

# 1st Meeting

Unveiling the Essence: Defining Food Loss in the European Union Framework – Challenges and Significance

14/03/24



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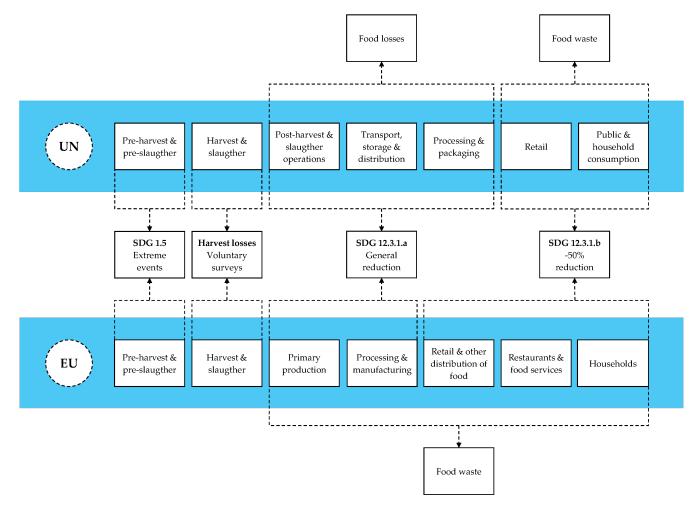


1. Main objectives / Context

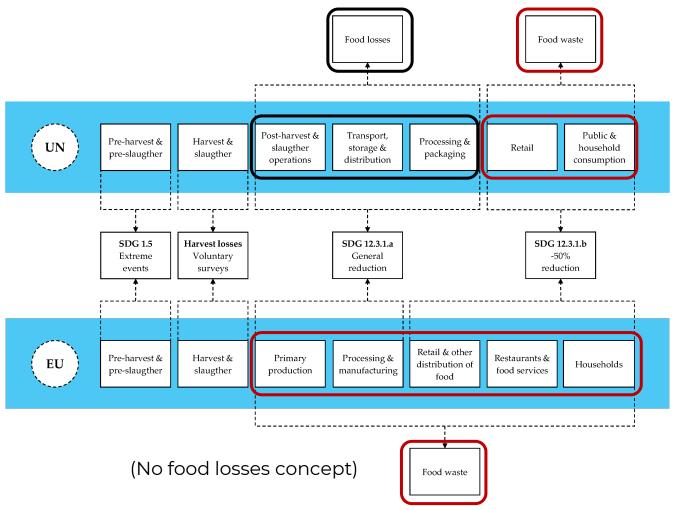


1. Quantifying the problem along the entire agri-food chain in the EU.

#### EU/UN Roadmap to Reduce Food Waste

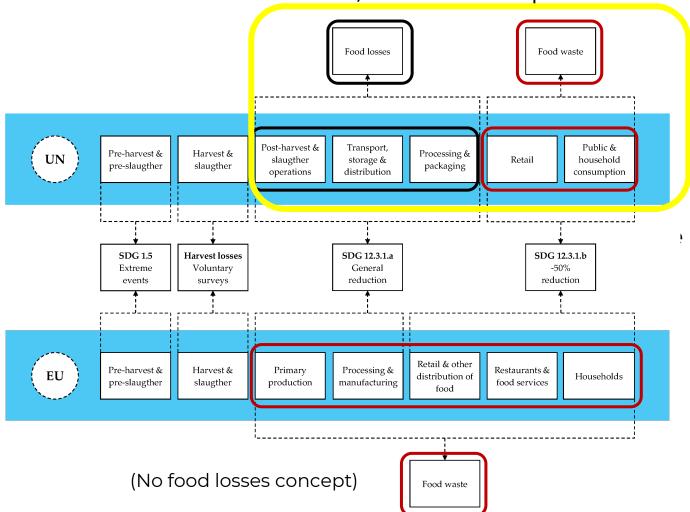


#### EU/UN Roadmap to Reduce Food Waste



✓ The UN uses the terminologies
"food losses" and "food waste,"
while the EU only uses "food waste."
Therefore, "food losses" and "food waste" have different meanings according to the UN and EU.

EU/UN Roadmap to Reduce Food Waste

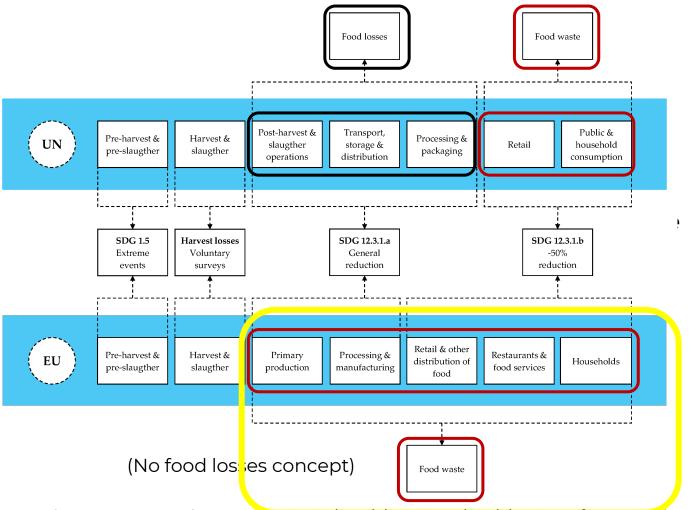


#### **FAO**

- "Food loss is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by food suppliers in the chain, excluding retail, food service providers and consumers".
- "Food waste is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food services and consumers".

(SOMA 2019)

EU/UN Roadmap to Reduce Food Waste





# **Food concept** according to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002

- Food (or foodstuff): means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed, or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans. Food includes drink, chewing gum and any substance, including water, intentionally incorporated into the food during its manufacture, preparation or treatment. It includes water after the point of compliance as defined in Article 6 of Directive 98/83/EC and without prejudice to the requirements of Directives 80/778/EEC and 98/83/EC. Food shall not include:
  - o (a) feed;
  - o (b) live animals unless they are prepared for placing on the market for human consumption;
  - (c) plants prior to harvesting;
  - o (d) medicinal products within the meaning of Council Directives 65/65/EEC (1) and 92/73/EEC (2);
  - o (e) cosmetics within the meaning of Council Directive 76/768/EEC (3);
  - o (f) tobacco and tobacco products within the meaning of Council Directive 89/622/EEC (4);
  - o (g) narcotic or psychotropic substances within the meaning of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971;
  - o (h) residues and contaminants
  - o (i) medical devices within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council (5).





Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives

- **Waste:** means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.



#### Food waste concept

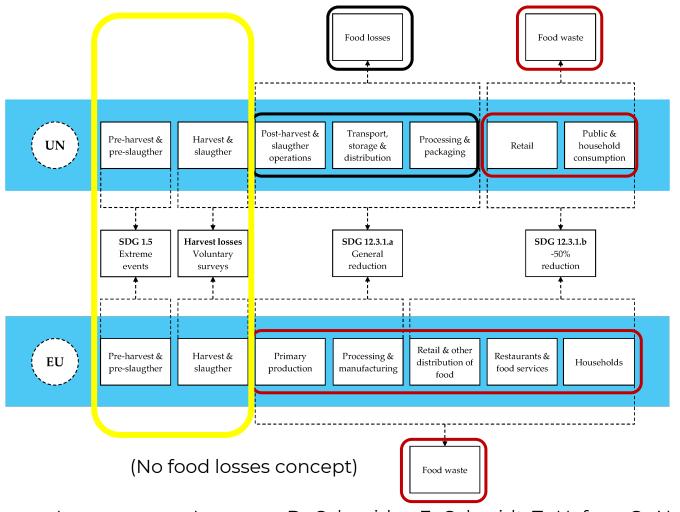
**Food concept** according to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002



**Waste concept** according to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives



#### EU/UN Roadmap to Reduce Food Waste



- ✓ The UN uses the terminologies "food losses" and "food waste," while the EU only uses "food waste." Therefore, "food losses" and "food waste" have different meanings according to the UN and EU.
- ✓ UN and EU exclude the stages prior to post-harvest from the concepts of food losses and waste

