

Sub-group on Action & Implementation

- Co-chairs:
 - COPA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations), and
 - Venturis Horeca
- Meetings: 28 May & 14 October 2024
- Themes:
 - “How to understand food waste prevention at primary production? (COPA)”
 - “How to optimise food chain collaboration to prevent food waste? – experiences involving the primary production” (COPA)
 - Coordination and governance structures for food waste prevention actions (Venturis Horeca)

Key takeaway messages

“How to understand food waste prevention at primary production? (28/05)”

- Collaborative efforts: Farmers, authorities, and businesses work together on initiatives like food donation programs and direct sales to cut food waste (FW) at the source.
- Innovative agricultural practices: Advanced practices and shorter supply chains are helping reduce FW while supporting climate goals.
- Repurposing and Waste Hierarchy: Differentiating avoidable vs. unavoidable waste enables repurposing for uses like energy, aligning with EU waste guidelines.
- Challenges with surplus utilisation: Processing surplus is costly; cooperatives and resilient crop varieties can help overcome market and environmental challenges.



Key takeaway messages (2)

“How to optimise food chain collaboration to prevent food waste? – experiences involving the primary production” (14/10)

- Collaborative models: Effective partnerships, whether through supply chain contracts, digital marketplaces, or alliances with retailers, help reduce FW, improve transparency, and support ethical practices.
 - Food banks collaborate with primary producers to recover surplus through gleaning and donation agreements, providing a vital source of fresh produce for communities in need while reducing FW.
- Circular economy as a solution for waste & resource efficiency: From repurposing agricultural by-products to developing digital platforms for biobased waste streams, circularity helps turn waste into economic and environmental value.
- Consumer engagement & education for lasting impact: Educating consumers on the value of "imperfect" or second-grade products can make them essential allies in reaching long-term food waste reduction goals.



Key takeaway messages (3)

Coordination and governance structures for food waste prevention actions (28/05 & 14/10)

- Coordination measures: need for proper coordination is critical. Different actors/different activities/cross-sectoral approach require coordinated plan and management. Otherwise impact is less optimal and risk of wasting resources due to eg. duplication of actions is greater.
- Measuring impact: we need to know what works and what does not to better plan, coordinate, and focus more on end-result rather than action or proces itself
- More innovative solutions: we are in need to invent new approaches, activities to tackle food waste problem. It seems sometimes that too often we replicate already performed actions without any knowledge on impact due to the fact that it is not measured.

Plans for the future

Next steps under action and implementation sub-group works

- No deliverables planned for 2024 (VA report already delivered);
- Consulting the co-chair of 2025 for the next year on our activities