

The Role of Packaging in Reducing Food Loss and Food Waste

Seren Bilgiç, Atif Can Seydim

Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Süleyman Demirel University, Turkey

Due to constant growth of world's population, problems with food supply and nutritional deficiencies have increased significantly. While the fight against hunger is on the rise by international organizations; increased consumption and limited production affect the ecosystem and the food crisis. The solutions to this issue have gained international priority. Food waste and food loss, which can occur at every stage of the supply chain for different reasons, pose a threat to environmental, social and economic sustainability. The majority of loss or wasted food is closely related to inadequate technology, transport, packaging and storage conditions that can be encountered at every stage of the supply chain. Another problem with this topic is, although it can be consumed, depending on the expiration date, the amount of food being wasted is quite high. Accurate shelf life determination of foods, improving packaging that reduces food losses offer opportunities to reduce the environmental problems caused by loss and waste. This paper states the dimensions of food loss and waste and contributes to the debate by identifying opportunities to reduce or recover food loss and waste through improved packaging.

Key Words: Food loss; Food waste; Packaging; Packaging systems; Packaging development