27.9.2019

#### **COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/1597**

of 3 May 2019

supplementing Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

EN

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (¹), and in particular Article 9(8) thereof,

#### Article 2

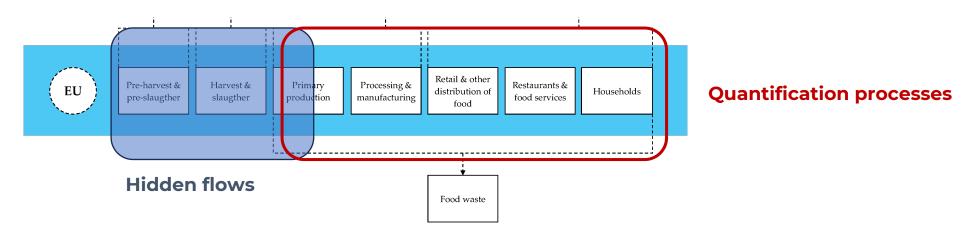
#### Methodology for the measurement of food waste

- 1. Member States shall measure each year the amount of food waste generated in a full calendar year.
- 2. Member States shall measure the amount of food waste for a given stage of the food supply chain using the methodology set out in Annex III at least once every four years.

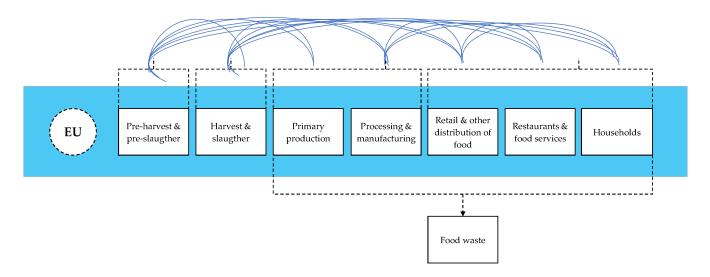
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#### Methodology for the measurement of food waste

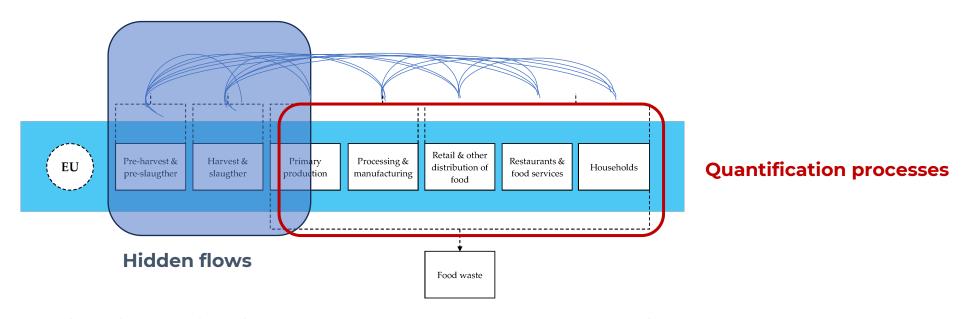
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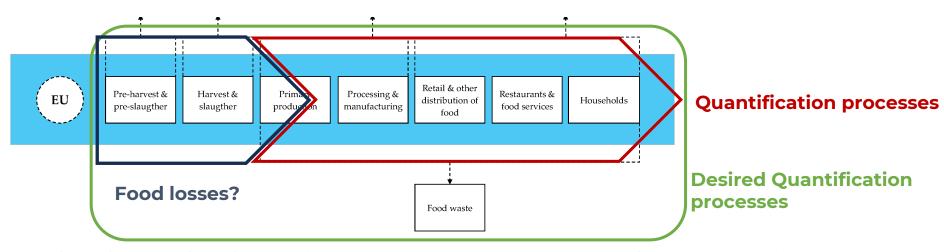
#### Agri-food chain or agri-food system



