



The FLFW Platform and the implementation of food loss and food waste reduction at primary production level: observations and way forward

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Farmers and agri-cooperatives on the front to fight food waste and food losses

Over the past few years, farmers and agri-cooperatives explored many paths to reduce food waste to a minimum:

- **Shortening the food chain:** development of direct sales from producers to consumers, thus limiting food waste along the chain
- **Re-purposing of by-products:** find new purposes for by-products that were disregarded before
- **Investment and collaboration in food waste diagnosis:** many agri-cooperatives collaborated with other actors to establish food waste diagnosis methods
- **Optimisation of food processing:** re-assess the food processing cycles in cooperatives to reduce food waste to a maximum
- **Food donation:** many farmers organisations got actively involved in food donation programmes
- **Re-purposing of food surplus:** use of food surplus to create new products or energy

What has changed after 5 years?

A change of perception regarding food waste and increasing results:

- **New perception of food waste:**
 - ❖ Food waste as an environmental issue
 - ❖ Food waste as a social responsibility
 - ❖ Food waste as an opportunity
- **Increasing results:**
 - ❖ Multiplication of food donation projects in France, Italy, Spain, Poland
 - ❖ Multiplication of new outlet for co-products (feed, bio-energie, new foodstuffs, fertilizer)
 - ❖ Multiplication of collaborations to diagnose and reduce food waste

What are the challenges to go further?

Various paths to be explored to further reduce food waste and food loss:

- **Human and financial resources to spread the knowledge:** farmers are often very busy and isolated, it is thus important to have the means to share solutions with them.
- **Coordination and measurement:** not easy to harmonise and centralise the information + it requires resources that we often don't have.
- **Issues linked to unfair trading practices:** last minute cancellation of orders still happen a lot and represent a very important issue when it comes to food waste at primary production level.
- **Food losses and food safety:** to strike the right balance between food safety and environmental concerns is essential.
- **Food losses due to climate change:** new climatic conditions impact food losses either directly through weather episodes or through the development of new pests. Tools are thus required to mitigate these negative impacts.

The Platform and its recommendation: a useful tool?

The Platform, a way to raise awareness and a place to find ideas and meet people:

- **A tool to raise awareness of all actors:** the Platform raised primary producers awareness, but also authorities and academia which helped to find means and support to develop projects.
- **A place to find ideas:** the Platform allowed farmers organizations to hear and discover new ways to reduce food waste or how to implement them.
- **A place to meet people:** the Platform also allowed to find partners for food waste projects.

What is coming next, where should we go?

What could be next objectives for the Platform:

- **A focus on the chain inter-relations:** A sub-group dedicated to analyze the relations between the different stages of the food supply chain and their impact on food waste (e.g. passage between primary production to process, or from process to retail).
- **A focus on interaction between food safety, environmental requirements, and food waste:** It would also be good to have a sub-group analyzing food waste resulting from new food safety or environmental requirements.
- **A focus the centralization and the harmonization of information:** it is not easy to centralise information about food waste and more importantly to make it comparable.

A man with a beard, wearing a striped polo shirt and blue shorts, is smiling while riding a large brown water buffalo. The scene is set in a dry, open field with sparse vegetation under a clear, bright sky. An orange banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Thank you for your attention !

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