Food Farce as World’s Resources Frittered Away!

A shocking new report from a leading environmental charity has revealed that almost half the world’s food is thrown away. Disturbingly, as much as two billion tonnes of food never makes it onto a dinner plate.

Report by Roger Westbury

This horrifying fact coupled with an ever-growing population gives a bleak picture of the future. “We are creating waste food mountains while people around the world are starving,” states charity spokesperson Marion Glee. “In a time of growing world poverty, famine and drought, food is precious. This is a catastrophe and the biggest disaster of the modern age,” says Glee. The United Nations predicts that the world will have a staggering three billion extra people to feed by the end of the century so can we really afford to be wasting all this food?

The United Nations report ‘Global Food: Waste not Want not’, published earlier this month, has found that an astonishing 30–50% of all food produced around the world doesn’t reach a plate and is wasted. But why? Who is to blame? Farmers and food producers? Supermarkets? Or us, the consumers? The answer is all of the above.

Farmers and food producers around the world often struggle with poor engineering and agricultural practices along with poor storage facilities, yet this is not the whole story. “It is all too easy to blame third world food producers,” argues Marion Glee, “but we must not allow them to become scapegoats for our Western greed and desire for perfection.” The shocking truth speaks for itself.

In an era of buy-one-get-one-free and unnecessarily strict sell-by dates, much of our weekly shopping is fed straight to our dustbins. “I can’t resist the offers,” says busy father-of-three Michael. “Last week I bought 20 yoghurts for the price of 10 and eight pizzas for the price of four. Who can eat eight pizzas? Half of them went in the bin.” But Western greed is not the only factor in this. In the UK alone, as much as 30% of vegetable crops are never harvested. Instead they are left to sit, rot and die in the soil. And why is this? Because of us and our desire for perfection. 30% of vegetable crops are not harvested due to their failure to meet retailers’ exacting standards. We want straight carrots, bananas that don’t bend too much and apples with no blemishes on. Apparently. But do we really?