

Reducing food loss and waste: EU action plan

Farm to Fork Strategy

Workshop Policy Dialogues EU-Mercosur-Chile
on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Dialogue on food loss and waste
17 May 2022

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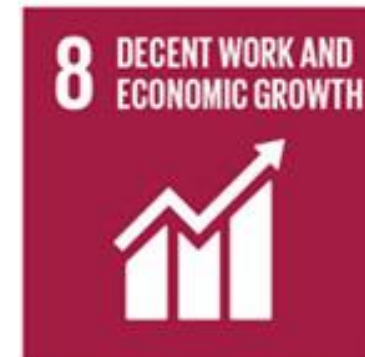




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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

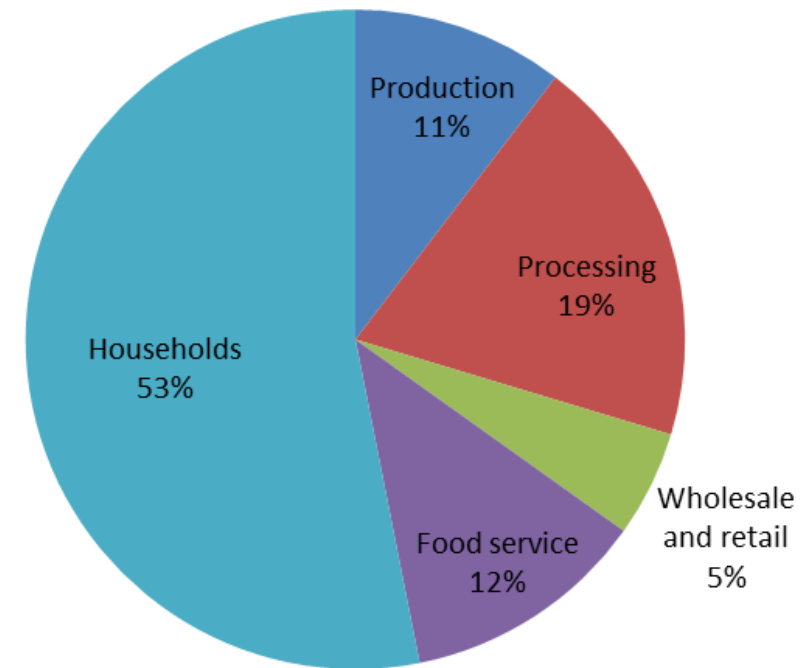
88 (± 14) million tonnes of food waste per year

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

143 billion euros

~ **304 Mt CO₂ eq** (6% of total EU GHG emissions)

173 kilograms of food waste per person



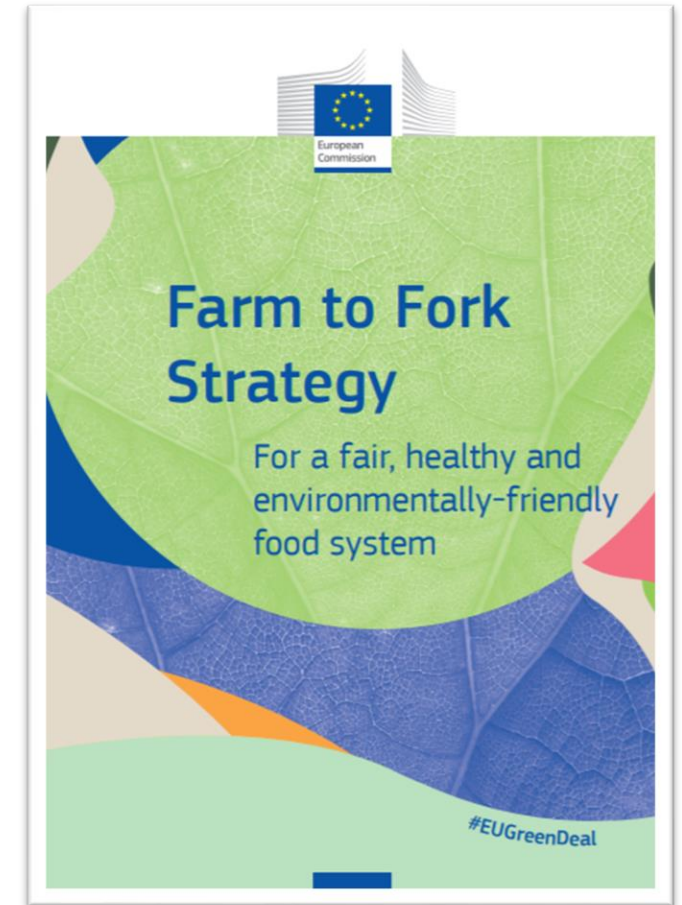
*Source: FUSIONS project, 2016
(based on 2012 data)*



