✦Issue no.40 | October 2026

The Postharvest Education Foundation Newsletter

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) - 29 September



The seventh International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) was observed on 29 September

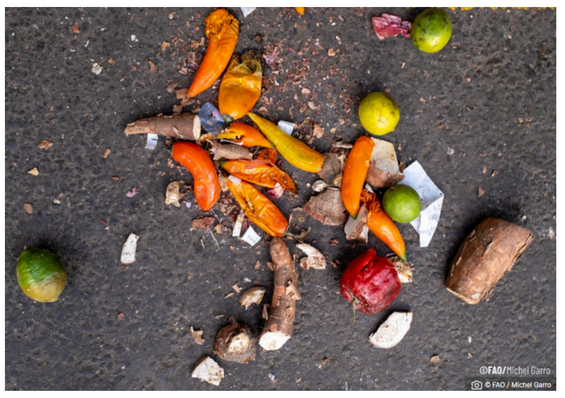
Visit FAO website for more details



FAO and UNEP marked the IDAFLW on 29 September 2026 at FAO headquarters in Rome, under the theme **"The transformative potential of reducing food loss and waste: relevance for the forestry sector."** Discussions highlighted three priorities: improving policy coherence, scaling up technology and innovation, and encouraging behaviour change through partnerships.

Watch now

Reducing food loss and waste: A nutrition opportunity for people and the planet



FLW is a food-systems challenge with direct implications for nutrition, food security and environmental sustainability. Addressing FLW requires coordinated action across the value chain, alongside policies that connect food recovery and distribution with equitable access to healthy diets.

As highlighted by FAO, UNEP and UN-Nutrition, integrating nutrition into FLW reduction strategies is essential to advancing the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Read more

UNEP: Clean your plate – to reduce food loss and waste



© Adobe/Arie Studio | Food waste is an almost universal problem in developed countries.

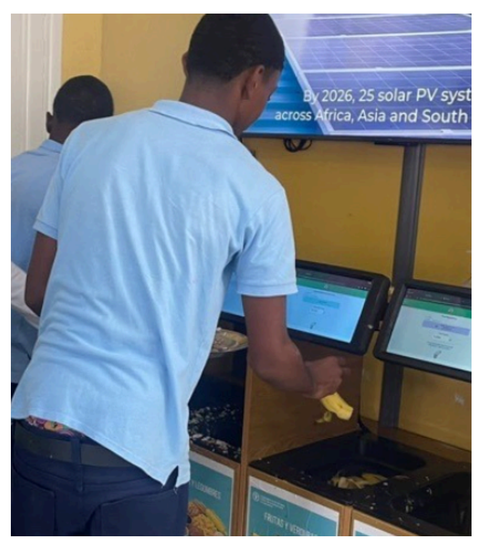
The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) reports that over one billion meals go uneaten daily due to factors such as overproduction, spoilage and poor meal planning. The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, observed on 29 September and convened by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), highlights the connection between food waste, forest protection and sustainable agrifood systems. Using food more efficiently can reduce pressure on land and forests while improving food availability. Healthy forests also support agricultural production by protecting soils and regulating rainfall.

Read article

Beyond Sustainability: the hidden nutrition dimension of food waste

The 2026 IDAFLW highlighted the potential of reducing FLW to transform agrifood systems. The issue also featured during the 10th anniversary of the Technical Platform on Food Loss and Waste and Rome Nutrition Week, where FLW reduction was recognised as a key link between climate action and nutrition. With approximately 1/3 of food lost or wasted globally and over 1/3 of the population unable to afford a healthy diet, reducing FLW offers an opportunity to improve food availability and diet quality.

Read article



13th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection



The 13th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection (IWCSPP 2027) will bring together global experts to advance research and innovation in stored-product protection and post-harvest management. Themed "**Advancing Research, Technology & Innovations in Stored Product Protection for Sustainable Food Security**," it will address to reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen food security.

