The Nestlé Commitment to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

As the leading nutrition, health and wellness company, Nestlé is committed to further playing its part in helping to reduce food loss and waste. Not only will this help Nestlé secure supplies of the agricultural raw materials it sources, but it will also have a positive impact on society by supporting rural development, water conservation and food security. This is in line with Nestlé’s Creating Shared Value approach to doing business.

In 2015, Nestlé launched The Nestlé Commitment to reduce food loss and waste. This public commitment serves to guide and align Nestlé’s efforts to address food loss and waste.

Prevention, minimisation and valorisation
Nestlé is continuously making efforts to improve the environmental performance of its operations in order to preserve natural resources and to be successful in the long term. Since 2005, it has reduced total waste for disposal from its factories by 62 percent. With 105 Nestlé factories achieving zero waste for disposal at the end of 2015, now Nestlé is working towards zero waste for disposal in its sites by 2020.

Nestlé also looks to the beginning of its supply chain on environmental issues, supporting farming communities where it sources agricultural raw materials to help them avoid pre-harvest losses through yield improvement and reduce post-harvest losses through optimizing delivery of raw materials up to the factory. For example, in 2015 Nestlé distributed 26.8 million high-yield, disease-resistant coffee plantlets to farmers, taking its cumulative total to 100.7 million.

To further reduce food losses and waste occurring in its supply chain, Nestlé analysed all potential causes of milk wastage in its dairy supply chain in Pakistan, applying the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard. The total milk loss in the company’s supply chain was estimated to be only 1.4 percent, significantly lower than average country estimates. Indeed, approximately 15 to 19 percent of milk sold by Pakistani farmers is wasted in
route to the market, according to a 2004 Asian Development Bank report. Nestlé found that sharing best practices among farmers contributes to an increase in milk production and less milk being rejected by chilling centres, while improved management at the retail stage could further reduce product losses.

Information and education
At the end of the supply chain, Nestlé helps to raise awareness among consumers on the issue of food waste. Nestlé wants to help consumers make informed choices through credible, substantiated communication and by providing tips and recipes that can help them reduce food waste. Nestlé has also been developing creative solutions that can help consumers make the most of leftovers. These include a range of different doughs that can be filled with leftover food from the fridge, while in France, Maggi has brought out a smartphone app full of recipes and ideas to use leftovers.

Stakeholder engagement and partnerships
Moreover, Nestlé is committed to proactive long-term engagement and partnerships – directly and through industry – with stakeholders, including regulators, scientists, customers, business partners, civil society organizations and the community, in order to define, implement and evaluate solutions to food loss and waste. For example, Nestlé has co-steered on behalf of CGF the development of the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard and actively participated in its launch in June 2016. This global standard initiated by the World Resources Institute allows companies, countries and other interested organisations to quantify food loss and waste in a harmonised way.

These actions contribute to ensuring that Nestlé products are not only tastier and healthier but also better for the environment along the entire value chain.