



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

## Food Loss & Food Waste Reduction & Recovery Initiative



FORUM ON POST-HARVEST LOSS OF  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
Faculty of Agriculture and FAREI  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

CONFERENCE on  
Food Loss & Food Waste Reduction & Recovery  
Faculty of Agriculture *in collaboration with*  
the Mauritius Research Council  
27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN  
February 2018 - March 2019

EXPERT WORKING SESSION  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

<http://sites.uom.ac.mu/foodloss>





**FOOD LOSS AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION AND  
RECOVERY INITIATIVE**

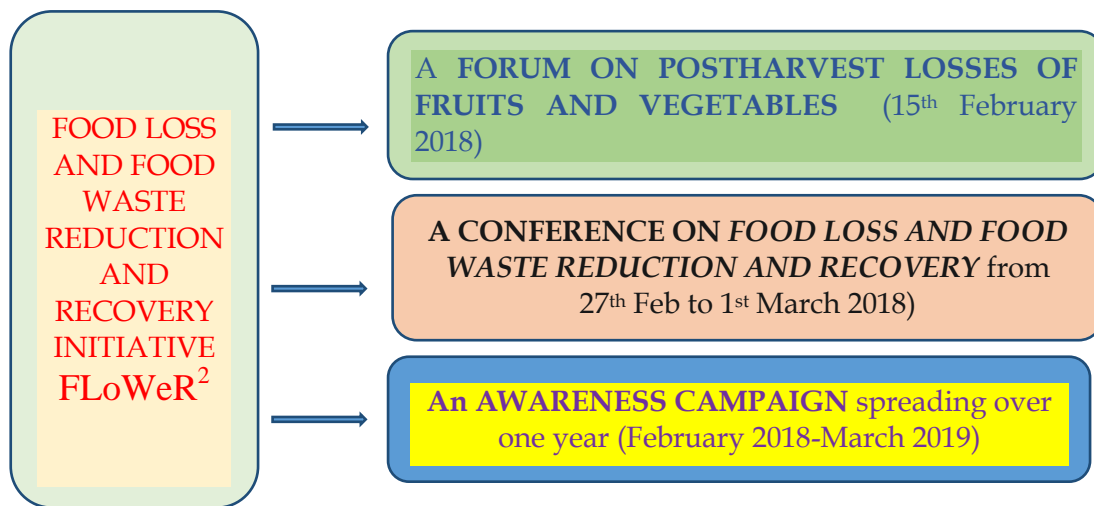
**THE FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> INITIATIVE 2018-2019**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS**

## INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Agriculture (FoA) of the University of Mauritius is leading the “Food Loss and Waste Reduction and Recovery” Initiative (hereafter referred to as FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> Initiative) scheduled over one year (February 2018 to March 2019) with the aim of creating national awareness on food loss and food waste reduction and recovery among all stakeholders along the agri-food value chain. This initiative is in line with the Target 12.3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is “*halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains*” by 2030.

The FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> Initiative englobes three major activities as shown in Figure 1:



**Figure 1: Activities identified under the FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> Initiative**

**1 The FORUM ON POSTHARVEST LOSSES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** was organised by the Faculty of Agriculture in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the University of Mauritius. The resource person was Mr Shubham Chandra from Chandra Associates from USA. He gave a talk on *Intelligent Polymer Membrane Technology for Shelf Life Extension of Fruits and Vegetables*. Participants had the opportunity to have a look at the bag samples. Mrs Soodha Munbodh, Research/ Senior Research Scientist from FAREI, also gave a presentation on *Status of Post Harvest Losses in Mauritius*. Forty four participants from various sectors of the food chain participated in the forum (Annex 1) and interactive discussions focused on causes of postharvest losses and measures to be taken for postharvest reduction.

**2 The CONFERENCE ON FOOD LOSS AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION AND RECOVERY** was held from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 . The chief guest for the opening ceremony scheduled on the 27<sup>th</sup> February was the Honourable Mahen Kumar Seeruttun, Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security (MAIFS). The Initiative was officially launched by the Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, Dr Jean Claude Autrey. The keynote speaker Dr.

