)



### FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger &amp; Food Security Initiative

HORTICULTURE  
INNOVATION LABUCDAVIS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The **Innovation Lab at UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences** has officially closed its doors, marking the end of an era of groundbreaking research and collaboration. Over the years, the lab has been a hub for cutting-edge discoveries and innovative solutions in plant science, contributing significantly to agricultural advancements.

While this chapter concludes, we hope the legacy of its work will continue to inspire future research and progress in the field.

- Access all publications and technical reports at <https://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/info-products>
- Get implementation guides and technical details at <https://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/technologies>
- Explore past projects: <https://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/projects>

**The Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF)** has a mission to provide innovative programs that motivate and empower people to reduce global food losses and maintain quality, market value, nutritional value and food safety.

#### Our Strategy:

- Conducting a variety of postharvest e-learning programs for young professionals who work with small-scale farmers in developing countries.
- Providing free access to postharvest training materials for those who are involved in extension work and training of farmers, produce handlers, small-scale food processors and marketers.
- Supplying postharvest tools and basic equipment for use in applied research and for improving practical field operations.
- Organizing postharvest workshops for e-learners who complete their online programs.
- Long-term mentoring for participants in e-learning programs via social networking websites
- Conducting short courses, study tours and workshops
- Providing advice and guidance for establishing local postharvest training centres

**PEF's 'Global Postharvest E-learning Program' is FREE to all**

**NOW AVAILABLE IN ESPANOL AND FRANCAIS**

**Check the website for further details :**

**<https://postharvest.org/programs-e-learning-capacity-building/>**

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