

# FAO role and activities to reduce food losses and waste



**REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE FROM FARM TO FORK**

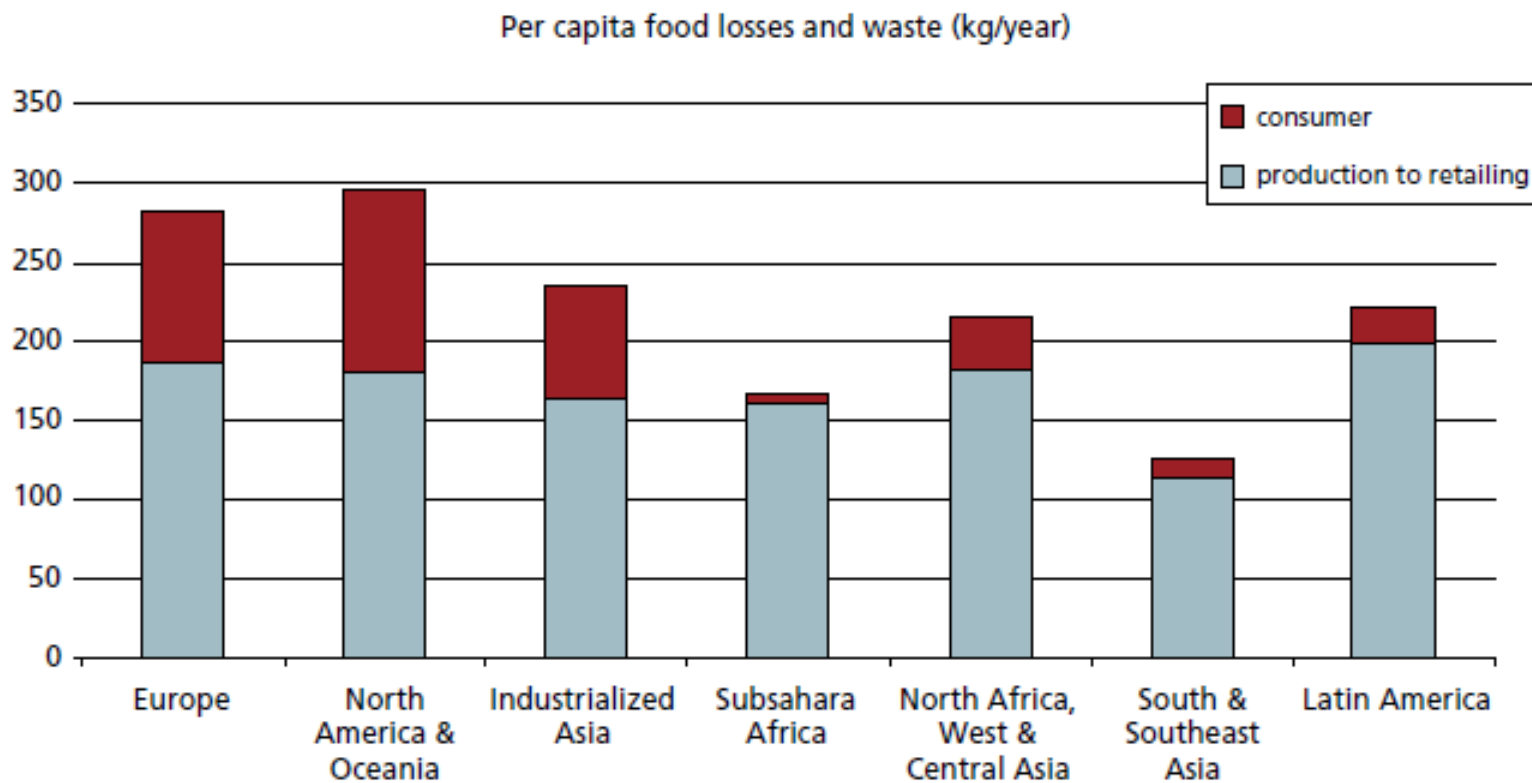
**WORLD FOOD DAY CROATIA**

**15 October 2014**

# Extent of food losses and waste

## PER CAPITA

Figure 2. Per capita food losses and waste, at consumption and pre-consumptions stages, in different regions



