

# Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste – insights on 10 years of action

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Photo: Felicitas Schneider

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# The context of the Collaboration Initiative FLW



- German Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries
- member of EU FLW Platform
- member of German delegation to MACS-G20

## MACS-G20

- Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 countries
- addresses central questions on agriculture and nutrition
- launched joint initiative on Food Loss and Waste in 2015



## Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste

# Collaboration Initiative on Food Loss and Waste

- Germany took Initiative's lead and finances coordinator
- coordinator is located at Thünen Institute
- aim of Initiative is to concentrate research and political consulting capacities of members in order to mobilize a noticeable reduction of food losses and wastes on a global scale

**-> activities and cooperations open for all countries and stakeholders, not restricted to G20 members or governmental bodies only**

# Collaboration Initiative FLW topics, e.g.

- Facilitating international cooperation among stakeholders
  - [Global platform for FLW experts and projects](#) 
  - annual regional FLW workshops in cooperation with G20 presidency with aim to enhance regional networks and knowledge exchange
- Capacity building
  - hosting and training researchers and students
  - supporting international colleagues, e.g. method development, co-authoring research papers
- participating in international working groups, boards etc.
  - [UNECE](#), [FAO](#), UNEP, [ISO](#), [OECD](#), [EU](#), research projects (e.g. scientific advisory board [LOWINFOOD](#) (completed), [FOLOU](#), [WASTEWISE](#))

# Think global ...

- Cooperation with G20-host Argentina in 2018 to establish **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste** on UN level -> September 29<sup>th</sup> in place since 2020



FAO 2022

# ... act local

- **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste** as public event at Braunschweig City center each September
- Food Council Braunschweig and Braunschweiger Land co-founded in 2022 -> organizing public events related to food, FLW, sustainable diets, etc. on regular basis in cooperation with city council and local initiatives



# Facilitation of cooperation on regional scale

- annual **Regional FLW workshop** series in cooperation with G20 presidency (connecting 1200 participants from 119 countries since 2017)
- in 2018 “**Call to Buenos Aires Action on Food Loss and Waste**” signed after workshop as basis for collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2025: Launch of “**Sub-Sahara Africa early-career researcher network**”
- > facilitating **regional stakeholders’ cooperation and networks**



# Example international cooperation: Alliance for the climate - AgriDENZ



- Cooperation: German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Identity & New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries
- Involved partners: Thünen Institute, New Zealand Ag Emission Research, Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), Collaboration Initiative FLW & GFA Consulting Group GmbH
- Project goals: Intensify mutual exchange of experiences and cooperation between NZ and DE to develop solutions for global climate impact of/on agricultural production systems through
  - Scientific exchange
  - Policy dialogue
  - Exchange with third countries (e.g. financial support for FLW workshops)

# Example Capacity building: PhD study

- “An Analysis of the Determinants of Food Waste in Low-Income Communities: The Case of Hatcliffe, Zimbabwe” by Sharon Mada
- includes food waste from street markets and households in low-income district
- Implementing mixed method approach in the framework of Social Practice Theory by Shove et al. (2012)
- FW amounts, composition, reasons, disposal paths, interaction between vendors and consumers, implemented prevention measures, perceptions, skills,...
- Policy recommendations based on experiences from other African countries

Source: [Sharon Mada PhD thesis](#) (2025)

# Want to join our network and receive updates?

- Register at the Global Platform for FLW experts and projects
- Join the mailing list to receive annual reports!
- Look at our Collaboration Initiative FLW website
- Get in contact with Felicitas in person or by using [felicitas.schneider@thuenen.de](mailto:felicitas.schneider@thuenen.de)
- Follow Felicitas at [LinkedIn](#)



# Thanks for your attention!

More information on Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste



More information on Alliance for the Climate (AgriDENZ)



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