

From global strategies to local implementation of food loss and food waste prevention

Summary GFFA 2024 expert panel no 9

The Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses and Waste (Thünen Institute of Market Analysis) organised the expert panel in close cooperation with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse gases (GRA), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and thinkstep-anz. Aim of the panel was to show opportunities how to connect high-level policy and on the ground practice involving multiple actors within an interdisciplinary and cross-cutting challenge like food loss and waste (FLW) prevention. About 90 multinational participants followed the discussions on-site and online representing mostly research, a balanced number of public administration, NGOs, companies, private interests and a small number of policy makers.

Moderated by the Thünen Institute's research director, Stefan Lange, the discussion started with a keynote speech by Dr Chanjief Chandrakumar from thinkstep-anz on the impact of FLW on the global climate. His key message requested a range of localised but coordinated efforts at each stage of the agri-food supply chain where everyone has a role to play. Dr Felicitas Schneider from Thünen Institute of Market Analysis presented the different working levels of the Collaboration Initiative FLW, from participation in global committees to strengthening regional networks to local events to raise awareness tackling FLW. She emphasized the need to join forces for a world with less FLW, which could not only support the achievement of SDG 12.3 but also uncover untapped potential of other SDGs. The importance of involving cities was highlighted by Dr Gustavo Porpino from Embrapa in his presentation, which introduced the audience to the diverse activities taking place in Brazil. The Cities and Food project supports a cities network on urban food policies connecting circular urban food system approaches which fight both hunger and FLW in a systematic way. The keynote speeches were concluded by the results of Sharon Mada from the Thünen Institute of Market Analysis, who presented her findings regarding the quantity and composition as well as reasons for FLW in low-income households in a city district in Harare, Zimbabwe. In her multi-method approach, she applied waste composition analysis, kitchen diary surveys as well as face-to-face questionnaire which provided a precise insight into framework conditions. The staple food Sadza turned out to be the most thrown away food.

The interactive poll showed that some of the participants already have experience with organising informational public awareness events on FLW or cooking workshops. Food sharing platforms, food bank activities, community gardens, composting facilities as well as upcycling of surplus foods were suggested as options for cities to improve a circular food system by the audience. Bread, fruit and vegetables, coffee and milk were identified as possible favourites of the most thrown away food in their own home countries.

The lively discussion showed the participants' greater interest in concrete activities and the scalability of measures for different regions which contribute to the motto "Think globally, act locally". Further information on the Collaboration Initiative FLW and its activities with partners including the presentations of this expert panel can be found [here](#).