# Event on “*SDG 12: Fighting Climate Change Requires Zero Tolerance on Food Loss and Waste*”

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| **Date: Monday, 10 December 2018**  **Time: 13:15-14:45**  **Room: Pieniny**  **IISD Coverage:** [**http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop24/side-events/10dec.html#event-2**](http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop24/side-events/10dec.html#event-2) |
| **Event Rationale**  One-third of all food produced is lost or wasted. This accounts for 8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions – meaning that, if food losses and waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter. As it is not a country, cutting back on food losses and waste is a global, shared obligation. There is an imperative to act: wasting food, and the valuable natural resources that went into producing it, while almost 821 million people remain hungry and global temperatures rise is not an option. Instead, addressing food losses and waste should be seen as a catalytic opportunity to drive the sustainable transformation of food systems and to fight climate change.  Thinking about food in the international climate arena has evolved notably. In 1994, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) enshrined in Article 2 the objective to “ensure that food production is not threatened” as a result of anthropogenic climate change. The Paris Agreement embraced the concept of food security in its preamble, expanding on the Framework Convention’s emphasis on production alone (food availability and stability) to also include the dimensions of access to and utilization of food. The historic Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, adopted by the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23), further emphasizes “sustainable and resilient agricultural systems”.  Food systems thinking is essential, if the climate challenge is to be overcome. This involves an analysis of entire system from farm to fork, including the support services, and the natural and societal environment in which the food system is embedded. Understanding the interactions of the diverse activities and feedback loops within a food system, as well as the incentives and capacities of the stakeholders involved, is critical to optimizing its sustainability. All environmental, economic and social elements must be carefully considered to minimize trade-offs and harness synergies across food value chains. Transforming the global food system to build its resilience to climate change while reducing emissions intensity to the extent possible at all value chain stages will require concerted governance efforts alongside coordinated action from all stakeholders in the food system.  The interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embodies such systems thinking. The case for connecting SDG 2 (zero hunger) with SDG 13 (climate action) is a strong one. Yet with so many intricate interlinkages, the task ahead can seem overwhelming. Therefore, this event takes SDG 12 (sustainable consumption) as a bridge between SDGs 2 and 13 and uses food losses and waste as a concrete entry point to map out one promising pathway to a more sustainable future. Far from being too complex to be achieved, many inspiring examples of action exist. Systemic change is possible – and vital.  **Short description**  The event will commence with a keynote speech, followed by a panel discussion reflecting the diverse entry points from different actors, including developing and developed country Parties, private sector and farmers’ groups. Panelists will be asked to make short interventions (ca. 5 minutes each), focusing on the event’s guiding questions, after which an interactive discussion with the audience will be facilitated.  **Event Objectives**   * To highlight that a sustainable transformation of global food systems is possible by exploring diverse examples of food loss and waste, from national governments reduction initiatives, the private sector and civil society. * To unpack some of the complexities of food systems thinking and the interlinkages between SDG 12, SDG 2 and SDG 13, based on the experiences shared.   **Key Messages**   * Thinking about food in the international climate arena has undergone an important evolution from production alone to a more holistic focus on food systems as a whole, also comprising access to food and food utilization. * This kind of systems thinking is essential, if sustainability is to be optimized and if the Sustainable Development Goals are to successfully link environmental and socioeconomic progress. * Tackling global food losses and waste are a concrete and catalytic opportunity to drive a sustainable transformation of food systems and to fight climate change. To put it differently, food losses and waste are an entry-point that allows SDG 12 (sustainable consumption) to build a bridge between SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 13 (climate action). * Action on reducing food losses and waste can – and should! – be taken at all levels, from farmer to consumer and from government to business.   **Guiding Questions for Panelists**   * What examples of concrete measures to tackle food losses and waste are there? What are the achievements and lessons learnt so far? What work and what doesn’t? * What is the role of individuals, the role of governance and role of the private sector in achieving SDG 12 (sustainable consumption) more broadly, and in reducing food losses and waste specifically? * How has food systems thinking transformed the way we think about consumption and production? * How are cities getting prepared in managing food loss and waste considering population growth and trends in terms of urbanization?   **Chair**   * **Mr. Zitouni Ould-Dada**, Deputy Director, Climate and Environment Division, FAO   **Speakers**   * **Mr. Karol Krajewski**, Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland * **Ms. Victoria Hatton,** Lead negotiator for international agriculture and climate change, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand * **Mr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop**, Director, Agriculture Global Practice, World Bank * **Mr. Raphaël Podselver,** Political Outreach, ProVeg * **Mr. Craige Mackenzie,** Founder & Director, Agri Optics |

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