Dear CFS Secretariat and Dear Contributors to the Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security - Online consultation on the background document to the CFS Forum.

Please find below a contribution to the area of food loss and food waste prevention and reduction. The background document provided for this online consultation included food loss and waste in the Rural-Urban Dynamics and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition section.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), G20, CFS, Habitat III, African Union, CELAC, EU and numerous National Governments have prioritized food loss prevention and reduction. Local, national, regional, and global actions should strengthen and facilitate harmonization of terminologies and definitions; data quality and availability; enable vertical and horizontal policy interventions and public-private-civil society networks for effective investments with short, medium, and long time returns for all actors, including end consumers in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas.

Concrete tools and policy recommendations to facilitate and enable prevention and reduction of food loss and food waste at local, national, regional and global level are mentioned below:

# Global policy frameworks

**Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, 12.5 and SDG 2 :** Goal 12. *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*; target 12.3 *by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses*. SDG 12.3 is directly linked with SDG 2 and SDG 12.5. FAO is working on the Indicator for SDG 12.3: the *Global Food Loss Index*.

Zero Hunger Challenge includes addressing sustainability of all food systems and the aim of zero food loss and waste.

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| ***ICN2*** [***Rome Declaration on Nutrition***](http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf) acknowledged “that current food systems are being increasingly challenged to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient rich food for all that contribute to healthy diets due to, inter alia, constraints posed by resource scarcity and environmental degradation, as well as by unsustainable production and consumption patterns, food losses and waste, and unbalanced distribution.” Moreover, “food losses and waste throughout the food chain should be reduced in order to contribute to food security, nutrition, and sustainable development.” *ICN2* [*Framework for Action*](http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf) has “Recommendation 11: Improve storage, preservation, transport and distribution technologies and infrastructure to reduce seasonal food insecurity, food and nutrient loss and waste.”[[1]](#footnote-1) |

**Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)** : Promoted by the Mayor of Milan. Signed in October 2015. Currently has 119 signatories. It includes: “develop sustainable dietary guidelines”, “encourage and support social and solidarity economy activities”, “help provide services to food producers in and around cities”, “support short food chains” and “enable food waste prevention, reduction, and management”. FAO is part of the Technical team[[2]](#footnote-2).

MUFPP aims to support policy coherence and was launched together with its Plan for Action and Selected Good Practices.

*Recommended actions for food waste reduction and measurement*

* Convene food system actors to assess and monitor food loss and waste reduction at all stages of the city region food supply chain, (including production, processing, packaging, safe food preparation, presentation and handling, re-use and recycling) and ensure holistic planning and design, transparency, accountability and policy integration.
* Raise awareness of food loss and waste through targeted events and campaigns; identify focal points such as educational institutions, community markets, company shops and other solidarity or circular economy initiatives.
* Collaborate with the private sector along with research, educational and community-based organisations to develop and review, as appropriate, municipal policies and regulations (e.g. processes, cosmetic and grading standards, expiration dates, etc.) to prevent waste or safely recover food and packaging using a “food use-not-waste” hierarchy.
* Save food by facilitating recovery and redistribution for human consumption of safe and nutritious foods, if applicable, that are at risk of being lost, discarded or wasted from production, manufacturing, retail, catering, wholesale and hospitality.

**Committee of World Food Security (CFS):** CFS 41 called on all concerned stakeholders to undertake cost-effective, practicable and environmentally sensitive actions according to their priorities and means to reduce food loss and waste through an enabling environment based on a “food use-not-loss-or-waste” hierarchy.

**Fig 1** Food-use-not-loss-or–waste hierarchy, adapted from CFS 41 by Bucatariu, C., 2015



Least preferred

Most preferred

# Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

The Global Initiative on FLW Reduction takes a global to regional, national and local approach by developing strategies adjusted to the context-specific needs. **The website of the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction** <http://www.fao.org/save-food> provides information at local, national, regional, and global level, including a database with public, private, and civil society actions on FLW and a **monthly newsletter**. **Brochure:** [***http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4068e.pdf***](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4068e.pdf)

# Definitional Framework of Food Loss

The Global Initiative on FLW Reduction has published, after a consultative process, a *voluntary definitional framework of food loss*.

