**Problem Definition: Excessive Food Waste in Households**

**Problem Statement:**

Despite the growing global population and increasing food insecurity, a significant amount of food is wasted at the household level. This contributes to environmental degradation, resource depletion, and economic inefficiency. Excessive food waste in households is a pressing issue that requires urgent attention.

**Scope:**

This problem definition focuses on food waste generated within domestic settings, such as homes and apartments. It does not include food waste from commercial sources like restaurants or grocery stores.

**Impact:**

* **Environmental:** Due to inefficient resource use, food waste contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and land degradation.
* **Economic:** Food waste represents a loss of resources and a financial burden on households, businesses, and communities.
* **Social:** Food insecurity is a significant global challenge, and reducing food waste can help address this issue by increasing food availability.

**Root Causes:**

* **Over purchasing:** Households often buy more food than they need, leading to excess leftovers.
* **Improper Storage:** Incorrect storage practices can accelerate food spoilage and waste.
* **Lack of Awareness:** Many individuals are unaware of food waste's environmental and economic consequences.
* **Cultural Factors:** Certain cultural norms and practices may contribute to food waste.

**Objectives:**

* Reduce food waste at the household level.
* Promote sustainable consumption habits.
* Increase awareness of the environmental and economic impacts of food waste.
* Develop strategies to prevent and manage food waste effectively.

**Key Questions:**

* What are the primary factors contributing to food waste in households?
* How can we encourage households to reduce food purchases and plan meals more efficiently?
* What are effective strategies for storing food to minimise spoilage?
* How can we raise awareness about the importance of reducing food waste?
* What policies and programs can be implemented to support food waste reduction efforts?