

The Role of Digital Technology in reducing food waste **Workshop: Hybrid (in person & online)**

Venue: Leeds Beckett University

Date: 26th May 2023

Time: 10:00-13:00 (UK time)

Context:

The cold food supply chains face greater uncertainties due to product perishability, high product variety, multiple suppliers, traceability, and regulatory requirements and complex supply networks involving multiple touch points. These issues were painfully exposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in elevated risks, unnecessary waste and higher costs and even potential health risks, if undesirable goods end up on the market. The amount of waste and damaged goods is considerably higher when sourcing from emerging economies compared to mature economies like in the UK, Europe and USA etc. The factors contributing to this disparity include the lack of sufficient high-quality capacity and capability (e.g. in storage, warehousing and transport), fragmented (often unprofessional) third party logistics players especially during the last mile delivery, lack of digital capability to monitor and control, lack of technical equipment and above all lack of professionally trained talent pool.

Workshop (hybrid) Aims:

To bring together a group of experts (both the practitioners and researchers/academics) to share and exchange the problems, challenges, as well as the current developments and/or initiatives adopted by industry to minimise food waste in the extended supply chain. Moreover, the workshop will attempt to tease out the innovative solutions to reduce through the use digital technologies such as IoT, AI, cloud computing and data analytics etc.

Outcomes:

- raised awareness on cold chain innovations & reduction in waste
- formation of new business and networking contacts
- the development of future innovative RTD directions
- conceiving, discussing and nurturing innovative ideas and leveraging potential contacts/solutions
- understanding the role of digital-centric solutions in waste reduction
- potential university-industry collaboration

Outline agenda (UK times):

- 10:00 Welcome, Introduction & overview
- 10:30 Industrial expert speakers
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:40 Breakout session (the participants to work in small groups on 2-3 questions)
- 12:30 Feedback & Discussion
- 13:00 Depart

Registration/Joining instructions:

- Dr. Hajar Fatorachian, h.fatorachian@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- Please register using the link: <https://lnkd.in/e-UmdDqg>
- Online link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTc0M2ExYjktMjNkZi00ZWFKLThmYzAtNjU3N2lwOGNjM2Uz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22d79a8112-4fbc-417a-a112-cd0fb490d85c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e529f3d0-75d2-4456-af8c-64f4f0e659d8%22%7d