



Food Loss in Germany

Drivers

Part of the FOLOU activities is the identification and mapping of the main drivers for food loss generation¹. These are categorised into the following categories:

- A. Behavioural: Human or individual factors in place within the farm boundaries, which can be categorised as the presence or absence of motivations, perceptions and beliefs, knowledge, skills and abilities that lead agricultural operators to cause food losses (e.g. harvesting techniques, knowledge).
- B. Societal: Factors that come from external human sources of socio-cultural, economic, technical, political and regulatory nature and that influence or condition the behaviour and decisions of farm operators. These factors are beyond the direct control of people and can influence food losses (e.g. market price, standards & regulations, coordination & cooperation, supply chain capacity, overproduction).
- C. Environmental: Environmental factors that have a consequence on food losses generation (e.g. climate and weather conditions, pests and diseases).

The following Table lists the number of reasons driving food loss in Germany under the sources that were identified by the FOLOU project. More information can be found in the Deliverable 2.2².

¹ As is produced in the Deliverable 2.1: https://www.folou.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/D2.1_Standard_protocol_vF.pdf

² https://www.folou.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/D2.2_ReportreviewFLdrivers_VF.pdf

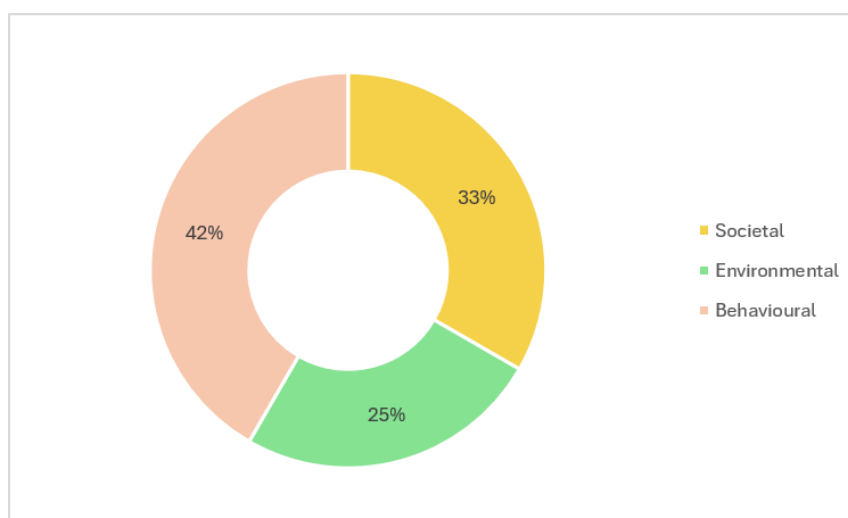


Figure 5: Distribution of the three driver categories for the identified barriers in Germany

Table 6: Food Loss drivers in Germany per commodity and driver category

Commodity Category	Driver	Driver Category
Roots Tubers and Oil Crops	Due to pests / unfavourable weather conditions	Environmental
	On the production side, FLW occurred due to the cleaning of the vegetables (especially savoy cabbage and white cabbage) / farm management decisions	Behavioural
	Loss of manually sorted out during the harvesting process because of technical reasons or quality requirements / Due to germination and rotting / A market situation with producer prices below variable harvesting costs / a lack of alternative marketing opportunities	Societal
Fruits and Vegetables	A market situation with producer prices below variable harvesting costs / the strict quality standards of the food retail sector, Non-conformity to several standards / a lack of alternative marketing opportunities	Societal
	Damage due to pests that affect the quality of the crop / unfavourable weather conditions	
	On the production side, FLW occurred due to the cleaning of the vegetables (especially savoy cabbage and white cabbage) / farm management decisions	Behavioural
Meats and Dairy Products	Death rate during rearing	Behavioural
Cereals and Pulses	Pre-cleaning losses; Removal losses	
	Breathing losses / damage due to pests that affect the quality of the fruit	Environmental