

G20 Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste

Terms of Reference

Background

These Terms of Reference outline the objectives, composition, activities and *modus operandi* of the G20 Technical Platform on the Measurement of Food Loss and Waste (FLW) – a focused and light global coordination mechanism, composed of representatives of international organizations, bilateral institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. The Platform aims at improving coherence and consistency in the measurement of FLW, raising awareness, and promoting approaches for FLW reduction by sharing successful experiences and best practices, in the context of sustainable food systems.

The establishment of the Platform responds to the mandate of the G20 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture held in Istanbul in May 2015 and the Implementation Plan of the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, endorsed by the G20 Development Working Group. The Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué invites:

“.... FAO together with IFPRI and other relevant international organizations to establish a platform, building on existing systems, for sharing information and experiences in measuring and reducing food loss and waste. This platform should include experiences of G20 members and other countries and also focus on low-income developing countries.”

(2015 Final Communiqué of the G20 Ministers of Agriculture, paragraph 13).

The Platform builds on and complements existing mechanisms, such as the FAO Global Initiative on FLW, the private sector “SAVE FOOD” programme, the Global Community of Practice on Food Loss (FL) Reduction, The WRI Food Loss and Waste Protocol, and IFPRI’s Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) Program (which includes an initiative on FLW under the Value Chain Flagship). The Platform will not duplicate existing work, but will function as a coordination mechanism.

Objectives

The objectives of the Platform will be:

- to highlight that FLW is a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance, and strengthen the focus on the need to reduce FLW as a top priority at the global, regional and national levels;
- to promote coordination of the work and facilitate consensus on definitional approaches and metrics for FLW, contributing towards the development of a systematic framework and methodology;
- to promote and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and good practices on reducing FLW between members, in order to better inform policy processes and facilitate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal 12.3; and,
- to enhance coordination and collaboration among international and national organizations, the private sector and NGOs when supporting developing countries in improving their capacity to reduce FL, including through innovative low-cost technologies and practices.

Composition and governance

The Platform will be overseen by a Secretariat to be managed by FAO and IFPRI. The Secretariat will be tasked with overseeing the work of the Platform, reviewing and monitoring progress on agreed work plans and activities. The Secretariat will work continuously and will meet physically annually.

The Platform will include technical representatives of the G20 members, on a voluntary basis, the private sector, the Zero Hunger Challenge, IFAD, Regional Development Banks,

Regional Economic Commissions, other relevant international organizations and, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, representatives from non-G20 countries working internationally and at country level on FLW issues. Social partners and other organizations, including large NGOs with a major work program in FLW, will be also invited.

Activities

The Platform will promote global advocacy activities and initiatives, advise on the implementation of joint activities to support knowledge-generation, and help meet country demands for FLW reduction. This could include the following:

- Evidence-based advocacy on the scope, causes and costs of FLW;
- Support the development and improvement of FLW measurement approaches, including definitional frameworks through improving and building on existing methodologies;
- Monitor global developments on FLW, and coordinate the work towards the development of a baseline data;
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity building on FLW reduction in G20 countries and LIDCs along food value chains (including South-South/Triangular transfers of innovative solutions); and,
- Develop a database of FL reducing low-cost and innovative technologies in order to facilitate the design and implementation of programs that address specific needs of LIDCs.

In principle, the prioritization of activities of the Platform should be based on the Hierarchy of Actions: that is, a “food use-not-waste” approach (i.e. prevention, recovery and redistribution of safe and nutritious, otherwise wasted food to feed people rather than repurposing it for other uses, taking into account national circumstances and market-based approaches).

Functioning

The Secretariat will be entrusted with maintaining partnerships between members, the preparation and organization of the Platform’s meetings, as well as supporting and monitoring the implementation of commonly-agreed actions and work plans.

The Platform’s members will meet once a year. Base activities will include: (i) promoting the Hierarchy of Actions on FLW taking into account national circumstances and market-based approaches; (ii) sharing information on FLW metrics; (iii) supporting the discussion forum within the current Community of Practice; (iv) showcasing FLW solutions; and, (v) discussing trends and work plans in different FLW reduction initiatives of the private sector, international organizations and development partners in order to strengthen coordination and collaboration.

If requested by countries, *ad-hoc* country-specific coordination mechanisms could be created, adjusted or scaled-up within country-level coordination structures to implement eventual demand-driven joint food loss and waste projects.

Reporting

The Platform will report to the G20 Development Working Group on an annual basis.

Funding

Members

Each member should bear the cost of its own participation in the Platform. Specific co-funding and funding arrangements and additional fundraising could be done on a case-by-case basis, according to the activity.

Secretariat

In order to guarantee an expeditious start of inter-agency operations, initial funding will be required to maintain the core of the Secretariat for the first two years. Further interagency collaboration, including the secondment of staff members and ancillary costs, could also be envisaged. A sustainable, long-term financing of the Secretariat, if deemed necessary, would need to be agreed upon by FAO, IFPRI, participating international organizations and possible donors.

Assessing progress

After 2 years of functioning, the Secretariat, in consultation with its members, will assess progress in the implementation and effectiveness of the Platform.