

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards**

#### **Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

##### **Seventy-fifth session**

Geneva, 19-21 November 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

##### **Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

### **Overview of some examples of food loss/waste recommendations, laws, policies**

The following documents prepared by the secretariat presents an overview of some action suggestions by international organizations or individual governments. For the possible development of recommended WP.7 policy action points on food loss/waste prevention/reduction etc., this short non-exhaustive inventory can provide a first basis to be expanded by the delegations. The following list is kept informal and in a bullet point format and simply lists some measures taken by countries around the world including national food loss policies and other instruments and incentives. It is meant to provide an informal overview and the basis for discussion.

Delegations are invited to provide information on their countries' initiatives and good practices in this area and discuss 2-3 major action points that could create provide generic guidance to all countries while taking into account each country's individual setting and priorities.

#### **Examples of food loss/waste recommendations, laws, policies**

##### **1. Examples of recommendations by international organizations or campaigns:**

###### **FAO <sup>1</sup>:**

- “There is an urgent need for policies that incentivize investment, technology and improved data.”
- “Policy choices should be coherent. Depending on the contexts and priorities the policy choices could be guided by and may fall into one of the three objectives “increased productivity and economic growth; (ii) improved food security and nutrition; and (iii) mitigation of environmental impacts of losing and wasting food, in particular in terms of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions”<sup>2</sup>

###### **European Union:**

- EU Policy Action – Elaborating a common methodology to measure food waste; promote food donation and use of food waste as animal feed; date marking by the actors, consumer awareness raising on food labelling.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/food-loss-food-waste/en/>, <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1431EN/ca1431en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> FAO 2019, State of the Food and Agriculture, Page XV

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/eu\\_actions/food-waste-measurement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/food-waste-measurement_en)

- As part of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan “the new waste legislation requires Member States to implement national food waste prevention programmes and, importantly to reduce food waste at each stage of the supply chain, monitor and report on food waste levels.”<sup>4</sup>

### Champions 12.3 <sup>5</sup>:

- Target: Every country should set food loss and waste reduction targets consistent with Target 12.3 in order to ensure sufficient attention and focus.
- Measure: Governments should:
  - Quantify and report on their food loss and waste in order to develop a base-year inventory and then monitor progress over time through 2030.
  - Publicly share empirical and modeled data on food loss and waste by geography, food category, and stage in the value chain in order to lower the costs for everyone when conducting inventories.
  - Refine methods for quantifying the economic, environmental, and social benefits of food loss and waste reduction. In addition, they should build impact indicators into reduction initiatives and policies in order to facilitate initiative evaluation and adaptive management.
- Act: Governments should:
  - Accelerate and scale up adoption of policies, incentives, and practices that reduce food loss and waste.
  - Articulate both quantitatively and qualitatively the political and business case for action.
  - Increase financing for food loss and waste reduction technologies, processes, and research and help make projects more investment-ready.
  - Accelerate programs to exchange information, share know-how and good practice, and build technical capacity in food loss and waste prevention and reduction across the food supply chain.

## 2. Examples of legal reforms/regulations

- A **Law on the fight against food waste** which provides the obligation for food stores of more than 400 m<sup>2</sup> to propose a donation agreement to associations for the collection of their unsold food still consumable; the prohibition for food retailers to make unsold products that are still edible unfit for consumption.<sup>6</sup> (**FRANCE**)
- **Repeal of regulations** prohibiting the sale of produce that do not meet aesthetic standards. **Policies supporting surplus food recovery and redistribution:** 1) tax credits or deductions for farmers to help offset the cost to harvest, package, and store surplus harvest for donation 2) legislation that protects companies and individuals from civil liability for harm that might be caused by donation of surplus food 3) provincial and territorial laws to ensure that any food collected for redistribution meets food safety requirements (**CANADA**)<sup>7</sup>
- Implementation of a **Volume-based Food Waste Fee System** that imposes fees in proportion to the amount of food waste generated. Three different billing systems available, such as a designated standard bag system, a RFID system, and a chip or sticker system. (**SOUTH KOREA**)<sup>8</sup>
- A **Food Recycling Law** focusing mainly on food waste from food related businesses and aiming to reduce food waste generation and to promote recycling of food waste into feedings or fertilizers. Prioritizing reduction of food waste generation over recycling of food waste and other measures. The law targets producers of large amount of waste (100 tons or more per year). Producers face warnings, publicity, legal orders or even penalties.<sup>9</sup> (**JAPAN**)

<sup>4</sup> [file:///C:/Users/salehin/Downloads/IP-19-2391\\_EN.pdf](file:///C:/Users/salehin/Downloads/IP-19-2391_EN.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://champions123.org/2016-progress-report/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/gaspillage-alimentaire-0>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/food-loss-waste/taking-stock.html#toc1>

<sup>8</sup> <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/index.do?menuId=387>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.jp/en/diplomacy/pdf/1501-08-shigen-e.pdf>

### 3. Action plans / Strategies

- Launch of a **Food supply chain roadmap on food loss 2020** to deliver concrete actions including support to companies in reducing food losses, awareness-raising at company and consumer level, promotion and facilitation of food surplus donation and investment in research<sup>10</sup>. (Government of Flanders / **BELGIUM**)
  - A **National strategy to reduce food waste** with four fields of action : 1) Create a coherent political framework, formation of various committees responsible for the evaluation of the implementation process, 2) Improvement of existing business processes 3) Awareness raising for the benefits of reducing food waste, aim to change the behaviour of all actors 4) Invest in research and digitalization, develop innovative digital solutions for complex logistic distribution tasks.<sup>11</sup> (**GERMANY**)
  - The government makes a **Basic Plan including numerical targets for food waste reduction** and recycling rate as well as measures to promote recycling. It develops requirements with which food related businesses must comply in recycling food waste. The government also advises businesses and, if necessary, makes recommendations or orders to them. It diffuses knowledge about food waste and raises awareness among people. 3010 campaign, encouraging people to eat rather than talk for the first 30 minutes and the last 10 minutes at a party. Education programs about food waste in elementary schools.<sup>12</sup> (**JAPAN**)
  - Implementation of a **National Program for the reduction of food loss and waste**, which investigates and coordinates initiatives, activities and projects among the actors involved in the primary food production, processing, distribution and consumption.<sup>13</sup> (**ARGENTINA**)
  - **Marketing approaches and collaborations** to increase field gleanings, harvest and sale of second grade produce through various programs.<sup>14</sup> (**CANADA**)
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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.voedselverlies.be/EN>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Lebensmittelverschwendung\\_2019.pdf;jsessionid=04E060588F5EEC8D1E3622D7EF995137.1\\_cid376?\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Nationale_Strategie_Lebensmittelverschwendung_2019.pdf;jsessionid=04E060588F5EEC8D1E3622D7EF995137.1_cid376?_blob=publicationFile)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/168b6058-db28-4520-906d-e0089eb32b6f/files/a3d91fcd-0304-4908-ad6b-ad40f243ef51> ,

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.alimentosargentinos.gob.ar/HomeAlimentos/ValoremoslosAlimentos/documentos/Guia%20para%20municipios.pdf> , <https://plataformacelac.org/programa/1013>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/food-loss-waste/taking-stock.html#toc1>