

# CHAMPIONS 12.3

## Rabobank's Work to Reduce Food Loss & Waste

The world population is predicted to grow to nearly 10 billion by 2050. Not only is the population growing, it is getting older and on average wealthier as well. The latter will result in a massive shift towards for example animal protein based diets which can potentially cause a ripple effect throughout international food and agri chains and trade flows. The main challenge in the upcoming decades will be to increase production with less ecological impact, less water, less exhaust, less chemicals, and less arable land per capita.

Rabobank is rooted in agriculture. It was founded by farmers for farmers over 115 years ago. Today, food and agriculture is still at the heart of the bank's strategy. This is reflected in "Banking for Food;" a vision on a food secure future as well as a strategy outlining the bank's contribution. Rabobank recognizes that its customers, food and agri business worldwide, play a key role in warranting food security. Rabobank can contribute by providing them with access to knowledge, networks and finance.

To know that 1/3 of the globally produced food is either lost throughout the chain or wasted by end consumers in developed countries while some 800 million people are chronically hungry is unacceptable. Add to that the fact that all the resources required to produce this lost or wasted food are wasted as well and it is obvious that food loss and waste are vital themes within the context of food security and Rabobank's Banking for Food strategy.

Concrete involvement of Rabobank in food loss and waste reduction can be categorized in four different types of activities:

### Structures and policies

Actions we have taken to firmly *embed measures* against food loss and waste.

#### Examples:

- Our Banking for Food Strategy
- Possibly relevant sustainability KPI(s) for the Rabobank employees
- Our own catering policy
- Research policy, for example this year (2017) with a focus on **Packaging:**  
Packaging can play an essential role in reducing food waste and our research units –

# CHAMPIONS 12.3

both national and international – will gain more insight for our clients in how this can work

## Concrete products will be:

- National and international infographic material and related publications, direct mailings, social media outings, etc.

## Campaigns and raising awareness

Campaigns we have deployed/are deploying to raise *awareness* about food waste and loss among staff and general audience.

### Examples:

- Social media food waste campaign with NGOs (e.g. with Stichting Natuur & Milieu)
- Food waste hackathon
- Dutch FoodWeek October 2016
- Participation in the campaign “Green Deal Verduurzamen Voedselconsumptie” initiated by the Dutch foodservice entrepreneurs to make it easier and more attractive for consumers to eat healthier and more sustainably

## Putting food waste on the agenda

Events and activities we deploy with the help of our expertise and client base / network to *prioritize and accelerate* food waste reduction within the food and agri industry, among government representatives, etc.

### Examples:

- India Food Strategy Summit 2016: providing several insights in tackling F&A wastages
- Global Farmers Masterclasses Africa and Australia 2016
- WEF Davos 2017
- Foodbytes! aimed at rewarding/awarding food waste reduction innovations / Start-Ups

# CHAMPIONS 12.3

## Business

Incorporating the reduction of food loss and waste in *business practices* and developing business cases.

### Examples:

- Impact investment loans with EIB (for instance Hutten Catering, Verspillingsfabriek)
- Direct Banking in Australia: by making a direct link between savings and food waste costs: RaboDirect is encouraging Australian clients to review their spending and food waste habits to make positive changes for the future.
- Rabo Development activities in Africa
- Rabobank Foundation activities in Africa and Latin America
- Matchmaking between different clients via our conferences on for example Bio Economy and Agri meets Chemicals, whereby for example a coffee-roaster is being introduced to a producer of bio-degradable coffee cups
- Facilitate and advise Start-Ups aimed at reduction of FLW, and connecting them to venture capital and investors
- Participation of Rabobank in the Taskforce Circular Economy in Food aimed at Dutch companies and the ambition to let Dutch business become the frontrunner in the realisation of SDG 12.3