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Mireille Totobesola-Barbier, Project Manager of the FAO/ IFAD/ WFP joint ‘Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food deficit areas’ project, addressed the audience on ***The global effort on food loss and waste reduction*** . This conference also saw the participation of Mr Vijay Yadav Tokala, Member of the Board of Directors of the Postharvest Education Foundation (PEF), USA; Professor Elna Buys, Head of the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences, University of Pretoria, and eight local speakers. During the first two days, various facets of food loss and food waste were uncovered such as current international initiatives, opportunities for capacity building, local and international research projects, and food loss and waste related activities in Mauritius. Eighty four participants (Appendix 2) from all the sectors of the agri-food value chain participated and shared their concern, their involvement in food reduction and recovery and their expectations.

The last day of the conference was the EXPERT WORKING SESSION which was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Thirty eight participants (Appendix 3) from the different sectors of the agri-food value chain brainstormed on different aspects: (i) sources of food loss and waste at the level of all actors in the agri-food value chain in Mauritius, (ii) activities/actions required to reduce food loss and waste at the level of all the actors in the agri-food value chain in Mauritius and (iii) major projects to reduce food loss and waste at level of all actors in the agri-food value chain in Mauritius.

A framework was thus devised in collaboration with the participants. The four pillars for this framework were identified as: Research, Capacity Building, Sensitization/Awareness creation and Policy/Advocacy (Figure 2).



Figure 2: The four pillars of the FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> Initiative framework

2.1: Description of proposed activities under each pillar

Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 summarise the various activities that are expected to be organized during the year.

**Table 1: Awareness/Sensitisation**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible organization</b>
Posters to be developed under the FLoWeR <sup>2</sup> initiative on Food Loss and Food waste for different target groups	March-July 2018	FoA/UoM
Talks in schools	August-September 2018	FoA/UoM
TV/Radio campaign	April 2018-March 2019	FoA/UoM in collaboration with MAIFS
Sensitisation with consumers in food courts / retail outlets through pamphlets /posters-	July 2018, November-December 2018	FoA/UoM
Campaigns with different Ministries on sustainable production and consumption	July 2018, November-December 2018	FoA in collaboration with different Ministries
Encourage stakeholders to develop/adopt at least one poster and to use in their organisation	April-March 2019	Different sectors of the Agri-food chain and the community

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**Table 2: Research**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible organization</b>
Determination of food Loss along the food chain (Lead: FAREI; funding to be sourced from Ministry of Agroindustry and food Security)	Submission of research proposal in July 2018	FAREI
Assessment of Food Waste in retail and hospitality sectors	Submission of research proposal in March 2018 (Potential Funding Body- UoM)	FoA/UoM
Development of simple, innovative technologies to reduce food loss and food waste	Submission of research proposals in July 2018 (Potential Funding Bodies- MRC, UoM, Tertiary Education Commission)	Any interested stakeholders
Development of e-platform for sharing of information among waste producers and food waste users	March-July 2018	FoA in collaboration with the Mauritius Research Council (MRC)

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**Table 3: Capacity Building**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible organization</b>
Training /workshops for different target groups E.g Hospitality sector in collaboration with MITD and Institut Escoffier	June 2018-September 2018	FoA/Stakeholders in the hospitality sector
Organisation of paid workshop with Expert on waste reduction and recovery in the hospitality sector	June 2018-December 2018	FoA/Institut Escoffier/ Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l'île Maurice (AHRIM)
Training of trainers	June-September 2018	FoA/Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare Ministry of Education and Human Resources
Promotion of free e-learning on postharvest losses from PEF and FAO targeting University students and stakeholders	May 2018	FoA/UOM
Revamping of curriculum at the Faculty of Agriculture, UoM. Topics on Food waste and Food loss reduction and recovery can be included in curriculum at all levels.  For example, in all programmes in Agriculture and Food Science and Technology of the Faculty of Agriculture	September to November 2018 during new programme development	FoA/UOM
Revamping of primary and secondary school curriculum	Request to be the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in May 2018	FoA/ Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE)

