

Committee on World Food Security

Policy Round Table on *Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems*

Decision Box Task Team Process V0 Draft decision box (17 July 2014)

The Committee recognizes that food losses and waste (FLW) impact both food security and nutrition and the sustainability and **resilience** of food systems, in their capacity to **achieve** good quality and adequate food for this generation and future generations. It calls for all stakeholders – States, **and all levels of regional and local government**, international organizations, private sector and civil society – to recognize food security and nutrition as central dimensions of sustainable food systems and to address collectively FLW to improve the sustainability of food systems and to contribute to food security and nutrition. **Genuinely sustainable food systems are based on peasant family farming that, by their very nature, reduce food waste and loss. They need, above all, to connect small-scale producers to local markets, to connect rural and urban areas, and to re-localise food production and consumption based on agro-ecological models.**

The Committee recommends all concerned stakeholders to undertake actions under the following four parallel mutually supportive tracks, according to needs and priorities, in an inclusive and participatory manner.

1) Improve data collection and knowledge sharing on FLW

All Stakeholders should

- 1a) Agree on a shared understanding towards a common definition and scope for FLW.
- 1b) Improve the collection, transparency and sharing of data, experiences, and good practices on FLW at all stages of food chains.

FAO should

- 1c) Consider developing common protocols and methodologies to measure FLW and analyze their causes. This should be done through an inclusive and participatory process, taking into account product, country, and all stakeholders' specificities and initiatives, and building upon FAO and the Rome-based agencies' experiences.
- 1d) Encourage all stakeholders, international organizations, governments, and private sector and civil society organizations to collect and share data on FLW in a coherent and transparent manner at all stages of food chains.

2) Develop effective strategies to reduce FLW, at the appropriate levels

States, **regional government and local authorities should**

- 2a) Convene an inclusive process to identify hotspots, causes of losses and waste at **all** levels, potential solutions, and levels of intervention. This requires identifying the actors who will directly implement solutions, individually or collectively, identify the costs they will bear, as well as potential benefits and beneficiaries. It also requires identifying constraints (including systemic constraints), how they could be addressed (infrastructure, technologies, changes of organization in the food chain/system, capacity building, policies and institutions), as well as the ways and means to address them
- 2b) Determine a plan of action in a manner that includes all stakeholders and recognizes the plurality of food systems in their diverse contributions to FLW.

2c) Provide greater support to Local Authorities and introduce framework legislation such as solidarity economy legislation which can support and empower Local Food Policy Councils, city-region food systems, and solidarity based short-chain distribution systems.

FAO should

2d) Support these national processes in collaboration with partners to devise methodological guidance adapted to countries' specificities, and needs and priorities of various actors.

3) Take effective steps to reduce FLW

According to national priorities identified, the case being, in the strategy described under Recommendation 2, States, regional government and local authorities should

3a) Invest and enable investment in infrastructure and public goods and services to reduce FLW and to ensure sustainable food systems such as storage and processing facilities, reliable energy supply, transport, appropriate technologies, improved access and connection of food producers and consumers to markets.

3b) Create an enabling environment for the reduction of FLW including by encouraging sustainable patterns of consumption and production, as well as food and non-food investments promoting food security that is consistent with culturally appropriate, traditional methods of food production, distribution and consumption.

3c) Implement an adequate framework including regulation, incentives and facilitation so that the private sector (e.g. wholesaler, retailer, catering and other food services) and consumers take robust measures to tackle FLW. This framework should also ensure that negative externalities are better incorporated.

3d) Take measures to support the collective organization of smallholders to reduce the FLW by organizing themselves in ways that yield economies of scale and allow them to access appropriate financial services and move towards high value activities in the food supply chain.

3e) Encourage sector-led assessments of FLW.

3f) Assess and improve public food procurement, management, and distribution policies and practices to reduce and minimize FLW while ensuring food safety that facilitates preferential access to collective groups of small-scale producers.

3g) Introduce procedures to ensure higher corporate accountability standards for FLW, and monitor reductions in FLW for enterprises along the supply chain.

3-) That Local Authorities ensure local food kitchens and social groceries are enabled to source their food from small scale local agroecological producers and local cooperatives/solidarity economy processing units and support means whereby healthy, local produce is made accessible for marginalized populations such as through Community Supported Agriculture).

