



International
Co-operative
Alliance

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Co-operatives and food losses and waste: a holistic supply chain approach

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Co-operatives and food losses and waste

The global Co-operative movement:

- 2.5 million enterprises
- 1 billion members
- 250 million jobs and livelihoods
- USD 2.5 trillion annual revenue of the largest 300
- 100+ countries, all sectors of the economy
- International Co-operative Alliance est. 1895 is the umbrella organization

Co-operatives and food losses and waste

Co-operatives are values-based and people-centered:

- Co-operative Values and Principles:
 - Open and voluntary membership
 - Democratic member control
 - Education, training and information
 - Concern for the community
 - Self-help
 - Solidarity
 - ...

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Preventing food losses from the supply side:

- Co-operatives aggregate farmers and bring scale:
 - Optimization of processes
 - Better facilities and logistics
 - Education, training and information
 - Access to markets, technology and finance
 - ...

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Examples:



Sejuk Women Cooperative
Nutmeg waste recovery

CBH Group
0 waste to landfill by 2030



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Preventing food waste from the demand side:

- Retail optimization:
 - Logistics;
 - Supply chain management;
 - Product handling and packaging

- Point-of-sale:
 - Promotions on value rather than quantity
 - Bulk vs pre-packed vs units
 - Portion sizes

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Preventing food waste from the demand side (cont.):

- Consumer information and education:
 - Labels
 - New technologies
 - Education for sustainable consumption

**What is the main reason for food waste,
according to a survey of consumers in Italy?
49% say it's...**

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Examples:

- ‘Wonky’ vegetables in Sweden and single bananas in Denmark
- ‘Winning together’ in the UK and ‘foodie’ app in Finland
- To a “good end” in Italy and a “responsibility for everybody” in Spain

...and many more

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Unavoidable food waste:

- Turning waste into energy: most consumer cooperatives utilize unavoidable food waste as an energy source
- Collecting and recycling food waste:
 - CERO Cooperative in Massachusetts
 - Rust Belt Riders in Cleveland, Ohio
 - Duncan Village Secondary Recycling Cooperative, South Africa

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Thank you!

Questions?