

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE REDUCTION IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

*Abdessalam Ould Ahmed
Assistant Director General and Regional Representative*

*FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
Cairo, Egypt*



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE (FLW)

FLW is high on the global agenda for food security and sustainable food systems:

- 1.3 billion tonnes, or about 1/3 of all food, each year
- Over 800 million people undernourished globally
- SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction
- Zero Hunger Challenge
- Post-2015 development agenda: proposed Sustainable Development Goal (goal 12.3)

*by 2030 **halve** per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses*



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



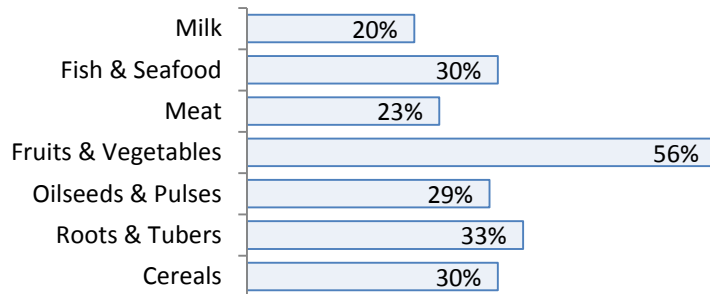
World Food
Programme



FLW IN THE NENA REGION

FLW within NENA food systems:

- Up to 250 kg/capita of FLW each year, higher than global average
- Over \$60 billion lost per year, or \$120 per capita (*conservative estimate*)
- High levels of FLW throughout value chains, up to,



- Natural resources losses *due to* FLW,
 - Water: 42 km³ /year lost to produce, handle, distribute food that goes lost or wasted
 - Land: 360 million Ha/year occupied by FLW
 - Fertilizer, energy, labour, greenhouse gases...

The context of challenges of FSN:

- High, increasing dependency on food imports, especially basic food commodities
- Vulnerability to international markets, price volatility
- Growing populations and food demand
- Channeling food to growing urban populations
- Double burden of malnutrition; need for sustainable consumption and production
- Physical constraints to production
 - Water scarcity: NENA IRWR 609 m³ per capita/ year, vs World 6080 m³ (2012)
 - Land: 70% of NENA total area under desert and arid conditions
 - Vulnerability to climate change
- Protracted crises, affecting distribution and control systems that preserve the safety, quality, availability of food



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

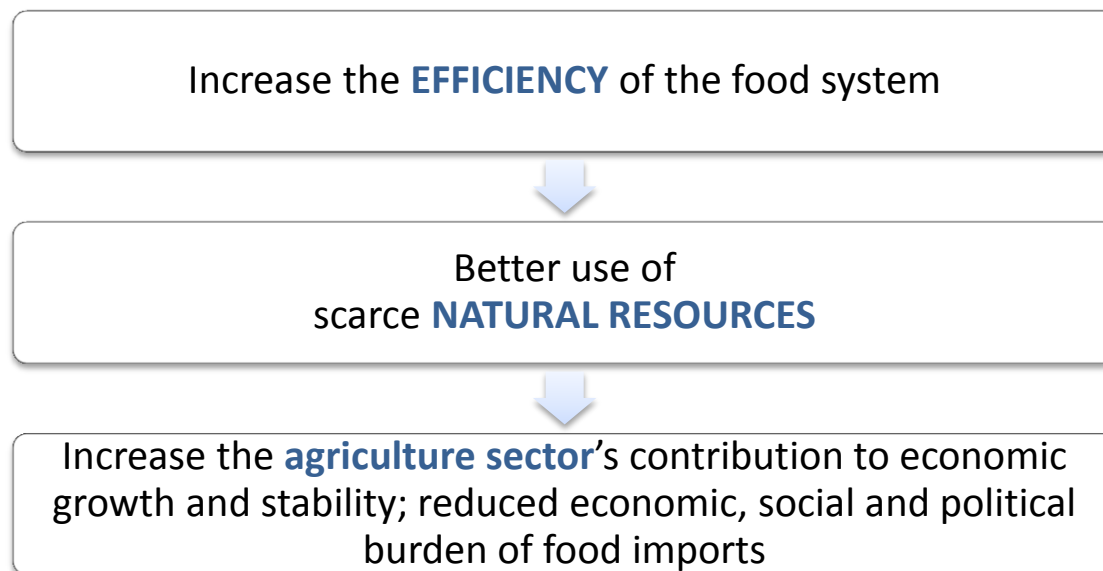


COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD
SECURITY

FLW IN THE NENA REGION

FLW are intrinsically tied to **sustainable food systems** and **food security** in NENA, and the multiple challenges faced,

The opportunity is for FLW reduction to strengthen food security in NENA,



REDUCING FLW AS A PRIORITY

NENA countries are aware of FL&W reduction as integral to national and regional food security and with FAO's help, are committing to tackling the problem.

