



The SAVE FOOD Initiative

The SAVE FOOD Initiative rests on four consecutive aims: first, *raising awareness* about the issue thereby drawing attention to the problem. Second, *involving industry* with the aim of harnessing all available resources of both private and public organisations. Third, *generating know-how* about the development of fundamental strategies. And fourth – as the final objective – *realising concrete investment programmes*.

Presented as a result in 2011, for example, were two basic FAO studies on the extent of, and reasons for, food losses in various regions of the world. They shed light on the role of packaging for avoiding such losses in order to obtain deeper insights into securing a resource-saving global food supply. Following on from this, the Initiative presented its study results on the reasons and solutions for food losses in Africa as part of the second SAVE FOOD Congress in 2014. At the same time, a joint project was initiated by SAVE FOOD members, where the targeted use of processing and packaging technologies was aimed at preventing mango losses in Kenya. 2016 saw the building of a new production site with a higher capacity. Another study carried out in mid-2016, looked at the root causes and “mechanics” of food losses in India with the aim of finding suitable approaches for reducing them.

The hallmark of the SAVE FOOD Initiative is its concept: the aims are to be achieved by involving and networking with as many actors from business and public spheres as possible. This includes representatives from industry as well as politicians, NGOs, scientists, activists and consumers. And this is precisely what makes the SAVE FOOD Initiative so unique until this very day. Ongoing dialogue forms the basis here for multi-disciplinary approaches and models that embrace all areas of the value chain.

Holistic Approach to all Dimensions Concerned

The SAVE FOOD Initiative addresses all existing problems with a holistic approach – the solution lies in the interaction of activities and impulses provided by a great number of areas.

This includes *politics*: it is imperative to correct and also actively shape the political framework in such a way that scope for change can emerge.

Another pivotal area is *agriculture*. Here the sustainability factor plays at least as important a role as does the development of methods for maximising growing and harvesting efficiency. Alongside fighting losses the aim is also a resource-saving cultivation.



The situation is similar in *food production*. Suppliers play a decisive role in controlling both the demand for local producers and buyers' behaviour. Here concrete solutions can be sustainable production processes.

A crucial element is the use of expert knowledge from the *packaging and process industries*. Efficient logistics are key to the effective minimisation of food losses on the way to retailers and consumers. These include state-of-the-art processing methods as well as smart packaging systems that ensure comprehensive protection. A founding member of the SAVE FOOD Initiative, interpack stands for the pooled competency of the packaging industry and related process industries as well as for the international contacts required to coordinate the relevant programmes.

Retailers are called upon to comprehensively check their ranges, supply chain management but also logistics and recycling as to whether and how food losses occur – and how these can be effectively curbed.

Unlike in many producer countries, in industrialised nations it is *consumers* alongside retailers that have a decisive impact to make on the extent and type of food waste. Buying food consumers do not really need or unnecessarily large pack sizes lead to a throwaway mentality causing foodstuffs to end up in the bin.

The SAVE FOOD Initiative aims to make a decisive contribution to make the “Zero Waste and Loss” vision come true as an elementary component of the United Nation’s “Zero-Hunger” vision.