

# Guidelines for action on food loss and waste reduction in the Near East and North Africa

## Brief for policymakers

**Food loss and waste (FLW) reflects the inefficiency and unsustainability of agrifood systems, with negative impacts on the economy, food security and nutrition, and the environment.** In the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, almost 15 percent of the food produced is lost from post-harvest until retail stage, and between 75 and 163 kilograms per capita are wasted at household levels each year. Reducing FLW across the agrifood system can generate employment, incomes, healthier diets, and resilience to climate risks and socioeconomic shocks – it is an important **entry-point for transitioning to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems’ and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

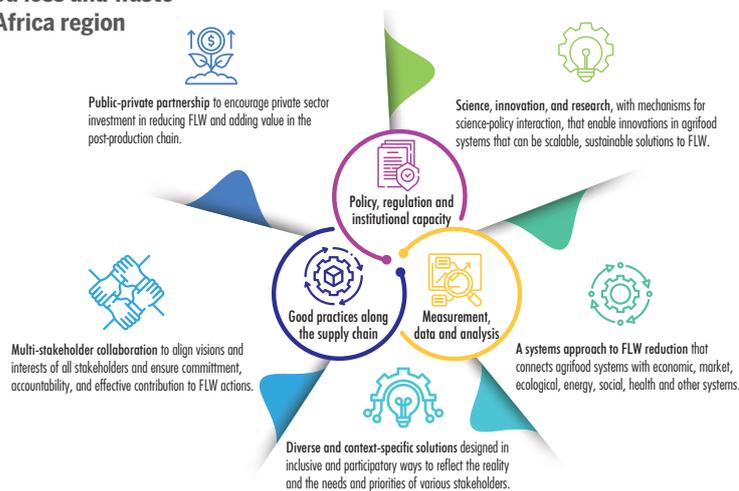
Many NENA countries have taken steps towards identifying the scale and impacts of FLW, but more concerted effort is needed to develop a common vision and effective policies to tackle the issue. FAO member countries requested the [Voluntary Code of Conduct](#)

for [Food Loss and Waste Reduction \(CoC\)](#) to guide these efforts.

The *Guidelines for action on food loss and waste reduction in the Near East and North Africa* help NENA countries to implement the CoC, providing a basis for strategies and action plans, policies, and legislation aligned with national agrifood system objectives and policy frameworks. They offer a **framework of action** tailored to the NENA region with five enablers and three action areas as a holistic and integrated approach to developing policies leading to FLW reduction.

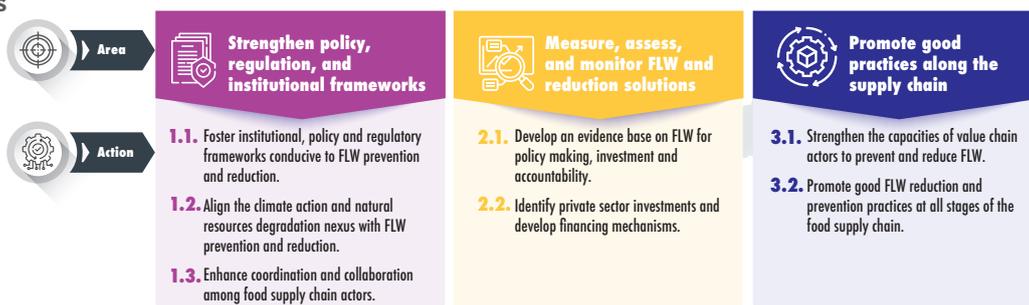
Led by governments, the framework enables and ensures a participatory and multi-stakeholder process that maximizes the ownership and engagement of actors across all sectors and disciplines relevant to FLW at national and subnational levels. A **high-level coordination mechanism** takes charge of developing and implementing the national FLW strategy and action plan and ensuring policy coherence and accountability.

Figure 1: A framework of action for food loss and waste reduction in the Near East and North Africa region



Source: Authors’ own elaboration.

Figure 2: Action areas



Source: Authors’ own elaboration.

Link to full document:

[www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc7330en](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc7330en)

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