Food waste and biodiversity

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


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
Measures against food waste in France

- 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
Measures against food waste in France


- 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
Measures against food waste in France


- For the retailers whose saling area exceeds 400m²

→ 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
Measures against food waste in France


- 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...)

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)
Food waste: links with Biodiversity


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)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhancement of biodiversity in the « agro-ecosystems » (both wild and cultivated)</th>
<th>Enhancement of biological regulations</th>
<th>Managing bio- and geochemical cycles (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus...)</th>
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Two complementary positive effects on biodiversity:
> by decreasing food waste
> by increasing agricultural sustainability
Thank you for your attention

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