# A new strategy for food loss reduction

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## Reasons:

- *growing influence of private sector led enterprises*
- *global market integration*
- *urbanization*
- *growing south-south food trade*
- *'lengthening' of food chains.*

## Supply chain approach

*Feasibility / effectiveness of interventions:*

- *technically*
- *economically*
- *nutritionally, food security-wise*
  - *environmentally*
- *socially and culturally*



# Global Initiative on Food Losses and Waste Reduction – SAVE FOOD

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## ***THE KNOWLEDGE GAP***



*Magnitude of food losses in food supply chains*



*Causes of food losses in food supply chains*



*Importance of different causes*



*Impact and feasibility of solutions*



*Beneficial effect of food loss reduction*



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## *The basic pillars of Save Food*

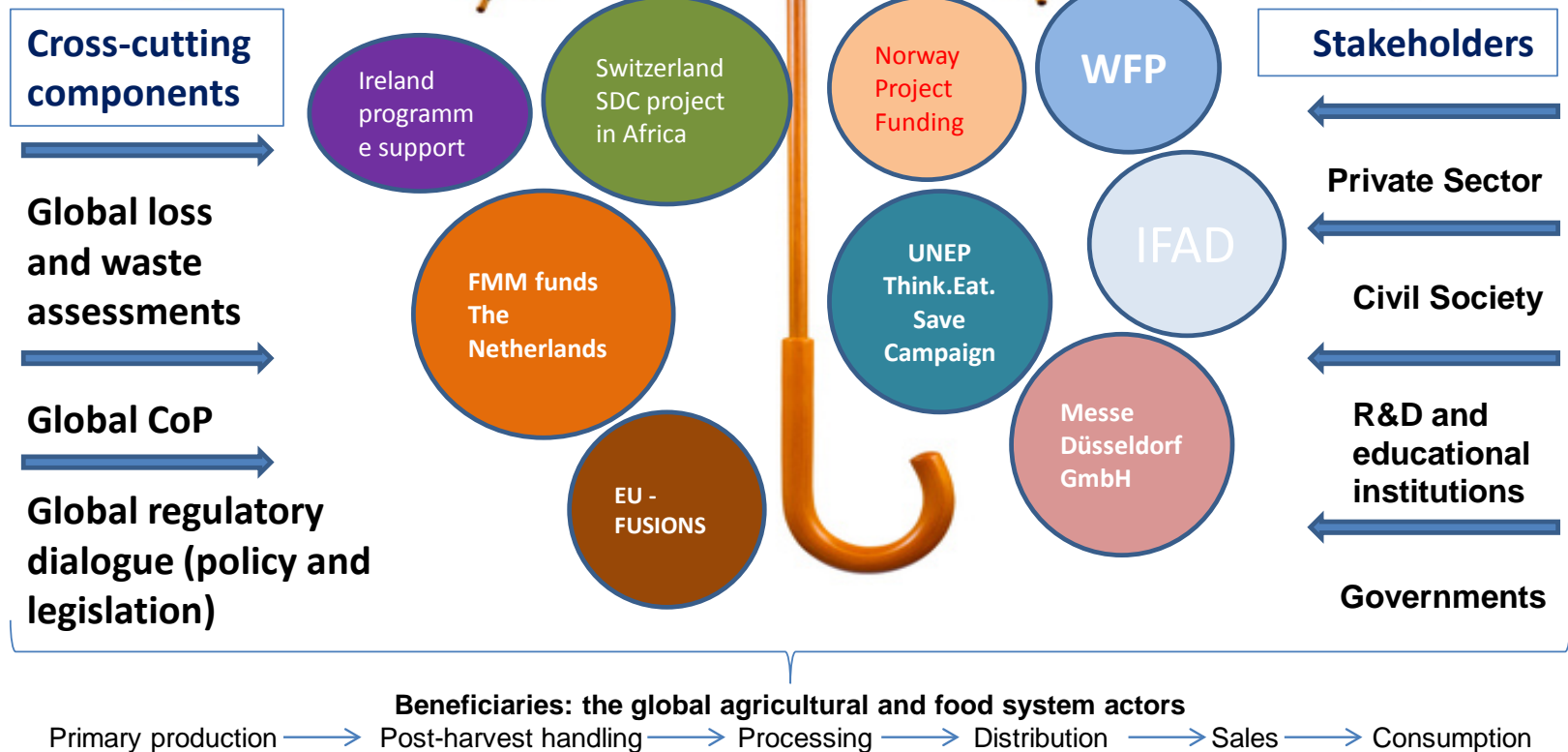
- 1 ***Awareness raising*** on the impact of, and solutions for food loss and waste.
- 2 ***Collaboration*** and coordination of world-wide initiatives on food loss and waste reduction.
- 3 ***Policy, strategy and programme development*** for food loss and waste reduction.
- 4 ***Support to investment programmes and projects,*** implemented by private and public sectors.



