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منظمة
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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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Evaluation of PPA BN4 – Reduction of Food Loss and Waste

Management Response

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. Introduction

1. FAO Management welcomes the Evaluation of Programme Priority Area (PPA) BN4 – Reduction of Food Loss and Waste and commends the evaluation team for the comprehensive review of FAO's food loss and waste portfolio. FAO Management welcomes the findings, conclusions and recommendations presented in the evaluation, highlighting their usefulness in strengthening FAO's work on agrifood systems transformation.
2. Management welcomes all five recommendations provided by the Evaluation. However, Management notes that current budgetary and resourcing constraints impact FAO's ability to fully implement four of the recommendations, calling for the repurposing or reallocating of the existing resources and mobilization of additional resources. These four recommendations are "partially accepted".
3. Before providing specific comments for each recommendation, Management would like to comment that the Evaluation could have more emphatically reflected FAO's comparative advantage in supporting food loss reduction and the solutions to address the issue across food supply chains in all sub-sectors, including crops, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture. The FAO technical units working on food losses could have been reflected as part of the solutions to implement the recommendations, and the report could have reflected the links of food losses to other key thematic areas of FAO's work, such as resilience.

II. Comments on recommendations

4. In relation to the specific recommendations, Management would like to offer the following comments, noting that Management welcomes all five recommendations, although in four cases that are indicated as "partially accepted", the implementation of the recommendations would require additional resources and analysis to understand the scope of work FAO should cover.
5. *Recommendation 1* is partially accepted. While acknowledging the importance of awareness raising in food loss and waste (FLW) reduction, Management will also focus on clarifying the areas and the scope of awareness raising that will be covered by the Organization based on its mandate, comparative advantage, technical expertise, and availability of resources.
6. *Recommendation 2* is partially accepted. While the recommendation is very much welcomed by Management, it notes the suggested solutions would require mobilization of additional resources.
7. *Recommendation 3* is partially accepted. Management appreciates the importance the Evaluation accorded technical capacities and fully agrees that there is need to increase the number of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) and core PPA personnel working on FLW, within available resources.
8. *Recommendation 4* is fully accepted. Management is committed to integrate environmental considerations, gender and youth more systematically in the formulation and implementation of FLW reduction programmes as well as better mainstreaming FLW in other relevant areas of work.
9. *Recommendation 5* is partially accepted. Management appreciates the recognition the Evaluation has given to the accelerators.
10. Looking ahead, FAO Management is committed to addressing all the recommendations in close consultation and collaboration with all internal and external stakeholders.
11. Further information is provided in the Matrix.

Evaluation of PPA BN4 – Reduction of Food Loss and Waste – Management Response Matrix

Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management Response Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected (b)	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible Unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
Recommendation 1: Expand awareness raising efforts, as the topic of FLW is still largely out of public sight in many countries.	Partially Accepted	There is a need to clarify the areas and the scope of awareness raising that will be covered by FAO based on its mandate, comparative advantage, technical expertise, and availability of resources. Expanding awareness raising would require additional resources. Management accepts the recommendation to continue raising awareness for reduction of FLW at different occasions, events and international fora, such as through the celebration of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction. FAO will raise awareness of FLW through the Food is Never Waste Coalition, which was formed during the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit process, and closer collaboration will be fostered with the members of the Coalition. FAO will attend and organize high-level events at global fora such as the 29th and 30th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake+4, <i>inter alia</i>.	Chief Economist (DDCE), ESF, Food and Nutrition Division (ESN), Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) and Office of Communications (OCC)	2024-2025	Y
Recommendation 2: Increase dedicated efforts to develop statistical capacity at national level to use the FLI methodology (adapted locally as and when required with guidance from FAO) in producing FLW data by Member States.	Partially Accepted	The suggested actions would require mobilization of additional resources. In particular, the Global Strategy programme will end in June 2024, and capacity building for the measurement of food loss would require additional resources. The 50x2030 initiative is actively supporting 26 countries worldwide and covers farm surveys only. Moreover, food loss data collection is not a standard feature of the 50x2030 Initiative but is only added upon countries' requests. Currently, the 50x2030 Initiative is not implementing any loss data collection. Therefore, different funding sources (projects, data component of FLW reduction programmes, etc.) will be required to increase data availability.	DDCE, Statistics Division (ESS)	2024-2025	Y
Recommendation 3: Increase the number of ESF and PPA core staff working on FLW. The low level of staff resources dedicated to FLW in ESF hampers	Partially Accepted	Management partially accepts the recommendation, acknowledging that it requires post reallocations, within existing resources.	Office of Strategy, Programme and	ongoing	Y

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the PPA's capacity to promote coherence and mainstream FLW work.		Regarding the approaches to expand the teams, Management would like to raise the following: i. While the report is very much focused on headquarters capacity, Management would like to emphasize the importance of having adequate capacity not only at headquarters but also at the Subregional and Regional Offices; ii. To note that currently there are no vacant positions in ESF or ESN which can be used to expand the teams; and iii. To note that we would need to re-orient a number of existing posts to establish the critical mass of officers working in this area. Prior to 2016, approximately nine professional officers (P1 to P5) covered FLW work as opposed to the two officers that are presently available, This has created an immense gap in the technical expertise to conduct work at FAO headquarters and provide backstopping support to work in the Decentralized Offices.	Budget (OSP), DDCE		
Recommendation 4: Integrate environmental considerations, climate impact, gender and youth more systematically in the formulation and implementation of FLW reduction interventions, and mainstream FLW to a greater extent across all <i>four</i> <i>betters</i>.	Accepted	Management fully accepts the recommendation. ESF is actively advocating and supporting a systems approach in its work and the overall work of the Organization on FLW. Reduction of FLW is considered as an entry point to transform agrifood systems so that they become more sustainable in the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Efforts are already being made to integrate the environmental and social dimensions, including gender and youth, that were identified by the Evaluation, and these will be strengthened moving forward. Efforts will also be made to foster collaboration across the technical areas and units identified by the Evaluation. Management appreciates the link to the environmental agenda and agrees that this can help in resource mobilization. This will be pursued, especially considering that FLW is one of the ten domains of action under the recently launched <i>Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold: A global roadmap, Part1</i>.	DDCE, ESF, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP), Agrifood Economics and Policy Division (ESA), NFI, Office of Climate Change Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)	ongoing	N

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Recommendation 5: Strengthen the connection between the four accelerators – data, technology, innovation, and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions) – and the PPAs to seize the opportunities afforded by technical and policy innovations.	Partially Accepted	Management partially accepts the recommendation and appreciates the proposal for greater connection between the four accelerators. The recommendation to consolidate resources to create a living repository of evidence-based impactful approaches to reduce FLW is currently ongoing through the technical platforms for the Measurement of Food Loss and Waste.	DDCE, OSP, Office of Innovation (OIN), ESN ESF, NFI	ongoing	Y