

UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

Leadership Dialogue on “Food loss and waste prevention and reduction: a key lever for agrifood systems transformation”

Co-organized by FAO, the Government of Italy and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

26 July 2023 | 14:30 to 16:00 CEST

Abstract

Through concrete examples, the session will examine challenges faced and progress made in food loss and waste (FLW) prevention and reduction within a sustainable agrifood systems context. It will highlight successful approaches and promote peer-to-peer learning and cooperation to accelerate and deepen the transformative power of agrifood systems through FLW prevention and reduction. It will start by explaining the role FLW prevention and reduction can play in accelerating agrifood systems transformation to achieve the SDGs within a context characterized by multiple inter-connected crises, such as food insecurity and climate change.

The facts: What is at stake? Where do we stand on the issues?

Significantly high levels of food loss and waste (FLW) occur in the global agrifood system. Up to 13.2 percent of food produced globally is lost while 17 percent is wasted. FLW has negative impacts on food security and nutrition – including for the 828 million people who are undernourished and the 3.1 billion who cannot afford a healthy diet. FLW contributes to climate change, being responsible for 8-10 percent of all greenhouse emissions. It also contributes to environmental pollution, degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity loss, and represents a waste of resources, such as water, that are used in food production.

The gaps: What are the main questions framing the discussion?

(1) What are the challenges faced and the progress made since the Food Systems Summit in FLW prevention and reduction as part of an agenda to accelerate achievement of the SDGs through agrifood systems transformation?

(2) How has FLW prevention and reduction resulted from and contributed to a more efficient, resilient and inclusive food system? How can trade-offs be minimized in achieving sustainability in all three dimensions?

(3) How can the ‘means of implementation’ for FLW prevention and reduction (e.g. finance, science and technology) be mobilized or leveraged at scale at sub-national, national and global levels?

The focus: How will the session contribute to promoting action at scale?

Awareness is lacking on the role FLW prevention and reduction can play in agrifood systems transformation, while weak human and institutional capacities, and weak means of implementation plague attempts to address FLW within agrifood transformation agendas. The session will raise awareness, promote greater recognition of the role of FLW prevention and reduction, and mobilize the political will and commitment required to integrate FLW in national pathways. It will also showcase examples of successful interventions that can inspire the design and implementation of national pathways, incentivizing peer-to-peer learning and cooperation.

Leaving no one behind

The session will highlight how FLW prevention and reduction can accelerate transformational change to make agrifood systems more resilient, efficient, sustainable and inclusive. It will show-case examples where FLW prevention and reduction has been achieved while fostering inclusion of groups that face higher levels of vulnerability, exclusion and marginalization in the agrifood system, such as women and indigenous

peoples. It will highlight approaches to ensure that these groups have access to the resources and services needed to prevent and reduce FLW and that they are not excluded from profiting from the benefits of their actions.

SDGs Acceleration and systems thinking

Key messages that should be conveyed from this event to the SDGs Summit and other high-level forums are that: food systems transformation is at the core of and can accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs; and FLW prevention and reduction is one of the quick-win actions for achieving food systems transformation. Approaches to address FLW discussed at this event will provide the basis for the high-level political guidance from the Summit. The Food Is Never Waste Coalition – with its broad membership from all key stakeholder groups – will serve as one of the main conduits to carry these messages forward and mobilize action at scale.

Session format and detailed session programme

The session will be conducted in a conversational moderated roundtable format. Through 2 rounds of questions and answers, speakers will discuss challenges faced and provide examples of successes in FLW reduction contributing to agrifood systems transformation and how they mobilized or leveraged means of implementation in an effective and efficient way. The moderator will then invite questions and interventions from the floor, transitioning to a moderated dialogue with the audience.

Time	Segment	Description
14:30	Welcome and introduction	Mr Máximo Torero Cullen , Chief Economist, FAO
14:40	Moderated roundtable	Roundtable speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms Claire Bury, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission ● Ms Jenny Moffit, Under Secretary, US Department of Agriculture ● H.E. Suharso Monoarfa, Minister of Development Planning / Head of National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia ● H.E. Anxious J. Masuka, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe ● H.E. Majnun Mammadov, Minister of Agriculture, Azerbaijan ● H.E. Miriam Estela Guzman de Tejada, Deputy Minister for Rural Development of the Dominican Republic ● H.E. Paulo Teixeira, Minister for Rural Development and Family Farming of Brazil ● Ms Geeta Sethi, Advisor & Global Lead for Food Systems, The World Bank
15:30	Interactive Q&A session with the audience	Questions-and-answers and open dialogue with the audience
15:45	Closure and way forward	H.E. Stefano Gatti , Special Envoy for Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

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