#### Agri-food chain or **agri-food system**

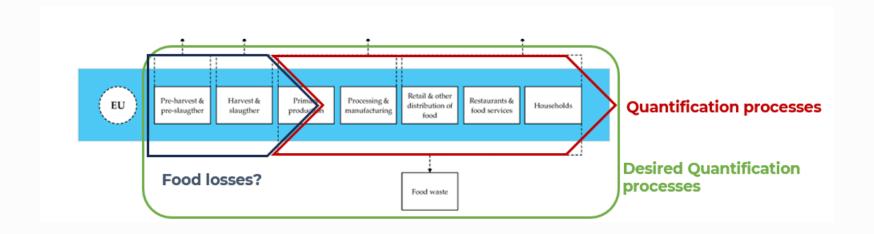








1. Quantifying the problem along the entire agri-food chain in the EU.

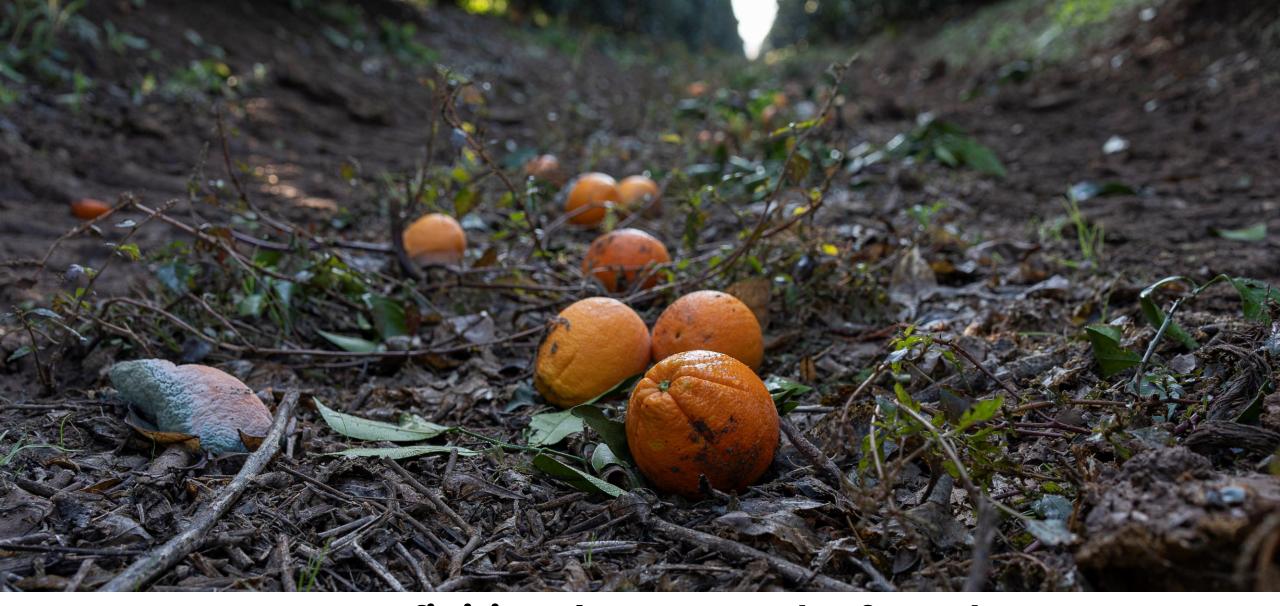


Important! Avoid overlapping and gaps between FL and FW



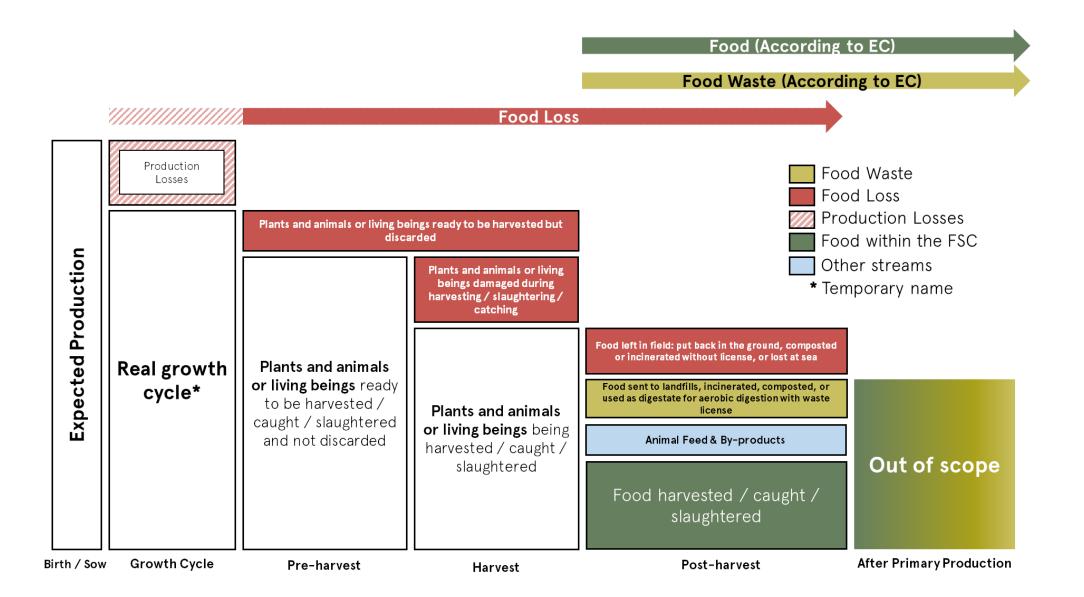


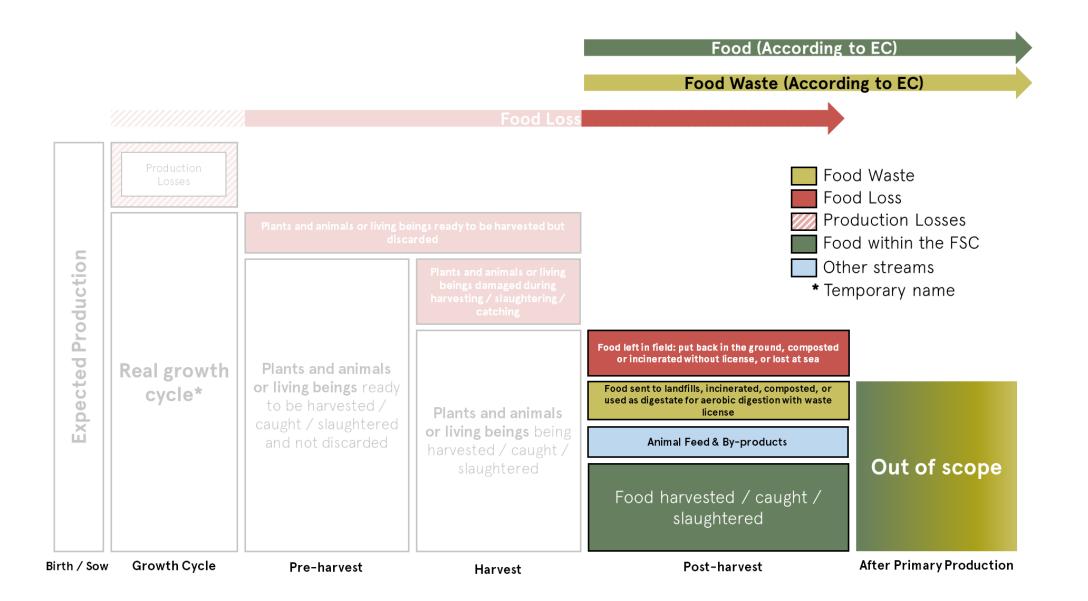
- 1. Quantifying the problem along the entire agri-food chain in the EU.
- 2. Reduce the problem along the entire agri-food chain in the EU.

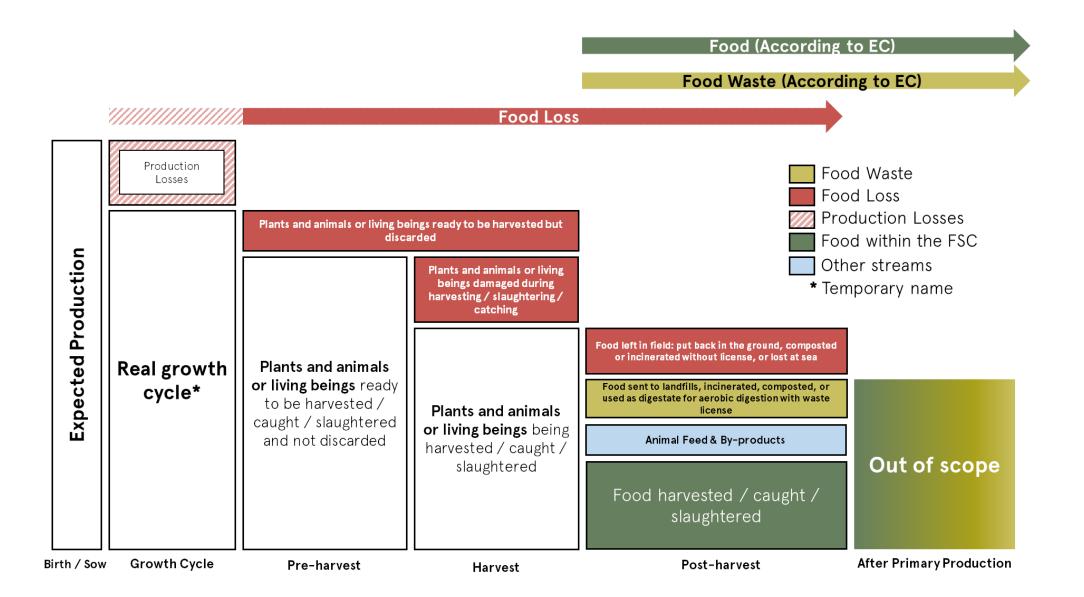


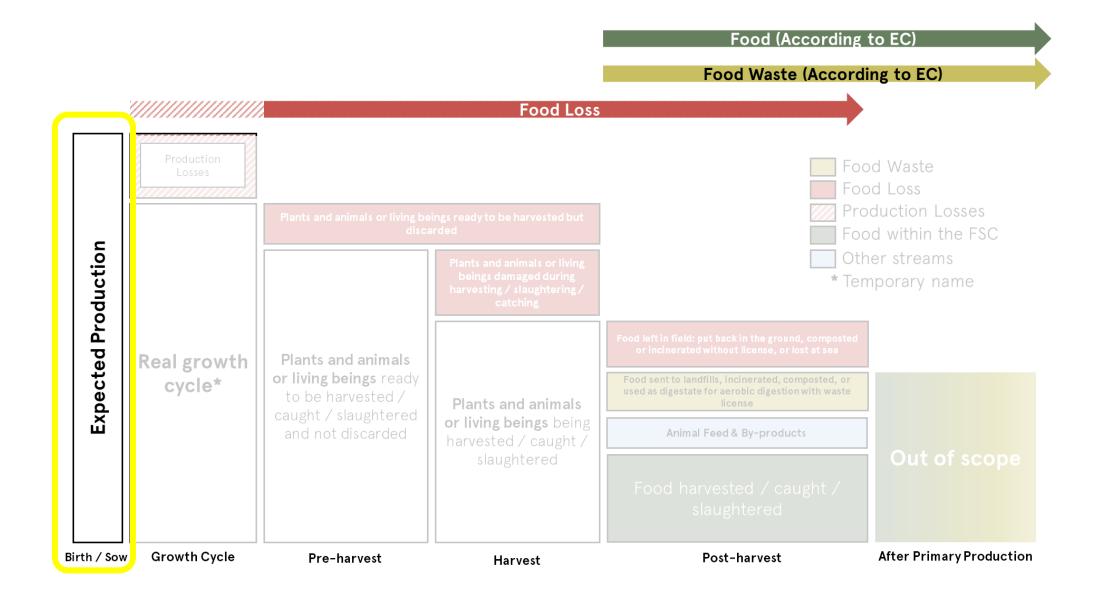
2. FOLOU Definitional Framework of Food Losses

