

Addressing BRICS Agricultural Losses and Opportunities for Wastage Reduction

Ashwariya Sah

ABSTRACT

The agricultural sector is the largest user of ecological resource base. Unfortunately, about one-third of the agricultural area is occupied to produce food that is either lost or wasted due to poor infrastructure, management and unsustainable cultivation practices. Amidst this situation, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3 is targeted towards halving the per capita global food loss and waste by 2030. This study analyzed the loss in fruits and vegetables based on BRICS specific production data (for the year 2018) and reported the food loss rates during production and post-harvest of major fruits and vegetables produced in these nations. Furthermore, the study evaluates the environmental impacts of losses in fruits and vegetables in terms of utilization of land and water resources, and eutrophying and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions aims to link the environmental impact of food loss and waste of BRICS to their technological preparedness.

Key Words: *food supply chain · food loss and waste · environmental impacts · root cause · mitigation*

JEL Codes: *Q01, Q10, Q19, D10, B40, B55*