

Framework for Action - Spain

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1 Introduction

The need to combat food waste has been given top most priority in the current sustainability debate. This is firmly established through the goal of halving food waste settled by the 193 UN member states in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations (UN) has stressed the need to take action at all levels of the value creation chain ranging from producers to suppliers and consumers. REFRESH aims to bring the different stakeholders from all stages of the food chain together to advance the common goal of reducing food waste. This will be implemented through the promotion of effective measures that do not stem from legal regulations.

Spain, jointly with three more countries (Germany, Hungary and Netherlands), was chosen to implement this collaborative approach during the coming four years.

With the signing of the Framework for Action, the signatories commit to **a non-binding agreement to contribute to reduce food waste in the areas most relevant to them in the food chain**. Through the Framework for Action it is aimed to make a **contribution to achieving the SDG's target 12.3 by halving the per capita food waste by 2030¹**.

2 Definitions

- **Framework for Action:** the Framework for Action (FA) is a non-binding agreement to contribute to reduce food waste in Spain in the context of the REFRESH project.
- **Steering Committee:** the Steering Committee is a coalition of companies from the food industry, big and small retailers, national and local administrative bodies, NGOs and other interested members, who have an

¹ "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" (see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal.html>).

interest in proactive, collaborative, and solution-oriented work for achieving a significant reduction of food waste along the food chain. In the beginning, the Steering Committee will be formed by a small group of member organizations. As the project progresses, this group may include other participants.

3 Framework for Action

3.1 Objective of the Framework for Action

Participants in the Framework for Action (FA) will commit to actively support progress towards the UN SDG 12.3 target to reduce retail and consumer waste by 50% by 2030, through taking action in Spain against food waste along the whole supply chain, by making contributions in the following lines:

- I. Understanding the current levels and causes of food waste from production to consumption;
- II. Raising awareness among the actors of the food chain and the general public on the undesired effects associated with food waste and the positive effects of reducing it;
- III. Promoting innovative initiatives to reduce and prevent food waste, particularly to address the most critical points of the food chain.

3.2 Implementation of the Framework for Action

- **Measures to reduce or prevent foodwaste:** signatories are committed **to undertake** or promote measures that contribute to the overall objectives established in this FA. Two main kinds of measures are considered: *activities and pilot projects*.
 - **Activities:** activities are all measures participants **implement** that are in line with the objective of the FA of reducing food waste in Spain. In order to share information, enhance synergies, promote communication and foster action, on an annual basis participants are encouraged to report to the Steering Committee, first, the activities implemented in the past year and, second, the provision of activities

programmed for the coming years in the form of an action plan. CREDA-UPC-IRTA will be in charge of preparing an annual report covering all these activities implemented and expected to be implemented by the members.

- **Targets:** each participant will have a series of priorities or targets. Any collective agreement in this domain should be designed in such a way that it suits the organisations involved, and provide the greatest value to the organisation while reducing or preventing food waste.
- **Progress Measurement:** preferably a hotspot analysis to examine priority products and actions should precede the establishment of quantitative or qualitative targets and priorities, including time frame and clearly defined baseline and indicators.
- **Pilot Projects:** in the framework of the FA, 3-4 pilot projects will be conducted. The aim of the pilot projects (PP) will be to examine the effectiveness of specific initiatives to reduce food waste, in previously identified hotspots, and explore potential for scaling-up. The PP will be selected considering willingness to cooperate by specific organizations (who will not be necessary members of the Steering Committee) and coverage of the identified hotspots in Spain. CREDA-UPC-IRTA will support and monitor all PP. Periodical reports of the development of the PP will be facilitated by CREDA-UPC-IRTA to the Steering Committee, in order to share information, enhance synergies and promote communication. It is expected that the PP will last at least a couple of years; although their exact implementation will be subject to the particular specificities of each case.
- **Role of the Steering Committee:**
 - Assist in providing direction for the FA in Spain through their expertise contribution;
 - Provide support and offer advice in the implementation of pilot projects;

- Spread the goals and values of REFRESH and FA.
- **Role of CREDA-UPC-IRTA:**
 - Coordinate the Steering Committee;
 - Organize an annual or biannual meeting of the Steering Committee;
 - Elaborate an annual report about the member's activities and advances of the whole Steering Committee, ensuring total confidentiality, and processing this data on an assessment of the overall objective of the ODS in Spain at the end of 2018;
 - To support and monitor the PP;
 - Aggregation of data: Data submitted by the various participants will be used to assess the overall objective of the ODS in Spain at the end of 2018.

3.3 General Principles of the Framework for Action

- **Open participation:** The FA is open to all organisations wishing to participate, and committed to take action to reduce or prevent food waste. The conditions for participation will be finalised and discussed annually to ensure their compliance.
- **Time schedule:** Any organisation taking part in the FA commits to implement the provisions of the FA at least until the end of 2017 or 2018.
- **External communication:** The FA will be externally promoted and publicised. The participating organisations will be listed. However, the specific objectives of each organisation will not be communicated. All use of specific external media communication will be sent for approval beforehand to the participating organizations.
- **Governance:** The participating organisations will meet once or twice per year, on collectively scheduled dates, in the framework of a Steering Committee, in order to share progress on relevant topics, as well as to explore potential collaborations. If a need emerges to change the governance organization, the Steering Committee will decide how to change the structure on the basis of a majority of 75% of the participants and with a minimum quorum of 50% of the members.

- **Confidentiality:** CREDA-UPC-IRTA will collect and handle the information of the individual organisations involved with utmost confidentiality. Only aggregated results will be discussed and shown within the group. If necessary CREDA-UPC-IRTA will sign a confidentiality agreement.