Geographic coverage: Global

**Key words:** food waste, food loss, assessment methodology, capacity development, policy and regulatory framework development, investments, competitiveness

# Umbrella Programme Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

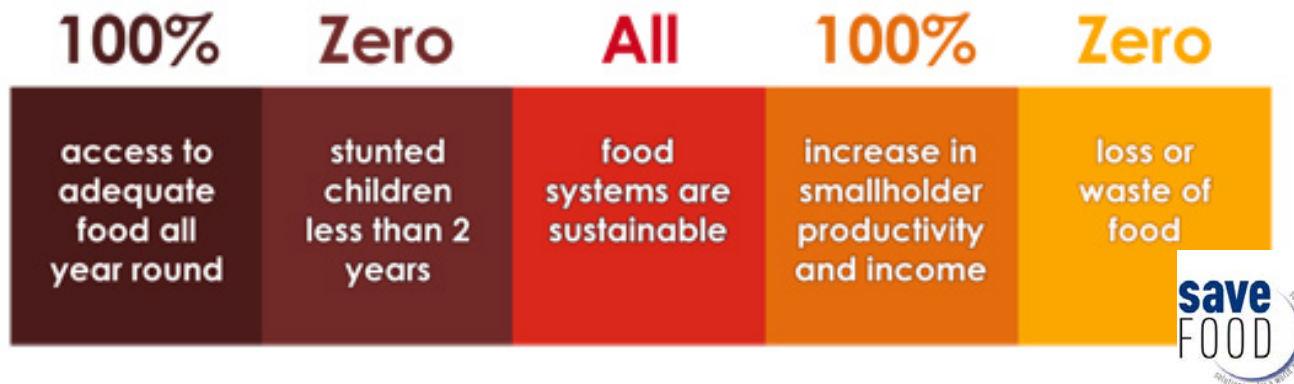


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## UN-SG ‘Zero Hunger Challenge’

The UN Secretary-General encourages all partners to scale up their efforts and turn the vision of an end to hunger into a reality. What does this mean?



*Hunger can be eliminated in our lifetimes.*

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**THINK – EAT – SAVE**



***Develops and implements the FOOD WASTE dimension of Save Food.***





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***Collaboration and coordination of world-wide initiatives on food loss and waste reduction.***

***May 2011 – Congress in Düsseldorf at Interpack2011***



***FAO & Messe Düsseldorf  
established SAVE FOOD –***



***The Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction***



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## ***The Key Issues of food loss and waste reduction***

- 1 To increase food availability, food loss and waste reduction is in principle far more efficient than increasing food production.***
- 2 Only the Private Sector can reduce food losses at a significant scale.***
- 3 The Public Sector does research and provides guidance. It creates the enabling environment for the Private Sector to invest and act.***
- 4 Food loss and waste have to be tackled along the whole food supply chains, in the context of sustainable food systems.***