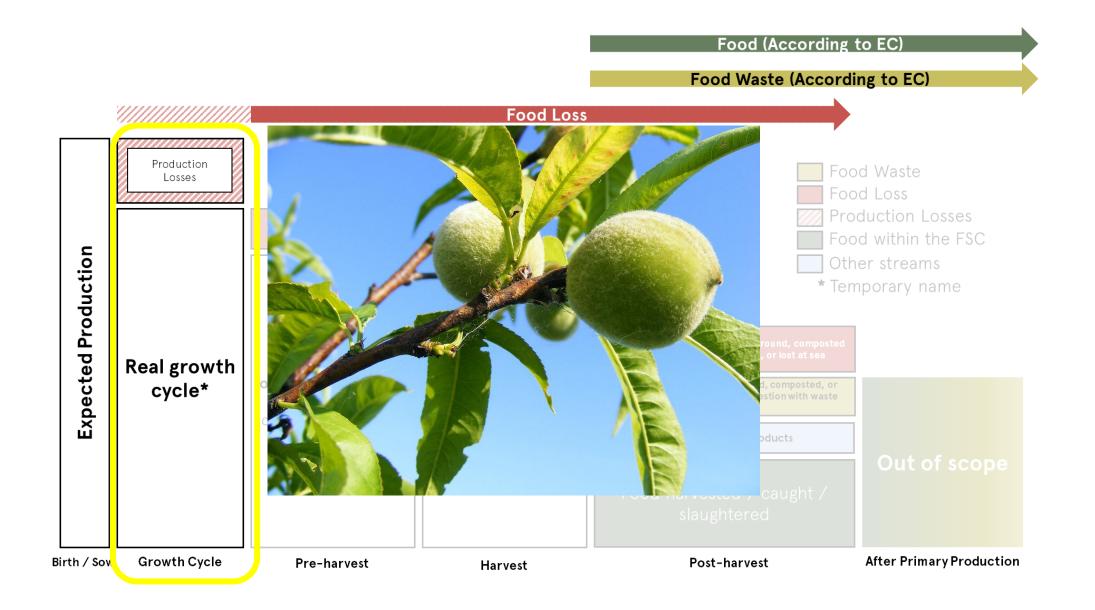
Food loss is any harvest-mature plant, animal or living being (including inedible parts) that is not successfully harvested, as well as food removed from the supply chain during post-harvest phase that does not become animal feed, by-product or food waste

