

Identifying critical food waste points in the millet supply chain and their potential to address food and nutrition security

SHARMA N. (1)

1 World Resources Institute (WRI) India , New Delhi, India

With the declaration of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023, an opportunity has opened up to raise awareness of, and direct policy attention to the nutritional and health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions. Along with this, it also promotes sustainable production of millets while also highlighting their potential to create sustainable market opportunities for producers and consumers. According to the Communication Handbook and Toolkit for millets, the year aims to contribute to various UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including, SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production). And as per SDG 12.3, which states 'By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, it is imperative to identify the drivers of food loss and food waste in the millet supply chain, so that we can control the loss and wastes that could be created with over-exploitation of millets in this scenario. The present work aims at identifying critical waste generation points in the supply chain and suggests possible interventions to reduce them or to utilize them as an alternative source of nutrition. The study would pave a way for the development of a package of best practices for possible use by potential supply chain actors for a much more resilient and sustainable supply chain for millets.