



How to understand food waste prevention at primary production?

5th meeting Action & Implementation sub-group

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copa***cogeca**
european farmers european agri-cooperatives



Outline

- * Introduction of Copa
- * Food waste at primary production stage
- * Examples of food waste prevention
- * Role of modern agricultural techniques (e.g., precision agriculture), in reducing losses and increasing sustainability
- * How avoidance of food losses can mitigate the negative impacts of climate change
- * Conclusions



Mission

To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



Objectives

Promoting European farmers and agri-cooperatives views to influence Eu decision-making process and public opinion.

copa

european farmer



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european agri-cooperatives

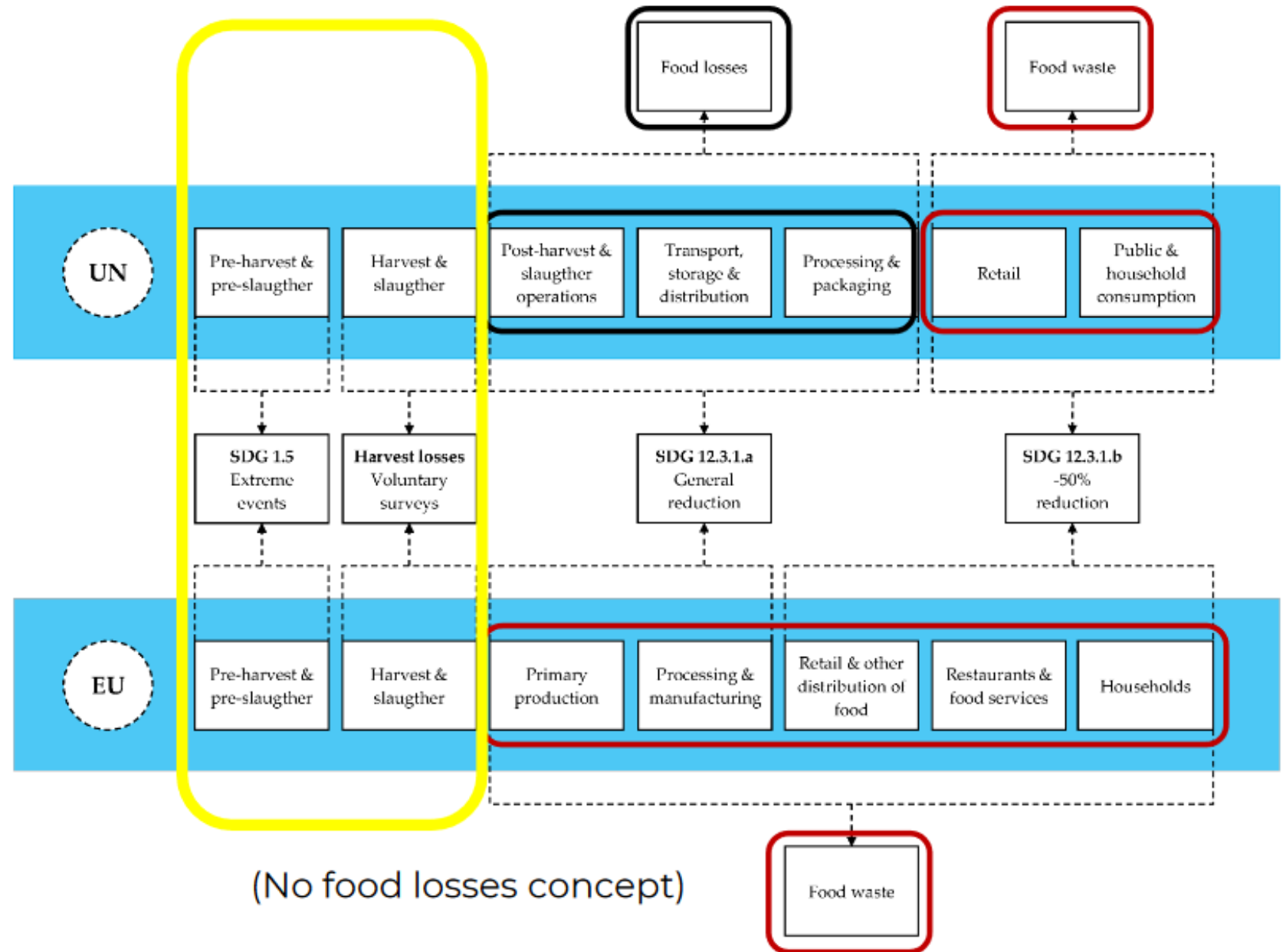
- Created in **1958**
- 22 million European farmers and family members
- **65+** full members from the **27** EU Member States and **30** partner organisations

- Created in **1959**
- **22,000** European agricultural cooperatives
- **30** full members from all **27** EU Member States, **4** affiliated members and **30** partner organisations



In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past **62** years.

