Swedish Board
of Agriculture

Setting up a national follow-up method for increased knowledge and data on food losses

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Agenda 2030

SDG 12.3

By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, <u>and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses</u>

- 12.3.1a Food loss indicator

- 12.3.1b Food waste indicator

- Primary production up to but not including retail level
- Choose a basket of 10 main commodities by country
- Measure progress

National environmental targets for food loss and waste
Decided by the Swedish government in 2020

Food loss

o By 2025, an increased share of the food production should reach retailers and consumers.

Food waste

o From 2020 to 2025, the total amount of food waste should be reduced by at least 20 % by weight per capita.

About the project – step by step

1. **Gather the most experienced researchers on food losses in Sweden**

2. **Form a reference group with researchers and key persons at authorities**

Discuss the choice of commodities:
- Value, volume, climate impact, potential, fresh vs storable products

3. **Decision**
- ➤ Beef, pork, milk, seafood, wheat, potatoes, carrots, strawberries
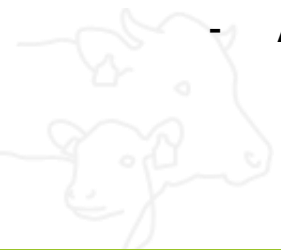
The tasks for the reseachers

4. Background study – Research Institues of Sweden

- Does other countries follow up or plan to follow up food losses on a national level?
- What tools/guidance is there to use?

5. Assignment for Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences

Suggest follow up methods for the commodities in two levels:

- **Basic follow up** using excisting data that does not cost and does not bring extra work for farmers/food companies

- **Advanced follow up** – field studies, data collection, interviews, surveys
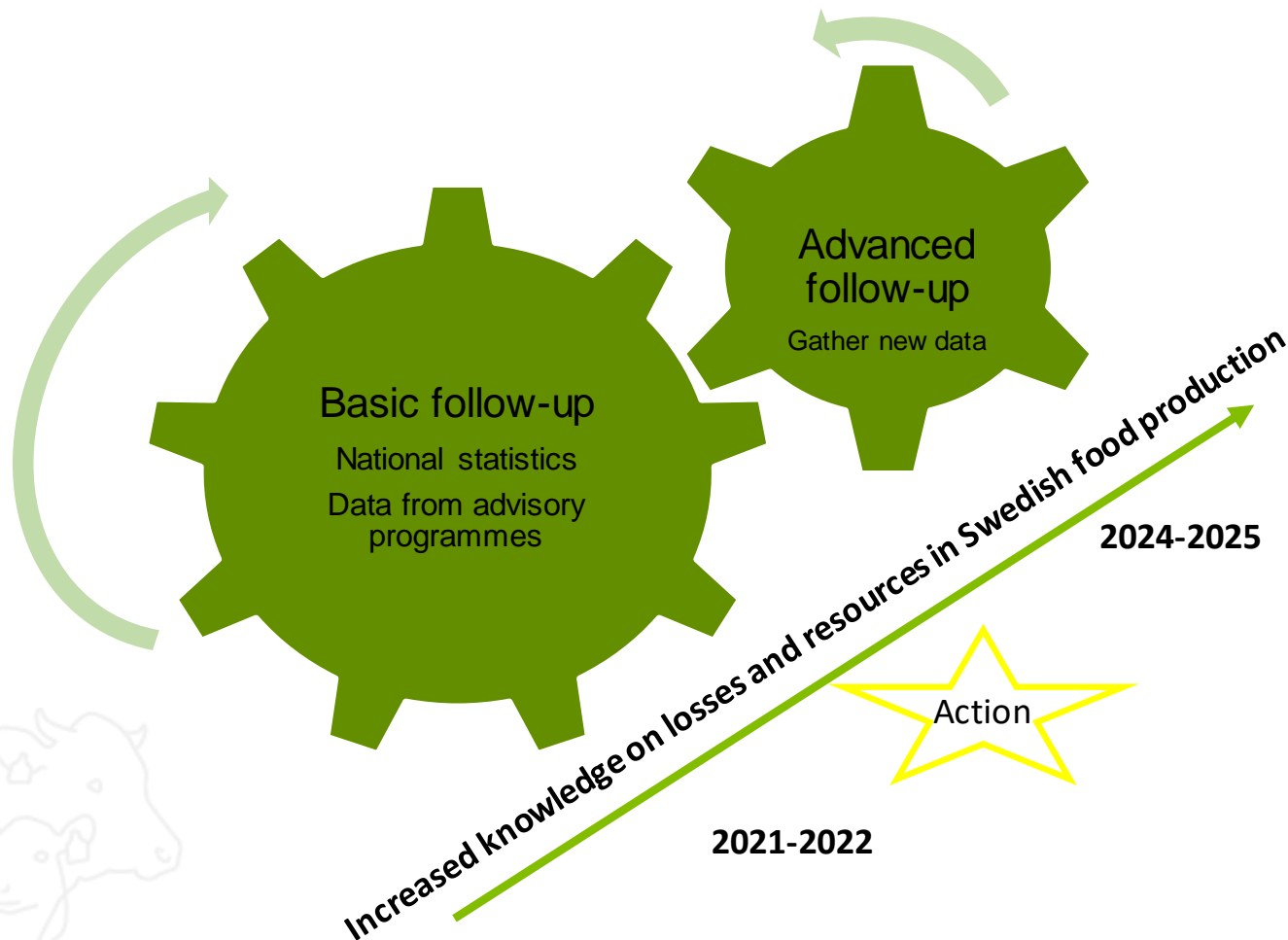
Dialogue och co-creative process with farmers- business actors, authorities and researchers

6. Several meetings

The farmers and industry organizations gave their view:

- What in your production does not become food although it was intended for food?

