

**Remarks on OECD (2025),  
“Beyond food loss and waste reduction targets:  
Translating reduction ambitions into policy outcomes”**

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# 1. Introduction and Analytical Framework<sub>1</sub>

- This report provides in-depth information on the global food loss and waste (FLW) policy environment based on **an OECD survey of 42 economy's ministries** and from the European Commission, carried out in 2023.
- Out of 42 OECD economies, **eleven (11) are in APEC region**: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, and United States.
- Three best practices for case studies: Australia, Japan, and France.

# 1. Introduction and Analytical Framework\_2

- Results indicate that economies adopt **very different approaches** for a variety of reasons, including different geographical, economic, legislative, and social conditions. This report acknowledges the need for **flexible** policy approaches to encourage as many economies as possible to work toward the introduction and improvement of their FLW strategies.

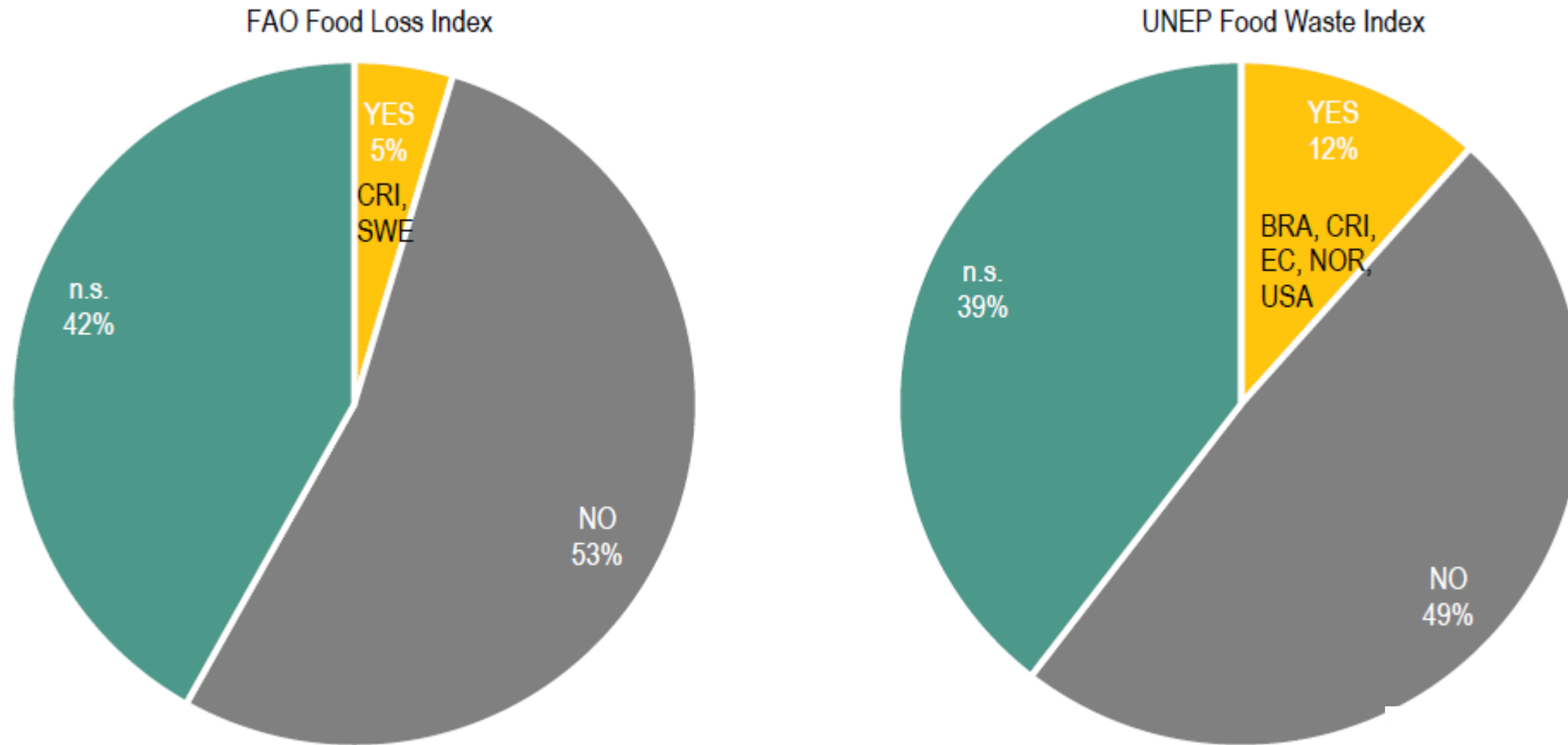
# 1. Introduction and Analytical Framework<sub>3</sub>

- This report applies a systematic framework for analyzing FLW policymaking processes, comparing approaches to define and quantify FLW (*Knowledge*); to adopt global and economy's targets (*Ambition*); to translate them into economy's strategies adapted to economy's circumstances (*Commitment*); to implement policy instruments best suited to the local food systems (*Policy Implementation*); and to ensure that outcomes are evaluated against their objectives (*Policy Effectiveness*); and identifying missed opportunities and/or gaps.

## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire\_1

- **FLW Knowledge**: Knowledge has improved a lot. Consideration could, however, be given to identifying reliable and more affordable FLW measurement methods and enhancing **comparability** of FLW information across economies.
  - ✓ While the FAO and the UNEP propose **harmonized measurement and monitoring** tools, **few economies** covered in this study use the FAO Food Loss Index (only **5%**) and the UNEP Food Waste Index (only **12%**).
  - ✓ The absence of measurement and monitoring is **the most prominent barrier** to FLW policymaking identified by the economies covered in this report.

**Figure 2.4. Adoption of the Food Loss index and of the Food Waste Index**



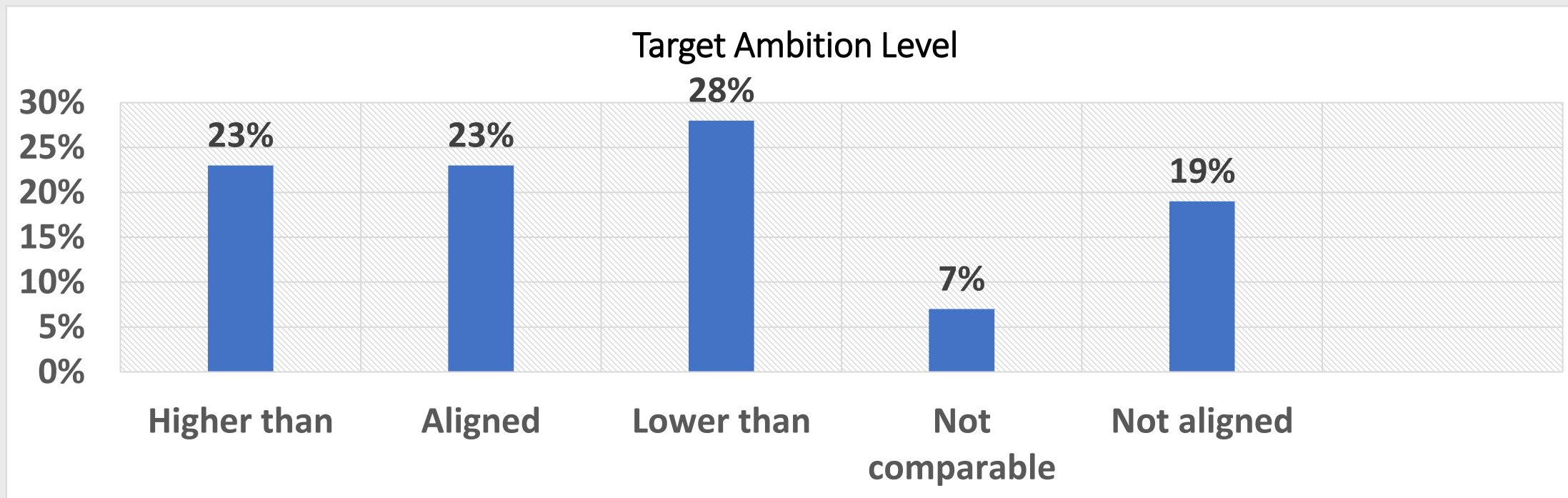
Note: All 43 respondents, including the EC, are included to calculate the share of responses. Not specified (n.s) includes those answering “I don’t know” and those that did not answer the questionnaire.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Food Loss and Waste Reduction Policies, 2023.

## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire\_2

- **Policy Ambition:** From SDG 12.3 to economy's FLW reduction targets.
  - ✓ Economy's targets, where they exist, generally **align with** SDG target 12.3
  - ✓ Few economies establishing quantifiable targets (e.g., defined baselines, delivery target dates, and NDC).
  - ✓ Low engagement in **the eight (8) international initiatives** reflect a lack of capacity across economies covered in the study, with limited budget and staff availability.
  - ✓ Engagement with international initiatives could also enable economies to benefit from other economies' experiences.

## Ambition of FLW reduction target in comparison with SDG 12.3- % share based on 43 respondents of the OECD (2023) survey on FLW policy



Source: Table 2.3 from OECD, 2025. *Beyond food loss and waste reduction targets: Translating reduction ambitions into policy outcomes.*



## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire<sub>3</sub>

- **Economy's Commitments:** Economy's FLW strategies are widely implemented and generally rely on **soft measures. (NUDGING)**
  - ✓ In most economies, the strategies are governed by a single government entity (Ministry or government agency) that covers either agriculture or the environment. When multiple entities are involved, coordination challenges may arise.
  - ✓ Most economy's FLW strategies generally favor **soft measures** rather than **a regulatory approach**. Less than a third of the respondents have set up a binding FLW reduction target.

## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire\_4

- **Economy's Commitments:** Economy's FLW strategies are widely implemented and generally rely on **soft measures**.
  - ✓ *The Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC FLW)*, a global non-legally binding instrument developed by the FAO, was endorsed in June 2021. The CoC FLW presents internationally and regionally recognized, locally and domestically adaptable guiding principles and standards for responsible practices that governments and other stakeholders can voluntarily apply to reduce FLW while promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural and agrifood systems.
  - ✓ Recall: **Trujillo Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in the Asia-Pacific Region, Peru, 2024**

## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire\_5

- **Policy Implementation:** Economies could enhance their existing efforts by avoiding policy layering (adding new policy instruments to existing ones). Public-private partnerships.
  - ✓ *FLW policy action accelerated with the establishment of international commitments.*
  - ✓ **Household and retail stages** receive the strongest level of policy attention, with the implementation of **soft** policy measures such as **awareness raising campaigns and voluntary collaboration initiatives**. Research shows that awareness raising campaigns are more efficient when they focus on the individual consequences of food waste. Mandatory regulations and fiscal measures are not commonly used.

## 2. Insights from OECD Questionnaire<sub>6</sub>

- **Policy Effectiveness:** Only a few economies undertake regular and dedicated FLW policy impact evaluations, including on cost-effectiveness.
  - ✓ *FLW policy instruments are not systematically evaluated.*
  - ✓ *FLW policy evaluations are not often documented.*

### 3. Comments and Remarks<sub>1</sub>

- ***The APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020, Beijing, 2014***

APEC economies committed in the **APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020** to “strive to reduce food loss and waste by **10%** compared with the 2011-2012 levels by 2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, [and to] aim to advance beyond the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** 2015 hunger goals,” noting that **the 10% specified in that goal is an average level for all economies**, and noting further that **specific indicators** can be developed based on each economy’s respective situation.

- ***For economy’s self-improvement, not for comparison or ranking!***

## 4. Comments and Remarks\_2

- *The APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, New Zealand, 2021*

17. To assist economies in achieving their individual sustainability goals, economies have committed to the following actions:

e) Provide capacity building and best practice sharing workshops to support member economies' individual and collective efforts to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 12.3 "by 2030, 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," with specific indicators based on each economy's respective situation such as measured by the UN/FAO Food Waste Index (FWI) or other appropriate index.

### 3. Comments and Remarks<sub>3</sub>

- ***Trujillo Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste in the Asia-Pacific Region, Peru, 2024***

“These Principles align with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda including efforts 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. They also are in line with the “**Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction**” endorsed by FAO members (2021), which offers guidance and a framework for establishing policies, strategies, legislation, or programs to prevent and reduce FLW.”

### 3. Comments and Remarks\_4

- “Economies could also explore becoming more involved in international initiatives to benefit from other economy’s experiences.”
- “APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste” adopted by 3<sup>rd</sup> SOM, Beijing, 2014.
- Since 2013, APEC PPFS, ATCWG, OFWG, and SCSC provide capacity building and best practice sharing workshops annually to support member economies' individual and collective efforts to reduce/prevent FLW.

APEC-FLOWs website: <https://apec-flows.ntu.edu.tw/>



## FLW (Food Loss and Waste) related projects in APEC

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Sponsoring Forum	Proposing Economies
Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain	M SCE 02 2013A	2013	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)	Chinese Taipei
Survey on Innovative Technologies & Best Practices to Reduce Post Harvest Food Loss	PPFS 02 2014S	2014	Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)	United States
Developing Public-Private Partnerships to Support Waste Management Infrastructure and Reduce Marine Litter	OFWG 02 2017S	2017	Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG)	United States
Reducing Food Waste by Using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Innovative Technologies	PPFS 02 2018	2018	Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)	Japan
Reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) for Addressing Interlinked Challenges of Food Security and Climate Change in APEC Member Economies	PPFS 01 2019S	2019	Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)	Chinese Taipei
Reducing Food Loss and Waste along the Food Value Chain in APEC During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic	PPFS 03 2020	2020	Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)	Chinese Taipei
Reducing Food Loss and Waste by Strengthening the Resilience of APEC Food System and Enhancing Digitalisation and Innovative Technologies	ATC 01 2022	2022	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)	Chinese Taipei
APEC Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Tracking and Food Recovery in Hospitality, Food Service and Retail Industries	ATC 01 2023S	2023	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)	United States
Survey and Workshop on Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems in APEC Economies	PPFS 01 2023	2023	Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)	Peru
Reducing Food Loss and Waste through Packaging Innovations and Progress Review of Food Loss and Waste in the APEC Region	ATCWG_202_2024	2024	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)	Chinese Taipei
Workshop on the Role of Standards in Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth	SCSC_01_2025S	2025	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)	China



## Reference:

OECD (2025), “Beyond food loss and waste reduction targets: Translating reduction ambitions into policy outcomes”, *OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Papers*, No. 214, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/59cf6c95-en>.