Register Now

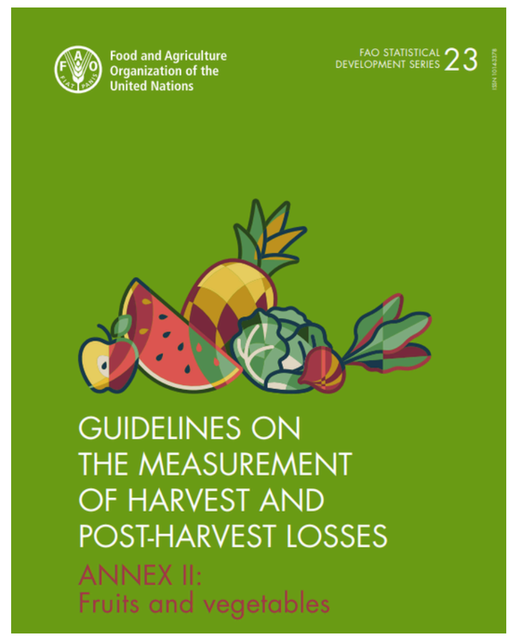
Date: 01-05 March 2027

Early bird registration deadline: 15 December 2026

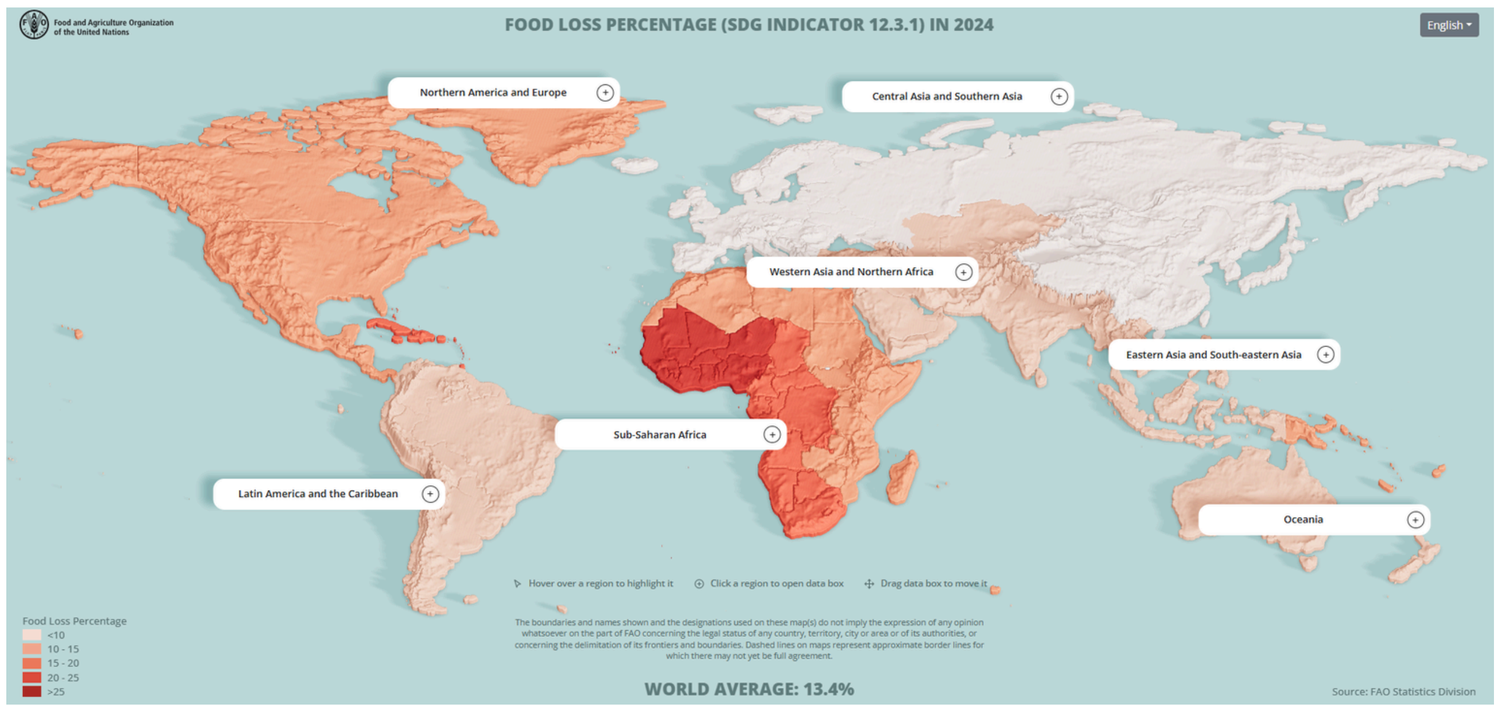
Visit Website

FAO: Guidelines on the measurement of harvest and post-harvest losses

These guidelines provide countries with a standardised statistical methodology and practical tools to estimate on-farm and off-farm food losses in horticultural crops at national and subnational levels. By improving the accuracy and consistency of food loss estimates, the methodology aims to strengthen national monitoring and contribute to more reliable global food loss data. The core methodology was field-tested in Mexico, combining face-to-face interviews with direct field measurements.



Read more



FAO released an **interactive map** presenting estimates of the Food Loss Percentage at the subregional and regional levels.

