

Collaboration Initiative Food loss and waste launched at MACS-G20

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Photo: Tania Runge

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Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute



- [German Federal research institute](#) for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, tasks among others:
 - long-term approach to research and continually carry out monitoring activities
 - provide political decision makers with scientifically-based decision-making aids
 - represent German interests in international scientific commissions and bodies
- brings together 15 specialised institutes
- no university but hosting visiting students and providing PhD positions within research projects



MACS-G20 = Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20

- yearly meetings since 2012 prior to G20 agri-ministers meeting to prepare recommendations to agri-ministers
- addresses central questions related to agriculture and nutrition (e.g. soil degradation, plant pests, climate change)
- aims to better coordinate agricultural research in order to elaborate and implement joint solutions
- results of meetings are published as [communiqués](#)

Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses and Waste

- was raised at MACS in 2015 during G20 presidency host of Turkey
- Germany took Initiative's lead and finances coordinator
- coordinator is located at Thünen Institute
- aim of Initiative is to concentrate research and political consulting capacities of members in order to mobilize a noticeable reduction of food losses and wastes on a global scale

-> activities and cooperation open for all countries and stakeholders, not restricted to G20 members or governmental bodies only

Collaboration Initiative FLW activities e.g.

- Facilitating international cooperation among stakeholders
 - [Global platform for FLW experts and projects](#) (170 from 41 countries)
 - Annual regional FLW in cooperation with G20 presidency (2017 Germany, 2018 Argentina, 2019 Japan, 2020 Saudi Arabia, 2021 Italy, 2022 Indonesia, 2023 India, 2024 Brazil) with aim to enhance regional networks and knowledge exchange
- Capacity building
 - Hosting and training researchers and students
 - Co-authoring research papers from international colleagues
- participating in international working groups, boards etc.
 - UNECE, FAO, UNEP, [ISO](#), [EU](#), research projects (e.g. scientific advisory board [LOWINFOOD](#))

Activities on G20 governmental level

- food loss and waste issue addressed in all G20 **MACS communiqués** and **agri-ministers' declarations** from 2015 onwards -> in 2020 also water ministers included
 - **Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Indonesia** put FLW as one of relevant topics on the agenda for their official G20 presidency
 - usually official **support** of annual Regional FLW workshop by **MACS-G20 secretariat**
- > important in order to communicate **political commitment**
- > further need to **act in harmonized way as well as inter-ministerial cooperation**

Think global ...

- Collaboration Initiative with G20 host Argentina in 2018 to establish **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste** on UN level -> September 29th in place since 2020



FAO 2022

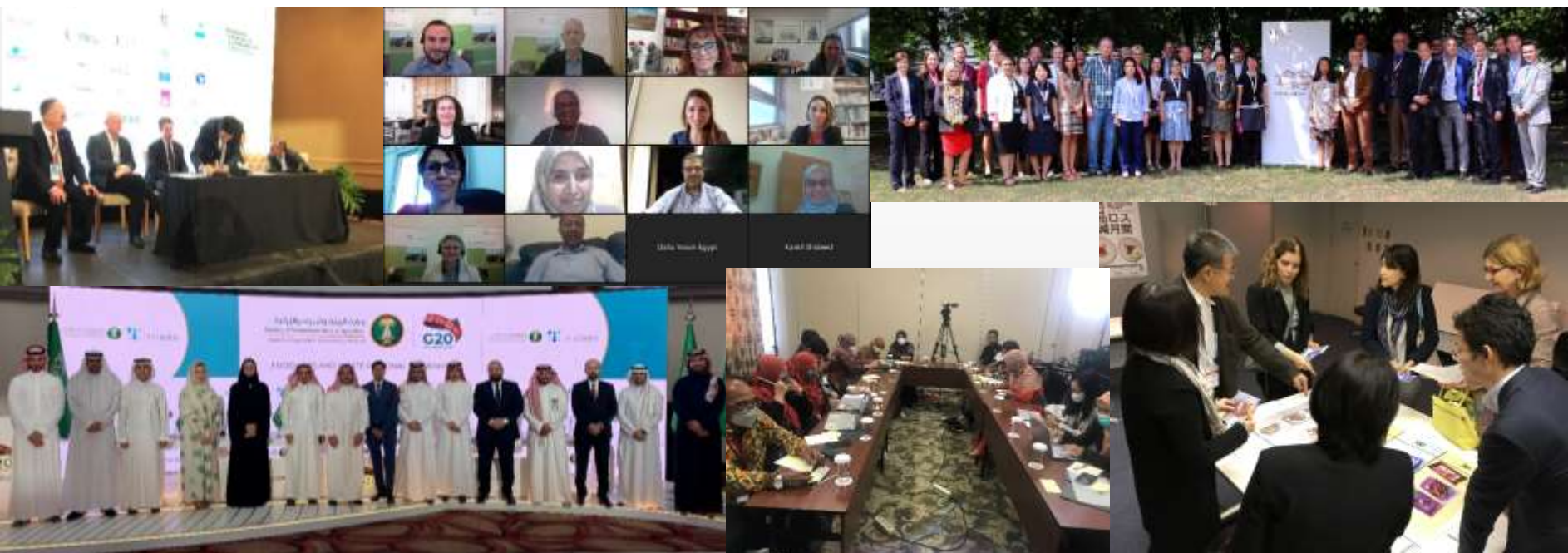
... act local

- **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste** as public event at Braunschweig City center each September



Facilitation of cooperation on regional scale

- annual **Regional FLW workshop** series in cooperation with G20 presidency (connecting 750 participants from 86 countries since 2017)
 - in 2018 “[Call to Buenos Aires Action on Food Loss and Waste](#)” signed after workshop as basis for collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean
- > facilitating **regional stakeholders’ cooperation and networks**



Thanks for your attention!

More information on [Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste](#)

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useful FLW links at Thünen Institute

- Collaboration Initiative Food Loss and Waste: <https://www.macs-g20.org/about-macs/macs-activities/collaboration-initiative-on-food-losses-food-waste-launched-at-macs-g20/>
- Global Expert and Project data base: www.global-flw-research.org/
- (Inter)national projects managed by Felicitas Schneider: <https://www.thuenen.de/en/ma/staff/scientific-staff/schneider-felicitas-dr/>
- dossier FLW: <https://www.thuenen.de/en/topics/global-food-and-resources/less-is-more-reducing-food-losses-and-waste/>
- Sustainability special issue “National Food Loss and Waste Prevention Strategies and Monitoring Approaches—an Interdisciplinary Challenge for Decision Makers, Researchers and Practice“: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special issues/foodloss waste decisionmakers#published](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special%20issues/foodloss_waste_decisionmakers#published)
- national FLW projects at Thünen Institute, managed by Thomas Schmidt: <https://www.thuenen.de/en/ma/staff/scientific-staff/dr-thomas-g-schmidt/>