

Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in the SEC Countries

The Project Closing Meeting (Virtual)

17 April 2023

11:00 – 12:05 (Türkiye Time - GMT +3 Hrs)

Concept Note

Background

The project aims at food loss and waste (**FLW**) reduction in the context of national food systems and climate change. In the longer term, this will result in a reduction of the national contribution to climate change, and a mitigation of the pressure on national food systems for increased production demanded by population and income growth, urbanization and changing consumption preferences and patterns.

The project has a regional component, which consists of a **FLW** reduction campaign, an interactive partnership network. The project has national components for **Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan** and **Türkiye** six countries, which consists of the formulation of a national FLW reduction strategy, and training in FLW measurement, analysis, monitoring, accounting, and reporting.

Project beneficiaries are trainers, extension specialists and other staff of national institutions, government, NGOs and CSOs, as well as farmer/fisher organizations and other food value chain actors. The project collaborates with and benefit from external international institutions, providing gender responsive technical advice and knowledge in **FLW** measurement and accounting, FLW reduction methodologies, and publicity, awareness raising and information dissemination.

Impact

The project assisted the beneficiary countries in developing national strategies, action plans and legislation for reducing food loss and waste. To this end, as data must be collected first, in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan assessments of FLW along priority value chains based on surveys of value chain actors and field observations, analyses of national legislation and policies related to FLW prevention and management have been conducted. Physical and/or virtual stakeholder validation workshops have been held in the said beneficiary countries, where the results of the FLW analyses were presented and national strategic priorities were discussed and validated.

Through the establishment of a regional network, improving capacities and knowledge management, delivering trainings, workshops, FLW actors, consumers have been guided about the ways of reducing reduce food loss and waste.

The expected impact of the project is reduction in quantitative and qualitative FLW in the programme implementation areas, resulting in a reduction of the national contribution to climate change, and a mitigation of the pressure on national food systems for increased production demanded by population and income growth, urbanization and changing consumption preferences and patterns.

As part of the “**Save Food Global Initiative**”, owing to Save Your Food campaign which is a national media campaign in Türkiye to raise public awareness about the detrimental impacts of food loss and waste, and to stimulate action to tackle the issue along the food supply chain.

The project has been implemented since **1 November 2019** and will end on **30 April 2023**.

During the lifecycle of the project, efforts have been undertaken at different levels – legal, policy, technical, education and communication – to create a favourable environment for actors along food value chains and consumers to make choices and take measures to prevent and reduce food loss and waste.

The Closing Meeting Objectives

FAO and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye (MoAF)** bring together national stakeholders and partner organizations from across the sub-region to mark the closure of the three-year project “**Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye**” and present the main results of their activities since the project commencement.

During the meeting, the presentation on processes of national strategic documents and action plans development for food loss and waste reduction in beneficiary countries will be delivered by **FAO**. **MoAF** will provide the outcomes of SYF campaign in Türkiye as part of “**Save Food Global Initiative**”.

It is also expected from the beneficiary county representatives to share their experiences during the preparation of their national strategies.

Theme

The Closing Meeting programme (*see Annex*) will focus on presenting the processes of national strategic documents, development of action plans for food loss and waste reduction in the beneficiary countries and **SYF Campaign** implemented in Türkiye.

Audience

Public authorities in Türkiye

National consultants in beneficiary countries

Partners and food value chain actors

NGOs

International organizations

Place, format, date, duration

The Closing Meeting will be organized on **17 April 2023** at **11.00 - 12.05 hrs, Ankara time** as a **virtual** event, allowing for online participation.

The meeting was originally planned as a half day hybrid event; however it has been changed to a virtual activity due to the devastating earthquake in the southeast Türkiye and Syria.

The meeting will start with the opening remarks of the representatives of the **MoAF** and **FAO** and continue with the technical presentations. In the end, the participants will be encouraged to submit their questions.

*** The meeting is organised as part of the project Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in Azerbaijan, Central Asia, and Turkey, funded by the Government of Türkiye within the framework of the FAO – Türkiye Partnership Programme (FTPP-II) on Food and Agriculture.*

AGENDA

11.00-11.05	Project Video Display
11.05-11.15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p><i>Viorel Gutu, Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative in Türkiye</i></p> <p><i>Fuat Kasimcan, General Director of European Union and Foreign Affairs Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye</i></p>
11.15-11.45	<p><i>Robert van Otterdijk, Agro-Industry Officer, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Myriam Annette, International Consultant Food Loss and Waste Reduction, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on Processes of National Strategic Documents and Action Plans Develop- ment for Food Loss and Waste Reduction in AZE, KYR, TAJ, TKM, UZB –Online</i></p>
11.45-11.55	<p><i>Zeynep Ozkan, Head of Department of European Union Harmonization, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on SYF Campaign</i></p>
11.55-12.05	Closing remarks