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Closing Data Gaps in National Food Waste Measurement: A Multi-source Framework Across the Food Supply Chain in Greece

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Abstract

Reliable national food waste statistics are essential for monitoring progress towards European Union reduction targets, yet comprehensive measurement across the food supply chain remains challenging. This study describes the integrated approach used to derive Greece's official 2023 food waste estimates by combining data from the Electronic Food Waste Registry (EFWR) with national statistical and survey sources. The EFWR collects annual food waste data from legally defined economic activities, including food production and processing facilities, retailers, hotels, healthcare institutions and catering services. Reported data were cleaned, validated, aggregated by economic activity, and extrapolated to national level using Hellenic Statistical Authority data in accordance with Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/1597. Households accounted for the largest share of food waste (44.3%; 89 kg/capita), followed by processing and manufacturing (23.2%; 47 kg/capita), primary production (11.4%; 23 kg/capita), restaurants and food services (11.3%; 23 kg/capita), and retail and other distribution (9.8%; 20 kg/capita). Integrating administrative, statistical and survey data provides a pragmatic framework for national food waste monitoring, while highlighting priorities for improving data completeness, consistency and comparability.

Keywords: food waste measurement, national monitoring, food supply chain, Electronic Food Waste Registry, Greece

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