

# Reducing food loss and waste: EU action plan

## Farm to Fork Strategy

Workshop Policy Dialogues EU-Central America  
on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems  
Dialogue on food loss and waste  
23 March 2022

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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.



# Over 50% of EU food waste is generated at household level

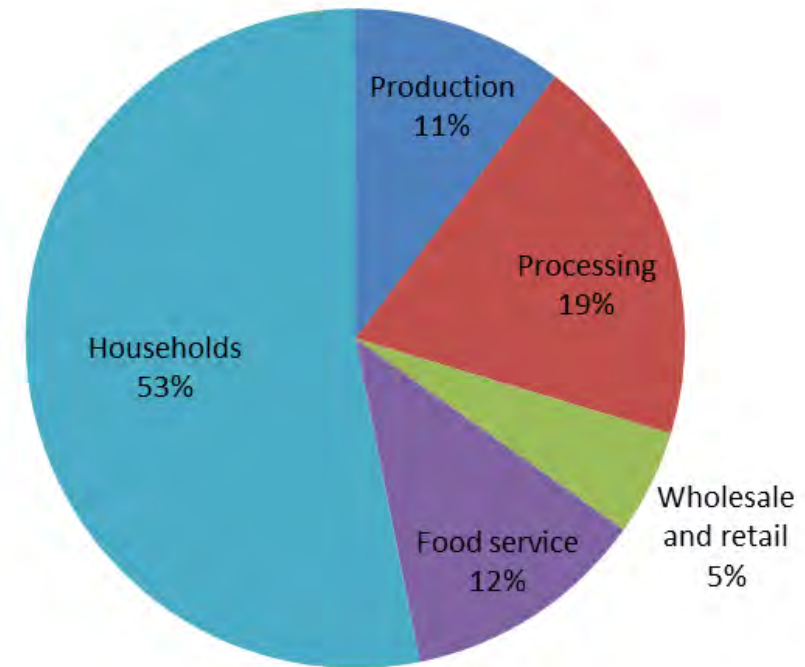
**88 (± 14)** million tonnes of food waste per year

equivalent of **20%** of all produced food in EU

**143** billion euros

~ **304 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq** (6% of total EU GHG emissions)

**173** kilograms of food waste per person



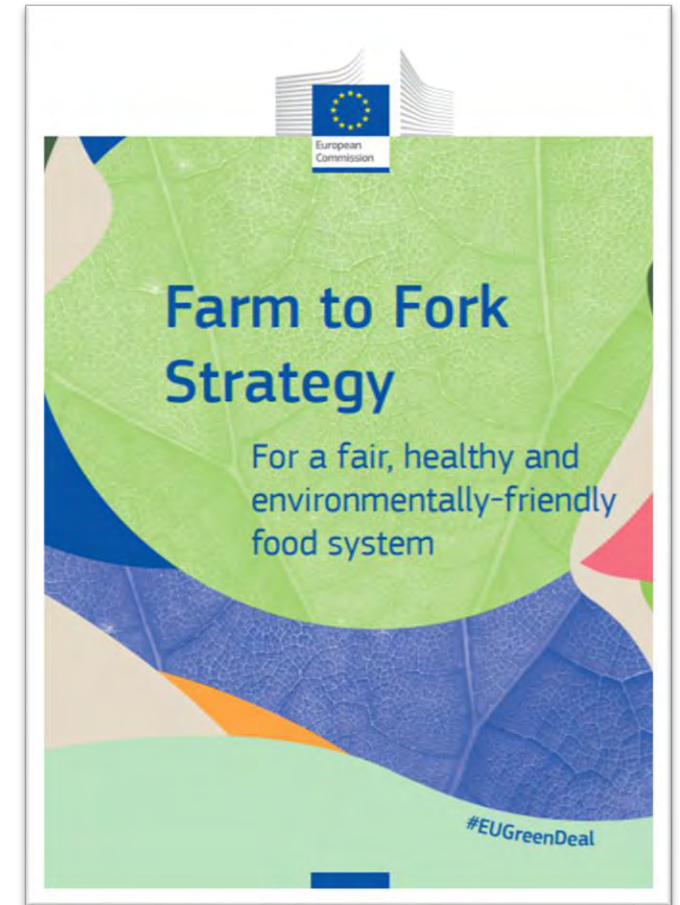
*Source: FUSIONS project, 2016  
(based on 2012 data)*



# Farm to Fork Strategy:

## Stepping up action against food loss and waste

- **EU-level targets** for food waste reduction (proposal by 2023)
- Revise EU rules for **date marking** (proposal by 2022)
- Further **integrate food loss & waste prevention** as part of all relevant EU policies
- Investigate **food losses** at production stage and explore ways of preventing them
- Scale up action and **mobilise key players** across the EU



