

# World Progress in 2023



**Dr. Liz Goodwin**

*Senior Fellow and Director, Food Loss and Waste*  
World Resources Institute

# CONTEXT

- Ongoing war in Ukraine
- National economies struggling to recover from COVID and steer through implications of Ukraine
- Increased evidence of climate change - heatwaves, floods and fires
- Lack of progress with majority of SDG targets and goals

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



## SDG TARGET 12.3 ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE: 2023 PROGRESS REPORT

An annual update on behalf of Champions 12.3



### LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF CHAMPIONS 12.3

Tipping points are unpredictable moments when an invisible line is crossed, and incremental movement turns to rapid momentum. They can be for the good of society and our health – as happened when smoking went out of fashion – or something that could destroy our very existence and the nature of the planet we live on, as we face with the climate crisis.

We have yet to see a tipping point in the fight to halve food loss and waste by 2030, which would be an undeniably positive development. This report shows that the world – at this moment—is failing. That is a rather crude assessment, but we believe it is fair.

Too few decision makers realize that reducing food loss and waste is critical to meeting global climate goals. Too many households are not reaping the financial savings that come from using up the food they buy. And far too many people are going hungry even as over one-third of the world's food is lost or wasted.

But as Mary Silber, professor at The University of Chicago, has said, "The thing about tipping points is that they sneak up on you."

This report shows that efforts to reduce food loss and waste can produce results – and quickly. Already, the first major global company – Ingka Group, the largest IKEA retailer – has more than halved food waste in its restaurants, proving that SDG

Target 12.3 is achievable. And we have a roadmap – the Target-Measure-Act approach – to help governments, businesses and others get started.

Through the Champions 12.3 network, we are fortunate to work with many bright minds who care deeply about this issue and are dedicated to reducing the more than 1 billion tons of food that are lost or wasted each year. So, while the world remains woefully behind where it needs to be to meet SDG Target 12.3 by 2030, a tipping point could be around the corner.

As you read this report, we ask that you look for ways to contribute to the movement to halve food loss and waste. We hope you find inspiration in the innovative examples of efforts already underway. No matter your role – whether a business leader, policymaker, farmer, advocate, or home cook – you are needed in this movement.

Afterall, tipping points come about because of many big and small actions that together add up to change.

**Hans Hoogeveen**  
*Independent Chairperson of the Council at FAO &  
Champions 12.3 Co-Chair*

**Sunny Verghese**  
*Co-Founder and Group CEO, Olam International Limited &  
Champions 12.3 Co-Chair*

## SCAN ME



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST YEAR

- EU proposal for legally binding targets for FLW reduction – this may provide a template for further national and regional action
- Australia and China – ambitious agendas for action
- The US Government has allocated funding for FLW reduction efforts
- Many cities are adopting city level programs to reduce FLW, including Milan, London, Seoul, Cape Town, Nashville (Tennessee), Cincinnati (Ohio)
- The IADB has developed and implemented the FLW index which will help track progress among Latin American countries in development of policies and improvement programs – again this could be a model for others to follow

# IADB COUNTRY PROGRESS INDEX – PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



SCORE				COLOR CODE	MEANING
TARGET	MEASURE	ACT	TOTAL		
21-30	21-30	28-40	67-100	<b>Green</b>	The country is performing well in fulfilling the Target, Measure, or Act Index, or (for "Total") in the full Target-Measure-Act Approach.
11-20	11-20	14-27	34-66	<b>Yellow</b>	The country is making some progress but has some gaps to fill.
0-10	0-10	0-13	0-33	<b>Orange</b>	The country is not yet making much progress and has gaps to fill.

