



Responses provided to the comments made by attendees during the webinar " Tackling the Challenge of Quantifying Food Losses Across All Fronts – Local, Regional and National Perspectives"

23rd May 2024



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the numerous experts in the field who not only attended the webinar but also actively participated by posing questions to the speakers and engaging in fascinating debates among themselves.

Secondly, in order to preserve these vital conversations aimed at standardizing methodologies and concepts, we propose a series of responses and comments to the main questions raised in the chat channel and Slido program. Thus, we intended to compile all these questions and comments and categorize them by theme.

Of course, if there is any issue that was not addressed and you believe it would be valuable to include in the document, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our email addresses are provided at the end of the document.

Furthermore, if you would like to continue these dialogues or simply if you have any difficulty understanding any of our responses, please feel free to reach out to us. Additionally, we have gathered your interests for future meetings via Slido in the form of working groups to address and agree on specific aspects discussed in the webinar.

Once again, thank you very much for everything.

Kind regards,

Espigoladors and FOLU Team.

Topic: What sectors and subsectors are being measured in a territory to address the FL problem?

- [Comment 1:](#) Comment 1: If you have a statistic that you refer to for all regions and categories look at, e.g. Eurostat.

Exactly, that is the goal: to seek an international codification, a common language among all EU countries where we can unequivocally refer to the same reality. This avoids situations where, for example, we refer to the "primary production" sector using the same term, but the subsectors it comprises differ, leading to the analysis of different realities.

The proposal put forth by FOLOU is based on the NACE codification, which is already recommended by the European Commission's Delegated Decision. However, FOLOU proposes using categories with a higher level of detail. This NACE codification consists of codes used in official statistics, particularly by EUROSTAT. Here is a link where EUROSTAT itself explains the use of these codes:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace>

Moreover, this European codification has its equivalents at the international level, beyond the borders of the European Union, allowing for the use of equivalent codes in territories outside the EU.

Topic: When do we have to measure at territorial level?

- [Comment 1:](#) How do you consider that there are different crops at a plot when measuring over years (crop rotation)?

When analysing the issue of losses at the territorial level, while field data collection requires measurements in plots, and as discussed in the seminar, due to its complexity, quantification needs to occur over a series of years rather than on a one-time basis. It is not feasible to select the same plots for several years if these plots rotate crops. Instead, each campaign will require selecting plots where the products being analysed at that time are cultivated. It is always helpful to maintain a series of "fixed" plots if they do not change their type of crop over several years, as this greatly facilitates quantification. The owners are already familiar with these quantification processes, there has been a building trust process among the different actors, and the benefits of analysing this issue are well understood, rather than starting anew with other farmers. However, if crop rotation occurs, changing plots is considered inevitable.



- [Comment 2](#): Priorisation depends also on the available technologies to measure FLW, right?
- [Comment 3](#): Hi everyone. Thanks for the opportunity. I am a research of Brazil, We know that losses depend on the technological level of the producer and the structuring of the production chain. Can this information be included?

Very good points. Of course, the available technologies impact the levels of food losses as well as the quantification processes and must be taken into account.

Regarding the first point, which is also addressed in comment 3, this is an issue that should be included when extracting qualitative information. As discussed in the seminar, this will provide the context for the quantified number (amount of recorded losses). Therefore, we encourage you to verify if the proposed table for collecting qualitative data on food losses covers these issues. This is table number 12, and we have provided an image of it for your reference:

Table 12. Recommended information to collect through qualitative methods.
An example.

Basic data of the plot	
Name of the interviewee: Isabel García	Position of the interviewee: Owner of the farm and farmer
Farm ID	27_County_9
Plot ID	27_County_9_A
Location	County 9. Region X
Crop(s)	Tomatoes
Area/surface of the analyzed parcel (ha): 3,7	
Type of soil:	Clayish
Seed variety	Solanum lycopersicum
Plant spacing	70 cm
Rows number: 21	Rows spacing: 1.8 metres
Method of irrigation	Drip irrigation
Main characteristics of this year's production	
Average yield in the plot (tonnes/ha): 85	Estimated yield for this year. (tonnes/ha): 60
Main reasons for the differences between average and estimated production: the drought in recent years will significantly reduce tomato production.	

Of course, we need to be realistic: we cannot overwhelm farmers with too many questions, so we must be very precise and efficient when selecting the questions and information to be gathered.

Regarding the available technology for quantifying losses, having highly precise equipment is certainly preferable, but simple weighing devices would also be valid. In our view, the limiting factor might be less about the level of technology and more about the resources (human and financial) available for carrying out these tasks.

- Comment 4: Do you recommend the establishment of coordinating bodies (such as WRAP) that provide advice and tools/technologies for measuring food losses? Or do you assume that there will be a variety of companies in the future offering advice and tools (similar to the out-of-home sector where divers tools are available from simple measuring up to the use of artificial intelligence)?

As discussed in the seminar, we believe that it is not necessary to choose between both approaches, as they can be compatible and, from our perspective, both are necessary. We think that the existence of coordinating bodies is essential, particularly public administrations that can standardize processes, coordinate efforts, and also lead and drive actions. Indeed, the FOLOU project itself aims to provide arguments to demonstrate that it is possible to quantify the issue of food losses so that it can be included in the mandatory quantification and reporting processes by the European Union.

In this way, some coordinating bodies, such as the European Commission itself, as well as various Member States and even regional/local organizations, could be established to play this role at different territorial scales. We consider these coordinating bodies to be crucial, as it would be very difficult to address the problem of losses across an entire territory (city, region, country) without their key role.

Moreover, alongside this coordinating and driving role of these initiatives to tackle food losses, there must also be room for the emergence of various technologies or social initiatives that are disruptive or represent a significant advance in the measurement and reduction of food losses. There might even be a great relationship between the coordinating bodies and these companies/entities/NGOs/initiatives, as the former should provide the ideal space for these projects to be created, established, and their impact facilitated throughout the territory.

Topic: Food losses and waste law in Catalonia

- Comment 5: That would be great to know more about the law in Catalonia

Our colleague Nuria Heredia explained the most relevant aspects in the Q&A section. Additionally, we are sending you the link to the law in English:

https://residus.gencat.cat/web/.content/home/consultes_i_tramits/normativa/normativa_catalana_en_materia_de_residus/llei_3_2020_en.pdf

If you still have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will provide you with the contact information of the responsible persons.

Our contacts:

Raquel Díaz Ruiz
raquel@espigoladors.com

Berta Vidal
zerowaste@espigoladors.com

Adrià Burniol García
recerca@espigoladors.com

Héctor Barco Cobalea
circular@espigoladors.com



espigoladors