Street Market Food Waste in Hatcliffe, Zimbabwe

Introduction

Understanding the dynamics of food waste at street markets is important for establishing food waste reduction initiatives. This represents a crucial step towards sustainable food systems and advancing the goal of attaining food security.

Objectives

• Characterise and quantify the food waste generated at the street market
• Explore the determinants of street market food waste
• Examine temporal variations of food waste at the street market

Materials and Methods

• Data collection was conducted during the harvest (Apr-June) and lean (Oct-Nov) seasons of 2023 in Harare.
• Waste Composition Analyses \( n = \text{approx. 80 stalls} \)
• Face-to-face questionnaire surveys \( n = 39 \)

While street markets play an important role in supplying affordable fresh produce to low-income households in Zimbabwe, food waste is a sustainability concern at these markets.

Preliminary Findings

• 83% of the food waste generated at the street market, is avoidable.

• Poor infrastructure, high temperatures, and low sales are some of the reasons that could explain food waste at the Hatcliffe Street Market.

• 56% of the waste recorded was generated during the lean season (Oct-Nov).

• Tomatoes, cucumbers, and bell peppers are the most wasted vegetables.

• 43% of the fruit waste consists of bananas.

• The results of the study will be used to provide evidence-based initiatives for reducing street market food waste.