

Spanish Strategy “More food, less waste”

Program to reduce food loss and waste and to maximize the value of discarded food¹

Context: It is estimated that each year in Europe between 30% and 50% of healthy, edible food is lost or wasted across all links in the agri-food chain before reaching the consumer. According to the “*Preparatory Study on food waste across EU 27*”, this means that approximately 89 million tonnes of food (179 kg per capita) is lost and wasted every year. Of this: 42% is estimated to come from homes, 60% of which is avoidable. 39% occurs during processing; most of this waste is considered unavoidable. 5% occurs during distribution. 14% comes from catering and catering services. The same study states that Spain has the seventh highest level of food wastage (7.7 million tonnes) after United Kingdom (14.4 million tonnes), Germany (10.3 million tonnes), Netherlands (9.4 million tonnes), France (9 million tonnes), Poland (8.9 million tonnes) and Italy (8.8 million tonnes). These results mean that the volume of food losses and waste at the national level is stated at 175.9 kg/year per capita.

In this context, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment developed the “*More food, less waste*” strategy in 2013, which aims to “*significantly limit food loss and waste, to maximize the social and economic and environmental value of discarded food, and to reduce environmental degradation.*”

The Strategy prioritizes the actions of: prevention (of food waste), reuse, recycling and other types of recovery. It is implemented through recommendations, voluntary agreements and self-regulation, however in some areas these measures are accompanied by regulatory initiatives to improve supply chain efficiency.

It is based on two fundamental pillars:

- Apply the Strategy transparently, sustainably and cooperatively, promoting dialogue and coordination between stakeholders in the food chain, including public administration.
- Promote a change in attitudes, work procedures and management systems in an organized, coordinated and structured way across all stakeholders in the chain.

The Strategy also serves as a platform which drives all initiatives that contribute to reducing food loss and waste and help to make better use of food. The Strategy requires the participation of broad segments of society and stakeholders in the food chain. A three year duration was planned for its implementation, with expected contribution to:

- To improve decision-making of all stakeholders in the food chain, including public administration
- To increase synergies among cross-cutting policies related to food
- To promote the use of new technologies and innovation aimed at improving:
 - Resource productivity
 - Agriculture, Food Industry and Services competitiveness

¹ All information from this document has been sourced from here:

http://www.magrama.gob.es/imagenes/es/Libro%20de%20la%20estrategia_ENG_baja_tcm7-286285.pdf

² Study conducted by BIO Intelligence Service for the European Commission

- Public goods, such as knowledge-sharing among enterprises and knowledge-transfer, and improving awareness

To achieve the proposed goals, action is being taken in the following fields:

1. Understand the what, how, where and why of food loss and waste.

Action: Conduct studies into the what, how, where and why of food loss & waste

- Objective: To know at what stage and processes waste occurs in the value chain, its quantification and value, its economic, social, nutritional and environmental impact, and how food waste is currently recycled or re-used.
- Key Players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Other authorities, Primary production sector, Food industry, Distribution sector, HORECA Channel, Consumers.*

Action: Design evaluation indicators

- Objective: To measure the attitudes, perception, practices and behaviour of companies and citizens in terms of prevention, re-use and recycling of food waste in order to assess the real impact of measures taken by the authorities, both by sector and region.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Other authorities, Primary production sector, Food industry, Distribution sector, Consumer organizations*

2. Promoting best practice and awareness raising actions

Action: Draw up and distribute best practice guides to reduce loss and waste of food among the economic players of the food chain

- Objective: Improve knowledge of existing problems and promote the adoption of corrective measures.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Health Ministry, Social and Equality Services, Other Authorities, Primary production sector, Food Industry and Distribution Sector, Spanish Nutrition Foundation.*

Action: Develop information campaigns aimed at consumers & catering sector

- Objective: Develop informative campaigns aimed at consumers and the catering trade, in relation to knowledge of practices for the conservation of food and the importance of reducing food waste in the public and private sphere.
- Key Players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Ministry of Sanitation, Social and Equality Services, Other Authorities, Primary production sector, Food Industry and Distribution Sector, Spanish Hotel and Catering Federation, Spanish Nutrition Foundation.*

3. Analyzing and reviewing regulatory aspects.

Action: Promote institutional cooperation in light of a possible review of regulations applicable to the sector

- Objective: Identify, in partnership with agents on the food chain, the regulatory barriers that can limit the reduction, re-use or recycling of food waste.

- Key players: *Ministry of Sanitation, Social and Equality Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Food Industry, Distribution Sector, Primary production sector.*

4. Partnership with other agents/ Collaboration with other stakeholders in the food chain.

Action: Promote voluntary compliance agreements

- Objective: Encourage and cooperate to define voluntary compliance commitments so that companies, organizations and associations from different links of the food chain progress in reducing food waste. This includes contributing to the development and compliance of said agreements.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Other authorities, Associations in the primary production sector, the Food industry, the Distribution Sector, AECOC and other business sectors in the food chain.*

Action: Develop partnerships with food banks and other charities

- Objective: Contribute to maximizing the redistribution of food waste, promote partnerships with food banks and other bodies.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Other authorities, Primary production sector, Food and Distribution Industry, Food Banks and Spanish Red Cross, MERCASA.*

Encourage short sales channels.

- Objective: Boost direct relations between producers and consumers, shortening the food supply chains, to contribute to the reduction of food waste and loss.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Sanitation, Social and Equality Services, Other authorities, HORECAS channel, OIAAs, Food Industry, Primary production sector.*

Encourage sector or company-based audits.

- Objective: Encourage the development and application of audits within companies, aimed at assessing the efficient management of food waste and loss, and identify areas for improvement.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Primary production sector, Food industry, Distribution Sector, Hotel and Catering sector*

5. Encourage the design and development of new technologies.

- Objective: Within the framework of innovation policies for the food industry, promote projects to improve the efficient use of products.
- Key players: *Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Primary production sector, Food industry, Distribution Sector, Hotel and Catering sector.*

Monitoring: An oversight committee, comprising of the public administration and key players involved, are responsible for monitoring the development of the actions set forth in the Strategy. This includes regular reporting on aspects such as the level of implementation of the actions proposed in the Strategy, the difficulties encountered during its development, the results achieved and the corrective actions to be introduced.