



Promoting redistribution at the top of the supply chain

Presentation to EU Platform on Food Losses
and Food Waste – sub-group food donations -
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SavingFood

Aims of today's presentation

- Present preliminary recommendations to the Commission for policies and initiatives that would:
- Enable the overcoming of barriers to charitable redistribution from farms and farmers market
- Further promote gleaning and farmers markets as a source of redistribution



Methodology

- Literature review
- Preliminary legislative review
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Experience of partner organisations in pilot countries
- in Belgium, Greece, Hungary and the UK

Rationale

- Untapped source of high quality, fresh, nutritious surplus food
- Addressing waste at a stage of the supply chain that is often ignored
- A unique experience for volunteers, reconnecting them to the land and farms
- An opportunity to engage the media and public on food waste, farming and the food system





FARMERS TALK FOOD WASTE

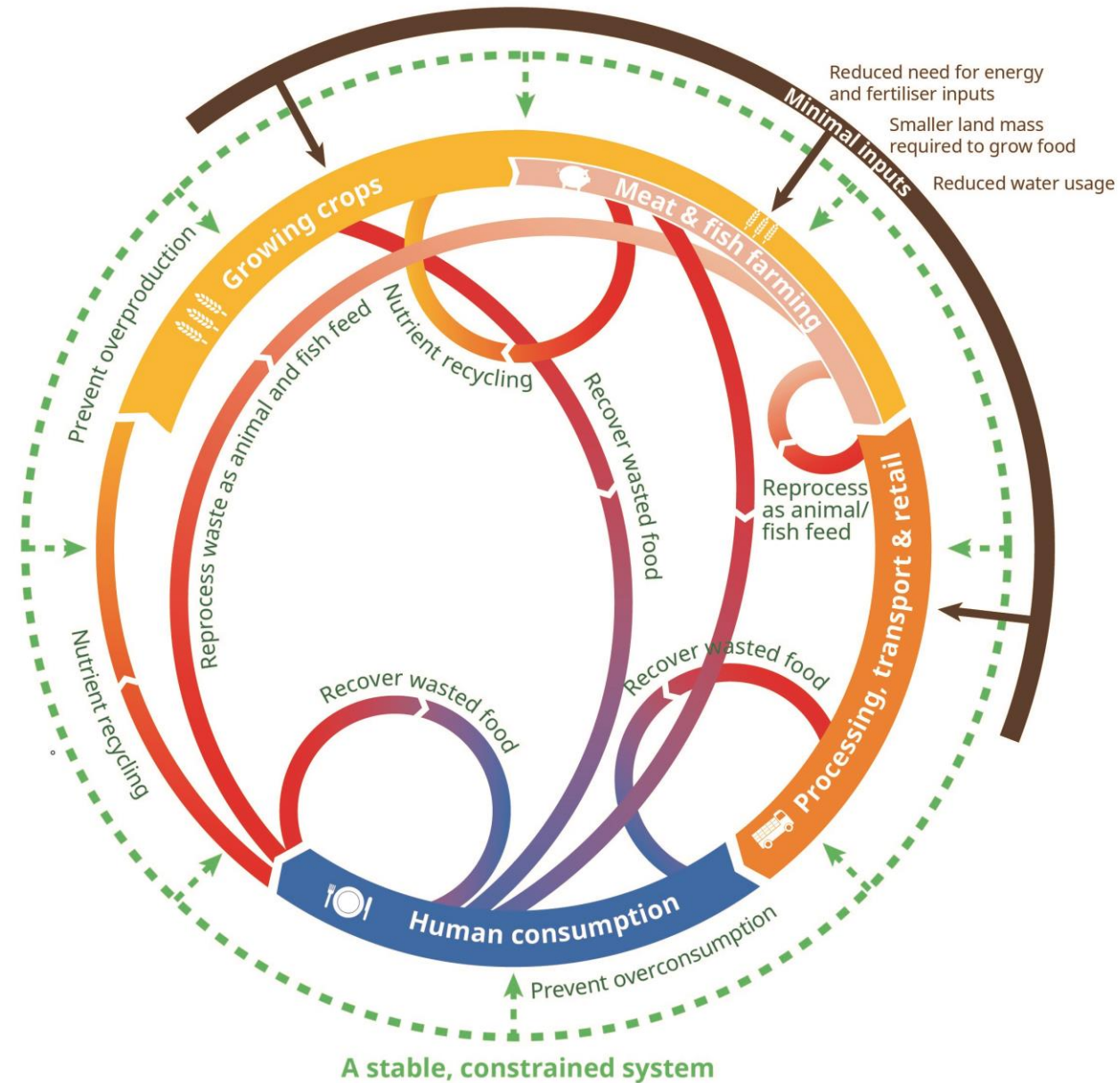
Supermarkets' role in
crop waste on UK farms

FEED
BACK

Scale of the opportunity

- Gleaning Network in operation since 2013: has to date gleaned approximately 300 tonnes of food, or 3.5 million portions of fruit and vegetables
- 'Farmers talk food waste' published in 2018: farmer survey results suggest that 2 to 4 million people, equivalent to the populations of Birmingham and Manchester, could receive their 5-a-day fruit and vegetables from farm-level food waste for a whole year

Farm level redistribution as an integral part of a sustainable food system



Barriers

- Legal frameworks sometimes unsupportive
- Absence of national commitments on food waste reduction
- Lack of financial incentives for donations
- Financing challenges
- Transport and logistical challenges
- Difficulties in accessing farmers and ‘fear factor’
- Low levels of awareness of gleaning and wider knowledge gaps in redistribution
- Volunteer recruitment and management



Enablers

- No major food safety concerns for produce
- National food waste platform
- Clear and applicable legal framework for donations at EU and national level
- Small tax incentive through no VAT on donations
- Capacity building activities on food safety for charitable organisations
- Strong private sector enthusiasm for redistribution



Recommendations to civil society

- Technological solutions where appropriate
- Incorporating participation in redistribution in voluntary certification schemes
- Raising awareness of gleaning
- Fostering a culture of volunteering on farms
- Piloting the expansion of existing food distribution channels to include farm level redistribution



Recommendations to policy makers

- Supportive policy frameworks clearly communicated to charitable organisations
- Financial incentive such as no VAT on donations
- Incorporation of gleaning into environmental subsidy schemes
- Policies and incentives that respect the waste hierarchy: is the end goal to minimise farm level waste or to maximise redistribution tonnage?



Our plans to upscale gleaning in the UK



- Based on our gleaning heritage, revive a gleaning culture
- Decriminalise 'old fashioned' and 'modern' gleaning?



Please get in touch to discuss further

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