Food Loss and Waste: Possible policy options for Governments and the Community of Practice: An International Perspective

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SDG 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
Definitions

Food loss and waste (FLW) is the decrease in quantity or quality of food along the food supply chain.

Food loss occurs along the food supply chain from harvest up to, but not including, the retail level.

Food waste occurs at the retail and consumption levels.
Food Loss and Waste impact the current and future availability of increasingly scarce resources and needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global warming and climate change.

High Levels of Food Loss and Waste

Food Losses and Waste reduce the efficiency and the sustainability of food systems and can negatively impact food security.
Intervention location in the supply chain

**UPstream**
- Farm
  - Increase water quality and reduce water scarcity
  - Preserving land
  - Farmer income generation
  - Post-harvest loss reduction for increased food availability

**DOWNstream**
- Consumer
  - GNG emission reduction
  - Plastics reduction
  - Increased quality and nutritional food content
  - Food Re-distribution
  - Reduced prices for consumers

- Environmental sustainability objectives
- Food security and nutrition objectives

Objectives of loss and waste reduction measures and their entry points along the food supply chain
# Targets Set By Countries to Reduce FLW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Targets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Recycling rate targets set by Governments in 2015 are: manufacturers (95%), wholesalers (70%), retailers (55%) and restaurants (50%).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Overall recycling rate of 70% by 2030</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>To halve food waste by 2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>To reduce FLW by half in the U.S by 2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>To reduce FLW by half by 2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>To reduce FLW by 40% by 2020 and to reduce FLW by 13 mt in post-harvest stages per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Reduce post-harvest loss in 2017 for the next 5 year; Reduce post-harvest losses in fisheries by 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Targets set to reduce PHL in rice from 11-13% to 5-6%; maize from 13-15% to 8-9% and aquaculture from 20% to 10% in 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>No targets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: APEC, 2018
Ways of Integrating of food loss and waste concerns into policies

Inclusion in broader strategies and sector/thematic policies, that can include:

- policies directed to agricultural development
- public investment plans
- support to various food system actors
- food chain regulations
- fiscal policies
- trade policies and regulations
- food safety and consumer protection regulations
- social protection and food security policies
- sustainable development policies
- environmental protection policies
Ways of Integrating of food loss and waste concerns into policies

Devising specific FLW reduction strategies and policies to address the interdependencies of actions that end up creating FLW:

• In the case of food waste, policy frameworks and objectives are generally set at national level, but management, funding and implementation are usually under the responsibility of local authorities and municipalities that overseeing waste collection, waste management and recycling services.
### Options to Reduce Food loss
- Establishment of food loss reduction targets.
- Incentives to encourage the adoption of loss reduction technologies and to apply innovation to enhance resource efficiency.

### Options to Reduce Food Waste
- Establishment of national food waste reduction goals
- Tax incentives to encourage food donation
- Clarification of food labeling issues – “best before dates”
- Marketing standards – “ugly fruit”
- Direct or variable charging schemes (‘pay-as-you-throw’ or PAYT) for waste collection by weight or volume
Policy Options Designed to Change Consumer Habits and Behaviors

- Awareness raising campaigns to reduce food loss and waste
- Education policies targeting youth
- Nudge policies
Focus on Behavior Change

Shaping habits and enhancing knowledge on food waste toward promoting behavior change

Campaigns

Education material

On School Campus

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### Cross-Cutting Policy Options To Support FLW Reduction

- Establishment of measurement protocols and frameworks in order to apply methodologies to quantify FLW
- Promotion of training and capacity building of all supply chain actors in good practices and FLW reduction strategies
- Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to facilitate joint investments with short, medium and long term returns for all actors of the food system
FAO’s Key Knowledge-Sharing Platforms on Food Loss and Waste

Save Food Platform

Community of Practice on Food Loss and Waste

FAO/IFPRI/G20 Technical Platform on Food Loss and Waste

Innovation Platform on Post-harvest Operations (INPhO)
http://www.fao.org/in-action/inpho/home
The Community of Practice (CoP) on food loss and waste reduction serves as a global convener and an integrator of knowledge related to post-harvest loss (PHL) reduction. It offers a platform to facilitate linkages and information sharing amongst stakeholders and relevant networks, projects and programs.

To join the CoP register online at: www.fao.org/food-loss-reduction
Support to countries on PHL/PHM Policy and Strategy

The CoP provides its members access to resources globally on how to reduce post-harvest losses through the dissemination of documentation generated by programmes and projects on the theme.

Examples of Resources:  

**FAO PHM of horticultural value chains**

**FANRPAN**
- Proceedings of the Malawi Policy Dialogue on climate-related risks to crop production and post harvest loss management (October 2015)
- Benin PHM Policy Brief (April 2015)
- Mozambique PHM Policy Brief (April 2015)
- Regional programme on “Postharvest Management in Sub Saharan Africa”

**Others**
- CFF, 2018. Policy Brief 3 - Climate-Resilient Nutrition through Diversified Agricultural Value Chains
- COMCEC, 2016. Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries
The CoP provides its members access to updated information from across the globe on how to reduce post-harvest losses and shares News and Events alerts and reports.


- Government of Uganda, FAO, WFP, IFAD for the development of a comprehensive strategy to reduce PHL in grains
- Post-harvest loss reduction for enhanced food and nutrition security in IGAD member states
- Support to African Union in the development of policies and strategies for country specific plans to reduce post-harvest losses
- AfDB: Post-Harvest Losses Reduction and Agro-Processing (PHAP) Flagship launch
- High level Ministerial Dialogue to Support Post-Harvest Losses Reduction and Agro-Processing (PHAP)
Thank you

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