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Trondheim  
Conferences  
on  
Biodiversity

# Food waste and biodiversity

General Directorate for Food  
Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry  
France

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# About Food Waste

- Food losses and waste → decrease of edible food mass through the food chain
- FAO : about **1/3rd of all human food** produced for human consumption in the world is **lost or wasted**
- In France : around **20 - 30 kg/year/person**
- Necessity to improve quantification
- Economic, societal and environmental impacts



# Measures against food waste in France

- Law n°2016-138 of February 11, 2016

## Parliamentary construction

- **Parliamentary report** from Mr Guillaume Garot – April 2015 :  
*36 proposals for a public policy on food waste*
- **Discussions** within both chambers from June 2015 to February 2016 :  
*large political consensus*
- **Stakeholders involvement**





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# Measures against food waste in France

- Law n°2016-138 of February 11, 2016
  - Actions ranking
    - **Prioritization of actions** against food waste, for a better efficiency throughout the whole food chain :
      - Prevention
      - Human consumption (donation or transformation)
      - Feed valorization
      - Energetic or composting valorization





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# Measures against food waste in France

- Law n°2016-138 of February 11, 2016
- Reinforced actions within the retail sector
  - **destruction of edible food is forbidden** : *to be articulated with the prioritization of actions against food waste*
  - industrial producers will be able to donate store brand products to charities if the retailer refuses the product





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# Measures against food waste in France

- Law n°2016-138 of February 11, 2016
  - For the retailers whose selling area exceeds 400m<sup>2</sup>
    - obligation, before february 2017, to **look for a partnership with at least one charity** : *the retailer must find a charity able to manage the food donated*
    - obligation to manage donations through a mutual document specifying donation arrangements : *work in progress between the administration and the retail sector and charity representatives*





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# Measures against food waste in France

- Law n°2016-138 of February 11, 2016
- Follow-up
  - Implementing decree foreseen by the law : *work in progress*
  - in the continuity of all the work done by national authorities and their partners : *this law is not an endpoint but a step in the whole process (as are the National alliance against food waste, call to projects...)*







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# About Biodiversity

- Diversity of life on Earth across :
  - Genes ;
  - Species ;
  - Ecosystems.
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity = one of the goals of the French environmental policies but also of the new French agricultural policy (the agroecology project)







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# Food waste : links with Biodiversity

- Report : « Food wastage footprint » (FAO, 2013)

Produced but uneaten food : **1,4 billion hectares of land**  
(30% of agriculture land)

→ indirectly causes biodiversity loss

- In France : 3% of national CO2 emissions due to food waste  
(ADEME - *french environment and energy management agency*, 2016)





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# Food waste & Biodiversity loss

- Mostly occurring when unsustainable agriculture practices are used at production phase :
  - **Deforestation** due to unsustainable agriculture (in the tropics)/monocropping ;
  - **Red listed species** threatened ;
  - **Decline in abundance and diversity** :
    - Of some species in the food chain (overfishing)
    - Of species considered as imperfect (seeds and food standardization, waste of « ugly » food).



# Food waste & Biodiversity

- Fighting food waste → realization of **food value**
  - Food needs time and energy to grow/be produced
  - Role in the food chain / ecosystem
- « I love food, I respect it »



# Promoting a sustainable agriculture : through Agroecology

Food waste policy : also part of the more global French  
**agroecology project**, based on these core principles :

Enhancement of  
**biodiversity in the  
« agro-ecosystems »**  
(both wild and  
cultivated)

Enhancement  
of **biological  
regulations**

Managing  
**bio- and geochemical  
cycles**  
(carbon, nitrogen,  
phosphorus...)

Two complementary positive effects on biodiversity :

- > by decreasing food waste
- > by increasing agricultural sustainability





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# Thank you for your attention

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