# Food losses and waste in ECA

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Food losses – on farms, during processing, transport, storage, and at markets – undermine food security in many parts of Europe and Central Asia

In the developing countries, post-harvest losses can amount to as much as 40 % of production

Food wasted by consumers – or by the stores and restaurants is only half of the story

While consumer behaviour is important, food loss and wastage needs to be seen as a cross-cutting policy issue and not just a lifestyle choice

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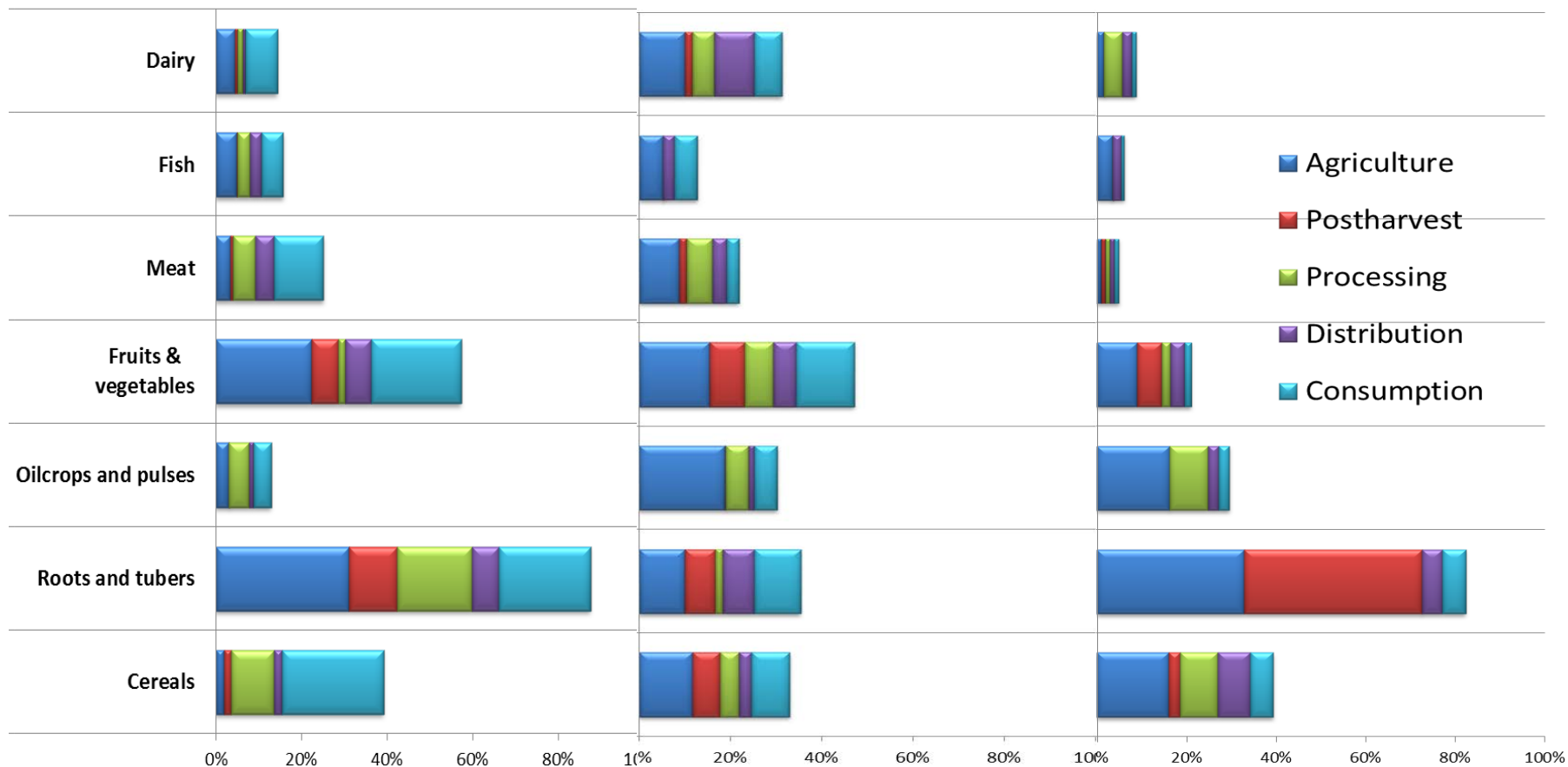