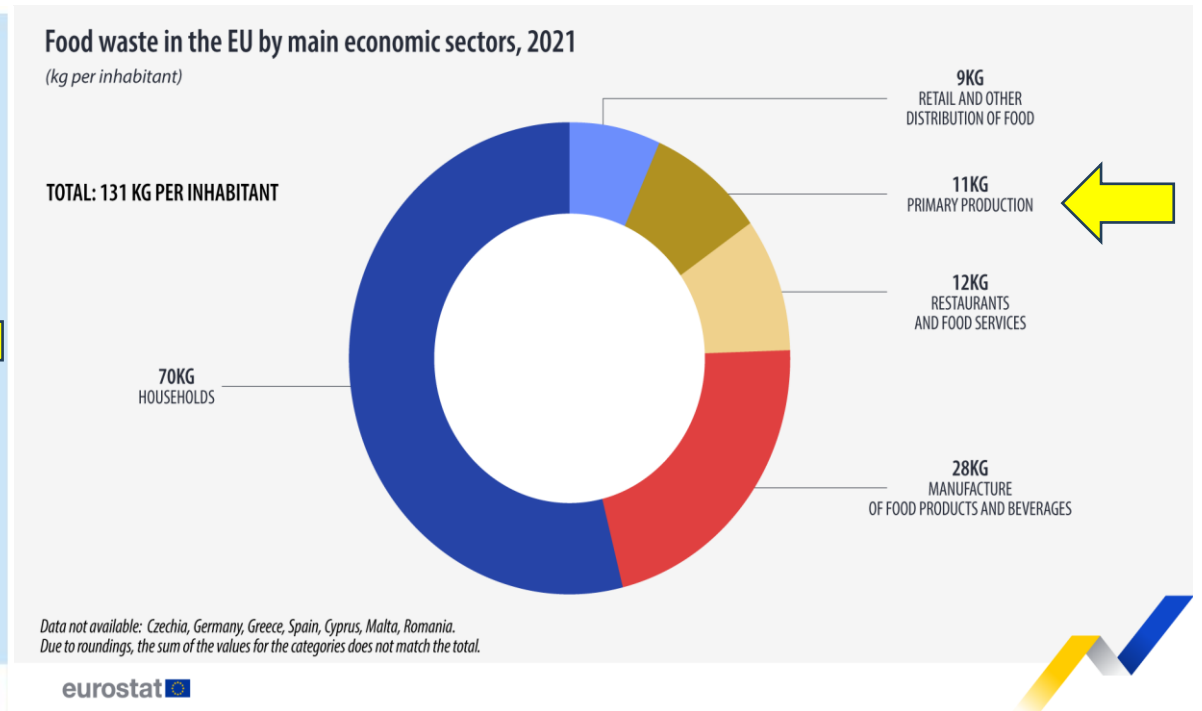
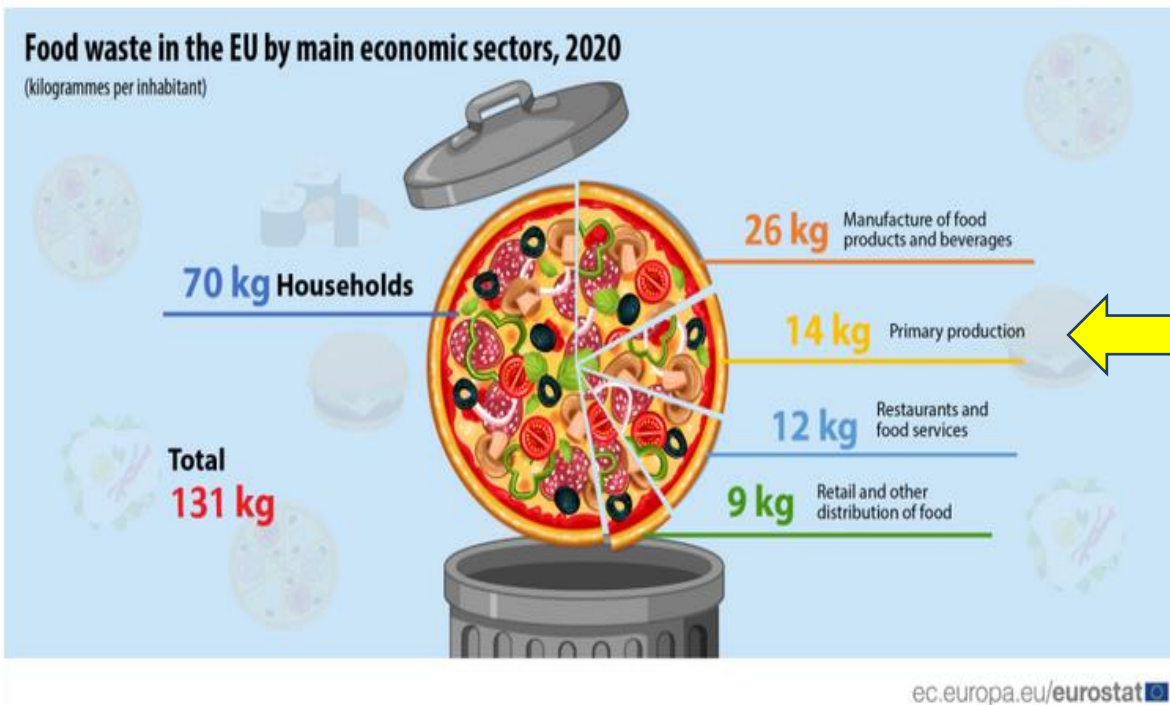
EU/UN conceptualisation of Food Waste



