

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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Title: Reducing Food Loss and Waste: a Regional Perspective from Asia-Pacific Region



Reducing food loss and waste (FLW) is one major way to increase food security without sacrificing sustainability. With the remarkable launch of SDG Target 12.3, which calls for halving per capita food waste by 2030 and reducing food losses, attention to the issue has been brought mostly from global and national perspectives. However, the importance of regional perspective cannot be ignored due to regional diversities in culture, income and institutions. This paper will provide a regional perspective on reducing FLW from Asia-pacific region.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region put reducing FLW target and actions in the APEC food security roadmap in 2014, specifying “APEC economies strive to reduce FLW by 10% compared with the 2011-2012 levels and aim to advance beyond the Millennium Development Goal 2015 Hunger Goals”. This paper will summarize the activities, findings and recommendations from our APEC Multi-Year Project entitled with “Strengthening public-private partnership to reduce food losses in the supply chain.” Major activities include (1) consulting with APEC experts about FLW problems of fruits and vegetables (F&V), fishery and livestock, retail and consumer levels through expert consultation conferences, and conducting high level policy dialogue with reports from 15 APEC economies, (2) conducting surveys on policy and feasible solutions; and (3) establishing a website APEC-FLOWS to promote results derived from APEC capacity buildings, including measurement methodology, dataset, toolkits and best practices for reducing FLW.

Our findings indicated that F&V are lost and wasted the most by weight, accounting for 45.4% and 42.6% respectively. F&V were lost mostly during production, processing and packing, while more seafood and meat wasted in distribution. The surveys showed that education campaigns and capacity buildings are the most applied solutions in most APEC economies (12/15 economies). While advanced economies implemented solutions widespread along the supply chain, developing economies tended to focus on the first three stages to reduce post-harvest losses. Finally, public-private partnership was crucial for reducing FLW in the region. APEC economies strongly advocated the establishment of a guideline or mechanism which acts as a bridge between public and private sectors, sharing initiatives, and facilitate stakeholders on management issue.