

# MACS-G20 Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses & Waste

Stefan Lange

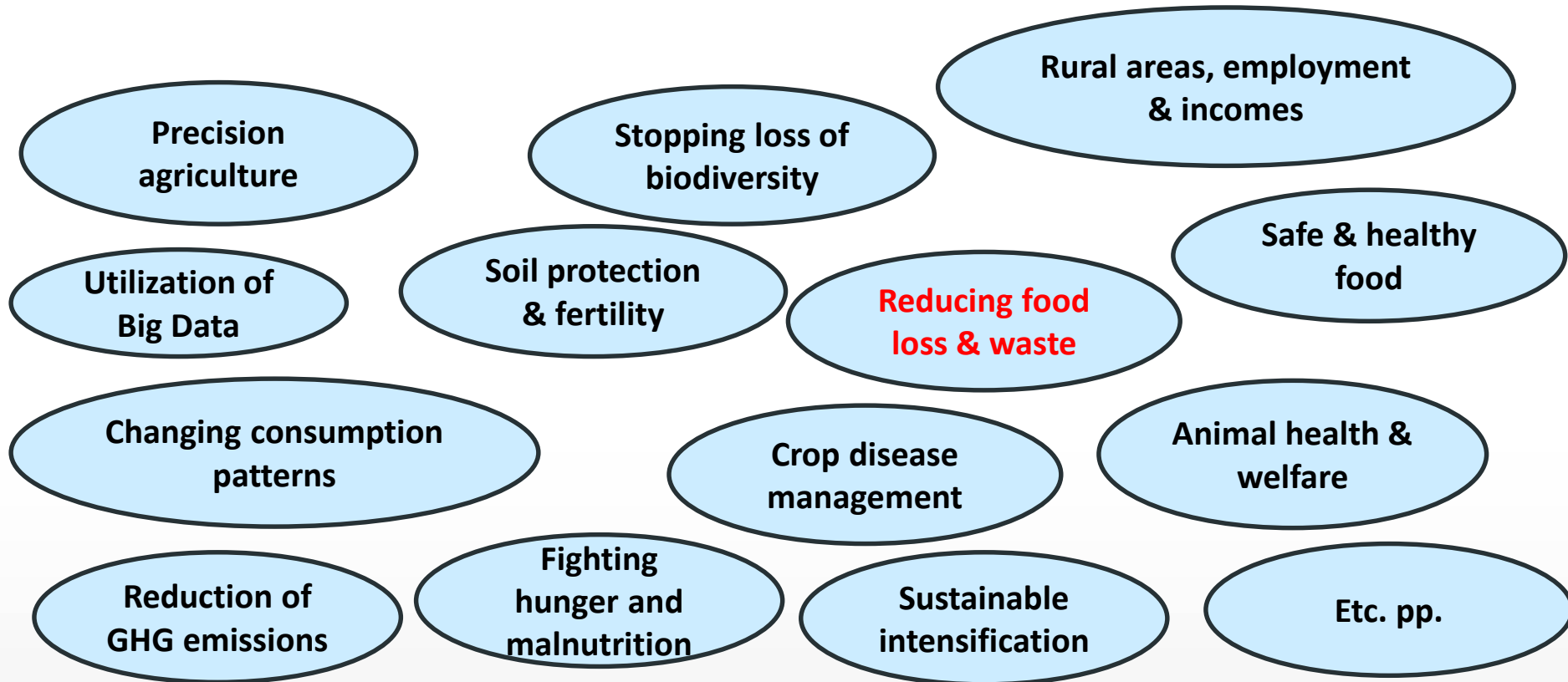
Thünen Institute – Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany

20 -23 noviembre del 2018 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

4<sup>th</sup> Regional Dialogue on  
Food Loss and Waste  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018



# Globally we are confronted with enormous tasks:



**Most of these challenges cannot be solved by a single country.  
So „more of the same“ at national level is not an option.**

# Example Germany:

## Insufficient relation between efforts and real progress

### Investment efforts in the past:

- approx. 5.300 agricultural scientists at universities, Federal Research Institutes, universities of Applied Sciences etc.
- sufficient amount of research funding budgets

### Output:

- certainly progress in several parts of agricultural & food sector
- huge number of Ph.D.s, publications, but research too often focused on specific subquestions and fractional economic, technological and physiological optimization

### At the same time important questions are furthermore unsolved:

- Loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, rural depopulation, expanding monocropping, harvest stagnation in organic farming, high level of food losses and food waste, decline of cultivated plant species and varieties, etc.

# Conclusions and lessons learnt (not only in Germany):

1. Specifying the right priorities does not automatically lead to solutions for most pressing challenges.
2. High investments in agricultural research create growth of academic knowledge but do not automatically result in real societal progress.