- Why is that?

- Do you see a value in following upp food losses?

Advanced follow-up

Gather new data

Basic follow-up

National statistics

Data from advisory programmes

Increased knowledge on losses and resources in Swedish food production

2024-2025

Action

2021-2022

"A large portion of humility and patience are important ingredients in the work on following up food losses.

It is better to start with approximations than having no information at all. Then you can step by step move forward improving the data according to precision and preciseness"

From the background study by Karin Östergren, RISE

Some examples

Commodity	Methods
Beef and pork	• Animal death on farms – Bovine register CDB / WinPig advisory programme • Death at transport, rejections, cassations – data from Swedish Food Agency • Byproducts likely for food – interview/data collection at abattoirs • Meat processors – email survey
Potatoes and carrots	• Wildlife damage – national statistics • Potatoes left in field – case studies • Storage losses – interviews growers • Packeries sorting results – interview/data collection • Processing – email survey

Key issues

Definitions

- What was intended for food but did not continue the food chain?

Scope

- Including pre-harvest and pre slaughter/catch when data is available

Representativeness
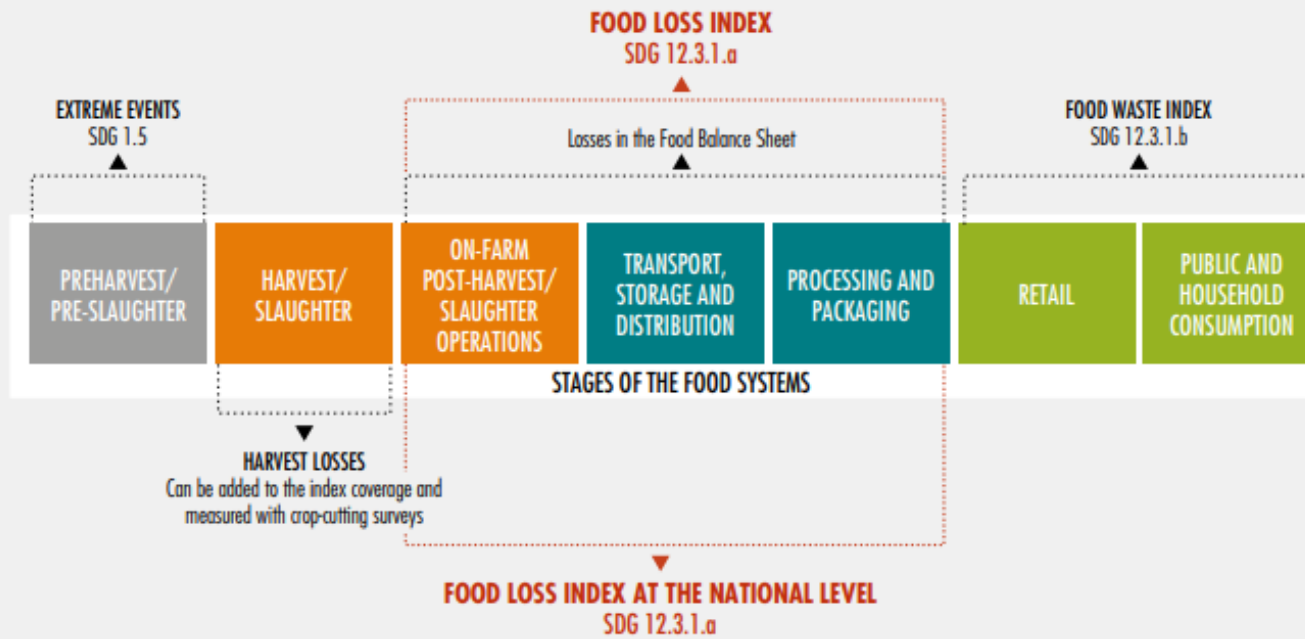
Pre harvest/pre slaughter losses – national data

Field studies – case studies

Packing/storage/industry – national data

Including pre-harvest when data is available, and including both losses and waste(EU-def)

SCOPE OF THE FOOD LOSS INDEX ALONG THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

FOOD LOSS INDEX
SDG 12.3.1.a

EXTREME EVENTS
SDG 1.5

Losses in the Food Balance Sheet

FOOD WASTE INDEX
SDG 12.3.1.b

| PREHARVEST/ PRE-SLAUGHTER | HARVEST/ SLAUGHTER | ON-FARM POST-HARVEST/ SLAUGHTER OPERATIONS | TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION | PROCESSING AND PACKAGING | RETAIL | PUBLIC AND HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION |

STAGES OF THE FOOD SYSTEMS

HARVEST LOSSES
Can be added to the index coverage and measured with crop-cutting surveys

FOOD LOSS INDEX AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
SDG 12.3.1.a

More should become food

- Working together: researchers - producers - authorities

- The shared responsibility for food losses

- Find the full report Food loss in Sweden here (in english)

Work in progress..

Thank you!

Photos: Nordfalan / SLU

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