# Assessment of food losses and waste in Europe and Central Asia

High income countries

Mid income countries

Low income countries



# Patterns of losses and waste in agri-food chains

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- ▶ Notable differences in the patterns of food losses and waste were found depending on income levels
- ▶ Most of the L&W in developed countries occur at the distribution and consumption stage, in the middle and low-income countries at the production and post-harvest stages of the agri-food chain
- ▶ In middle income countries high production and consumption phase losses, as well as an increasing level of post-harvest handling and storage losses due to poor cold chain logistics and storage capacity are major factors of losses



# Patterns of losses and waste in agri-food chains

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- ▶ Extent of FLW differs depending whether the specific product is produced and marketed by small producers and retailers, or by large producers applying modern technologies, production and retail practices.
  - ▶ In cereals oversupply, purchasing capacity and consumer preferences for fresh bread as well as higher discard rates of other cereals products result in nearly 25 % wastage by high income consumers
  - ▶ Losses of roots and tubers in high income countries during the harvesting, processing and packaging are largely the result of high quality standards, offcuts and cancelled orders from retail chains
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# Main causes for food losses and waste

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- ▶ Resources and Technologies
- ▶ Management, Marketing and Product Development
- ▶ Value Chain Coordination and Supply Logistics
- ▶ Trade and Taxation Policies
- ▶ Food Safety and Quality Standards
- ▶ Consumer Preference and Oversupply



# Initiatives and actions taken to reduce food losses and waste

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- ▶ Awareness-raising of consumers and food waste reduction and prevention campaigns
  - ▶ Youth education and public education campaigns
  - ▶ Promotion of responsible food management practices as a part of corporate-social responsibility
  - ▶ Establishment of food banks taking into consideration the principles of food safety, involving support by government, private sector and civil society
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# Initiatives and actions taken to reduce food losses and waste

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- ▶ Promotion of food waste management programmes including the use for bioenergy and recycling
- ▶ Programmes and initiatives for improvement of post-harvest technologies, logistics and food safety standards
- ▶ Support to development of short food supply chains and local markets
- ▶ Research and monitoring programmes, and sharing of practices for food loss and waste reduction.



# Further options to reduce food losses and waste in ECA

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- ▶ **Stimulating Investment in Technology Upgrades**
  - ▶ investment climate improvement and access to finance, Improving quality and quantity of supply (standardisation, producer organizations)
- ▶ **Upgrading the Skills and Capacity Development**
  - ▶ advisory services, investing in skills upgrades and exposure to modern technologies and practices for technical and business managers
- ▶ **L&W Reduction in the Distribution and Consumption Phases**
  - ▶ provision of market information and schemes for classification of products; rising consumer and catering provider awareness

# Save Food Initiative priorities in ECA

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Priority A: In developed part of the region focus primarily on consumer awareness raising campaigns, and education and training to reduce the food waste, including consumer behaviour and dietary habits.

Priority B: In the less developed areas of the Initiative will have to address gaps in availability of data and statistics on FLW and assist member countries in developing capacities for value chain analysis with particular attention on food losses and waste.

Priority C: Targeted reduction of food losses to improve efficiency and productivity of the food chains and to reduce pressure on scarce natural resources in particular land, water and biodiversity, reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change and contribute to the sustainable resource use.

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# THANK YOU!



**Stjepan Tanic, Agri-food Economist**  
**FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia**  
**[stjepan.tanic@fao.org](mailto:stjepan.tanic@fao.org)**