



Food Loss Reduction for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems Post-Covid

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What is the severity of food loss in GMS and what are the main factors contributing to this?



Jaroensathapornkul, 2021; https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD?locations=MM-KH-LA-VN

- CCC crises worsen food loss due to massive disruptions & breakdowns of food systems.
- Food loss worsens poverty, food insecurity, environmental damage and climate change
- Food loss is context specific; varies with commodity, location, and value chain.





Nutritious food loss in GMS (fruits & vegetables)





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Food loss vs food recommendations

Extremely alarming GHI ≥ 50.0

Alarming

Serious GHI 20.0–34.9

Moderate GHI 10.0–19.9

Low

100-point scale



FAO. Global Food Losses and Food Waste-Extent, Causes and Prevention



Recommended food consumption based on Harvard's Healthy Eating Plate
Current food consumption based on FAO data

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022

GMS country	GHI Score	Rank/136 countries
Cambodia	17.1	75
Lao PDR	19.2	82
Myanmar	15.6	71
Thailand	12.0	56
Vietnam	11.9	55



https://www.globalhungerindex.org/ranking.html

Sustainability 2021, 13(17), 9501





Food loss and global warming (climate change)



Source: WRI. 2012. Climate Analysis Indicators Tool. Available at: http://cait.wri.org



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Food loss reduction – a global priority



12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global

food waste and reduce food losses including postharvest losses

Food loss reduction impact

- Increase farmers' income (poverty loss) ۲
- Increase food security (food availability, ۲ access, use, stability)

- Promote gender equality
- Reduce GHG emission and climate change (climate resilience)









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What needs to happen to minimize or reduce food loss in GMS?

 Repurpose/reform policies to address food loss aligning with global and regional focus, particularly to increase the availability of nutritious foods and to make healthy diets more affordable, in support to achieving sustainable and resilient food systems; assist national governments.

> Sustainable food system nsures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised. It lies at the heart of the UN SDGs.

Resilient food system is able to withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.







What needs to happen to minimize or reduce food loss in GMS?

• Employ a food chain approach (value chain approach) and nexus approach to food loss reduction; build capacities.

Value chain approach – identifies critical technical and non-technical interventions for specific value chain and specific chain stages – mapping/measuring loss, target setting, interventions, and collaboration/partnerships

Nexus approach – allows the analysis of interconnections between sectors/domains in order to reap positive synergies and to effectively manage trade offs; e.g. food loss-food safety nexus for sustainable food systems.



Greater Mekong Subregion Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program





What needs to happen to minimize or reduce food loss in GMS?

- Focus on smallholders who are the vast majority in GMS food and agriculture sector; other disadvantaged sectors should also be prioritized women and indigenous people.
- Promote youth involvement through digital technology applications in food loss reduction (Agriculture 4.0); build capacities.
- Screen/filter non-technological/organizational and technological interventions which have highest likelihood to be mainstreamed in specific value chain; build capacities.
- Prioritize transboundary value chains to galvanize regional integration and cooperation.
- The above bode well with Mekong Institute's support to agri-food sector growth and transformation through five strategic initiatives – Sustainable Food Systems; Value Chain Development; Postharvest Management; Climate-smart Agriculture; and Food Safety and Market Access – initiated by its Agricultural Development & Commercialization Department.



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