Check now

From volume to value: Making the most of South Asia's food sector- Worldbank



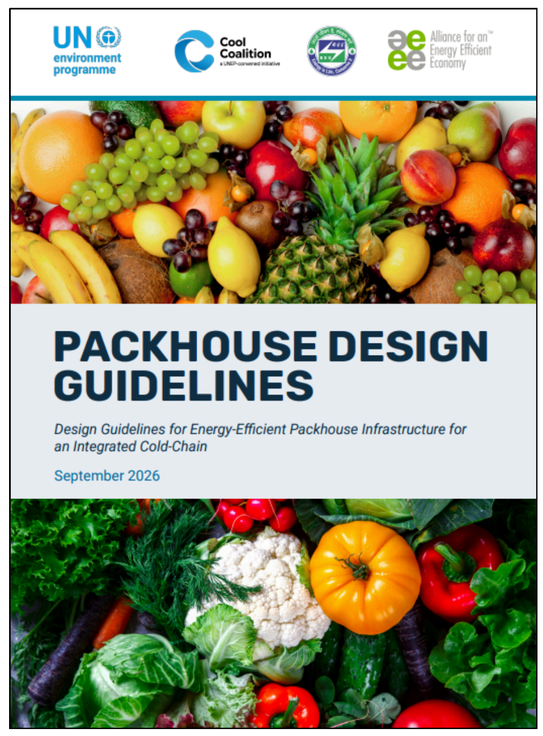
South Asia’s food economy exceeds $700 billion but loses over 30% of produce before consumption, generating limited value. The challenge is not producing more food but creating more value. Three priorities emerge: strengthen the middle value chain, enable private investment, and add value near production. The World Bank’s AgriConnect supports rural infrastructure, policy reform, and capital mobilization.

Read more

Packhouse design Guidelines- UNEP

The UNEP Cool Coalition and AEEE’s Packhouse Design Guidelines (2026) offer a practitioner’s framework for energy-efficient integrated packhouses in India’s cold chain. The manual covers measure from site selection to refrigeration sizing. Recommended energy-efficiency measures include efficient compressors, thermal energy storage, alongside renewable options. Compared with baseline facilities, these measures can reduce annual electricity consumption and GHG emissions by up to 36%. Aligned with ICAP and NCCD standards, the guidelines target consultants, FPOs, developers, and policymakers.

Read more



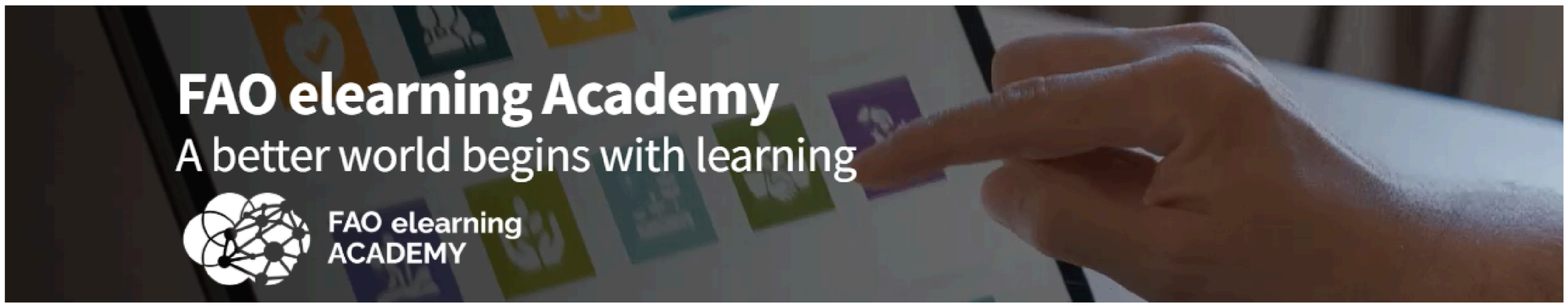
UNEP: Rotting food is supercharging the climate crisis. Here's what to do about that.



The UNEP-led Food Waste Breakthrough aims to halve food waste by 2030 and reduce methane emissions by up to 7%. More than 60 countries have pledged to cut waste-sector methane emissions by 30 to 35% below 2020 levels by 2030. Governments, businesses and communities must accelerate coordinated action to deliver rapid climate benefits.

Read more

FAO elearning Academy



The fifth issue of the **FAO elearning Academy newsletter** continues to highlight selected learning opportunities, upcoming activities, and learner perspectives, advancing capacity development across diverse thematic areas. Through free, certified, and multilingual e-learning courses offered as a global public good.

Visit site

Highlights of science and innovation in FAO's work

FAO's first **Science and Innovation Strategy supports implementation of its Strategic Framework 2022–2031.** Its inclusive approach encompasses diverse scientific disciplines and forms of innovation, alongside stronger data systems, advisory services and investment. Given its cross-cutting scope, assessing implementation presents a challenge, as science and innovation underpin nearly all FAO initiatives.

