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Bringing knowledge to reduce and prevent food losses

About FOLOU

Food losses at the primary production stage have major negative impacts on society, such as food insecurity, environmental depletion, avoidable greenhouse gas emissions and pressure on land and water.

However, reducing these losses faces multiple challenges. Currently, EU Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1597 excludes food losses at the primary production stage, which hinders regulatory efforts.

In addition, there is a lack of standardised measurement methodology and insufficient understanding of the underlying factors at technical and scientific level. Key stakeholders along the value chain also lack the necessary competences to effectively address these issues.

To address these challenges, the FOLOU project is aligned with the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy. Its objectives include the establishment of mechanisms to measure and assess food loss, the development of a robust and harmonised methodology, the creation of national and EU food loss registers and tailor-made training for stakeholders.

Expected outcomes

- Methodology for measuring and estimating Food Losses for five main commodity category groups
- Roadmap for FL methodology standardization
- 6 validated innovative tools for quantification of Food Losses at primary production stage.
- National Food Losses Registry (N-FLR) and European Food Losses Registry (E-FLR)
- FOLOU Sustainability Tool
- Standard research protocol for the data collection of the food loss drivers
- 1 reduction strategy based on market demand shifts
- 5 best practice guidelines to reduce food losses
- 2 policy briefs
- Food loss repository
- 5 specific training packages for key stakeholders
- Twinning programme for regions

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Project website 