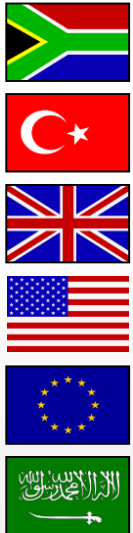
**Scientific „bits and pieces“ usually do not add up to coherent, sustainable solutions!**

**Transnational problems cannot be tackled by national efforts!**

# In the light of this situation: Foundation of MACS-G20

- ➔ **MACS-G20 = Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States**
- ➔ **established in 2011 by G20 Agricultural Ministers as a science-policy interface**
- ➔ **annual MACS-G20 meetings hosted by particular G20 presidency**
- ➔ **Tasks:**
  - **creating transparency of national agricultural research systems and funding structures in G20 states**
  - **bringing together national resources and capabilities**
  - **launch joint initiatives and formats to work on problems of global relevance**

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- (a) MACS Members = Agricultural Chief Scientists of the G20 States  
**with voting power**
- (b) MACS Guests = multinational institutions and associations  
**in consultative capacity**





# MACS-G20 –previous meetings



**2012 – Guadalajara, Mexico**



**2013 – Moscow, Russia**



**2014 – Brisbane, Australia**



**2015 – Izmir, Turkey**



**2016 – Xi'an, China**



**2017 – Potsdam, Germany**



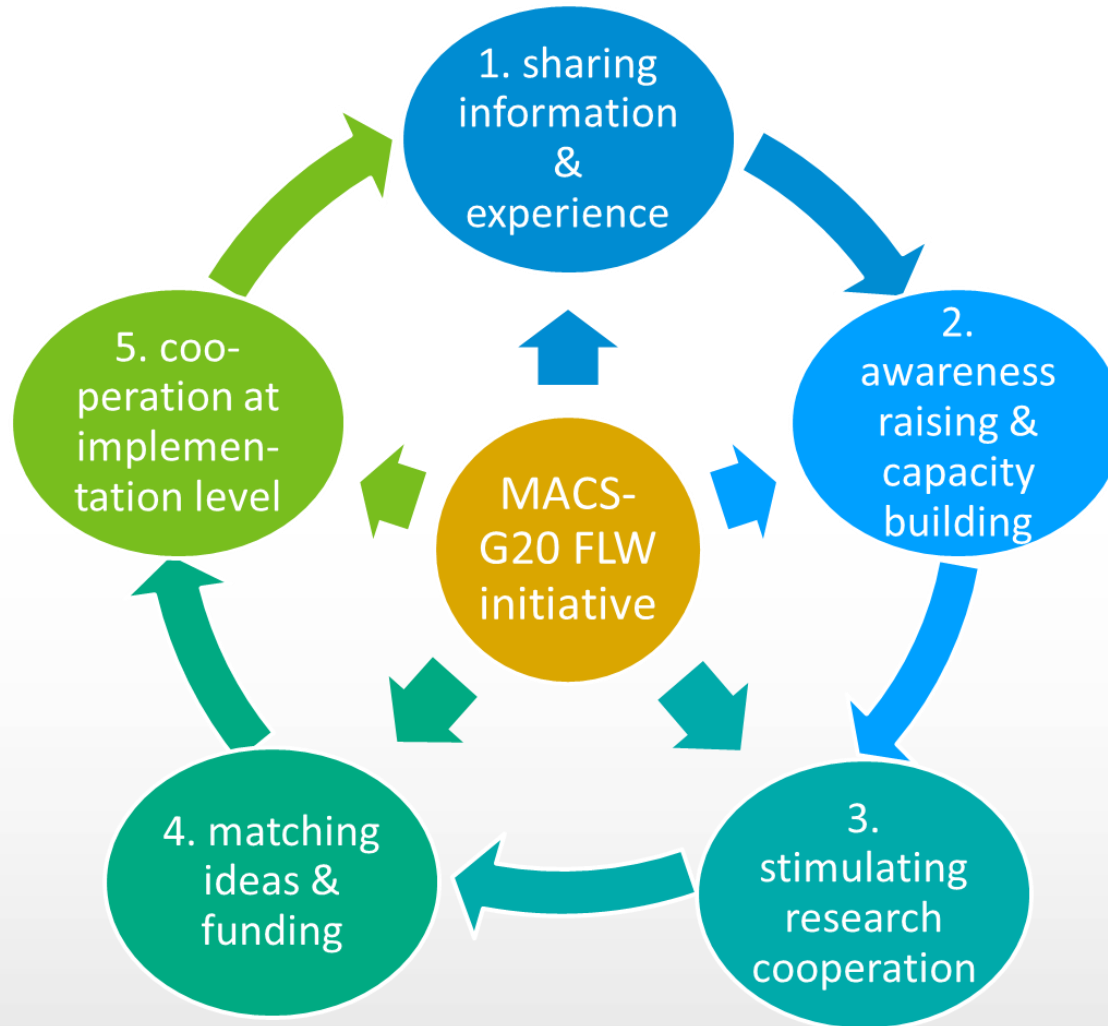
**2018 – San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina**

# MACS Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses & Waste

- Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses and Waste was raised at the MACS meeting in Izmir (Turkey) in 2015
- aim of the Initiative is to concentrate the research and political consulting capacities of members in order to mobilize a noticeable reduction of food losses and waste on a global scale
- Germany introduced Felicitas Schneider as coordinator for activities derived from the MACS Initiative for four years



# MACS Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses & Waste: Structure of activities



1. sharing  
information  
&  
experience

# Global Food Loss & Waste research Platform

launched in spring 2016 ([www.global-flw-research.org](http://www.global-flw-research.org))

https://www.global-flw-research.org/aktuelles/

Meistbesucht Erste Schritte Neuer Tab Aktuelle Nachrichten New working papers a...

