Building Back Better: Addressing Food Loss and Waste

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# Building Back Better: Addressing Food Loss and Waste

FAO COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN AND THE NENA AGENDA

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<th>FAO Response and Recovery Plan</th>
<th>Regional priorities for the Near East and North Africa</th>
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<td>2. Data for decision making</td>
<td>▪ Data, analysis and policy support</td>
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<td>3. Poverty Reduction, Economic Inclusion and Social Protection</td>
<td>▪ Social protection and safety nets, targeting farmers and rural poor</td>
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<td>▪ Promoting rural youth employment and women’s economic empowerment</td>
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<td>4. Trade and Food Safety Standards</td>
<td>▪ Enhancing trade resilience and food safety standards</td>
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<td>5. Boosting Smallholders Resilience for Recovery</td>
<td>▪ Strategies for building the resilience of agricultural-based livelihoods</td>
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<td>▪ Digital innovation for smallholder producers</td>
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<td>▪ Supporting producers’ organizations and agricultural services</td>
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<td>6. Preventing the next Zoonotic Pandemic</td>
<td>▪ Adopting a One Health approach to plant/animal pests and diseases and preventing future zoonotic pandemics</td>
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<td>7. Food Systems Transformation</td>
<td>▪ Developing competitive and inclusive value chains and agribusiness</td>
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<td>▪ Building sustainable production systems (water, climate change)</td>
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<td>▪ Promoting healthier diets during and after the pandemic</td>
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THE NEED FOR A FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

- 690 million people are hungry; COVID-19 to add 83-132 million undernourished people (SOFI 2020)
- 300% increase in global food production since mid-1960s
- 14% of food produced is lost (Food Loss Index)
- Multiple co-benefits to tackling food loss and waste: SDGs 2, 13, 14, 15, 8
- Challenge: need better data on how much and where food is lost/wasted
FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

- **Food loss**: decrease in quantity and quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by *food suppliers* in the chain
- **Food waste**: decrease in quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by *retailers, food services and consumers*
- **Critical loss points**

- **Training**: identify maturity indices, improve timing of harvest, protect crops from weather shocks, pests, insects and diseases.
- **Food Loss Assessments** help to focus data collection and identify relevant questions for impact estimations
TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

- **Food Loss Index:** estimates from post-harvest and up to (not including) retail at the highest possible disaggregated levels
  - Guidelines for data collection for different food groups

- **Food Loss & Waste Database** — across the stages of the food supply chain, regions, commodity groups

- **FAO Case Study Methodology** for Food Loss Analysis in Food Supply Chains (FLA Methodology)

- **Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste (Save Food)** — 30 country case studies on critical loss points for crops, milk, fish
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- Extreme Events (SDG 1.5)
- Food Loss Index (SDG 12.3.1.a)
- Food Waste Index (SDG 12.3.1.b)

Losses in the FBS

- Stages of the Food Systems
  - Pre-harvest/Pre-slaughter
  - Harvest/Post-harvest Operations
  - On-farm Post-harvest Operations
  - Transport Storage Distribution
  - Processing & Packaging

- Harvest losses can be added to the index coverage and measured with crop-cutting surveys

Food Losses Index at the national level (SDG 12.3.1.a)
THE FAO CASE STUDY METHODOLOGY FOR FOOD ANALYSIS

SCREENING
Initial research on what is known locally

FIELD INVESTIGATION
Interviews, surveys, studies in field with stakeholders groups and key informants

LOAD TRACKING
Loss assessment at Critical Loss Points

SYNTHESIS
Analysis of causes of losses and solutions

Value chain information on activities, actors, prices
Stakeholders perceptions of losses, interest to change, suggestions for solutions
Estimates of physical, quality, economic losses in value chain
Identify Critical Loss Points

Specific data on Quantity and Quality Losses for specific Critical Loss Points in priority Food Supply Chain

Analysis of information
Identification of interventions; cost benefit; social, food security, environmental implications
National stakeholder workshop to review results
Concept of investment project to implement proposed interventions
FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE (FL&W) REDUCTION AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY IN EGYPT AND TUNISIA

- Value-chain specific understanding needed → Decision-making behavior
- Need for incentives for farmers and firms to address FLW
- Farmers face trade-offs between cost of reducing losses, and productivity
- Consumers: cost of food waste vs. time to prepare meals

- Agri-food enterprises in the time of COVID-19:
  → Adapt their business models
  → Respond to changing demands
  → Seize opportunities in e-commerce and digitalization
  → Become more sustainable
THANK YOU!

For more information:
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