Food waste in primary production

2020 EU-wide monitoring report on food waste

2021 EU-wide monitoring report on food waste



Role of EU farmers & agri-cooperatives in managing resources

No reason to
discard a
product of
value

- surplus food is used for human distribution, food processing, animal feed, bioenergy purposes or for incorporation in the soil to increase its organic matter content. → **should not be considered as waste.**

Subject to
factors
beyond own
control

- high degree of economic dependence on their trading partners (**power imbalance**)
- **characteristics and concerns of the agricultural sector** (adverse weather conditions, seasonal, pests, diseases etc.).

EU public
mechanisms

- **producer organisations** contribute to managing production in terms of quality and quantity (preventing and managing market supply situations).

Role of EU farmers in reducing food waste

Projects and programmes

Already making a significant contribution to managing waste by **seeking to use natural resources efficiently to minimise losses on their farms.**

Food waste reduction:
a social (ethical) and environmental responsibility, as well as an economic opportunity.



finding **new outlets for co-products** that were previously overlooked;



shortening the food chain to limit waste by developing direct sales;



collaborating with national authorities and academia to develop methods for FW diagnosis;



engaged in **awareness campaigns** to improve consumers' understanding of labelling;



actively participated in **food donation** activities;



worked on **re-purposing food** that would have been wasted but not donated.

Examples of food waste prevention – Donation

- * SOLAAL (FR)
- * PFPZ (PL)
- * Agrupacion de coop Valle de Jerte (ES)



Examples of food waste prevention in fruits & vegetables

- * Laarhoeve (NL)
- * Indulleida (ES)
- * Kruidenaer (NL)
- * Plukgoed (NL)
- * Van Rijsingen Ingredients (NL) Agrupacion de coop Valle de Jerte (ES)



Examples of food waste prevention – Repurposing / circular economy

- * Fishmeal and fish oil for the future (DK)
- * Advanced Substrate Technology (DK),
- * Lantmännen (SE)
- * Caviro Group (IT)
- * Verbruggen Paddenstoelen (NL)
- * Pindos (GR)
- * Carbery Group (IE)
- * Agrupacion de coop Valle de Jerte (ES)



Examples of food waste prevention – Feed

- * NEALIA (FR)
- * Cooperative Le Gouessant (FR)
- * BoerRuud (NL)

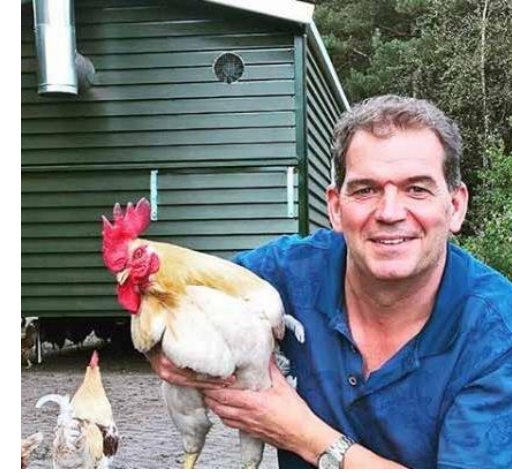


Examples of food waste prevention – Awareness

- * Wasteless /Maradék nélkül (HU)
- * “Ugly but tasty” (HU),
- * Campagna Amica (IT)



