N. Doukas

O. Celebi

L. Colgrove

M. Werner

C. Zatek

T. Commings

D. Odihi

Automatic Food Expiration Notification System

There is a big problem with human capacity to create food but to then also use it wisely. The best foods tend to also be the ones that have to be consumed within an appropriate time frame, and this can prove challenging. If there were to be a smart-service system in place that could alert consumers of their groceries in their fridges beginning to spoil, part of the problem could be solved. People aim to keep their fridges full of vegetables that can be eaten raw or cooked in another dish but a little less than half the time people may wind up throwing away food because it can't be eaten anymore (at least not without gastrointestinal consequence). This isn't just a problem in any one person's fridge. The Economic Research Service estimates that 31% of the 430 billion pounds of food available for human consumption in the US in 2010 was wasted. That's a ridiculous figure when you consider how many people, how many children are going to sleep hungry or malnourished in America. It's inhumane and almost criminal to tout ourselves as the sole superpower while simultaneously allowing people to starve. The problem lies not in the production capabilities, but in our current modus of consumption and allocation.