## FOOD LOSSES & FOOD WASTE

A global platform for experts and research

An initiative of the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (MACS-G20) - in 2017 under presidency of the Federal Republic of Germany

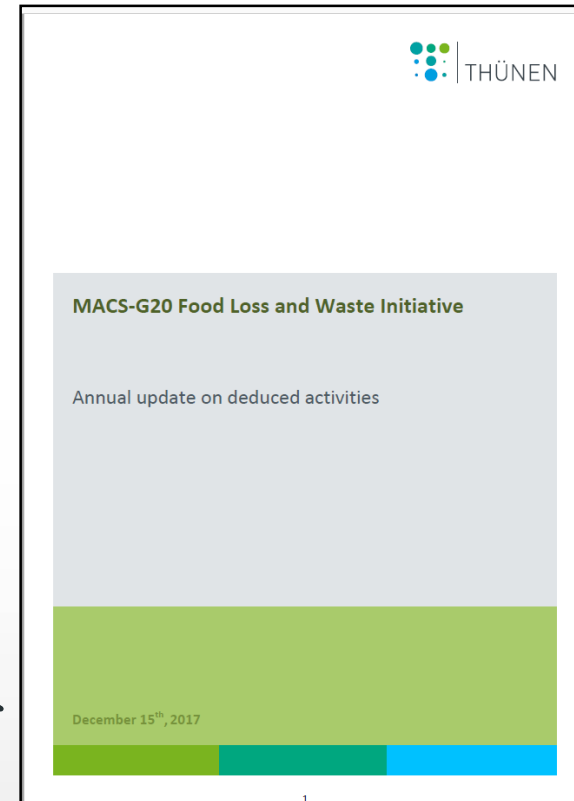
FIND EXPERTS FIND PROJECTS EXPERT & PROJECT ENTRY IMPRINT

**until November 2018:**

- 108 researcher from 20 countries!
- 87 research projects and implementation initiatives!

→ please use and promote the platform!

- annual report on deduced FLW activities
  - 1<sup>st</sup> report sent out mid of December 2017
  - available at <https://www.macs-g20.org/about-macs/macs-activities/macs-collaboration-initiative-on-food-losses-food-waste/>
- irregular newsletter on demand



- started in June 2018, lasts for one year
- focus on plant products (e.g. cereals, olives, fruit, vegetables)
- tasks, e.g.:
  - identify main factors causing loss of plant products
  - identify existing on-farm practices that limit losses
  - identify technologies and marketing to create value for non-sellable products
  - define strategies to reduce loss of plant products
  - explore options offered by digital technologies
- Felicitas was selected as expert for EIP AGRI focus group

# International Food Awareness Day

- Argentina raised proposal to encourage FAO to establish an “International FLW Prevention Day”
- could be a very positive way to celebrate value of food
- September 29<sup>th</sup> is suggested
  - date of First Regional Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - day is available in the UN calendar
  - near to World Food Day

## Series of FLW related regional workshops

- **Our general idea:** to expand FLW efforts beyond G20 borders
- **Our tool:** Thünen Institute organizes workshops together with G20 hosts in their respective country – target group: stakeholder in surrounded countries
- **Our objective:** G20 States shouldn't improve only their own agricultural and food systems; in fact they are responsible for impact everywhere by involving stakeholders from Non-G20 States!



## Series of FLW related regional workshops

### first workshop in June 2017 in Berlin, Germany:

- Participants: 41 national experts and coordinators from FLW related international platforms, projects and foundations from 17 countries (among them 13 G20-States), FAO, OECD and EU-Commission



- Focus on stocktaking and sharing international experiences around FLW challenges and policies
- developing road map for further collaborative activities on voluntary basis

## Series of FLW related regional workshops

- **2<sup>nd</sup> workshop** today and tomorrow in Buenos Aires - target group: Latin American and Caribbean countries
- **3<sup>rd</sup> workshop** is scheduled for 2019 in Japan (due to Japan's G20 presidency in 2019)
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**We want to thank FAO Latin America and The Caribbean, INTA, FAO Argentina, Secretary of Agro-Industry for joint preparation of the workshop in Buenos Aires!**

# Outlook

## How you can participate and contribute:

- Please do not hesitate to contact Felicitas and Stefan in case of questions, ideas, suggestions regarding FLW issues!
- Please use and spread information related to Global Food Loss and Waste research Platform [www.global-flw-research.org](http://www.global-flw-research.org)!
- You are welcome to sign in the FLW mailing list!

## Contact details:

Felicitas Schneider: [felicitas.schneider@thuenen.de](mailto:felicitas.schneider@thuenen.de) phone +49 531 5965335

Stefan Lange: [stefan.lange@thuenen.de](mailto:stefan.lange@thuenen.de) phone +49 531 5961008

[www.thuenen.de](http://www.thuenen.de)

Muchas  
gracias!

