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DISPERSION OF NUTRIENTS FROM FOODSTUFF TREATED AS WASTE

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Summary

Foodstuff produced in agriculture is only partly consumed by humans. A report of European Commission (DG ENV) stated that about 11% of food designed for human consumption is wasted in retail and household and thrown away to dumping places or to sewerage. Other sources estimate food losses at up to 50% of trade mass. To produce food which is then wasted in 30%, adequate amount of water, energy and materials should be used. For this purpose, 3.2 million t N, 0.47 million t P and 1.1 million t K in fertilizers were applied in 27 member countries of the EU in the year 2010. Food wastes thrown to dumping places or sewerage decompose and release nitrogen and phosphorus that are dispersed in the environment.