

“REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSSES FOOD WASTE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

CALL FOR EXPERTS



**América latina
y el Caribe**

Presentation

Latin America and the Caribbean is a major worldwide food producer. Year after year, official figures show a permanent growth in production and food availability at regional level, allowing export of large surpluses to the rest of the world. In this sense, the production and availability of food in Latin America and the Caribbean is high enough to adequately feed all its inhabitants and still export a significant percentage to the rest of the world.

In spite of the above, a significant quantity of the food produced is lost at different stages of the food chain. According to World Bank data¹ between a quarter/third of food produced annually for human consumption worldwide, is lost or wasted. Additionally more than half of these food losses or waste are cereals, and more than one third of them are lost in the consumption stage.

FAO estimates that 6% of global food losses occur in Latin America and the Caribbean. Each year the Region losses or food waste reaches approximately 15% of its food supplies.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has recognized the importance to carry out coordinated actions in order to reduce food losses and waste as a strategic framework to improve food security and nutrition. In recent years, FAO has committed to support the countries in reducing losses at national level through technical cooperation projects and capacity building.

In line with FAO commitment, the XXXIIIrd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean approved three Regional Initiatives, where the importance of establishing alliances is highlighted to support countries facing major challenges related to food security, rural development and achievement of more efficient and inclusive food systems, where the reduction of food losses and waste (FLW) is a cross-cutting theme.

Following these recommendations and understanding the importance of creating opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience on the issue, as well as its impact on food security, the

¹ Banco Mundial. 2014. Food Price Watch. Year 4, Issue 16, February 2014.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/food-price-watch-february-2014>

FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is part of the Global SAVE FOOD Initiative, being the focal point for FLW in the Region, in coordination with its Sub Regional offices in Central America and the Caribbean.

REGIONAL EXPERT CONSULTATION (REC)

Under the framework of Latin America and Caribbean SAVE FOOD Initiative, a Regional Expert Consultation is being organized, looking for the development of a coordinated strategy for reducing food losses and waste and its incorporation in food security and nutrition policies as well as strengthening food system in the Region.

REC is a process developed in four stages:

- FIRST STAGE: build an expert network in food losses and waste at a regional level, organized through FAO Representations in LAC countries, national governments, civil society, and academy.
- SECOND STAGE: identification of national experiences in measuring, sensibilization and reduction of food losses and waste in public and private sectors, pursuing to feed a regional database and Technical Network.
- THIRD STAGE: conduct a regional meeting at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago, Chile, where national experts and national experiences will meet to share experiences and lessons and jointly develop a work plan and a regional strategy for reducing food losses and waste.
- FOURTH STAGE: organization of the Regional Consultation, approach challenges and opportunities, positions for the development of the Regional Technical Expert Network in FLW and tracking items for future meetings.

Purpose of this call

Develop the first stage of REC, establishing the Latin American expert network in food losses and waste, which may contribute from their experience to the quantification and reduction of this problem in the Region.

¿To whom is it addressed?

This call seeks to convene technicians, researchers and policy makers of governments in the Region, as well as members of civil society, academy, food industry, and stakeholders involved in the food system, working in food losses and waste (measurement, analysis, policies) and are interested in joining to build strategic guidelines for reduction at national and regional levels. Experts will be invited to actively participate in this consultation, which will be the first of this kind in LAC, and together advance in solutions to this problem.

Are you an expert in Food Losses and waste?

If you want to be part of this Network and share knowledge and experiences with other countries in the Region, please send your CV, links to publications and statement of interest to:

RLC-SAVE-FOOD@fao.org