## Digital Technologies for Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction in Agri-Food Supply Chains: A Systematic Literature Review and Research Agenda

Caterina Trevisan and Marco Formentini

Abstract-Despite the benefits resulting from the use of Industry 4.0 technologies in the agri-food sector, the adoption of digital technologies for preventing and/or reducing food loss and waste (FLW) across the agri-food supply chain is still under investigation. In fact, enhancing and optimizing agri-food supply chain operations through digital technologies would just represent a partial effort if FLW prevention and reduction are not effectively addressed. Although companies are starting to adopt digital technologies for eliminating FLW from their operations, the implementation process and the achieved results are generally presented at a superficial level and practical guidance is still missing. This systematic literature review contributes to theory by developing a framework. analyzing the state-of-the-art of adoption of each Industry 4.0 technology across the agri-food supply chain, and providing a research agenda structured around the main themes of research design, digital technologies, contextual differences, governance, and sustainability. Eventually, the study also informs managers in the agri-food industry about the potential implementation of digital technologies for preventing and reducing FLW in across the agri-food supply chain.

Index Termi—Agri-food supply chain (AFSC), digital technologies, digitalization, food loss and waste (FLW), industry 4.0.

#### NOMENCLADURE

#### List of Abbreviations

AFSC Agri-food supply chain.

Al Artificial intelligence.

BDA Big data analytics.

CRM Customer relationship management.

DT Digital technologies.

EIS Enterprise information system.

EIS Enterprise information system. ERP Enterprise resource planning.

FLW Food loss and waste.

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TEM 2023.3273110

FW Food waste.

GPS Global positioning system.

ICT Information and communication technology.

IoT Internet of Things.

ML. Machine learning.
PLM Product lifecycle m

PLM Product lifecycle management.
RFID Radio-frequency identification.

RPA Robotic process automation.

SLR Systematic literature review.

WMS Warehouse management system.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

s a growing number of people is facing food insecurity and the global food systems have been severely tested by a combination of health crisis, climate-related issues, and conflicts, still too much food is lost or wasted throughout the AFSC. Between 25% and 50% of food produced does not reach the consumers, with the majority of losses occurring from the producers to the retailers point in the supply chain [1]. Wasting food has significant negative consequences on social, economic. and environmental sustainability; wasted food in landfills generates about 8%-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions [2], not to mention blue water footprint, land footprint, and biodiversity reduction [3]. Moreover, it leads to an economic cost of around 143 billion euros per year in the 28 European countries alone [4]. Halving per capita global food waste by 2030 is the objective of target 12.3 of UN sustainable development goal [5]; thus, reducing FLW represents a relevant and timely issue.

Several strategies of reducing FLW have been identified, depending also on the supply chain stages considered [6]. Desponding also on the supply chain stages considered [6]. Desponding the part of the supply chain. For instance, Industry 4.0 (14.0) solutions, such as blockchain or IoT, allow the monitoring of the ambient conditions of food products from the harvest until the selling stage, thus detecting their deterioration stage and improving the operations along the entire AFSC [7], [8], [9]. Even in the downstream supply chain stages (i.e., consumption, food service, and food sharing), digital technologies are frequently adopted to avoid or reduce food waste, such as digital platforms

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**Daniel A. Bonevac** 

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### **Table of Contents Reduction In The Abstract Sciences**

- 1. Understanding the eBook Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Personalized Recommendations

- Reduction In The Abstract Sciences User Reviews and Ratings
- Reduction In The Abstract Sciences and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Reduction In The Abstract Sciences Free and Paid eBooks
  - Reduction In The Abstract Sciences Public Domain eBooks
  - Reduction In The Abstract Sciences eBook Subscription Services
  - Reduction In The Abstract Sciences Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Reduction In The Abstract Sciences eBook Formats
  - ∘ ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Reduction In The Abstract Sciences Compatibility with Devices
  - Reduction In The Abstract Sciences Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Interactive Elements Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
- 8. Staying Engaged with Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - $\circ$  Benefits of a Digital Library
  - $\circ\,$  Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Setting Reading Goals Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Reduction In The Abstract Sciences
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Reduction In The Abstract Sciences

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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