



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 13-18 October 2014

POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Committee

The Committee:

- a) The Committee recognizes that food losses and waste (FLW) impact the ability of agricultural and food systems to ensure food security and nutrition for all for this generation and for future generations. The Committee acknowledges that FLW is a consequence of how food systems function technically, culturally and economically. It calls for all stakeholders – States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society – to recognize food security and proper nutrition as central objectives of sustainable food systems and to individually and collectively address FLW to improve their sustainability, food security and nutrition potential. Underlying causes of and solutions to FLW can be defined at various levels (defined in the HLPE report as “micro”, “meso” and “macro”). These three levels are useful in identifying the potential roles of various stakeholders.
- b) The Committee recommends that all concerned stakeholders undertake cost-effective, practicable and environmentally sensitive actions under the following four mutually supportive tracks, according to needs and priorities of stakeholders, in an inclusive, integrated and participatory manner.

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1. **Improve data collection and knowledge sharing on FLW**

All Stakeholders should

- 1a) Agree to promote a common understanding and definition of FLW at all stages of the food chain.
- 1b) Improve the collection, transparency and sharing of data, experiences, and good practices relating to FLW at all stages of food chain.

FAO should

- 1c) Consider developing common protocols and methodologies and improve coherence amongst existing ones, for measuring FLW and analyze the underlying causes. This should be done through an inclusive and participatory process, taking into account product, country, and stakeholder specificities and initiatives, and building upon the experiences of FAO, IFAD, WFP and other organizations as appropriate.
- 1d) Encourage all stakeholders to collect and share data on FLW at all stages of the food chain in a coherent and transparent manner.

2. **Develop effective strategies to reduce FLW**

States should

- 2a) Convene an inclusive process, as appropriate, to enable stakeholders to identify causes of FLW, potential solutions, key actors, and priorities for individual and collective action. This requires identifying the stakeholders who would need to be engaged in the identification and implementation of solutions, including at subnational and local levels and along the food chain, costs implications and who will bear them, as well as potential benefits and beneficiaries. It also requires identifying constraints and challenges and designing a plan of action to address them.

FAO should

- 2b) Support these national processes in collaboration with partners by promoting methodological approaches adapted to country specificities.

3. **Take effective steps to reduce FLW**

Based on the priorities identified and the plan of action, States and, as appropriate, subnational and local authorities, should create an enabling environment for the reduction of FLW through policies, investments and incentives, including by encouraging sustainable patterns of consumption and production. This includes:

- 3a) promoting investment and innovations to reduce FLW in the food and non-food sectors (energy, infrastructure etc.),
- 3b) Invest in infrastructure and other public goods and services to reduce FLW and promote sustainable food systems (e.g. storage and processing facilities, reliable energy supply, transport, appropriate technologies) and improved access by food producers and consumers to markets.
- 3c) Implement an appropriate policy and regulatory framework, which creates incentives to the private sector and to consumers to take steps towards reducing FLW for instance by designing and implementing appropriate market policy instruments. ...
- 3d) Support smallholders and their organizations to take advantage of economies of scale so that they can get better access to financial, logistics (e.g. processing, packaging, and transport) and other services which are important to reduce FLW.

3e) Assess and improve, where relevant, public food procurement management and distribution policies and practices to minimize FLW while ensuring food safety, safeguarding the environment, improving economic efficiency and pursuing social benefits.

3f) Further explore the contribution of short supply chains and local markets in the effort to reduce FLW along the whole food supply chain, especially for perishable products.

States and other stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector and civil society should:

3g) Carry out training and capacity building to promote the use of appropriate practices and technologies.

3h) Promote innovation, the exchange of good practices, knowledge and technology transfers on voluntary, mutually agreed terms in order to reduce FLW

3i) Enable and support coordination of stakeholders to improve governance along the food chain and organize collective understanding and action to reduce FLW.

3j) Improve the dissemination of accurate information and advice to consumers to minimize FLW.

3k) Encourage engagement of all actors in public campaigns, education of youth and sensitization of consumers on the importance and modalities of reducing FLW.

3l) Improve communication and coordination including through the understanding and recognition of the impact of actions throughout the food chain.

The private sector should

3m) Take a leading role in preventing and reducing FLW through research, development, technological innovations and sector-led assessments of FLW, and in collective actions and initiatives.

3n) Collect and make available data on FLW and on efforts to reduce them, change practices to contribute towards reducing FLW in business partners and households, find ways to identify and share the costs and benefits of actions to reduce FLW. These actions should be integrated in voluntary corporate responsibility policies.

3o) Assess and improve rules and practices related to product standards used to accept or reject farmer produce (e.g. size and shape of foods as well as cosmetic standards for fruit, vegetables and livestock products). This can be done for example by introducing differentiated pricing to prevent economic and nutrition value losses.

States and national and International research and development organizations should

3p) Increase investment in research, technological and social innovation at post-harvest, transport, storage, processing and consumption stages for effective reduction of FLW as well as for adding value to agricultural products in the whole food value chain, for example through the extension of shelf life while protecting nutritional value.

3q) Develop adequate extension services and training, especially focused on small transport, transformation, packaging and distribution enterprises.

3r) Carry out research in FLW in order to develop a systemic analysis framework or methodology, including several uses such as food, feed, industrial uses, etc. to quantify FLW with a view to reducing it.

4. Improve coordination of policies, strategies, and actions to reduce FLW

Based on the priorities identified, States, and as appropriate, subnational and local authorities, should

4a) Integrate FLW concerns and solutions, and a food chain approach, in agricultural and food policies and development programs, as well as in other policies which could impact FLW (e.g. sustainable food consumption, dietary guidelines, food safety, energy, and waste).

4b) Set targets and introduce an enabling environment through economic policies and incentives to reduce FLW, based on a “food use-not-waste” hierarchy (i.e. prevention, redistribution of food to people, reallocation of food for animal feed where safe to do so, recycle for energy, recover for compost, and ultimately, if no other solution is available, disposal in landfills).

4c) Support efforts for simplification, coherence, clarification and harmonization of the meaning and use of food dates labelling, while ensuring food safety, at national as well as international level taking into account the principles and the ongoing work of the Codex Alimentarius.

4d) Support coordination of efforts through multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the global “Save Food” initiative.

4e) Recognize the roles and initiatives of local authorities to reduce FLW through ways such as public procurement, waste collection, and rural/urban planning.

CFS should

4f) Consider convening an inclusive meeting to share successful experiences, challenges faced and lessons learned from FLW initiatives.

4g) Encourage FAO, IFAD, WFP to take the lead in the development, in partnership with other relevant Organizations, of guidelines to assist governments in assessing their food systems with a view to reduce FLW.

4h) Raise awareness of the importance of reducing FLW and disseminate the HLPE report on “Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems” and the present CFS recommendations to international organizations and bodies, including as part of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge and towards the preparation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and beyond.