

EDM invites researchers and practitioners to contribute unique articles to the upcoming special edition:

Food loss and waste, agriculture and food systems in developing countries: emerging themes and issues

The issue will be published in December 2022. The deadline for abstracts is **1 June 2022** and **1 July 2022** for draft submissions.

Background

The recent emphasis on food systems in development discourse and programming has led to new questions that challenge conventional thinking on the drivers of change in the way food is made, delivered and used. This food systems lens offers an opportunity to revisit resource use from a range of different perspectives. As early as 1975 Henry Kissinger told the General Assembly of the UN that the world should cut postharvest losses in half by 1985. More recently, goal 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses” by 2030. Yet we are still struggling to know if either of these targets can be met because we have no agreed set measurement tools that can be applied cost effectively at scale. What interventions and technologies work? How can the private sector be engaged/motivated to drive/exploit food loss and waste reduction opportunities? What do we know about the challenges, particularly for businesses, of reducing food loss and waste?

The issues of how to define, measure and mitigate FLW remain under-researched, particularly in less developed countries and especially in respect to other profound issues of sustainable development such as environmental change, poverty reduction and vulnerability. Engagement with private and civil society in developing countries on these issues is, as yet, not advised by policies supported with clear empirical evidence, but rather a scatter-gun of initiatives. How can we get better measures of FLW and related impacts to support interventions and policy. Are there ways to take a more holistic view of the relative merits of FLW reduction considering impacts at both business and societal levels? What are the relationships between food buying habits, packaging, food waste and the environment? Are there opportunities for creating jobs and wealth from reducing losses and repurposing waste?

Topics of particular interest for this special issue of EDM include:

- FLW drivers: assessing underlying causes of FLW as farming systems and food environments change in emerging economies with an emphasis on the role of public and private sectors.
- FLW behaviours: research that sheds light on areas of FLW in a developing country context, previously little understood such as intra-household or pre-harvest FLW; the connections of FLW to poverty both in terms of causes and effects; the impacts of modern marketing and promotion methods on changing diets.
- System wide approaches to FLW: attempts to address complexity and inter-connectivity among resource use issues; addressing various challenges and trade-offs for FLW at different socio-economic levels.
- FLW reduction: evidence of successful application of innovative techniques and technologies to reduce FLW throughout the value chain; research on the challenges and drivers for the private sector to reduce FLW.
- Policies: evidence of success (or failure) of different approaches to tackle FLW; the policies that can help poorer smallholders reduce FLW.
- Measurement of FLW – tools and issues: a focus on the existing and potential FLW measurement methods that could foster better data and future policy. We are keen to assess some of the new econometric tools available for FLW measurement in LDCs.
- FLW and climate change: consideration of the implications of the climate emergency and environmental costs of FLW.
- Packaging and plastic: reporting on new initiatives, policies and tools that address the single use plastic waste issues related to food preservation in emerging food supply chains.
- Nutrition and FLW: methods and approaches for highlighting the nutritional impacts of FLW.
- Shortening food chains and localism: does this have the potential to reduce FLW?

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ISSN: 1755-1978 (online)
1755-1986 (print)
Published quarterly

EDM encourages critical thinking on how market systems and financial sectors can be more inclusive and sustainable, with concrete implications for designing, implementing, and evaluating programmes in the global South. EDM is essential reading for practitioners, researchers, donors, policymakers, and finance specialists that facilitate the beneficial engagement of disadvantaged communities in economic sectors.

Contributions to EDM may include:

- Research article: original development-relevant research, peer-reviewed, up to 6000 words
- Perspectives from the field: ideas and experiences on entrepreneurship in developing countries, peer-reviewed, up to 4000 words
- Editorial: reflections on the state of market-oriented research and development practice
- Crossfire: debate between experts on the unknowns, dilemmas, and tensions in microfinance and enterprise development
- Book review: critical thoughts on relevant books and manuscripts

Articles should be submitted to the EDM team at
EDM@practicalaction.org.uk

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