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| ***Food loss*** *is defined as “the decrease in quantity or quality of food” and are the agricultural or fisheries products intended for human consumption that are ultimately not eaten by people or that have incurred a reduction in quality reflected in their nutritional value, economic value or food safety. An important part of food loss is* ***“food waste”****, which refers to the discarding or alternative (non-food) use of food that was fit for human consumption – by choice or after the food has been left to spoil or expire as a result of negligence.****Source:*** FAO, 2014 - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-at143e.pdf>  |

# Food loss and waste measurement

FAO is working towards a common understanding of FLW, including enabling harmonization of terminology, definitions, methodologies, and impact assessment, e.g. on human nutrition.

* FAO – Statistics Divisions working on the Indicator for the **SDG 12.3**: the **Global Food Loss Index[[3]](#footnote-3)**.
* FAO launched in December 2015 the ***Technical Platform on the Measurement and reduction of Food Loss and Waste***[[4]](#footnote-4) together with IFPRI.
* FAO working group on FLW developed ***Food loss analysis: causes and solutions. Case studies in the Small-scale Agriculture and Fisheries Subsectors Methodology***[[5]](#footnote-5). Kenya case study (milk, banana, fish, maize) available. Other case studies are forthcoming.
* ***Global Strategy on Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics****[[6]](#footnote-6)* - FAO Statistics Division
* FAO – Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN) is part of the Steering Committee for the *Food Loss and Waste Protocol Accounting and Reporting Standard*.[[7]](#footnote-7) Secretariat hosted by World Resources Institute (WRI); FAO – ESN is co-author and implementation partner for *Prevention and reduction of food and drink waste in businesses and households – Guidance for governments, local authorities businesses and other organizations*. Developed by WRAP-UK, for UNEP and FAO. The guidance is piloted at country level[[8]](#footnote-8) and is part of the Think.Eat.Save Campaign.

# FLW impacts

**Human nutrition:**

* *Global variations in micro-nutrient losses in the fruit and vegetables supply chain[[9]](#footnote-9)*
* *Determination of micro-nutrient losses in food losses and waste (flw) in Norway and Kenya - implications on food security and nutrition and methodologies for data collection[[10]](#footnote-10)*

**Socio-economic and environmental:**

* *2014: Background paper on the economics of food loss and waste*[[11]](#footnote-11) ; *2015: FAO – LEI, Wageningen UR, study: Potential Impacts on Sub-Saharan Africa of Reducing Food Loss and Waste in the European Union[[12]](#footnote-12); 2013: Food wastage footprint, impacts on natural resources* and *Toolkit, reducing the food wastage footprint[[13]](#footnote-13); 2014: Food wastage footprint, full cost accounting* and *Mitigation of food wastage, societal costs and benefits; 2015: Food wastage footprint and climate change*

# Recovery & Redistribution of safe and nutritious food for human consumption

Recovery of safe and nutritious food for human consumption is to receive, with or without payment, food (processed, semi-processed or raw) which would otherwise be discarded or wasted from the agricultural, livestock and fisheries supply chains of the food system. Redistribution of safe and nutritious food for human consumption is to store or process and then distribute the received food pursuant to appropriate safety, quality and regulatory frameworks directly or through intermediaries, and with or without payment, to those having access to it for food intake. <http://www.fao.org/platform-food-loss-waste/food-waste/food-waste-reduction/country-level-guidance/en/> and <http://www.fao.org/save-food/news-and-multimedia/news/news-details/en/c/288692/>

FAO collaborates with the Global FoodBanking Network, the European Federation of Food Banks, the Italian Food Banks, and numerous other organizations to develop a concrete tool that can enable and facilitate action.

**Contact for more information**: save-food@fao.org

Working Group (Interdepartamental) on Food Loss and Food Waste Prevention and Reduction

1. *Source*: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf> and <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/346393/icode/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-03/3rd-IAEG-SDGs-presentation-FAO--12.3.1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Technical Platform on the Measurement and reduction of Food Loss and Waste** <http://www.fao.org/platform-food-loss-waste/food-waste/definition/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-az568e.pdf> ; <http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/casestudies/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://gsars.org/en/about/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.wri.org/our-work/project/global-food-loss-and-waste-measurement-protocol/documents-and-updates#project-tabs> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://www.fao.org/save-food/news-and-multimedia/news/news-details/en/c/293895/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/food-loss-reduction/CoP_English/Vit_A___C_Loss_FAO_7-region_Poster_1st_PHL_Congress_201510.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/food-loss-reduction/CoP_English/Norway___Kenya_Poster_1st_PHL_Congress_201510.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-at143e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5256e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <http://www.fao.org/nr/sustainability/food-loss-and-waste/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)