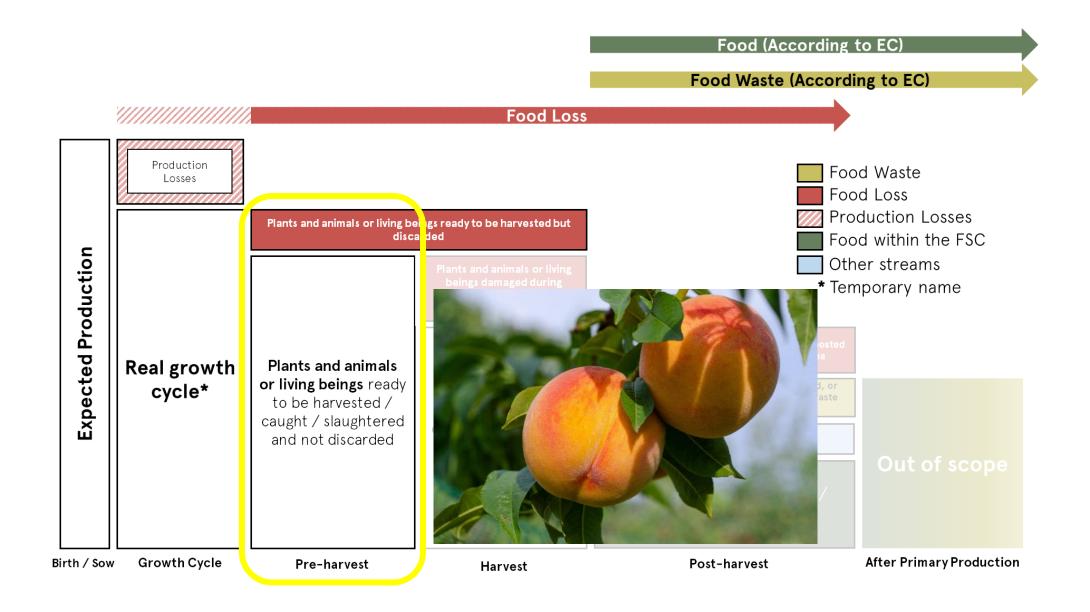


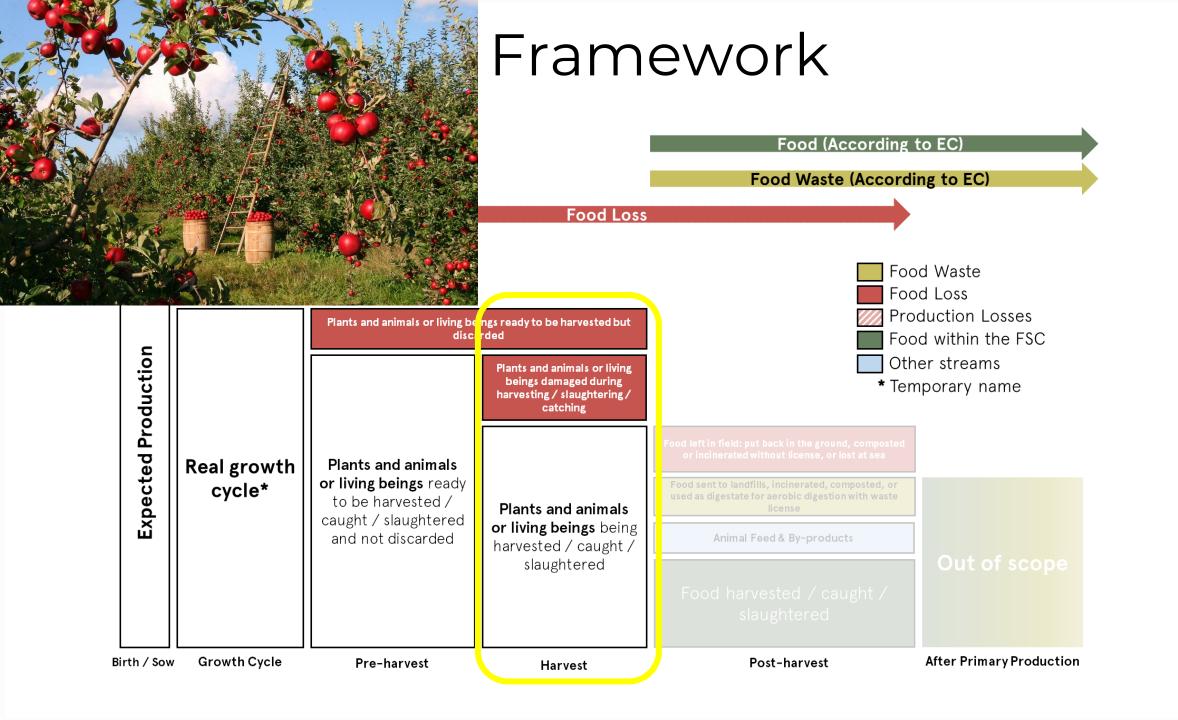


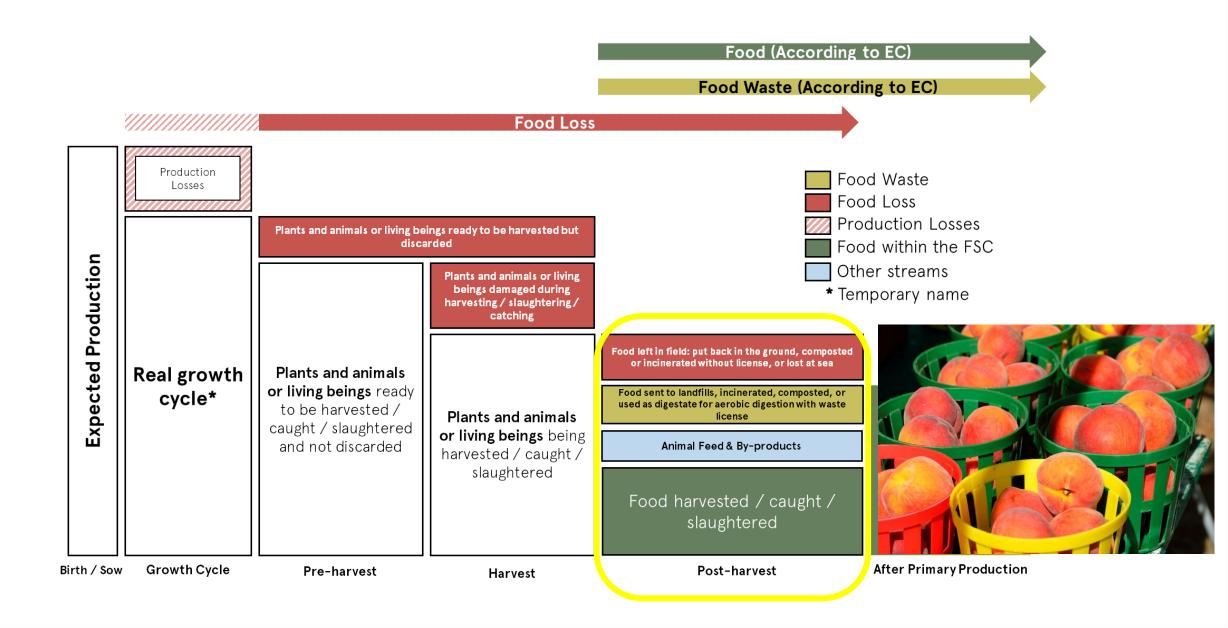


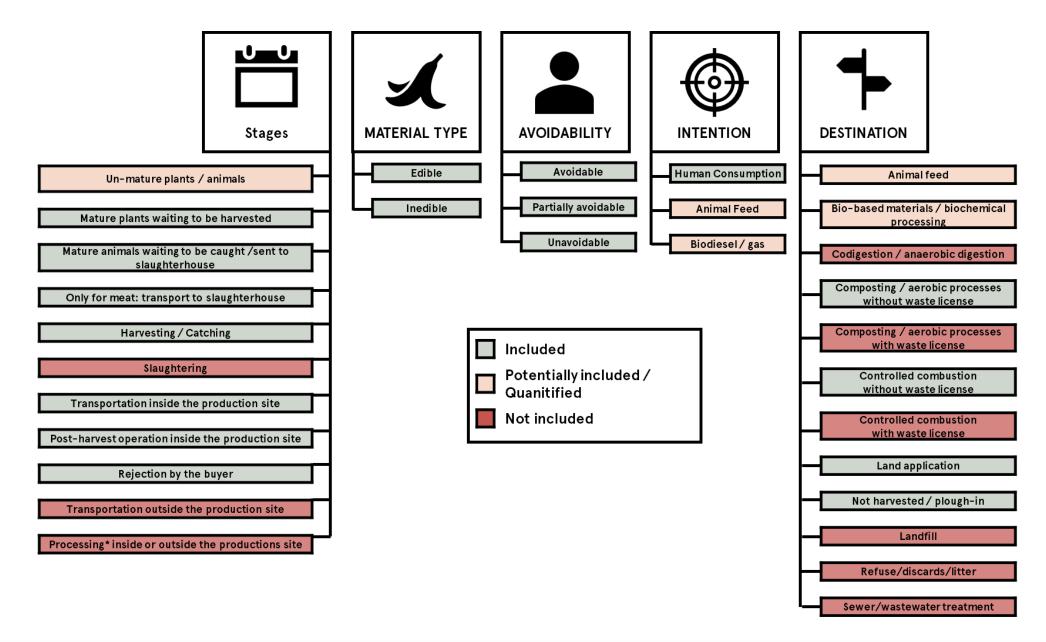


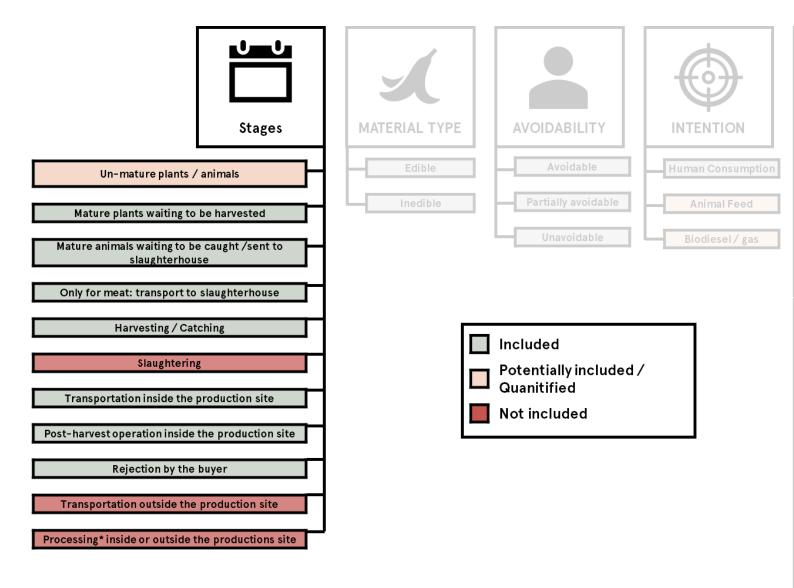


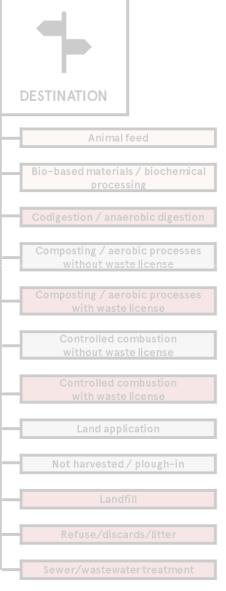




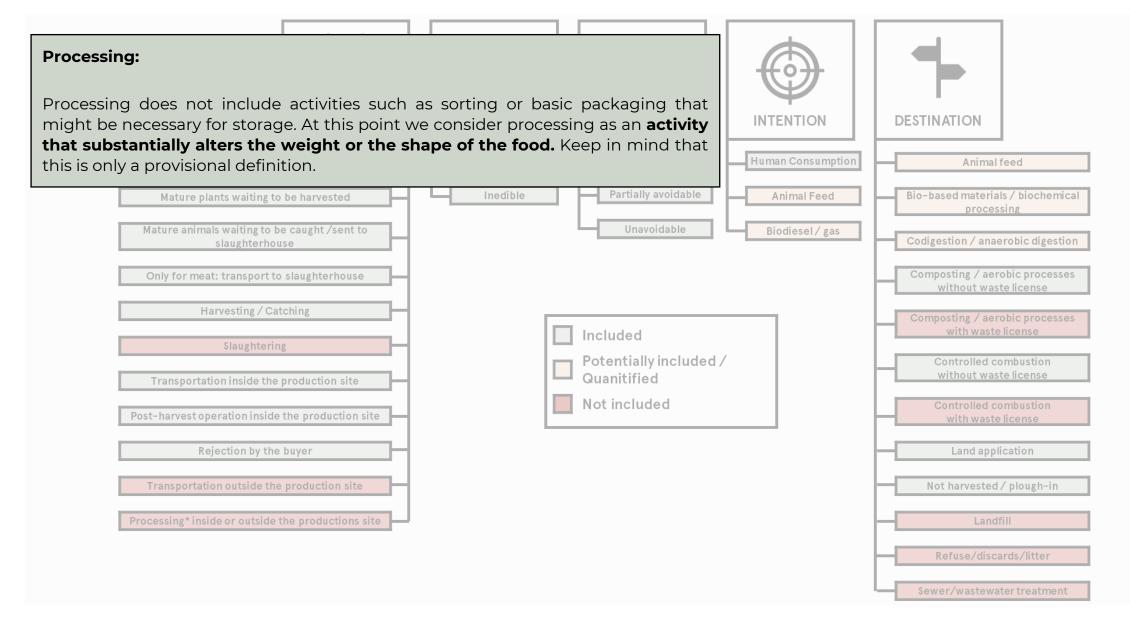


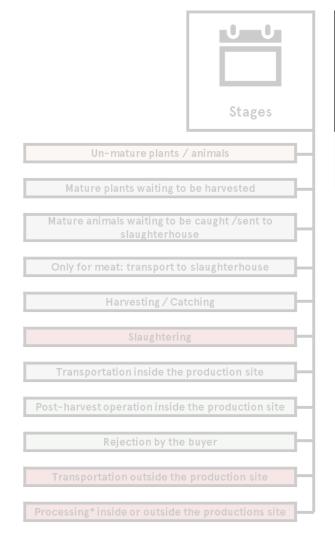


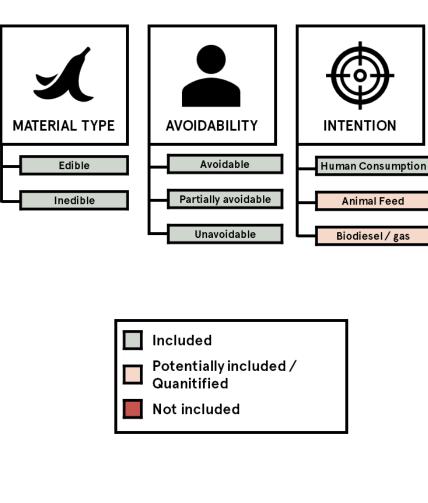


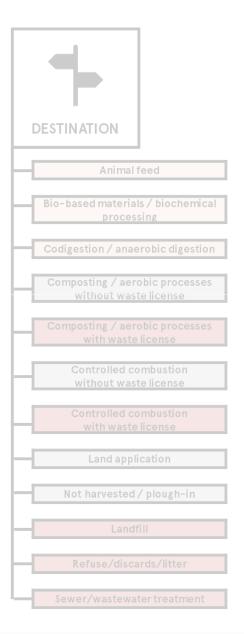




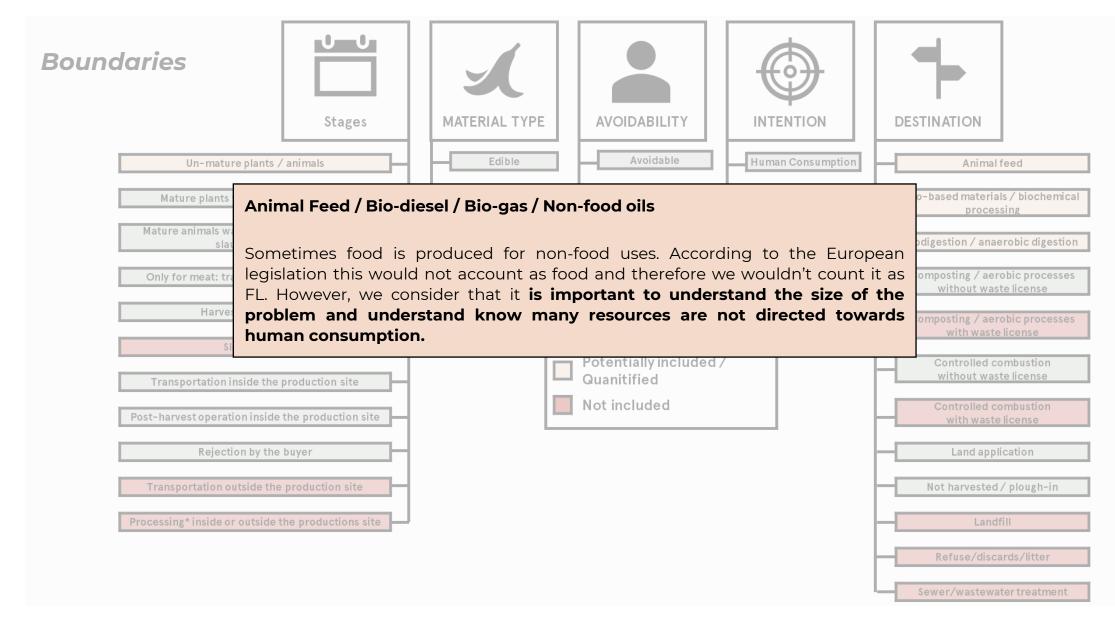


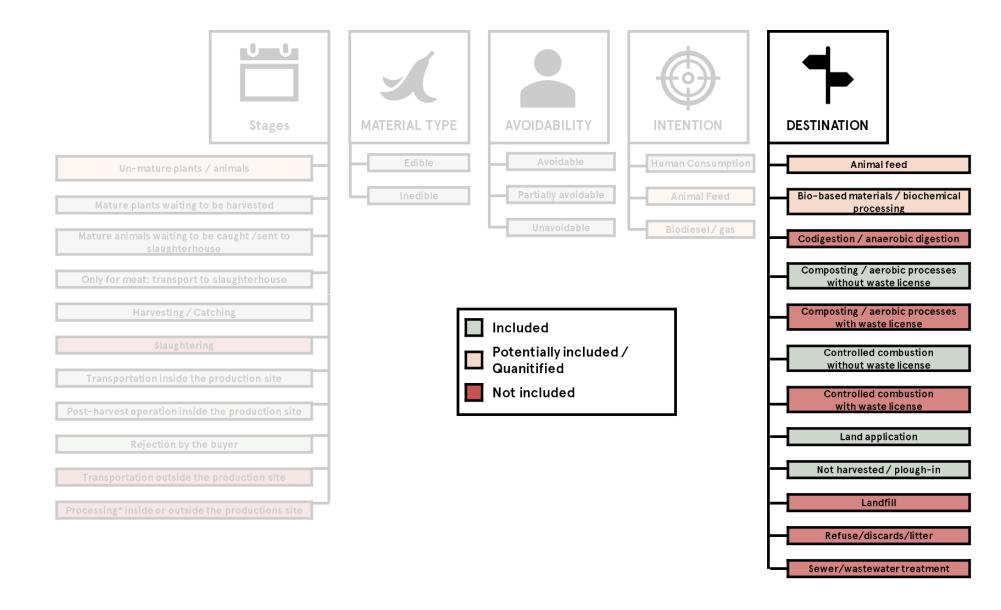
















#### Commodity sectors – specific definitions

- Fruits and vegetables

- Cereals and Pulses

- Roots, tubers and Oilseeds

- Meat and Animal Products

- Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Wild food group

Plant-based food groups

Animal-based food group

Fish food group

Wild food group





#### Plant-based food group

- Fruits and vegetables
- Cereals and Pulses
- Roots, tubers and Oilseeds

CRIF (Crops that remain in the field) = Pre-harvest FL + Harvest FL

FL = CRIF + Post-harvest FL

#### Warning:

It is important to consider that crops ready to be harvested are not always at their optimal point of maturity. Lots of climacteric fruits and vegetables, for example, are harvested before maturity to complete the process during transportation.

Therefore, the **intention to harvest** is the key factor





#### Animal-based food group

Meat (only pre-harvest)

**Meat FL = Deaths of animal ready to be slaughter prior to slaughter.** 

Animal products: milk (no pre-harvest)

Milk FL = Post-harvest FL

#### Post-harvest Milk FL:

- Milk produced that does not reach the processor
  - milk rejected by the farmer due to antibiotic contamination,
  - milk thrown away due to problems in conservation, and
  - milk rejected by the processor.





