



Capacity Development Workshop on “Monitoring SDG Target 12.3: Building the Global Food Loss Index”

April 2018, Turin, Italy

International Training Centre of the International Labor Organization (ITC-ILO)

Concept Note

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is organizing a two-day capacity development workshop at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Training Centre, in Turin, Italy to be held on 26-27 April 2018. The workshop represents an opportunity to raise awareness on indicator 12.3.1 on the Global Food Loss Index to enable countries to build it, monitor it and understand the data collection process.

Background

Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “*to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*” recognizes the fundamental role of sustainable farm, business practices, as well as responsible consumer’s behavior as essential elements for reducing poverty and ecological footprint on one hand and increasing food security and nutrition in a continuous growing world population on the other hand. Goal 12 is composed of 11 targets. Among these, Target 12.3, for which FAO has been designated the custodian agency, aims to “*by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.*”

Two indicators - 12.3.1 and 12.3.2 - have been proposed to track achievements towards Target 12.3. The first one focusing on ‘reduction of **losses** along the food production and supply chains’ (supply oriented) and the second one, led by UNEP, focusing on ‘halving per capita global food **waste** at the retail and consumer level’ (demand oriented).

The two indicators will remain categorized as a **Tier III** until the methodology, data collection mechanisms and a baseline involved will be fully developed, tested and adopted for both of them. This training will delve into indicator 12.3.1 on Food Losses only since indicator 12.3.2 on Food Waste is still under development.

Indicator 12.3.1 - Global Food Loss Index - is a **statistical indicator** measuring food losses from farm up to and excluding the retail level. The indicator’s methodology and data collection mechanism have already been developed and tested.

Indicator 12.3.1 - Food Loss Index (FLI) and the aggregate Global Food Loss Index (GFLI) is a simple index with base 100 that measures changes over time in the structural losses along the supply chain. The index is based on a Food Loss Percentage (FLP) which can also be aggregated into a Global Food Loss Percentage (GFLP) and which measures the level of losses and which can be used to compare countries’ situations.

The collection of statistical data on food losses is crucial to set priorities, then monitor the effectiveness and impact of countries’ food losses reduction policies. The evidence base will support the development of a solid strategy to focus on the needs and achieve governments’ objectives, because better data defines



the real problem, sheds light on priority interventions, supports the identification of best practices and enables countries to tackle problems more efficiently and effectively also by an optimal resources allocation.

Rationale

As custodian agency of 21 indicators, FAO has developed a methodology and guiding tools for each indicator which provide countries with step-by-step guidance on the entire reporting process, including data collection, assessment and computation of the results¹. Indicator 12.3.1 is in the process of reclassification from Tier III to Tier II. Thus, it is important that countries are well equipped to monitor this indicator and understand the data collection process.

This Capacity Development workshop represents an opportunity to increase awareness of this indicator and enhance the capacities of government representatives from selected countries on the indicator's methodology and underlying data needs. For this purpose, it will bring together a group of about 15 participants from 11 countries, with one representative from each country, either from the National Statistics Office or the Ministry of Agriculture, ideally with an expertise on postharvest losses, value chains and/or sample surveys and the FAO regional statisticians who will be called by countries to provide technical assistance on the measurement of food losses.

Description of the activities and methodology

The training workshop will be held over two days. The objective of the training will be to explain what the indicator 12.3.1 consists of, its rationale and interpretation, how it is built, as well as which tools are necessary for its compilation. This will aid countries and stakeholders in assessing the level of food losses in the critical loss points and the relative efficiency of the supply chain, and in designing data-driven policies. Finally, the workshop will illustrate the main aspects of country-wide data collection.

During the workshop participants will be given the opportunity to exchange experiences and share good practices on postharvest losses through working groups. They will also have an opportunity to discuss their respective roles and responsibilities, as well as strategies to overcome potential challenges regarding the reporting process of indicator 12.3.1.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The overall goal of the training workshop is to increase awareness of indicator 12.3.1, as well as to enhance the knowledge and capacity of key stakeholders, including government representatives, statisticians, and FAO regional officers on the building, monitoring and reporting process of the abovementioned indicator. At the end of the workshop, participants will be expected to apply the gained expertise and to disseminate the acquired knowledge within their own organizations and to other organizations and countries in their regions.

More specifically, the expected outcomes include:

¹ The 12.3.1 methodology has been proposed at the Seventh International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-VII) in Rome in October 2016, at the FAO External consultation on the Measurement of Food Losses and Waste in September 2017 and has been further refined in collaboration with experts and stakeholders.



- Improved knowledge about the importance and rationale of target 12.3
- Better understanding of how target 12.3 is monitored through indicator 12.3.1
- Understand how to report food loss data needed to feed into the GFLI, to improve the knowledge base, to track progress on food loss reduction.

More into detail, the audience will:

- Improve knowledge of the main terms and concepts used for the indicator
- Master the Food Loss Percentage (FLP), the Food Loss Index (FLI) & Global Food Loss Index (GFLI) rationale and interpretation
- Be able to identify the indicator's components, where to find them and how to use them
- Compute Food Loss Index (FLI) & Global Food Loss Index (GFLI) indicators
- Be familiar with the data collection strategies that can be implemented

Target audience

The primary target audience for this workshop is staff responsible for monitoring food losses and or responsible for data collection, dissemination and analysis who will be potentially involved in the estimation and reporting of SDG indicator 12.3.1.

- For each country, one officer from the National Statistical Office (NSO) (from the directorate / division / unit in charge of national agricultural statistics) or from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Securities or Secretariats (from the unit in charge of farm surveys, post-harvest losses surveys, value chain analyses, etc.)
- FAO regional statisticians

Timing and duration and venue

The workshop will be held at the beginning of 2018 (exact dates to be defined) at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Training Centre, in Turin, Italy.

Working language

The working language of the workshop will be English. Translation services will not be provided.