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**METHODOLOGICAL PROPOSAL FOR MONITORING SDG TARGET 12.3.1
SUB-INDICATOR 12.3.1.A**

THE FOOD LOSS INDEX DESIGN, DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND CHALLENGES

Working Paper Series

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METHODOLOGICAL PROPOSAL FOR MONITORING SDG TARGET 12.3. SUB-INDICATOR 12.3.1.A

THE FOOD LOSS INDEX DESIGN, DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND CHALLENGES

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Abbreviations

APHLIS	African Post-Harvest Loss Information System
CoP	Community of Practice Website
CPC	Central Product Classification
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLI/FLP	Food Loss Index / Food Loss Percentage
FLW	Food Losses and Waste
FSC	Food Supply Chain
GFLI/GFLP	Global Food Loss Index/Global Food Loss Percentage
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSARS	Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics
IAEG-SDG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators
IFPRI	International Food and Policy Research Institute
NRI	Natural Resource Institute
NSO	National Statistical Offices
PHFLA	Post-harvest Food Loss Assessments
PHL	Post-Harvest Losses
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SUA/FBS	Supply Utilization Accounts in the Food Balance Sheets
SWS	FAO Corporate Statistical Working System
TSU	Tertiary or final sampling units
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

Abstract

The Sustainable Development target 12.3 states “By 2030, to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.” The defined target distinguishes the supply side of the food chain from the retail and consumption stages, and sets different objectives: an unspecified reduction of food losses and a 50% reduction of food waste. The measurement methods differ greatly for the production and consumption stages and methodological development has taken two separate paths accordingly. For these reasons, the custodian agencies, FAO and UNEP, recommend that an additional sub-indicator 12.3.1.b on Food Waste be formally considered for the 2020 comprehensive review of the Global Indicator Framework. By acknowledging that an additional sub-indicator can only be approved in 2020, FAO and UNEP recommend that in the meanwhile the target be monitored with two separate sub-indicators 12.3.1.a *Food Loss Index* and 12.3.1.b *Food Waste Index* and that these be considered for upgrade separately.

In this light, the FAO developed a *Food Loss Index* (FLI) monitoring Food Losses on a global level for a basket of key commodities in the food systems, including crops, livestock, and fisheries products. The index focuses on the supply stages of food chains and measures changes in percentage losses over time. The purpose of the index is to allow for policy makers to look at the positive and negative trends in food loss compared to a baseline year, in order to improve the food supply system efficiency against food losses.

This paper delves into the rationale of the index design and then presents the various elements of the methodology. The paper starts with the definitional framework and scope of the index, it illustrates the rationale for estimating losses as the percentage of food quantities removed from the supply chain. It illustrates the commodities basket, their selection criteria, the compilation of the index weights and the steps for calculating the index. The final section of the paper summarizes FAO's two pronged approach to food loss data. The long-term

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