31st FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (14-18 May 2012):

“Request to FAO to assist Member countries in addressing the key challenges of reducing food waste and losses *in the Near East* by conducting comprehensive studies on impact of food losses and waste on food security in the region and in establishing a plan to:

REDUCE FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE IN THE REGION BY 50 % WITHIN 10 YEARS”

32nd FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (February 2014):

Strategy presented and **endorsed** by FAO member countries, called upon to,

- Collaborate with FAO and partners to develop **evidence-based national action plans** for food losses and waste, with clear objectives, indicators and targets
- **Give high priority to investments** for improving food chain efficiency and other actions crucial to reduce FLW (Governments, funding institutions, private sector).

REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- Consultative process undertaken to develop and finalize the Strategy:
 - *Expert Consultation, external/internal review, extensive review of literature*
 - *Aligned with FAO's "Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction", with regional dimension and identity*
 - *Draft discussed at previous CFS-FAO Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop (Tunis 2013), with member countries, civil society, private sector, regional institutions, and experts*
 - *Presented and endorsed by member countries at NERC 32 (2014)*
- The result: a strategic approach was agreed that reflects the status of the issue, and barriers to FL&W reduction thus far:
 - Inadequate data
 - Lack of awareness and technical capacity
 - Non-existent or inappropriate policies and regulations
 - Gaps in institutions and coordination
 - Insufficient investment



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Four components to guide national efforts for FLW reduction, regional collaboration, and FAO support to member countries:

DATA GATHERING, ANALYTICAL RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

AWARENESS RAISING, PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES

PROMOTING INVESTMENT AND ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

POLICIES, REGULATIONS & STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

Three cross-cutting considerations :

The value chain:
Commodity groups of economic, cultural and agricultural relevance

The problem or “hotspots”:
The stage(s) of the supply chain primarily responsible for FLW

The constraints:
Aspects of food systems which are underlying causes for FLW, and potential solutions



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



SOME OF THE ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS:

Egypt/Lebanon/Iran/Jordan (2014-2016)

Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP): *“Capacity building for food loss reduction in the Near East region”*

Egypt/Tunisia (2015-2018)

Food Losses and Waste (FL&W) Reduction and Value Chain Development for Food Security in Egypt and Tunisia *(Italy funded project, \$2.2 million)*

Morocco (2015)

TCP request for a Comprehensive Study and National Action Plan for FLW Reduction (2015)

Tunisia (Chartre 2015)

Tunisian Network for the reduction of food losses and waste

Saudi Arabia

“Action Plan to Reduce Food Losses And Waste in KSA”, presented to KSA counterparts (2014)

Regional

Regional Food Loss and Waste Reduction Network, *launch April 2015*

“Regional Strategic Framework for Food Loss and Waste Reduction” (finalized 2014)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



THE WAY FORWARD

- *Key national role, regional collaboration*
 - Coherent, evidence-based plans for FLW reduction, aligned with national strategies and agriculture sector development plans
 - A Regional Network for knowledge, information, and experience exchange, and monitor and promote the implementation of the strategy
 - Country focal points nominated, strengthening linkage and continued support of FAO/RNE
- *Multi-stakeholder approach*
 - Engagement and consultation with all stakeholders to FL&W from production to consumption, and across disciplines (nutrition, education, health, industry, etc)
 - Clarifying roles and responsibility of different actors; private sector, civil society, government, FAO and international organizations
- *Resource mobilization*
 - FAO, member countries, and regional institutions, and mobilizing donor resources
- *Monitoring and assessment*
 - Setting and measuring indicators for FLW reduction
 - Deepening understanding of FLW in national and regional food security and nutrition

Thank you for your attention

www.fao.org/neareast/perspectives/food-waste/en/



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

