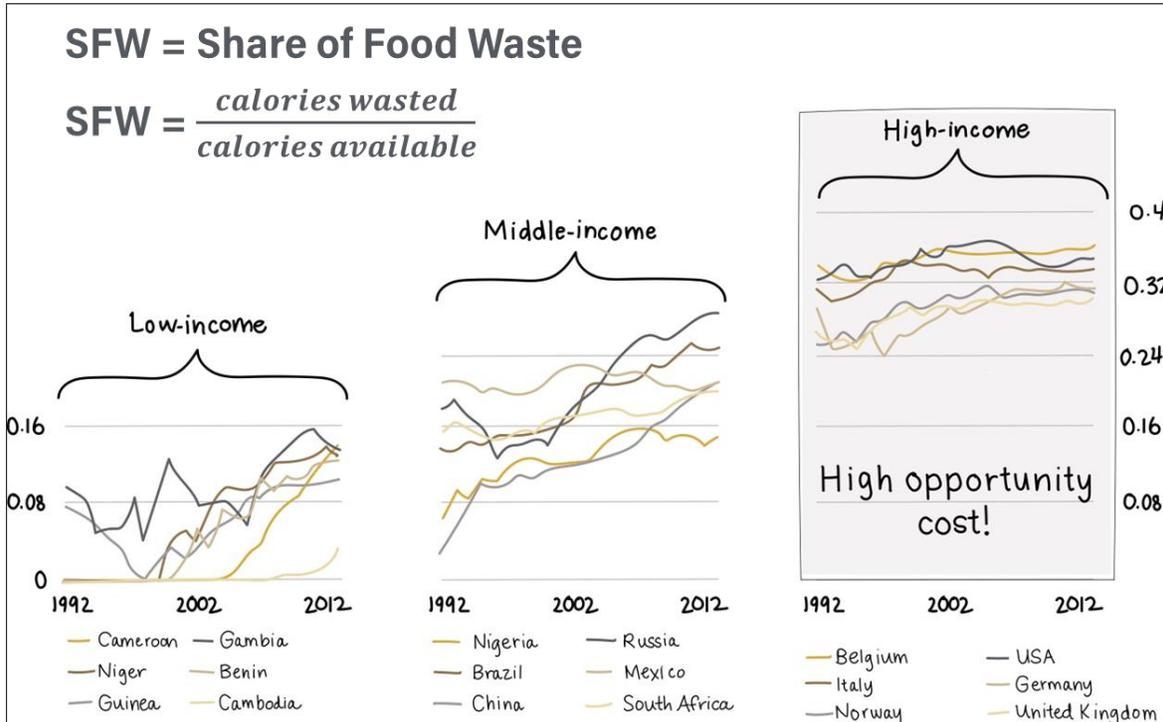


The uneaten calories in the long run

Activity 4



Visual 1.2

How can food waste be measured over time?

Visual 1.2 illustrates the ratio of calories wasted to calories available. These are divided into three groups, low income, middle income and high-income countries.

The graph shows that on average, the percent of calories wasted as compared to calories available is increasing over time for all regions, but high-income countries have the highest percent of calories wasted.

Understanding the amount of food waste in a region or country can help economist calculate the **opportunity cost**. Remember that opportunity cost is the value of the next best alternative. Consider the alternative possible uses of the productive resources used to produce food that was wasted.

1. How might the productive resources used to produce food that is wasted have been used instead?
2. What characteristics of low-income and high income countries do you think account for the different levels of opportunity cost?