

Fact sheet

Prevention of food losses in Flanders

PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES: A PRIORITY FOR FLANDERS AGROFOOD VALLEY

Flanders loves its food culture and attaches great importance to the way food is produced, traded, prepared and consumed. Food holds a prominent place in the cultural heritage of Flanders, but it is also a huge economic asset. The Flemish agricultural and food sector is among the leading in Europe and makes a serious contribution to Flanders' economic prosperity and export. Both in terms of sustainability and innovation the food sector is making considerable efforts.

Food losses have become an issue of concern worldwide. It has been estimated that up to a third of the food produced for human consumption is lost (FAO). The total food losses and secondary flows in the Flemish food supply chain are estimated at 1,936,000 to 2,290,000 tonnes.

Primary production	Food industry	Distribution	Food Services	Households
				
425,000 – 700,000 tonnes	1,073,000 tonnes	116,000 tonnes	166,000 tonnes	156,000 – 235,000 tonnes

Food is wasted throughout the food supply chain and for various reasons. Food losses are undesirable from an ethical, a food security, an economic and an environmental point of view. At the same time the prevention of food losses creates opportunities, e.g. for innovation. Let us turn problems into solutions, (food) losses into profits!

In order to maintain its leading position among European food economies, the prevention of food losses and the high value valorization of secondary flows is a policy priority for Flanders Agrofood Valley. In recent years, several initiatives have been taken to map food losses, to reduce them and to valorize them as highly as possible. This was done in close collaboration with food supply chain partners and various stakeholders. A lot has already been done, but we want to move forward.

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT & FOOD WASTE COALITION

The Government of Flanders and the food supply chain sectors work together in a Flemish food supply chain platform, a dynamic platform for coordinated action on the prevention of food losses. In 2014 the Government of Flanders and its food supply chain partners signed the [declaration of commitment 'Together against food losses'](#).



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Our common vision is based on 3 principles: a shared responsibility, prevention as a starting point and the food losses hierarchy as guiding principle, collaboration and consultation. The partners pledged to produce a Food Supply Chain Roadmap 2020 to deliver concrete actions.



The partners called upon companies and organizations in the food supply chain, as well as all relevant societal stakeholders, to join them in their effort to combat food losses. At present 54 organizations endorsed the declaration of commitment and promised to tackle food losses with the food losses hierarchy as guiding principle.

Our aim is to establish a broad societal 'Food Waste Coalition' to reduce food losses in Flanders.

FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN ROADMAP 2020

The [Food Supply Chain Roadmap 2020](#) (in Dutch) was launched in April 2015 and includes objectives and actions on sector and food chain level, with the aim to reduce food losses as much as possible and to valorize food losses as highly as possible, in line with European objectives. The long term objective is to reduce food losses in Flanders with 30% by 2025. By 2020 we want to achieve a 15% reduction in food losses. The roadmap consists of 9 action programmes with 57 actions, covering food losses from farm to fork.

1. Supporting companies in reducing food losses
2. Collaboration in the food supply chain
3. Awareness-raising, inspiration and commitment at company level
4. Training employees to promote food loss reduction
5. Awareness-raising, inspiration and commitment at consumer level
6. Building new business models for collaboration between regular and social economy
7. Promoting and facilitating donation of food surpluses
8. Investing in research
9. Monitoring for knowledge