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ANALYZE OF FOOD WASTE AND IT'S ECONOMIC IMPACT TO CITIZENS OF EU STATES AND CANDIDATE STATE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ALCAZ ALEX¹, TONEA ELENA^{2*}, ȚURCAN RINA¹

¹ Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova
² University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Romania

Abstract: *This study examines food waste levels in European countries, focusing on the economic impact on households, especially in Moldova. It underscores the need for policies and education to reduce waste.*

• Introduction

This study measures food waste in primary production across the BeNeLux Union, Moldova, and Ukraine, establishing a framework for quantifying edible food waste. Including animal feed in the analysis, it highlights global food loss challenges. EU encourage methodologies to improve food waste accounting, supporting policy development for governments, research institutions, and other supply chain stakeholders.

• Material and method

The study utilized report observation, literature review, dynamic analysis, and comparative statistical analysis. Sources included the UN Global Food Risk Index (2021, 2024 editions), NBS data on Moldovan wages and expenditures (2013-2023), and economist study on food waste reduction strategies in Moldova.

• Results and discussions

The economic impact of food waste in Moldova is significant. Moldova's per capita food waste (76.13 kg) surpasses many EU countries. Regarding this aspect it is necessary to take measures regarding infrastructure investment, cold chain technologies, and public education. All this has as end goal to improve food management and reduce waste.

• Conclusions

The study examines food waste's economic impact in Moldova and EU nations, revealing Moldova's high waste level due to supply chain inefficiencies. Reducing waste could aid Moldova's EU integration, economic stability, and sustainability by promoting responsible consumption and supply chain improvements.