

CHARACTERIZATION OF FOOD LOSSES IN AGRO-FOOD COMPANIES ACCORDING TO SIZE IN ARGENTINA

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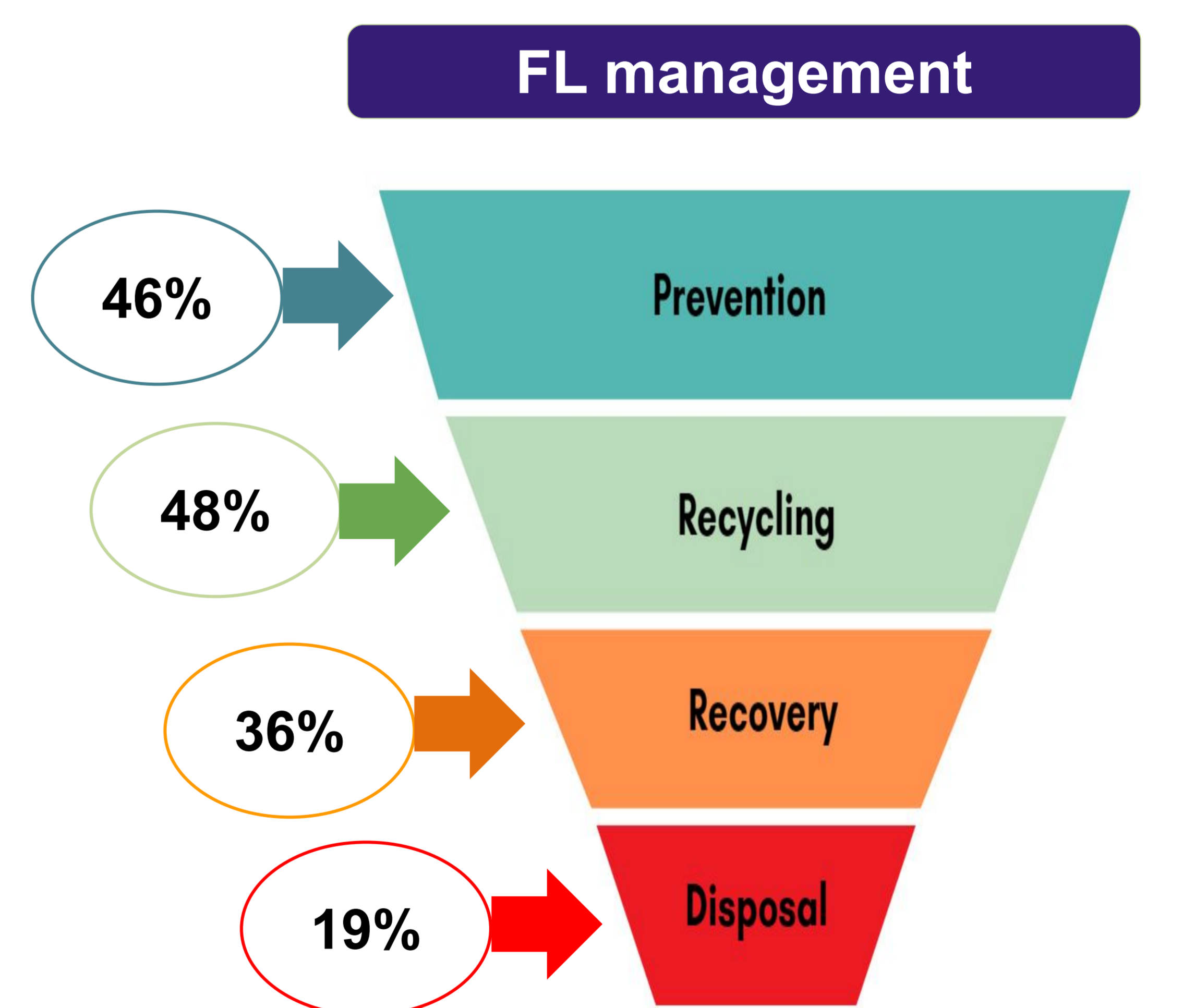
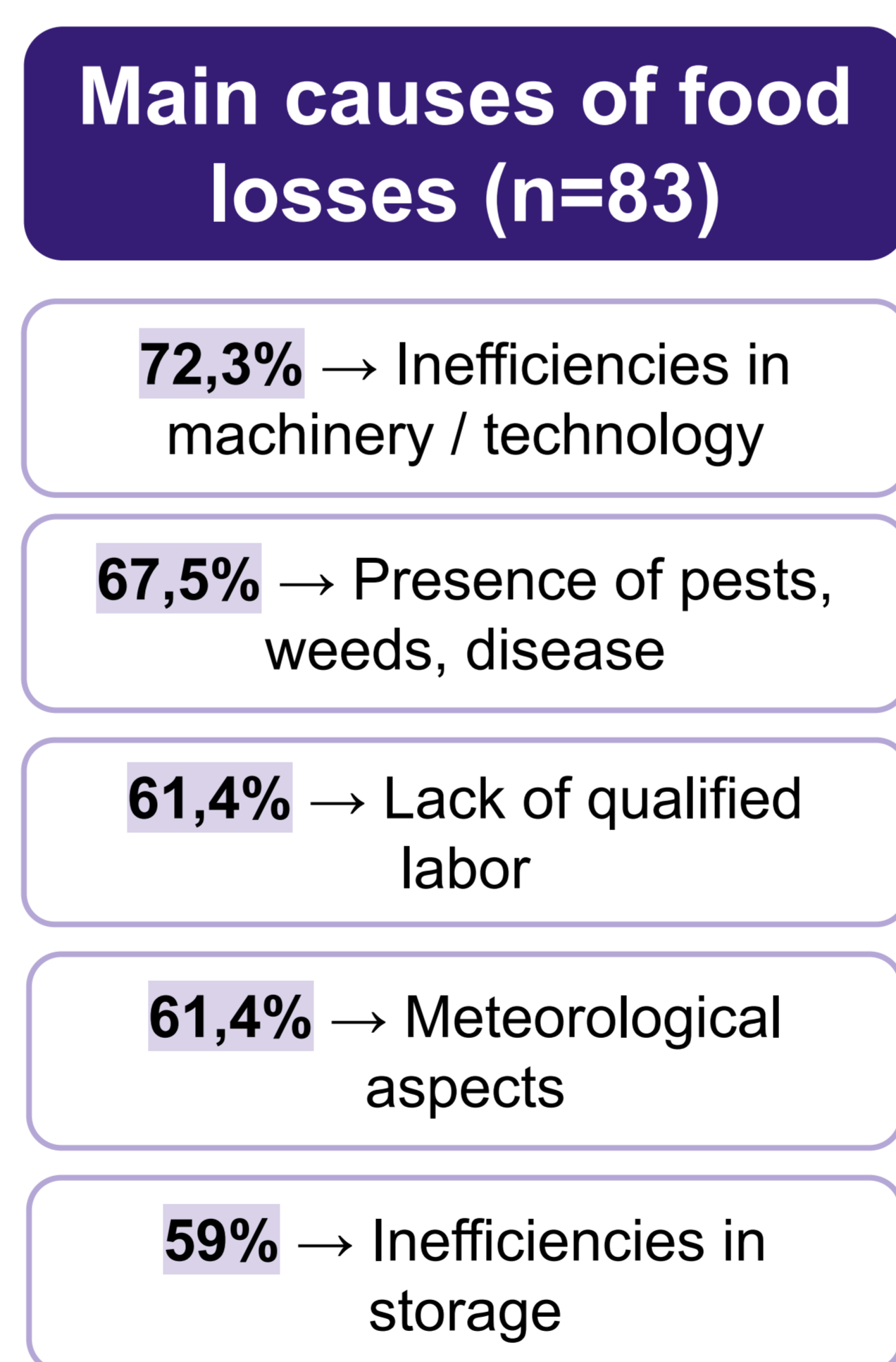
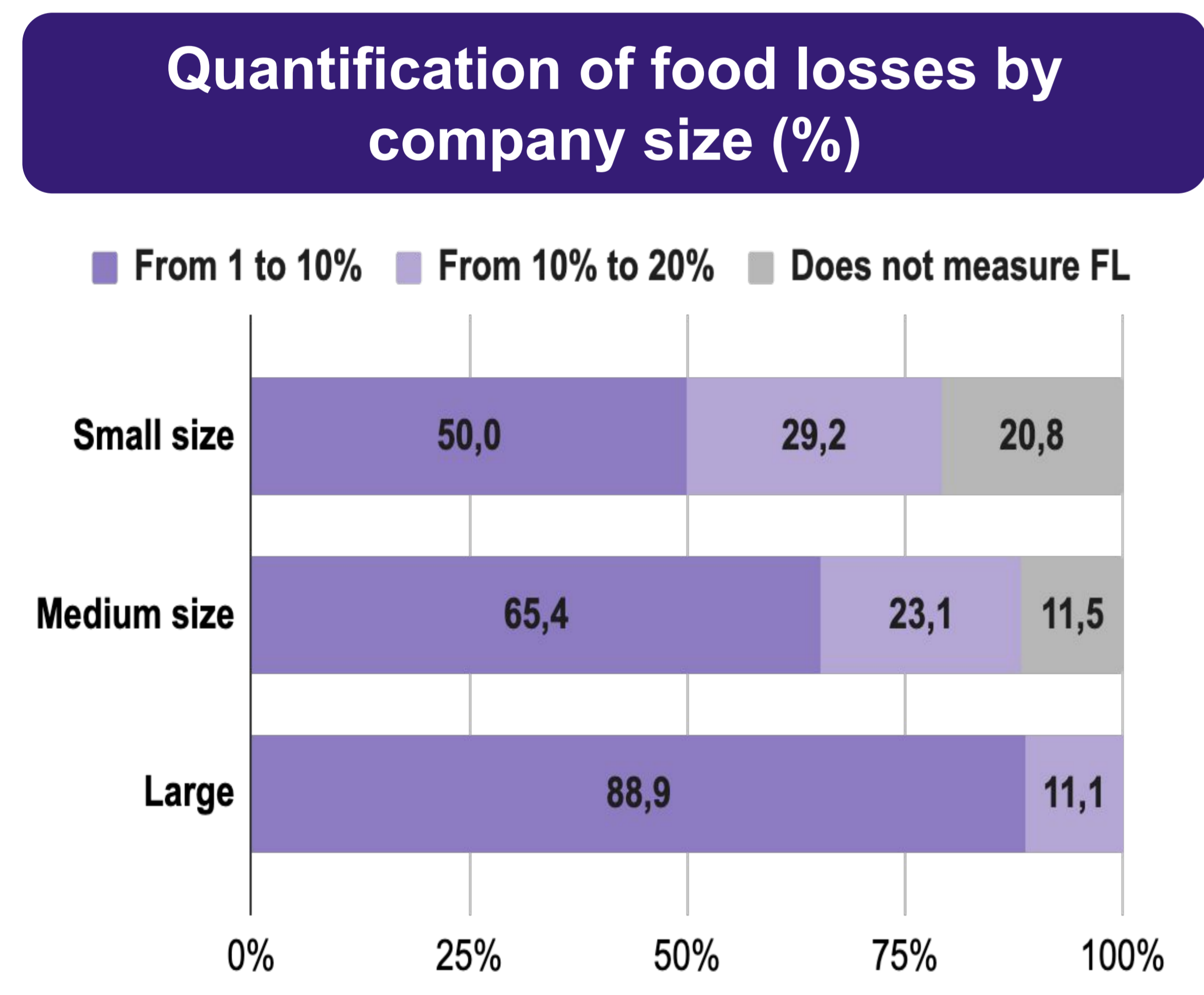
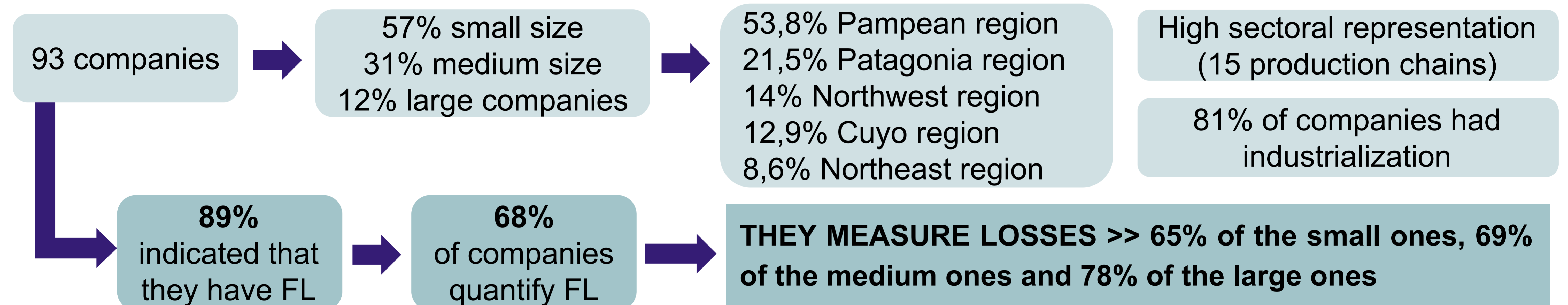
Introduction and objectives:

Food loss and waste is a global problem with negative social, economic and environmental effects. Estimates in Latin America and the Caribbean indicate that 11.6% of the food produced is lost. The Argentine agri-food system (AFS) drives the economy, 31 chains contribute 10% of the gross domestic product and is made up of more than 2,000 agri-food companies. The objective of the study was to evaluate the perception, measurement and management of food losses (FL) by agri-food companies according to their size.

Methods:

An observational, descriptive, cross-sectional study was implemented. A virtual questionnaire, available from September to December 2023, was applied to AFS companies that operate from primary production to wholesale market. The questionnaire evaluated the perception, presence of quantification, and value of the FL, reasons and policies for the reduction of FL.

Results:



Actions to reduce FL

- 5/10 companies have generated policies or actions to reduce FL
- 2/10 indicated lack of financing as an impediment to addressing FL
- 2/10 never actively addressed the issue, despite considering it a problem

Conclusions:

Most of the companies in the AFS presented FL and a little more than half estimated values below 10%. There was a high degree of awareness of the FL, which translates into a commitment on the part of the companies to estimate the volume of losses and generate actions to reduce them in order to achieve greater efficiency. The private sector has a fundamental role in reducing FL in order to aim for greater efficiency.

