

# **An Analysis of Opportunities for Increasing Donation Quantity and Quality by Food Retailers in Spain and India**

by

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## **Abstract**

Hunger is one of the world's burning problems. The amount of food wasted by most developed and developing economies is more than enough to feed all the hungry people in the world. This thesis focuses on identifying key challenges and opportunities to reduce food wastage by maximizing the donation of excess inventory of food by retailers. It focuses on food retailers in developed and developing economies by using case studies set in Spain and India, respectively. Apart from maximizing potential food donation from retailers in each individual country, the thesis also identifies key similarities and differences in the donation approaches for developed and developing economies. Food that is close to its expiration date or food that cannot be sold because it has reached its "sell by" date is the main candidate for in-kind donation. In order to maximize donation, key factors that influence as well as hinder donations from food retailers are identified through field survey and direct contacts. The recipients of the donated food, i.e. the food banks and NGOs are also contacted to identify the criteria and conditions they use to accept food from retailers and the challenges they face. The existent donation scenario in both countries is discussed which includes how donation is presently carried out in these countries. A calculation is done for the potential savings that could be realized from tax deductions, if retailers in Spain donated to their maximum potential. Finally, a comparison is made of the donation scenario between developed and developing economies and the best approach to be taken by NGOs and food banks to maximize food donation is suggested.