

WHAT A WASTE OF FOOD!

Can you believe that the world wastes about 1.3 billion tons of food every year? Who wastes all this food?

Restaurants and hotels prepare too much food. Janet, a waitress in a restaurant in England, says: "Where I work, the portions are so large that customers can't finish what's on their plate. At closing time, nearly forty percent of the food is thrown away."

In rich countries, like England, Canada and the U.S.A., ads encourage people to buy "three for the price of two". People buy more food than they need and in the end, they throw away what they don't use.

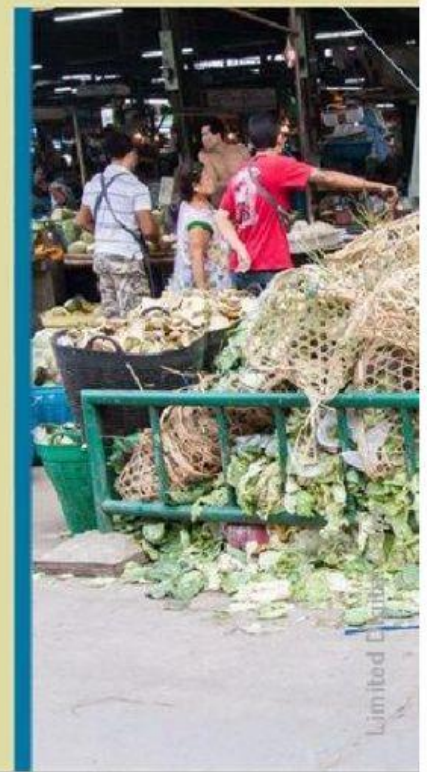
Another reason for the waste of food is that farmers leave about 30% (thirty percent) of their fruits and vegetables in the fields. "People don't buy fruit and vegetables that aren't the right color, size or shape," one farmer explains.

In poor countries, like India and Uganda, food gets thrown away for different reasons. According to one Ugandan farmer, most farmers don't have a suitable place to store the food that they grow so the food goes bad. Also, it takes a long time for food to get to the markets. "We don't have many modern roads," he explains. "And our trucks aren't refrigerated¹, so by the time the food arrives, people can't eat it anymore."

Experts believe that governments and organizations like the UN² must work together to change people's behavior about waste. We have to stop farmers, restaurants and shoppers from wasting so much food. According to expert Tim Fox: "This is food that could be used to feed the world's growing population."

¹refrigerated מְצוּדוּת בְּקִירור / مَرْؤَدَةٌ بِالتَّيْرِيد

²UN (United Nations) האו"ם (האומות המאוחדות) / الأمم المتحدة



E**Answer the questions.**

1. What does 1.3 billion refer to? (lines 1-2)
 - a. the number of people in the world
 - b. the amount of food wasted every year
 - c. the amount of food people buy every year
 - d. the amount of food people eat every year
2. Janet thinks restaurants (lines 3-5)
 - a. cost too much
 - b. give too much food
 - c. give too little food
 - d. have tasty food
3. How do ads get people to waste food? (lines 6-8)
4. Complete the sentence. (lines 9-11)
In rich countries, people buy only fruit and vegetables that
5. Name ONE problem Ugandan farmers have. (lines 12-18)
6. According to lines 19-23, how can governments and the UN cooperate?
7. What is the writer's opinion about the waste of food? (lines 19-23)