



## Addressing Food Wastage

### What is the issue?

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- According to the FAO, One third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally i.e about 1.3 billion tons per year.
- Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption.

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### What are the impacts?

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- In a country like India, food is not only scarce, but also a luxury for many others.
- India was ranked 97th among 118 countries in the Global Hunger Index for 2016.
- About 20 crore people go to bed hungry and 7,000 people die of hunger every day
- Food wastage also includes a waste of resources used in production such as land, water, energy and inputs, increasing the green gas emissions in vain.
- The increasing wastage also results in land degradation by about 45%, mainly due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater extraction.
- Decay of wasted food also leads to harmful emission of other gases in the atmosphere.having major impact on climate change and resulting in greater

carbon footprint.

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## **What are the reasons?**

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- People's behavior.

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- Poor supply-chain management.

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- Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption.

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- Lack of storage facilities. Only 10% of food is covered by cold storage facilities in India.

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- Absence of an effective distribution mechanism and legal framework

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## **What should be done?**

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- 1996 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act in the U.S which encourages donation of food and grocery products by protecting the donor and the recipient agency against liability.

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- France banned supermarkets from destroying unsold food.

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- It forces them to donate it to charities or food banks or send it to the farmers to be used as fertilisers in crop production.

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- Civil societies like India Food Banking Network (IFBN) promotes the concept of collaborative consumption with support from the private sector and civil society organisations.

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- These practices should be coupled with the creation of a time-bound task force under Niti Aayog, to frame a national policy to tackle this issue.

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**Source: The Hindu**

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