# | EU-level targets for food waste reduction

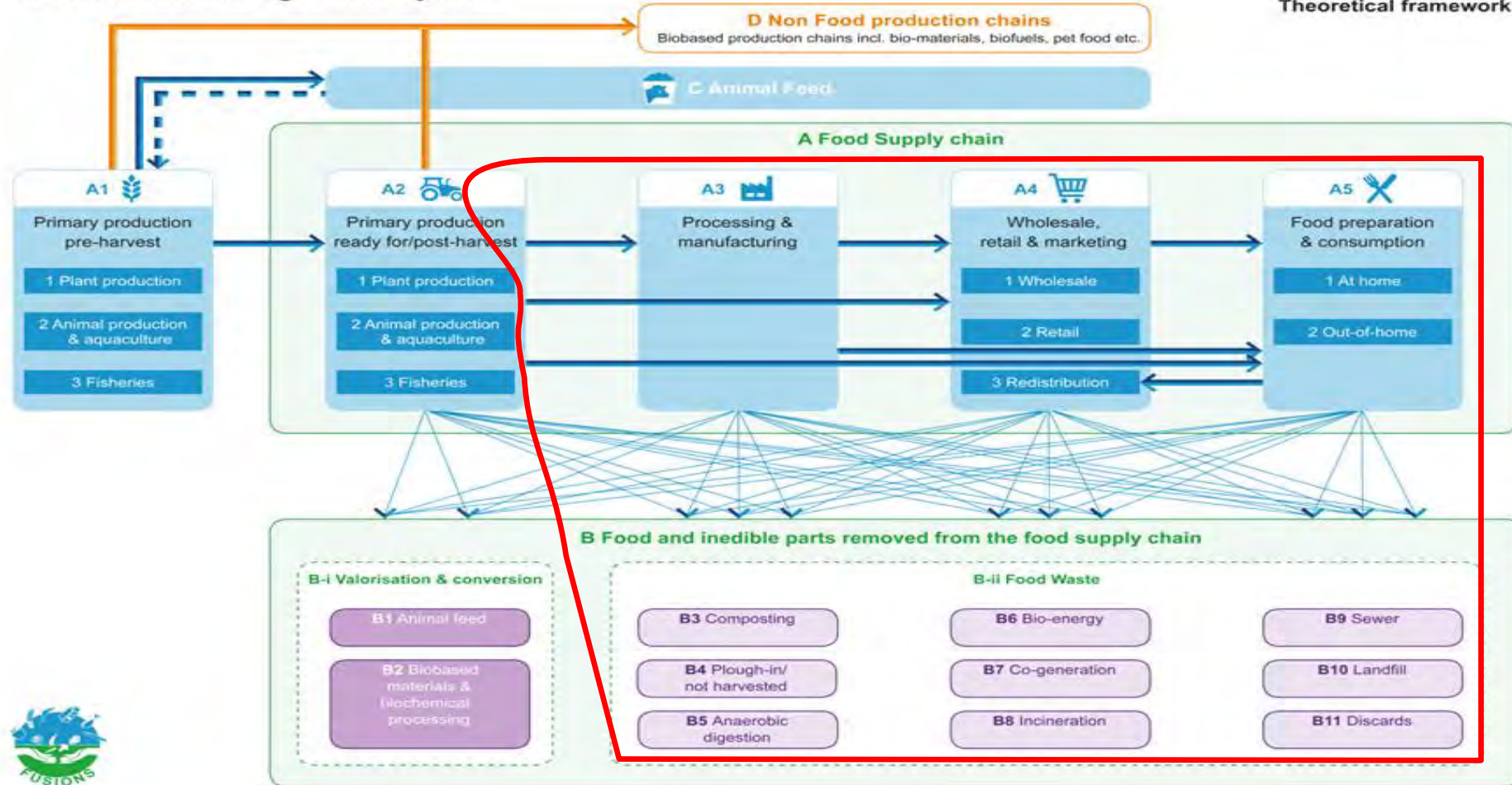
- **Aim:** to strongly involve all Member States in food waste prevention actions and accelerate EU progress towards SDG Target 12.3
- **Scope:** *"food waste" - means all **food** as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council **that has become waste**.*  
*See also: [Delegated Decision establishing a common EU methodology to measure food waste adopted on 3 May 2019](#)*
- Exact **coverage and target levels** are to be decided in **legislative proposal** from the Commission ( planned for Q2 **2023**)
- **Baseline data** are currently being collected (2020 is the first reference year) in view of reporting by July 2022
- **Proposal supported by impact assessment and public consultation**
  - [Inception impact assessment](#) published October 2021
  - Open public consultation (Q2 2022) & targeted surveys and interviews



# Food waste coverage – research approach (EU FUSIONS project 2016) vs legal coverage (WFD)

Resource flows in Agri-Food System

FUSIONS Theoretical framework



## Promote better understanding and use of date marking



... KNOW YOUR DATES!