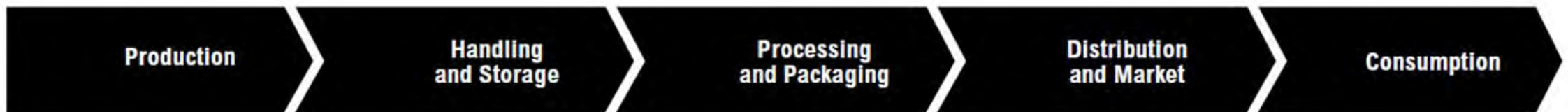
# COMPANY PROGRESS

- A growing list of companies have already achieved significant FLW reductions (at least 5 with more than 30% reductions to date)
- Some of these companies are developing innovative approaches to help drive reductions

Company	% Food Loss and Waste Reduction Achieved
IKEA	54%
Tesco	45%
Kellogg's	42%
Campbell Soup Company	36%
Grupo Bimbo (Central America)	32%
Mars Inc.	26%
Ahold Delhaize	18%
Unilever	17%

# WHAT IS NEEDED NEXT

- **Governments** – should make FLW a priority in NDCs and National Pathways
- **Companies** - pursue the Target, Measure, Act approach and scale their impact by engaging their suppliers to do the same, providing technical and financial assistance to do so
- **Farmers** – implement improved management practices to reduce on-farm and near-farm losses. Also work with governments, companies and financiers to put in place low-carbon storage technologies
- **Consumers** – be engaged via behavior change campaigns that raise awareness, show practical solutions, leverage nudge techniques and support household food waste reductions
- **Grassroots organizations** - should create pressure for governments and businesses to do more
- **Financial institutions** – provide more financing to support investments in FLW programs, e.g. better harvesting technologies, low-carbon storage and processing, ‘first risk’ financing



Updates on specific Champions  
12.3 initiatives





## Results to Date

- 223 companies participating (and counting!)
- All participants have adopted the Target-Measure-Act approach
- All participants have adopted a 50% reduction goal toward food loss and waste within their own operations
- 75% of participants have established a baseline and are reporting on food loss and waste (internally and/or externally)
- Many have already begun to take action to reduce food loss and waste and achieved reductions relative to their baseline
  - IKEA – 54% reduction
  - Tesco – 45% reduction
  - Booker Group – 43% reduction
  - G's Fresh Produce – 43% reduction
  - Kellogg's – 42 % reduction
  - Campbell Soup Company – 36% reduction
  - Grupo Bimbo (Central America) – 32% reduction
  - Mars, Inc. – 26% reduction
  - Ahold Delhaize – 18% reduction
  - Unilever – 17 % reduction
- Possible future developments – country/region specific 10x20x30 initiatives e.g. China and India, EU?

# 10x20kx30

- 10 large farmgate facing organisations – engage 20k of their farmer base
- The large organisations help the farmers to measure and reduce on farm and near farm losses
- WRI (Champions 12.3) provide training on measurement and webinars to share learning and support the process
- Use tools such as the Farm Loss tool developed by WWF, report into Atlas
- Current status:
  - Recruitment of the “10” underway (mix of farmgate-facing companies that are global in scope and some that are region-specific (e.g., Africa, South Asia).
  - Aspire to announce the membership of the “10” within the next 6 months.
- Then comes:
  - Training and onboarding of the “10”
  - Recruitment of the 20,000 farmers per member of the “10”
  - Aim for baseline measurement planned for 2024/2025 (for relevant harvest and post-harvest season)

# PHILANTHROPY ROADMAP

- WRI (Champions 12.3), WRAP, ReFED and FOLU have been working with a group of philanthropy organisations (Bezos Earth Fund, Ikea Foundation, Robertson Foundation) to develop a roadmap
- Aim to announce something at COP
  - The roadmap not specific funding
- Roadmap includes:
  - Global initiatives and overall monitoring
  - National roadmaps (initial priority countries)

# COP28

- OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER
- SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, HEALTHY AFFORDABLE FOOD FOR ALL, AND REDUCING FOOD WASTE
- **Organizers:** COP28, HLC, TURFS Consortium (WWF, EAT, GAIN, CARE, C40, Club of Rome, ICCCAD), Good Food Institute, FOLU, Champions 12.3, WRAP, Consumers International, Aquatic Blue Foods Coalition, Ne' Ma
- Other potential pavilion side events covering food loss and waste – Cool Move, WWF?, FAO?

