Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainable Food Systems

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Outline

1) Food Losses and Waste and Sustainable food systems: definition, extent and impacts

2) Causes and drivers of Food losses and waste

3) Options to reduce Food Losses and waste

4) Enabling the change: a way forward to food losses and waste reduction strategies
Definition of FLW
Distribution of FLW along the food chain in the different world regions

Near East, North Africa and central Asia

(FAO, 2011)
A **Sustainable Food System** (SFS) is a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised.
## Potential impacts of FLW on food security and nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability</strong></td>
<td>• (−) Less food available at local but also global level</td>
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</table>
| **Access** | • (−) Raising prices of food  
• (−) Economic losses for food chain actors (lower wages) |
| **Utilization** | • (−) loss of nutrients  
• (=) need to discard unsafe food                               |
| **Stability** | • (+) Ensure a buffering function  
• (−) Unsustainable use of natural resources                      |
# Categories of solutions to reduce FLW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Micro</th>
<th>Meso</th>
<th>Macro</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td>Private investments</td>
<td>• Collective private investments</td>
<td>• Support to financial mechanisms</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Public investments</td>
<td>• Public investments</td>
<td>• Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Good practices</td>
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<td>Good practices</td>
<td>• Capacity building</td>
<td>• Support to capacity building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral change</td>
<td>Behavioral change in businesses and consumers</td>
<td>• Corporate social responsibility</td>
<td>• Community and local engagement</td>
<td>• Raising awareness</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Community and local engagement</td>
<td>• Raising awareness</td>
<td>• Multistakeholder initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination inside food chains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Food chain approach</td>
<td>• Enabling environment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Relationships with other actors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valorization of food and byproducts</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Valorization of surplus foods and byproducts</td>
<td>• Hierarchy of uses</td>
<td>• Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination of policies and actions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Policies</td>
<td>• Multistakeholder Initiatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Give value to surplus “saved” food

Find alternative ways to give economic and use value to food that has lost part - but not all - of its qualities

Care to food safety, impact on sector and prices

Food banks
Any FLW reduction action entails costs and benefits. Some actors win, other lose.

Importance to know economic impacts on different actors to design proper incentives or corrective measures.

Key questions:
- Reducing FLW, down to which level?
- Impact of FLW reduction actions on food prices?
Integrate FLW concerns in different policies and build FLW reduction policies

1) In Waste policies
2) In Food policies
   Food labelling rules
   Food safety rules
   Food standards rules
   Food redistribution policies
   Food subsidies
3) Build specific FLW policies
   FLW reduction targets
   Assisting the post harvest sector
   Economic instruments
   Communication, awareness raising, dialogue platforms

As an element of Sustainable production and consumption policies
Multi-actor initiatives

Examples at country level

- ForMat (Norway)
- Sustainable Food Alliance (the Netherlands)
- “More food Less waste” (Spain)
- National pact against food waste (France)
- Food Waste Challenge (USA)
- Courtauld Commitment (UK)
- ...

Numerous campaigns against food waste (China, Rep. of Korea, Japan, UK, the Netherlands, Denmark..)

International level

- Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN Secretary-General
- Save Food, a global initiative on FLW reduction
The way forward to food losses and waste reduction strategies

1) Information and data

2) Diagnosis and developing strategies

3) Action, individually and collectively

4) Coordinate policies to reduce FLW for SFS and FSN
Develop effective strategies to reduce FLW

States to convene a process to identify hotspots, causes, solutions and levels of intervention.
- who does what?
- who bears the costs?
- identifying constraints and means to address them

Plan of action including all stakeholders.

>> FAO to support these national inclusive processes with adapted methodological guidance
Improve coordination of policies and strategies

Integrate FLW concerns and solutions in agricultural and food policies and development

Policy coherence and a food chain approach across other policies and sectors (e.g. sustainable food consumption, dietary guidelines, food safety, energy, and waste).

Set targets using the “Food use-not-waste” hierarchy

Coherence and clarity on food dates labelling (e.g. Codex Alimentarius).

Coordination of all efforts (e.g. Global “Save Food” Initiative)
Importance of multistakeholder action

**Improve governance** along food chains and organize collective understanding and action to reduce FLW

**Recognize the plurality** of food systems

Engagement of **all actors including consumers**

**Public campaigns, education** of youth and children

**Particular role of the Private sector**
Recommendations to CFS

Convene an inclusive meeting to **share successful experiences**, challenges faced and lessons learned from FLW initiatives.

Develop guidelines to **assist governments** in an assessment of their food systems with a view to reduce FLW.

**Raise awareness** of the importance of reducing FLW.

**Disseminate this HLPE report** to international organizations and bodies.