

## Aide memoire

<b>Session</b>	Session 7 – <i>Interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture</i> <i>Part IV: Changing practices</i>
<b>Title of presentation</b>	<b>Addressing food waste – the benefits to biodiversity</b>
<b>Name of presenter</b>	Margaux DENIS

### **Abstract**

A recent french law prioritized the actions against food waste and reinforced actions within the retail sector (e.g supermarkets are banned to destroy edible food and have to look for a partnership with at least one charity). All actors in the food chain have a role to play in preventing and reducing food waste, from those who produce and process foods to consumers. Wasting food is indeed an ethical and economic issue but it also depletes the environment of limited natural resources. Fighting against food waste enables to raise awareness of food value and indirectly contributes to preserve biodiversity.

### **Key considerations**

- About one third of all human food produced is lost or wasted (FAO)
- Food wastage represents 30% of agriculture land (FAO)
- Food wastage has economical, societal and environmental impacts
- Prioritize actions against food waste enables a better efficiency (Prevention → human consumption → feed valorization → energetic or composting valorization)

### **Key discussion points and conclusions**

- Food waste and biodiversity are indirectly related :
  - Quantity: deforestation (loss of biodiversity), energetic resources, ...
  - Quality/diversity: decline of some natural resources used as food (fish, ...) or standardization of food species

### **Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions**

- Contradictions : the more we avoid food waste, the more expensive the correspondent measures might be : financial cost (development of certain expensive technologies), environmental cost (if the good balance isn't found as far as packaging is concerned) or a cost for biodiversity. How should we define the bottomline of our future political actions to make sure our endpoints are good for reducing food waste but not at costs we can't assume?