**"USE BY"**

informs you about

**FOOD SAFETY**



**"BEST BEFORE"**

informs you about

**FOOD QUALITY**

**58% consumers say they always look at date marking when shopping and preparing meals, but less than 1 in 2 understand its meaning.**



# Promote better understanding and use of date marking

## Consumer communications on date marking



Visual 1



Visual 2



Visual 3



Visual 4



Visual 5

**KNOW YOUR DATES**

"USE BY" INFORMS YOU ABOUT FOOD SAFETY

"BEST BEFORE" INFORMS YOU ABOUT FOOD QUALITY

29 SEPTEMBER 2020 | International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

#FLWDay #FoodWasteEU  
ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\_waste\_en

European Commission





# | Promote better understanding and use of date marking

Revise **EU date marking rules** in order to avoid food waste linked to misunderstanding/misuse of these dates (COM proposal by Q4 2022)

Proposal supported by impact assessment, public consultation and consumer research

Aims of consumer behaviour research:

- **better understand** how current date marking rules and their implementation affect consumers' decisions to consume/use or discard foods;
- **identify new ways of expressing date marking** (e.g. in terms of terminology, format, visual presentation) that meet consumers' information needs regarding food safety (health) and quality whilst minimising food waste behaviour;
- **test the effectiveness** of these new ways of expressing date marking (vs. the current ones) on EU consumers' understanding in order to reduce their food waste behaviour.



# Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU



EU Platform dedicated to food waste prevention since 2016:

re-established 2022-2026



# Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU



- Promote uptake of **EU Platform's recommendations for action** and implementation of food waste prevention hierarchy
- **Strengthen evidence-base** for food waste prevention and share best practice through the EU Platform on FLW
  - assess effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives
  - *European Consumer Food Waste Forum*
  - create online *EU food loss and waste prevention hub*
- **Support actors in taking action** to fight food waste (e.g. Horizon Europe, grants through Single Market Programme)



# European Consumer Food Waste Forum (ECFWF)

- **Overall aim:** support all players in addressing the challenge of food waste at consumer level **by establishing a forum of experts to accelerate the sharing of evidence-based best practices to reduce consumer food waste.**
- **EP pilot project:** managed by DG SANTE in collaboration with JRC (2-year project June 2021- July 2023).
- A multi-disciplinary forum of **researchers and practitioners** in the area of consumer food waste prevention.
- Established in October 2021, the forum will work in close cooperation with the **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.**

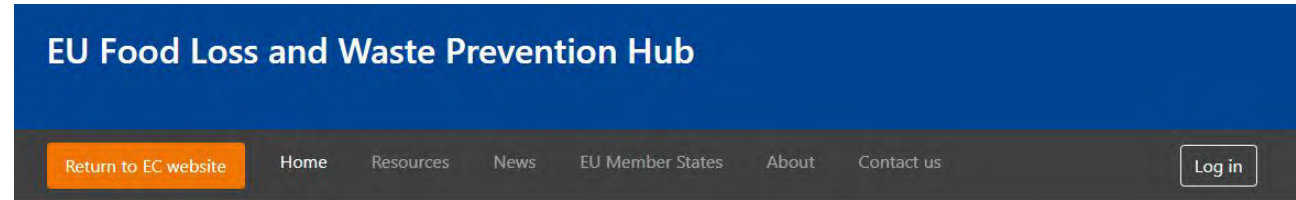


[Webpage of the project](#)



# Stay informed: EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub

- Launched on 29 September 2021 on IDAFLW
- Any stakeholder active in the area of food loss and waste prevention in Europe (and beyond) can become a member and share **resources** and **news**
- Dedicated pages for EU MS: information on **national policies and legislative developments**
- Monthly newsletter (1900+ subscribers)
- European Commission's **Food waste website**:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste_en)
- **Twitter**: @EU\_Food  
[https://twitter.com/Food\\_EU](https://twitter.com/Food_EU)



200+ resources uploaded so far

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/)



# Gathering momentum at global scale

- **The State of Food and Agriculture – Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction (FAO, 2019)**
  - **Food Loss Index:** estimates that 14% of all food produced globally is lost between harvest and retail
- **The Food Waste Index Report (UN Environment Programme, 2021)**
  - new estimate of global food waste: 17% of total food available to consumers (931 million tonnes) got wasted in households, retail, hospitality and food services, in 2019
  - Methodology for countries to measure food waste
- **UNEP Regional Food Waste Working Groups** in Asia Pacific, West Asia, Africa, and **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**
- **UN Food Systems Summit – “Food is never waste” Coalition**



# Thank you



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Slide 8:

Visual 1: Too Good For The Bin, Germany

Visual 2: Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

Visual 3: Too Good To Go

Visual 4: Food Waste Free United coalition, the Netherlands

Visual 5: Food Waste Free United coalition, the Netherlands