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

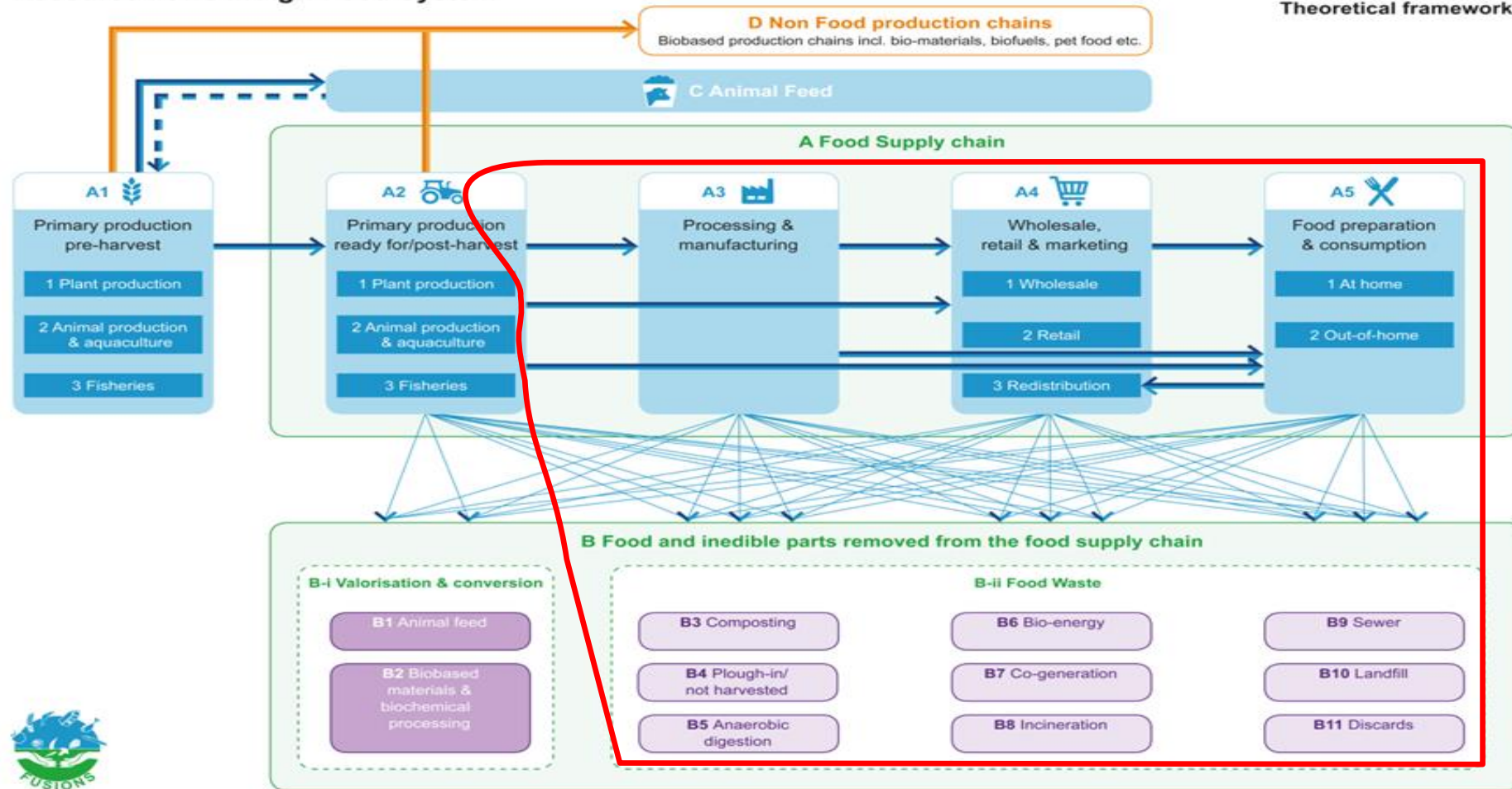
- **Aim:** to strongly involve all Member States in food waste prevention actions and accelerate EU progress towards SDG Target 12.3
- **Scope:** *"food waste" - means all **food** as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council **that has become waste**.*
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



| 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 the Joint Research Centre (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 works in close cooperation with the **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.**

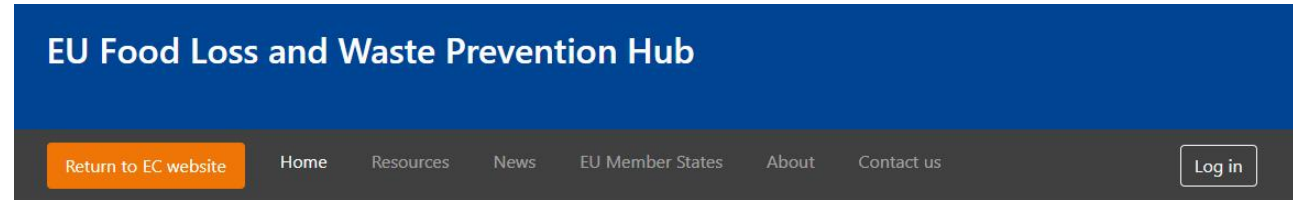


[Webpage of the project](#)



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**
- Contributions from international organisations with a global impact, as well as from national authorities from non-EU countries are also welcomed
- Dedicated pages for EU Member States: information on **national policies and legislative developments**
- [Subscribe](#) to the monthly newsletter! (2000+ subscribers)



250+ resources uploaded so far

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**



| Keep in touch



https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste_en



https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/



[@Food_EU](https://twitter.com/Food_EU)



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