**Table 4: Policy/Advocacy**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible organisation</b>
Submission of a policy brief on requirements of actors in the agri-food value chain (e.g food storage equipment; better packaging materials)	April 2018	FoA/UoM
Preparation of guidelines on food recovery and sharing	December 2018	FoA/Other stakeholders
Proposal for revision of legislation on date marking	May-June 2018	FOA /Other stakeholders

**Policy paper to be sent to the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security**

It has been recommended to draft and submit a policy in favour of obtaining subsidies on food storage equipment and better packaging materials

**Preparation of Guidelines on Food Recovery and Sharing**

While a proper data collection in Mauritius is desirable to provide further information, there is enough global scientific evidence as well empirical within the country to justify urgent actions to facilitate the food sharing and food donation in the island. It is recommended that Government establishes a centralized coordinating structure which will harmonize all existing initiatives under same guidelines ensuring that legal framework and food safety requirements are respected in all cases. Government can provide an enabling environment for the food sharing initiative to operate within a proper legal framework. The setting up of a proper legal framework is a paramount and will put Mauritius as the first African country tackling officially food waste at Governmental level setting the example for many other countries and benefiting from prestigious visibility at global level.

**Proposal for revision of legislation on date marking**

The Faculty of Agriculture can organise meetings /forum with Ministry Of Health and Quality of Life, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representatives of the retail industry and consumers organisations to discuss about the negative impact of the current legislation on date marking and food waste. Thereafter, proposals can be made on improving the date marking requirements on food labels.



**3** The **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN** will last over one year (February 2018-March 2019), through sensitisation via media, quiz and poster competitions for school children, as well as short tailor-made workshops for different target audience on waste recovery and reduction targeting producers, consumers, school children, food industries, catering and hospitality sectors among others. The activities include what have been proposed under sensitization/awareness creation but will not necessarily be restricted to these.

## **WAY FORWARD**

The Faculty of Agriculture will seek the collaboration of the different stakeholders for the various tasks. A workshop will be organised in March 2019 to take stock of all the ongoing and completed activities as part of the FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> Initiative and discuss on the way forward.

The activities planned over one year are given in the Gantt Chart (Appendix 4). Implementation of the activities will require the collaboration of all stakeholder and funding. The Faculty of Agriculture is very keen to collaborate with our stakeholders. We thus invite the Community at large to share their ideas and send their suggestions.

## **COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE EVENT**

- A dedicated website (<http://sites.uom.ac.mu/foodloss/>) has been developed to inform about the Initiative and the activities that are being organized. This website has been operational since February 2018 and will be regularly updated through March. All the documents related to the Forum and the conference have been posted. A useful list of resources has been posted on the page; additional relevant documents will added in due course.
- A facebook account has been created for exchange of information.  
<https://m.facebook.com/mauritiusfoodlosswasteinitiatives/>
- The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (**MBC**) provided a good coverage of the conference. A one hour programme on Food loss and Food waste is being prepared by the MBC to be projected as a *dossier* in April 2018. There has been one press article regarding the conference.
- Information about the Initiative has been posted on the website of the *Postharvest Education Foundation, USA*.
- Information on the FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> initiative will be posted on the *FAO Global Community of Practice on food loss reduction platform*.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The contribution of our valued sponsors towards the FLoWeR<sup>2</sup> initiative is duly acknowledged.

- Chandra Associates, USA
- CIEL Limited
- Domaine de Labourdonnais
- Ducray Lenoir
- Eclasia Group
- FAREI
- Les Moulins de La Concorde

- Maurilait Production Ltee
- Mauritian Academy of Science and Technology
- Mauritius Research Council
- Postharvest Education Foundation, USA
- Tertiary Education Commission
- VegMe

This Initiative also benefitted from the support of the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

### **Organising Committee**

Associate Professor Daya Goburdhun – Chairperson  
Associate Professor Arvind Ruggoo  
Dr Brinda Ramasawmy  
Mr Shane Hardowar  
Dr Huda Neetoo  
Mrs Amreeta Nivault  
Mr Vinay Baungally  
Mrs Nazmine Jeetoo

D. Goburdhun

26<sup>th</sup> March 2018