



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Food loss and waste in Turkmenistan: Key challenges and recommendations

Preliminary results of the inception mission

Sub-regional Conference on Food Loss and Waste Reduction in Central
Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey

29 September 2021, virtual event

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Policy and Institutional Background

- Sustaining food security – **among priorities of the State Policy**
- The Laws of Turkmenistan “**On Food security**”, “**On safety and quality of foodstuffs**” and etc.
- State supports private sector in all food value chains (**modernization** of agricultural production, storage, processing and distribution **infrastructures**), including concessional lending;
- The role of the private sector in all value chains of the different industries is increasing dynamically



Policy and Institutional Background

- Market rules (competition, economic interests, etc.) facilitate food loss and waste in the country;
- Turkmen people's traditional and ethical views on non-acceptability of wasting food;
- Projects and programs being implemented in Turkmenistan by International Organizations have indirect influence on FLW reduction;



Project Activities in Turkmenistan

- Project document was signed in December 2, 2020
- National experts have started working on July, 2021
- Inception mission is being carried out, and the following meetings have been conducted so far:
- Private sector (different value chains, different food industries)
- International Organizations based in Turkmenistan
- Meetings with other stakeholders (state agencies, ministries, academia circles) have not been held yet and expected to be held in October, 2021.



Meetings with Private Sector

- Meeting with following sectors of the food industry have been conducted:
 - **Fruit and vegetable production and distribution**
 - **Meat processing**
 - **Milk processing**
 - Fishery and aquaculture
 - Vegetable oil production
 - Confectionery production
 - Public catering



Meetings with International Organizations and IFIs

- UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkmenistan
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- WHO
- CAREC (Central Asian Regional Environmental Center)
- Islamic Development Bank
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- USAID
- EU Delegation in Turkmenistan
- OSCE Center in Ashgabat
- GIZ Office in Turkmenistan
- ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization)



Key Findings per Food Sector

Sectors	Key challenges	Recommendations
Fruit and vegetable production	Possible overproduction	Establishment of data center using digital solutions (information on production)
	Soil salinity in some agriculture lands	Improving the efficiency of irrigation channels
	Plant pests	Strengthening extension services for farmers and entrepreneurs
	Drought	Introduction of water saving irrigation technologies
Fruit and vegetable distribution	Lack of cooperation between farmers and distributors	Enhancing creation of online agricultural platforms
	Storage and transportation infrastructure	Consulting support on advanced storage technologies and development of transportation and storage infrastructure
	Inadequate inventory management	Implement inventory management software at warehouses, retail and wholesale units



Key Findings per Food Sector

Sectors	Key challenges	Recommendations
Meat processing	Some slaughterhouses managed improperly (sometimes in households)	Establishment of network of certified slaughterhouses
	Improper transportation (with absence of cooling systems in some cases)	Strengthening transportation infrastructure
Milk processing	Whey after cheese making is wasted	Introduce innovative technologies for making products from whey (produce new products)
	Lack of technology for the analysis of presence of antibiotic residues in milk in small milk processing enterprises	Strengthening the technological capacity of small milk processing enterprises



Conclusions

- There is strong state support and political will to introduce advanced wasteless food production technologies in the country (openness for cooperation in this field);
- Considering huge experience and potential of FAO in this field, it is highly recommended to implement further projects in Turkmenistan aimed at strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders;
- International organizations are committed to implement programs and projects having indirect impacts to FLW reduction;
- Private sector is supporting this project and ready for cooperation in implementation of activities aimed at technology transfer.



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Thank you for your attention!

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