#### Fish food group

- Aquaculture

Aquaculture FL = Pre-harvest FL + Fish left in the boat (FLIB)

#### **Pre-harvest Fish FL:**

- Fish discarded due to diseases
- Fish escaping the farm
- Fisheries (no pre-harvest)

Fisheries FL = FLIB

By-catch





#### Fish food group

- Aquaculture

Aquaculture FL = Pre-harvest FL + FLIB

#### Pre-harvest Fish FL:

- Fish discarded due to diseases
- Fish escaping the farm
- Fisheries (no pre-harvest)

<u> Fichariae El - El ID</u>

#### **Processing:**

FLIB (Fish

- Gutting on-board -> Not processing
- Filleting -> Processing

In the mediterranean there is no processing on-board



Wild Food FL = Harvest + Post-harvest FL

#### Wild food

#### Food obtained from:

- Wild fishing (apart from fisheries).
- Mushroom hunting.
- Meat coming from hunting activities.
- Wild plants.
- Other sources
- Food spoiled during harvesting (hunting techniques)
- Food spoiled during post-harvesting (inadequate conservation)

Distributed through informal markets
Future research necessary to understand the magnitude



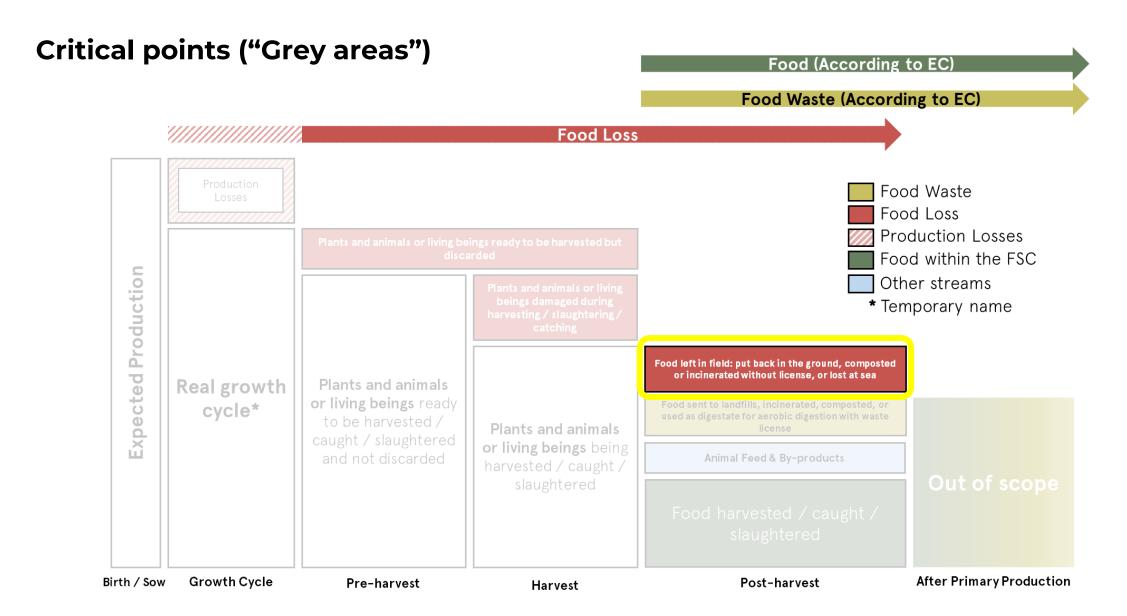






### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

1. Post-harvest phase





#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

Post-harvest phase

- Put back on the ground: **Food loss** 

- Lost in the sea: **Food loss** 

- Feeding animals and by-products: **no FLW** 

- Valorization (composted, incineration, etc): **depends**.



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

Post-harvest phase

- Put back on the ground: **Food loss**
- Lost in the sea: **Food loss**
- Feeding animals and by-products: **no FLW**
- Valorization (composted, incineration, etc.): depends.



- Valorization with waste license: go to waste statistics = food waste
- Valorization without waste license: food losses/by-product





#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

Post-harvest phase

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**Grey area** 

- Valorization <u>without</u> waste license: **food losses/by-product** 



EU Food waste concept: statistically oriented.



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**





Post-harvest phase

- Lost in the sea: **Food loss** 



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EU Food waste concept: statistically oriented.



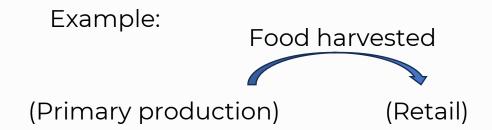
### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

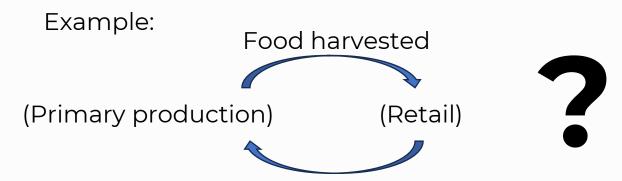
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#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
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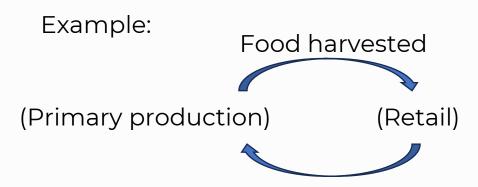


Food harvested coming back to the production site



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement



Food harvested coming back to the production site

The rules mentioned in post-harvest are applied





#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

Post-harvest phase

- Put back on the ground: Food loss
- Lost in the sea: **Food loss**
- Feeding animals or by-product: **no FLW**
- Valorization (composted, incineration, etc.): depends.



- Valorization with waste license: go to waste statistics = **food waste**
- Grey area
- Valorization <u>without</u> waste license: **food losses/by-product**





### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food



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### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food **Depending on the final destination**

(The rules mentioned in post-harvest are applied)





#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food
- 4. Ending point of food losses for animal products



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food
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ready to be slaughtered





#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food
- 4. Ending point of food losses for animal products





ready to be slaughtered

40

prior to slaughter





### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- 1. Post-harvest phase
- 2. FLW from take back agreement
- 3. Contaminated food





arting ready to be slaughtered

70

prior to slaughter







4. Key contributions/reflections from the external experts





 Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.



Post-harvest phase

- Put back on the ground: Food loss
- Lost in the sea: Food loss
- Feeding animals or by products: no FLW
- Valorization (composted, incineration, etc.): depends.



- Valorization with waste license: go to waste statistics = food waste

**Grey area** 

- Valorization <u>without</u> waste license: food losses/by-product



EU Food waste concept: statistically oriented.



Expert 1: "Food waste destination"

Expert 2: "Should be considered food loss or waste, and no by-products"

Expert 3: "I would consider it both a by-product and food loss"

Expert 4: "This doesn't make sense to me... By-products are in the food production chain, not compost/incineration"

**Grey area** 

- Valorization <u>without</u> waste license: **food losses/by-product** 





#### **Food loss**



**Grey area** 

- Valorization without waste license: food losses/by-product



EU Food waste concept: statistically oriented.



#### **Critical points ("Grey areas")**

- Put back on the ground: Food loss

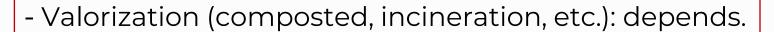


Post-harvest phase

- Lost in the sea: **Food loss** 



- Feeding animals: no FLW







- Valorization with waste license: go to waste statistics = food waste



- Valorization <u>without</u> waste license: food losses/by-product



EU Food waste concept: statistically oriented.



- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
  - Before slaughtering: food loss
  - During slaughtering: food waste



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#### **BUT**

Slaughtered animals are first defined as food after post-mortem check according the EU food legislation





- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
  - Before slaughtering: no food and no waste

**Food losses** 

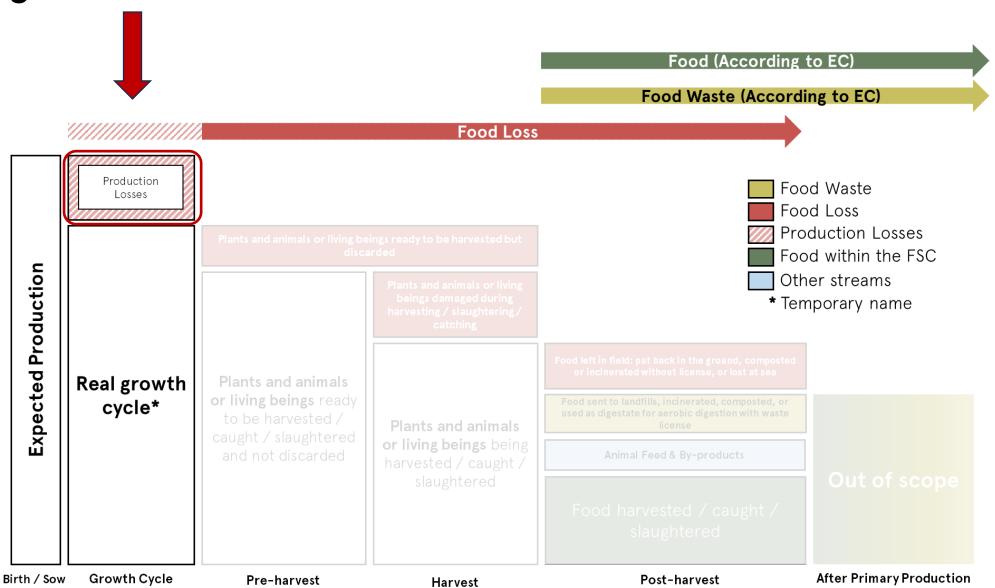
- During slaughtering and before post-mortem check: no food but waste
- After post-morten check (not passing): no food but **waste**
- After post-morten check (passing): food (and waste)

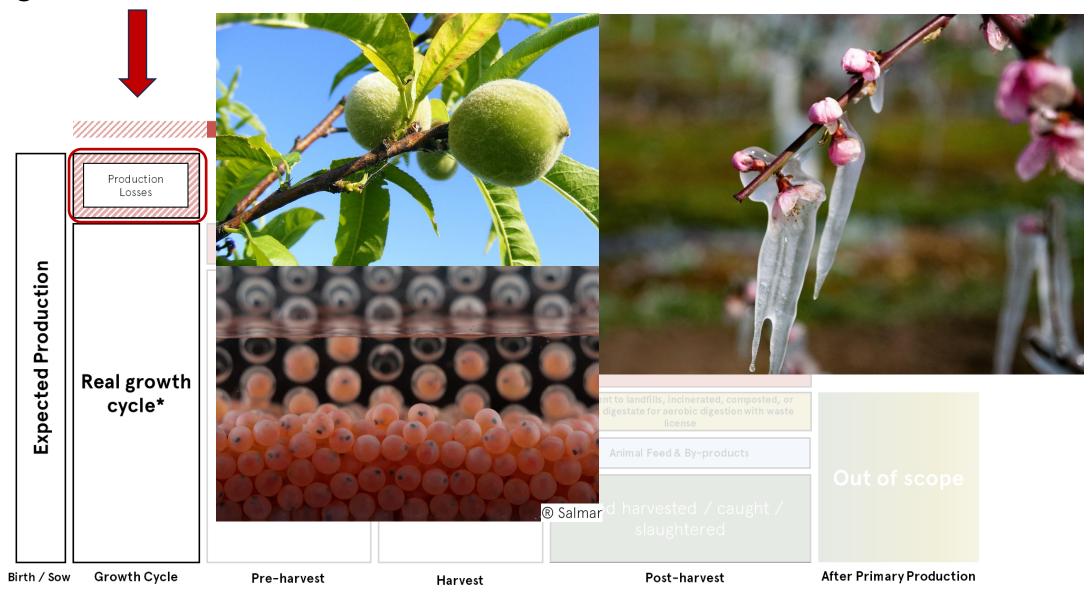
Slaughtered animals are first defined as food after post-mortem check according the EU food legislation





- 1. Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license **TOP 1 in grey area**.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
- 3. Importance of measuring "production losses"







- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
- 3. Importance of measuring "production losses"
- 4. General agreement about the starting point of food losses:



"ready for harvest/slaughtering/caught"



- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
- 3. Importance of measuring "production losses"
- 4. General agreement about the starting point of food losses
- 5. Necessity of clarifying FLW from take back agreement



- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
- 3. Importance of measuring "production losses"
- 4. General agreement about the starting point of food losses
- 5. Necessity of clarifying FLW from take back agreement
- 6. By-products debate: can be food losses or waste as well?



#### Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/1597 of 3 May 2019:

"Food waste does not include losses at stages of the food supply chain where certain products have not yet become food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, such as edible plants which have not been harvested. In addition, it does not include by-products from the production of food that fulfil the criteria set out in Article 5(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC, since such by-products are not waste".

6. By-products debate: can be food losses or waste as well?



### Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives

#### **By-product**

A substance or object, resulting from a production process, the primary aim of which is not the production of that item, may be regarded as not being waste referred to in point (1) of Article 3 but as being a byproduct only if the following conditions are met:

- (a) further use of the substance or object is certain;
- (b) the substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice;
- (c) the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and
- (d) further use is lawful, i.e. the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.



Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives

#### **By-product**

#### By-products debate:

Can be considered by-products in the primary production? Keeping the term "by-products" for mostly industrial uses would be clearer.

IIIUUSUIAI PIACUCE,

- (c) the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and
- (d) further use is lawful, i.e. the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.



- Food losses in post-harvest phase. Food recovered (composted, incinerated...) without waste license TOP 1 in grey area.
- 2. "Food paradox" in meat products
- 3. Importance of measuring "production losses"
- 4. General agreement about the starting point of food losses
- 5. Necessity of clarifying FLW from take back agreement
- 6. By-products debate: can be food losses or waste as well?
- 7. Reflections on the concept of food losses.



**Food concept** according to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002





No Food Food

### Dynamic activity









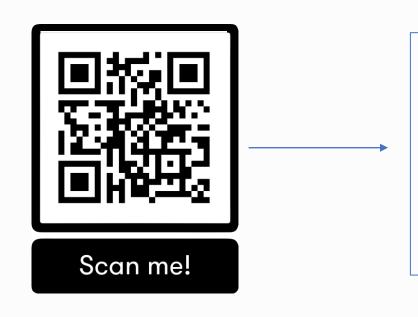


Registry as an External Expert of FOLOU





Registry as an External Expert of FOLOU

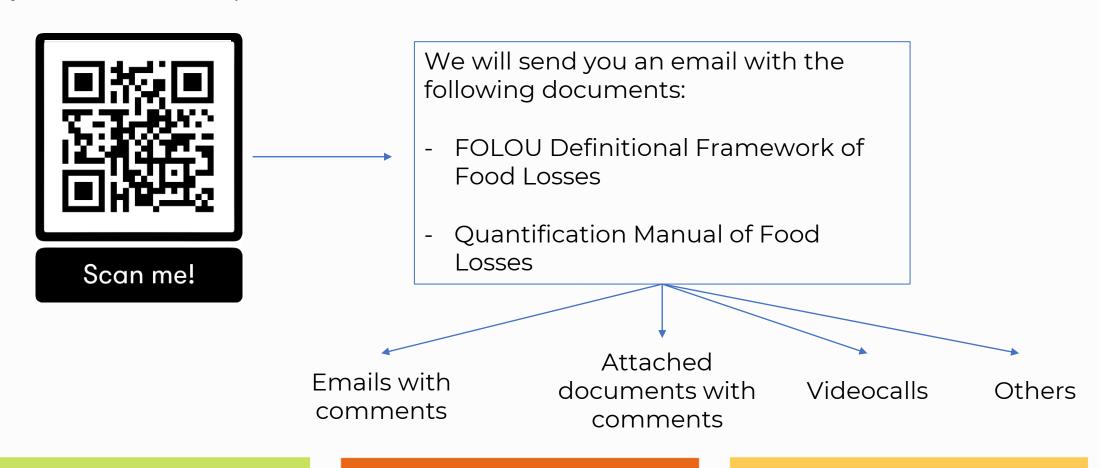


We will send you an email with the following documents:

- FOLOU Definitional Framework of Food Losses
- Quantification Manual of Food
  Losses



Registry as an External Expert of FOLOU













Join our second meeting

DATE

April 11th, 2024

TIME

11.00h - 13.00h (GMT+1)

**Unlocking Precision** 

Navigating Reliable Diagnoses for Measuring Food Losses in the Primary Sector of the Supply Chain



# Thank you very much!



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