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Food waste prevention: From concept to practice

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It is roughly estimated that in the EU, over 90 million tonnes of food or 180 kg per person are wasted every year. Since significant resources are required throughout the lifecycle of food chain, food wastage becomes a waste of valuable resources with obvious economic, environmental and ethical implications. The EU has recently decided to change this unacceptable situation by putting forward a proposal for Member States to develop national food waste reduction strategies oriented to reduce 30% of their food waste by 2050. This paper presents an overview of the food waste problem and reviews initiatives and social innovations for food waste reduction in different countries. Finally, the paper presents the results of a research on food waste generated by households in Greece carried out within the EU LIFE+ WASP Tool project, to our knowledge, the first of its kind in Greece. It is indicated that Greek households generate approximately 100 kg of food waste per person annually of which approximately 30 kg per person are avoidable. Results indicate that people in Greece have positive attitudes towards food waste prevention; their habits, driven to a large extent by the economic crisis are close to the good practices suggested by literature for reducing food waste.

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Poverty reduction through blue growth jobs

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The fishery sector is playing an important role for food security, poverty reduction, trade and employment contributing to economic development and growth in many countries. In 2010, fisheries and aquaculture provided livelihood and income for approximately 54.8 million people engaged in this sector. Apart from the harvest sector, fisheries and aquaculture provide jobs in activities such as processing, packaging, manufacturing, net and gear making, vessel construction and research. In many societies, the livelihood of less affluent people remains reliant on natural resources. Waters, forests and soils form the basis of many commercial and subsistence activities and may provide a safety net in times of crisis. Currently, the primary issues in fisheries are overexploitation, over capitalization and the negative consequences of fishing on marine life and associated habitats. Over 63% of world fishery stocks are threatened by rising temperature, pollution and overexploitation. Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) is a new concept introduced by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to manage fishery development more systematically. Creating more jobs by reusing and recycling all parts of fish can help not only to consume the resources more efficiently but also helps to eradicate poverty in most coastal countries. As an example we can point out reusing the fish parts in fish feeds that are used in Aquaculture farms.

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