



FOLOU – Bringing knowledge and consensus to prevent and reduce food loss at the primary production stage

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OBJECTIVE

Each year, a substantial amount of food loss is generated at the primary production stage. The European Commission has made progress in tackling food loss and waste, but significant challenges remain. Regulatory, technical and social barriers constrain reduction efforts, particularly at the primary production stage where measuring food loss is complex and costly. The European project FOLOU aims to set up all the necessary mechanisms to (i) **measure and estimate**, (ii) **monitor and report** and (iii) **assess the magnitude and impact of food losses**, while assuring the appropriate **adoption of the project outcomes** by the key targeted stakeholders (primary producers, policy makers and researchers).

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

UNDERSTANDING

FOLOU has created a **common definition** of food loss aligned with the EU definition of food waste. The food loss **drivers** (behavioural, societal, and environmental) are currently being investigated using both literature review and conducting interviews to practitioners.

MEASURING

The project is developing a harmonised and cost-effective **methodology** to measure and estimate food losses, and it is being validated in different case studies for the main EU commodity sectors. This information will later be incorporated in a **food loss registry** to monitor and report those losses at distinct territorial levels.

FOLOU is also developing and testing 6 **innovative tools** to measure food losses in a more straightforward way: UAVs, satellite images, blockchain, tractor embedded cameras, multispectral cameras and market demand tool from social networks.

TRAINING

A **Learning Centre** is being developed aligned with the EIT food competency framework, which will contain 5 courses to equip different targeted stakeholders with the skills needed to drive meaningful change.

ADOPTING

A **twinning region program** has been designed to promote, test and replicate project outcomes in other regions, which will be complemented with **policy recommendations** to be adopted by the different stakeholders playing a role in food losses.

SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT OF THE STUDY

FOLOU aims to equip practitioners and policy-makers with innovative tools and evidence-based policies to tackle the challenge of food losses in primary production, which is still rather unknown.

CONCLUSIONS

Tackling food loss is essential to ensure global food security. FOLOU is contributing with innovative methodologies to quantify and monitor food losses and understanding its root causes. At the same time, FOLOU offers capacity building opportunities and policy recommendations to support stakeholders in paving the way to lead significant progress towards more sustainable food systems in the EU and beyond.



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