States, regional governments and local authorities and other stakeholders, including international organizations, private sector and civil society should

3h) Carry out training and capacity building to strengthen the coordinated use of sustainable technologies that support small-scale and local production.

3i) Promote experimentation and the exchange of good practices and knowledge and technology transfer related to FLW.

3j) Enable and support multi-stakeholder initiatives to improve governance along food chains and organize collective understanding and action to reduce FLW.

3k) Invest in research and development to minimize FLW.

3l) Improve the dissemination of accurate information and advice to consumers to minimize FLW.

3m) Encourage civic engagement of all actors, including consumers, to act concretely to reduce FLW in particular through public campaigns, education of youth and children.

3n) Improve communication, coordination, recognition of efforts needed/made at one stage to reduce FLW at another stage (downstream or upstream).

3-) Reduce and eliminate excessive packaging and transport and mutualize local packaging and logistics.

Private sector should

3o) Develop and implement corporate responsibility policies to diminish FLW including by collecting and making available data on FLW and finding ways to appropriately share costs and benefits of FLW reduction.

3p) Get involved with collective actions and initiatives for reducing FLW, including by sharing information with consumers and raising awareness of the issue and by encouraging companies to change their practices to contribute towards reducing FLW including in households.

3q) Assess and improve rules and practices related to product standards used to accept or reject farmers produce (e.g. size and shape of foods as well as cosmetic standards for fruit, vegetables, livestock products). This can be done for example by introducing differentiated pricing to prevent economic and nutrition value losses.

States and national and International research and development organizations should

3r) Increase investment in research and technological innovations at post-harvest and consumption stages for effective reduction of FLW as well as for adding value to agricultural products in the whole food value chain, for example through the extension of shelf life while protecting nutritional value.

Facilitate the establishment of Community banks and small-scale local processing cooperatives/social-solidarity enterprise as a means of avoiding FLW, creating local employment and community-led initiatives.

3s) Develop adequate extension services and training, especially focused on **mutualizing** small transport, transformation, **packaging** and distribution enterprises.

4) Improve coordination of policies, strategies, and actions in order to reduce FLW

According to national priorities identified, the case being, in the strategy described under Recommendation 2, States and other relevant authorities should

4a) Integrate FLW concerns and solutions, and a **sustainable** food chain approach, in agricultural and food policies and development programs, as well as in other policies which could impact FLW.

4b) Strengthen and pursue the coherence of policies across sectors and objectives (e.g. **sustainable seasonal** food consumption, dietary guidelines, food safety, energy, and waste).

4c) Set targets and introduce enabling economic policies and incentives to reduce FLW, through a “food use-not-waste” hierarchy (i.e. prevention, reallocation of food for feed, recycle for energy through anaerobic digestion, recover for compost, disposal, and ultimately, if no other solution is available, in landfills).

4d) Support efforts for coherence, clarification, and harmonization of the meaning and use of food dates labelling, while ensuring food safety, **and food miles labeling** at national as well as international level taking into account the principles and the ongoing works of the *Codex Alimentarius*. 4e) Support coordination of efforts through multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the global “Save Food” initiative.

4f) Recognize the roles and initiatives of local authorities and complimentary bodies, especially local food policy councils, to reduce FLW through ways such as public procurement, waste collection, and rural/urban planning.

CFS should

4g) Consider convening an inclusive meeting to share successful experiences, challenges faced and lessons learned from FLW initiatives. This includes the development of clear guidelines and good practice case studies on small-scale collective processing and direct/short chain distribution systems, to help drive change in the global food sector where current buying and marketing practices lead to considerable loss and waste

4h) Encourage FAO and the Rome-based agencies to develop guidelines to assist government at all relevant levels in assessing their food systems with a view to reduce FLW.

4i) Raise awareness of the importance of reducing FLW and disseminate this HLPE report and CFS recommendations to international organizations and bodies, including as part of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge and towards the preparation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

4j) All actors condemn and take all necessary efforts to eliminate FLW in time of conflict, war and occupation., consistent with the voluntary guidelines adopted by the CFS. This includes the internationally recognized human rights guidelines which prohibit destruction food assets as a tool of war .