

Food loss and waste present a social dilemma

Activity 1

In the video, there are three concerns related to food waste (FW) and global hunger.

Given the current state of global hunger

- 1/3 of the edible parts of global food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted (FAO, 2015)
- If FW were a country it would be the third highest emitter of green house gas (FAO, 2013)
- The production of food that end up lost or wasted accounts for almost ¼ of the overall global cropland and fertilizer use.

Visual 1.1

Few choices are all-or-nothing propositions; they usually involve **trade-offs** i.e. getting a little more of one option in exchange for a little less of something else. When making choices, people weigh the cost - what is given up - with the benefit – what is gained.

In all these decisions, people and organizations use personal and societal values to come up with the best choice. Since these values often vary widely, decision-making is often accompanied by much debate and disagreement, with the final decision involving significant compromise and trade-offs.

Natural resources (water, soil, air, minerals, coal, oil, natural gas, wind) are necessary to produce food. The production of food may have a negative spillover (pollution) on the quality of the environment. The challenge that society faces is to how to reduce food waste while maintaining a clean environment and low food prices.

[REFLECTION PROMPT]

Make a list of productive resources used to produce food, determine where the source of the productive resource comes from, how it is used and where excess or waste ends up.