Method for national follow up on food losses

Setting up a national follow up method for increased knowledge and data on food losses in Sweden

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SDG 12.3
By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses

- 12.3.1a Food loss indicator
- 12.3.1b Food waste indicator

- Primary production up to but not including retail level
- Choose a basket of 10 main commodities by country
- Measure progress in reducing food losses towards 2030
National Food loss and waste - goals decided by the Swedish government in 2020

**Food loss**
- By 2025, an increased share of the food production should reach retailers and consumers.

**Food waste**
- From 2020 to 2025, the total amount of food waste should be reduced by at least 20% by weight per capita.
About the project – step by step

1. **Gather the most experienced researchers on food losses in Sweden**
   - Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences and Research Institutes of Sweden

2. **Form a reference group with researchers and key persons at agencies**

   **Discuss the choice of commodities:**
   - Production value
   - Production volume
   - Distributed on FAO five commodity categories.
   - Climate impact per kilo
   - Results from previous studies on food losses, Swedish/Nordic-studies
   - Valorization/potential
   - Fresh versus products that can be stored

3. **Decision**

   - Beef, pork, milk, seafood, wheat, potatoes, carrots, strawberries
The tasks for the researchers

4. Background study – RISE
- Does other countries follow up or plan to follow up food losses on a national level?
- What tools/guidance is there to use?

5. Assignment for Swedish University of Agriculture sciences
Suggest methods for the 8 product flows in two levels:

- Basic follow up using existing data that does not cost and does not bring extra work for farmers/food companies

- Advanced follow up – field studies, data collection, interviews, surveys
6. Meeting
The farmers and industry organizations representing production stages for the eight commodities gave their view on our questions:

• What in your production does not become food although it was intended for food?

• Why is that?

• Do you see a value in following upp food losses?
Basic follow up
Harvest statistics, animal database, open data at farmers organizations, other already existing studies

Advanced follow up
Gather new data by interviews, studies and surveys

"A large portion of humility and patience are important ingredients in the work on following up food losses. It is better to start with approximations than having no information at all. Then you can step by step move forward improving the data according to precision and preciseness”

From the background study by Karin Östergren, RISE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Methods for 2021 / 2022</th>
<th>Previous studies, some examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>Calculating data on animal that dies at farm from official animal register.</td>
<td>Losses at farm: 9 % relative to total slaughtered weight in 2012</td>
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<td>Transport och cassations – data from Swedish Food Agency</td>
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<td><strong>Interview</strong> and data collection- study at abattoirs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>Calculating data on pigs dead at farm, from advisor programme (WinPig)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>Data on milk lost due to cow on veterinary treatment/medicine</td>
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<td>Two large dairy companies (represents 74% volume in Sweden) brings data from the <strong>Voluntary agreement</strong> for reduced FLW</td>
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<td>Seafood</td>
<td>Losses at fishing – some existing data from agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Interviews</strong> with fishers</td>
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<td>Losses as fish industries gathered from our <strong>Voluntary agreement, + extra surveys</strong></td>
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<td>Wheat</td>
<td>Unharvested fields and game damage – existing studies</td>
<td>Losses: about 2 % at farm</td>
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<td><strong>Interviews</strong> with wheat growers</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Data collection calling</strong> grain traders and mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>Case studies in field</td>
<td>Losses: about 10-15 %</td>
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<td><strong>Interviews</strong> with growers about losses at storage</td>
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<td><strong>Data collection calling</strong> packeries</td>
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<td>Carrots</td>
<td>Case studies in field</td>
<td>Losses: about 20-30 %</td>
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<td><strong>Interviews</strong> with growers about losses at storage</td>
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<td><strong>Data collection calling</strong> packeries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strawberries</td>
<td>Case study in field</td>
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<td>Survey to growers at a large growers meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food processors</td>
<td>Survey to processors</td>
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Key issues

**Definitions** - An open approach makes 1+1=3
- What was intended for food but did not continue the food chain?
- How is it used instead?
- What are the causes?

**Representativeness**
Field studies – case studies
Packing/storage and further in the chain – national data

**Scope**
- Including pre-harvest and pre-slaughter/catch when easy or when priority
More should become food

- Understanding food losses and resources is not easy but important for a sustainable food system and reaching the SDG 12.3

- Learning from each other – listening to both researchers and actors who know the day to day challenges

- Foods losses in Sweden – methods for increasing knowledge about losses and resources in food production - find summary here

- Summary in English, and full report soon to be translated

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