Examples of food waste prevention – Collaboration

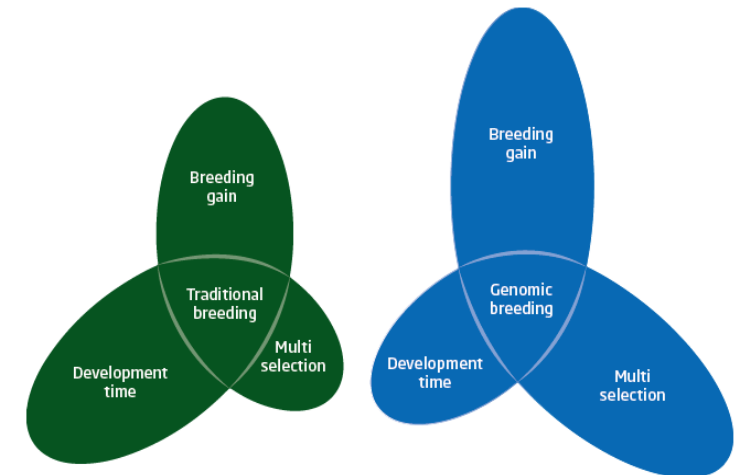


- * “Spesa in campagna” (IT),
- * “Raccolta diretta” (IT)
- * “Cucina degli avanzi” (IT)
- * “Orti in affitto” (IT)
- * “Food Heroes” (NL)
- * Unverschwendet / “unwasted” (AT)

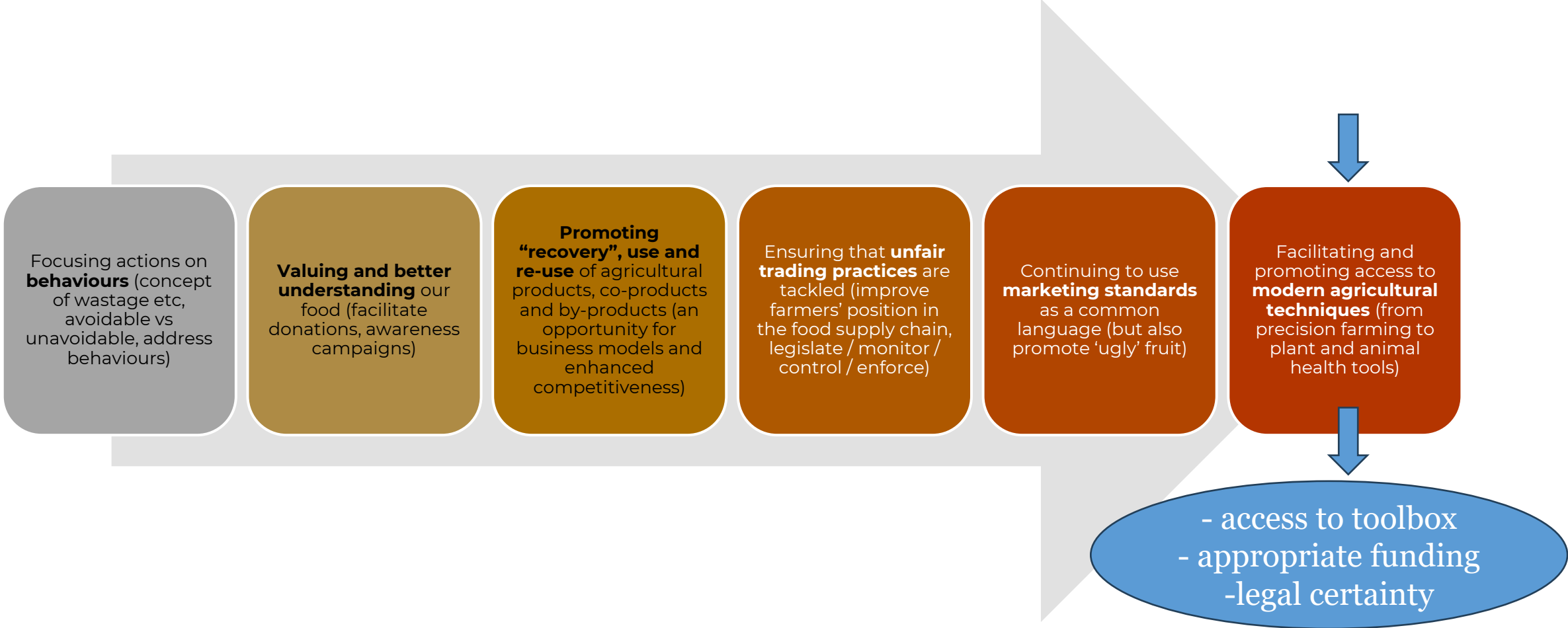


Examples of food waste prevention – Innovation & technology

- * ResQ Club or Lunchie (FI),
- * FiksuRuoka/SmartFood (FI),
- * DAFC (DK)
- * Chr. Hansen (DK)
- * Kipster (NL)