The report Highlights of science and innovation in FAO's work is an organization-wide effort that showcases FAO's commitment in advancing for the transformation of agrifood systems toward a sustainable future.

Read more



SDG target 12.3 on food loss and waste: 2026 progress report by WRI



Adopted in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals include SDG Target 12.3, which aims to halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030. However, progress remains insufficient and with the deadline approaching, stronger commitments, measurable interventions and coordinated efforts across food supply chains are essential to close the implementation gap and achieve the target.

Read more

Food Waste Measurement and Reporting: Best Practices for Businesses



ReFED's report translates its refined data collection and reporting guidance into a "Good, Better, Best" framework tailored to three audiences: U.S. Food Waste Pact signatories and ReFED Business Services clients, retail and foodservice companies outside the Pact, and sustainability and ESG teams within food businesses. The framework aims to strengthen food waste measurement and reporting practices across the sector.

Read more

VeraSol publishes new field and laboratory test methods for Walk-in Cold Rooms



CLASP, in collaboration with the VeraSol programme and the World Bank's ESMAP, has developed a draft WICR Quality Assurance Framework to standardise product performance testing and technical data reporting. By improving transparency and enabling fair, reliable performance evaluation, the initiative aims to help buyers identify suitable cold storage solutions, strengthen equipment quality and accelerate WICR market development across the Global South.

Link to Website

Cold Chains for Ocean Communities- Playbook for Project Developers and Investors

This playbook developed by WWF and global partners, aims to increase the share of commercially viable and ecologically sustainable cold chain businesses globally, focusing primarily on small-to-medium-scale community fisheries and capture fisheries, with relevant applications to aquaculture. By outlining practical strategies and technical solutions, it seeks to mobilise investment, strengthen stakeholder collaboration and support the long-term sustainability of community-based fisheries cold chains.

Read more



University of Florida to lead new Feed the Future Innovation Lab for High-Value Crops



The University of Florida has been selected by the U.S. Department of State to lead the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for High-Value Crops, SAFE (Safeguarding Agriculture, Food and Economy). Led by UF/IFAS, the lab will operate in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic.

Read more

CoolVeg: Expand a Proven Food Storage Solution

CoolVeg is expanding its training programme to educate schoolchildren on the benefits of using clay pot coolers for household vegetable storage, alongside existing village-level training for adults. The initiative will assess whether schools offer a cost-effective and practical pathway for scaling adoption. Key indicators include the spread of coolers beyond direct trainees, cost per sustained household adopter, changes in vegetable consumption and food loss, and time spent travelling to markets.The project will publish a summary of its findings, including cost and outcome data, regardless of the results.



Mariame Sogoba assembling a clay pot cooler in Niamey, Niger

Donate now

Just Energy Transiton Funding Platform



Last date to apply: 5 November 2026

Window 4 supports smallholder farmers through community food hubs and market infrastructure from produce aggregation to distribution. Eligible activities include bulk supply to institutional buyers, alongside circular economy measures to reduce post-harvest losses and repurpose surplus or spoiled produce through composting or animal feed. For candidates from South Africa, the Expression of Interest (EOI) must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project will connect farmers to viable markets, identifying credible buyers or established market channels to support the sale and distribution of produce. The funding window is open nationally, with priority given to coal-affected Mpumalanga.

Link to Website



PEF and Nigeria Stored Product Research Institute (NSPRI) partnered to deliver Postharvest Management Training and a PICS Bag Distribution at Ubulu-Uku Primary School, reaching over 70 farmers from across the community.



Dr. Vijay Yadav Tokala presented “Postharvest temperature managemnent in Horticultural crops and need for sustainable options” on 20 October 2026 and interacted with the students of University of Mauritius on different topics of cold chain management, while sharing his experiences.



Our mission

The Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF) aims to deliver innovative programs that motivate and empower people to reduce global food losses and maintain quality, market value, nutritional value, and food safety.

PEF formally closed operations at the end of 2025. We no longer provide workshops or postharvest tool kits, and we no longer accept donations.

Our Strategy:

- Providing free access to postharvest training materials and advice for those who are involved in extension work and training of farmers, produce handlers, small-scale food processors and marketers.
- Providing a website with free downloads and a bi-annual newsletter with links to updated resources.
- Long-term mentoring for participants in e-learning programs via social networking websites.
- 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/

Thank you for reading!

THE POSTHARVEST EDUCATION FOUNDATION	Email: vijayyadav.t@postharvest.org
Website: www.postharvest.org	Connect with us on: