



General Agreement on the Reduction of Food Waste¹

between the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and associations in the agricultural sector, the food and nutrition industry and the hotel and catering sector

Preamble

This Agreement aims to effectively reduce avoidable food waste in Germany along the entire food supply chain and in private households with the objective of making the use of resources for the production, processing and consumption of food more efficient and sustainable. To achieve these goals, it is imperative that all stakeholders (legislative body/government, economic sector and consumers) contribute actively. By signing this Agreement, the BMEL and the undersigned associations representing the German agricultural sector, the food and nutrition industry and the catering and hotel sector, wish to meet their shared responsibility in achieving these goals.

The Agreement serves to implement Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 as agreed by the United Nations (UN) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agreement sees itself as a basis for cooperation on the implementation of the *National Strategy for Food Waste Reduction* adopted by the Federal Government. In a second step, sectoral agreements including the jointly developed concepts and measures will complement this General Agreement.

¹ Within the meaning of this Agreement, food waste is food that has become waste along the food supply chain as defined by the Circular Economy Act. This includes food losses that arise after the harvest, e.g. during storage or during transportation, processing and production, and match the definition of waste pursuant to the Waste Framework Directive.

Reduction targets

- The BMEL and the undersigned associations pursue the same goal in line with the reduction targets of the UN referred to in Recital 31 of Directive (EU) 2018/851 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive):
 - halve per capita food waste in Germany at the retail and consumer levels and
 - reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- The BMEL and the undersigned associations jointly work towards the goal of achieving the indicative target applicable throughout the Union of reducing food waste by 30 % by 2025 and by 50 % by 2030 at the retail and consumer levels.
- In drawing up reduction measures and targets in the sectoral dialogue forums, it should be taken into consideration that part of the food waste is not avoidable. Avoidable food waste includes food which was still fully fit for human consumption at the time of discarding or would have been edible if it had been eaten in time.
 - The BMEL and the undersigned associations will review the allocation of waste to the sectors at the interfaces to prevent waste from being transferred from one sector to another in purely arithmetic terms.
 - The BMEL specified the year 2015 as the base period for the mentioned reduction targets. It is the reference year for the reduction of food waste by the year 2030.
 - The baseline for the reference year 2015 was established on the basis of the data sources available at the time (Thünen Report 71, 2019). The quantities of food waste in Germany identified in the baseline are an estimate of their order of magnitude; in the year 2015, they amounted to approximately 12 million tonnes of fresh mass, whereby
 - primary production accounted for 12 % (1.4 million tonnes),
 - processing for 18 % (2.2 million tonnes),
 - retail for 4 % (0.5 million tonnes),
 - away-from-home catering for 14 % (1.7 million tonnes) and
 - private households accounted for 52 % (6.1 million tonnes).

The baseline figures have not been sufficiently substantiated by statistics and shall therefore be improved in the scope of the joint work and data collection activities. The baseline may be revised on the basis of better quality data, and target achievement can be monitored consistently.

Contributions of the signatories

The BMEL and the undersigned associations work towards drawing up specific joint sector-related measures one year after the start of the relevant sector-specific dialogue forums. These are designed to achieve the above reduction targets. These measures and targets for achieving the reduction targets as well as suitable formats for implementation and performance reviews will then be laid down in sectoral agreements.

The undersigned associations declare their willingness,

- to encourage their members to put into practice the specific measures developed jointly by the sector-specific dialogue forums,
- to support the BMEL to their capabilities and to meet the Federal Government's reporting requirements towards the European Union. The annual reporting is aimed at ensuring that the development of food waste along the food supply chain is described and assessed.

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

- establishes bodies for the implementation process of the *National Strategy for Food Waste Reduction* to network with stakeholders in the entire food supply chain and promote exchange across sectoral borders. It also supports the measuring of food waste in pilot enterprises through the sector-specific dialogue forums,
- provides a single methodology for identifying and analysing food waste along the entire food supply chain and, in particular, commissions surveys analysing food waste in private households; the BMEL will regularly inform the undersigned associations about the work in the Working Group Indicator SDG 12.3,
- reviews statutory provisions with regard to the objectives of this Agreement, insofar as there is an established reason that they contribute to generating food waste or have an adverse impact on the avoidance of food waste,
- strives to facilitate food donations and hence enables close cooperation with all stakeholders of the *National Dialogue Forum*,
- expands the *Too good for the bin* campaign with the aim of changing consumer behaviour and, if necessary, develops communication and guidance documents to support the implementation of this Agreement and makes it available to all stakeholders,
- safeguards the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises; this applies in particular to affected enterprises of artisanal food production, the restaurant and catering sector, agriculture, trade and industry,
- includes the Federal Cartel Office in the implementing process.

Implementation and organisation

- The *National Dialogue Forum* convenes once a year to discuss and assess progress and results in implementing the targets of this Agreement and other measures. The BMEL then informs the German public at www.lebensmittelwertschaetzen.de about the results and progress made in the implementation of the *National Strategy for Food Waste Reduction*.
- The joint body of the Federal Government and the Länder should work towards a coherent cross-Länder framework.
- The dialogue forums (*sector-specific dialogue forums*) to be established for each sector (primary production, processing, wholesale and retail, away-from-home catering, private households) are responsible for the thematic technical work on the specific process design. The dialogue forums work on sector-specific tangible measures, and individual enterprises can voluntarily commit to implement these measures. Some of these measures target consumers and aim at changing consumer behaviour. The *sector-specific dialogue forums* report to the *National Dialogue Forum* once a year in due time prior to their meeting.
- The stakeholders devising the sectoral agreements and the stakeholders that are signatories to this General Agreement need not be identical. It is planned to take into account existing, efficient initiatives.

Berlin, 04/03/2020

Signed by

Federal Minister Julia Klöckner,
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Dr Wolfgang Ingold, Chairman of the executive board
Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen
Ernährungsindustrie – BVE)

Friedhelm Dornseifer, President
Federal Association of the German Food Trade (Bundesverband des Deutschen Lebensmittelhandels
e.V. – BVLH)

Joachim Rukwied, President
German Farmers' Association (Deutscher Bauernverband e.V. – DBV)

Guido Zöllick, President
German Hotel and Restaurants Association (Deutscher Hotel- und Gaststättenverband –DEHOGA)

Bernd Stark, Chairman
German Frozen Food Institute (Deutsches Tiefkühlinstitut e.V. – dti)

Philipp Hengstenberg, President
Food Federation Germany (Lebensmittelverband Deutschland e.V.)

Hans Peter Wollseifer, President
Central Association of German Crafts (Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks e.V.– ZDH)