Some challenges that need to be tackled



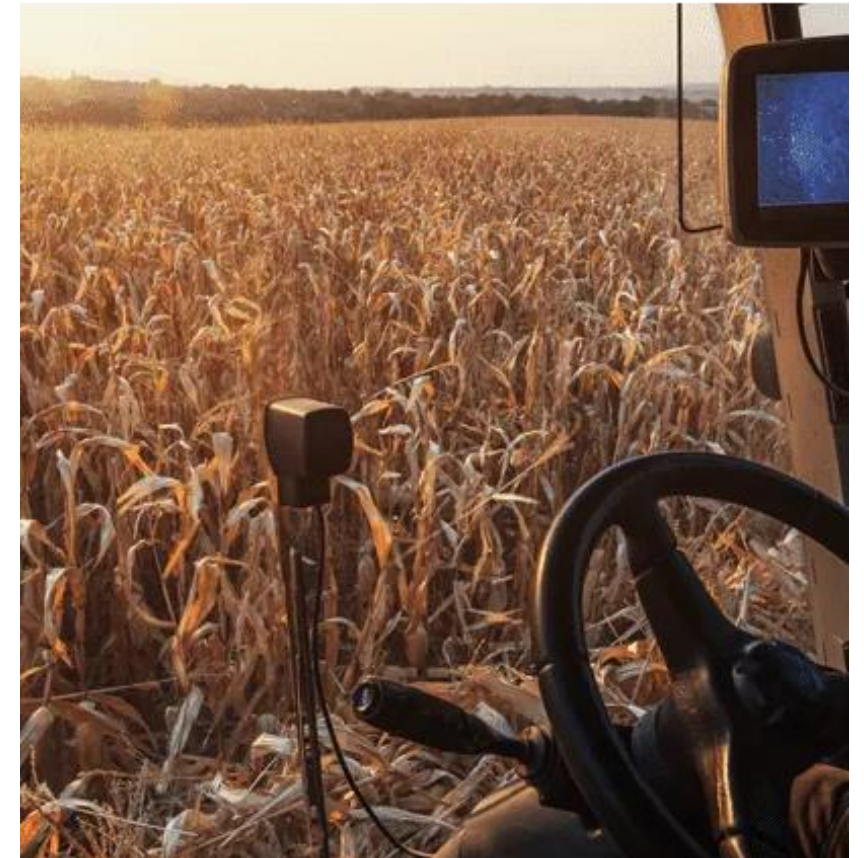
How avoidance of food losses can mitigate the negative impacts of climate change

- * **17%** of all available food is wasted at retail, food service and consumer level (931 million tonnes/year) (Source: UNEP (2021): *Food Waste Index Report 2021*.)
- * 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with **food that is not consumed**
- * **Food waste:** production and waste treatment burden the environment (Source: Mbow et al., 2019)
- * → *Avoiding food losses can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help mitigate climate change.*



Role of modern agricultural techniques in reducing losses and increasing sustainability

- * Innovative agricultural techniques and practices help farmers increase efficiency and reduce the amount of natural resources necessary to meet different demands.
- * For example:
 - * **precision farming** can help farmers accurately manage resources (water, fertilisers and crop protection products) and apply preventive and corrective measures.
 - * the development of **new plant varieties**, which are resistant to water and heat stress, is a way of adapting to climate change.
 - * effective **plant protection products** (mechanical, chemical, or biological) can limit on-farm losses.
 - * appropriate treatment and **veterinary medicines** play a critical role in ensuring animal health and welfare.





Conclusions

- * Primary producers are committed to preventing food losses and reducing food waste.
- * Need to look at the root causes: “*farmers do not generate waste, they suffer losses*” and be mindful of the interplay with other EU policies (contaminants, PPPs, packaging)
- * **3 + 1** conditions for better prevention:
 - * promoting “recovery”, use and re-use of agricultural products, co-products and by-products;
 - * improving farmers’ position in the food supply chain;
 - * facilitating access to modern agricultural techniques;
 - * providing logistical support (recycling, packaging, storage, transportation) for food donations.



Thank you for your attention!

