



EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:00 a.m. EDT//14:00 CET, THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 2016

Contact: Lauren Zelin, World Resources Institute, (202) 729-7736, lzelin@wri.org
Contact: Kim van Seeters, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate General Agriculture and Nature, The Netherlands, kim-van.seeters@minbuza.nl

New “Champions 12.3” Coalition to Inspire Action to Reduce Food Loss & Waste

30 CEOs, government ministers, global institution executives, and civil society leaders will increase political and social momentum to achieve Target 12.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Key points:

- **Nearly 1/3 of all food is lost or wasted globally, costing \$940 billion per year**
- **Food loss and waste accounts for about 8 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Target 12.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to halve food waste and reduce food loss globally by 2030**
- **Champions 12.3 is dedicated to inspiring ambition, mobilizing action, and accelerating progress toward achieving SDG Target 12.3**

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND (January 21, 2016)— At the World Economic Forum in Davos, a coalition of 30 leaders – [Champions 12.3](#) – launched a new effort to inspire ambition and mobilize action to reduce food loss and waste globally. This leadership group aims to accelerate progress toward meeting Target 12.3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seeks to halve per capita food waste and reduce food losses by 2030.

Globally, a third of all food is lost or wasted between the farm and the fork. Reducing food loss and waste can be a triple win: It can save money for farmers, companies, and households; wasting less can feed more people; and reductions can alleviate pressure on climate, water, and land resources.

The Champions include CEOs of major companies, government ministers, and executives of research and intergovernmental institutions, foundations, farmer organizations, and civil society groups. These leaders will work to create political, business and social momentum to reduce food loss and waste around the world.

The Champions will inspire action by:

- Leading by example on how to reduce food loss and waste;
- Motivating others to meet SDG Target 12.3;
- Communicating the importance of food loss and waste reduction;
- Showcasing successful food loss and waste reduction strategies; and
- Advocating for more innovation, greater investment, better information, and increased capacity to reduce food loss and waste.



Food loss and waste has significant economic, social, and environmental consequences. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), food loss and waste amounts to \$940 billion in global annual economic losses. It contributes to hunger. And lost and wasted food consumes about one quarter of all water used by agriculture, requires cropland area the size of China, and generates about 8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Today's announcement takes place during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, alongside the launch of The Rockefeller Foundation's new YieldWise initiative, a seven-year, \$130 million commitment to halving food loss and waste globally. The Foundation's President, Dr. Judith Rodin, is also a Champion.

Champions 12.3 will complement and build upon ongoing successful UN programs to reduce food loss and waste including SAVE FOOD and Think.Eat.Save, efforts such as EU FUSIONS and the global Food Loss & Waste Protocol, private sector action like the Consumer Goods Forum's Food Waste Resolution, and other initiatives.

The Champions effort supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015. [SDG 12](#) seeks to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. [Target 12.3](#) specifically aims to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030.

Inspired by the "No More Food to Waste" conference in The Hague in June of 2015, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands formally called for the coalition's formation in September 2015, and is providing secretariat support for Champions 12.3, along with World Resources Institute.

See the full list of champions and get more information at: www.champions123.org.

SELECT QUOTES FROM CHAMPIONS:

"Reducing food loss and waste is a significant global challenge and it's very important that business plays its part," said **Dave Lewis, Group Chief Executive of Tesco and Chair of Champions 12.3**. "At Tesco, we're committed to tackling food waste not only in our own operations but also through strong and effective partnerships with our suppliers and by helping our customers reduce waste and save money. This is an opportunity for businesses to work together and make a real difference to Target 12.3."

"Worldwide, food loss and waste impedes food security and fuels climate change. For advancing the agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development this issue must be tackled today," said **Dr. Hans Hoogeveen, Vice-Minister for Agriculture, the Netherlands**. "Food that is ultimately lost or wasted consumes about a quarter of all water used by agriculture, requires cropland area the size of China and is responsible for an estimated 8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Through their leadership the Champions 12.3 will be able to connect these challenges, by forming smart alliances,



bringing together leaders from private sector, local communities, farmers, science and government."

"Cutting food loss and waste is a no-brainer. Food loss and waste hurts people, costs money and harms the planet. If food loss and waste were a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world," said **Dr. Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute**. "Thankfully, we are embarking on a journey where business, government and other leaders can use their voices to make a tangible difference to reach Target 12.3. These Champions have the power to convert momentum into a global movement."

"Food loss and waste happens all along the global pathway to the plate—from how smallholder farmers harvest and get crops to market, to corporate losses across supply chains, all the way to consumer waste. To succeed in cutting food waste in half, we must take a systemic approach," said **Dr. Judith Rodin, President, The Rockefeller Foundation**. "Through YieldWise, our seven-year, \$130 million initiative, we will build a more resilient food system by demonstrating how the entire supply chain can collaborate to achieve the goals set by Champions 12.3. Together, we will ensure that humanity has enough food to thrive, all while respecting the limits of our planet's ability to provide."

"We waste about one-third of food produced every year. That's why I welcome this proactive, collaborative approach by the Champions of SDG 12.3 to halving food waste by 2030. UNEP's Think Eat Save initiative, in partnership with FAO, raises awareness and promotes practices and policies to reduce food loss and waste," said **Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme and Co-Chair of Champions 12.3**. "But for this target to be met comprehensively, we require important baseline data on our production and consumption patterns today. I encourage all Champions to contribute to measuring food waste in their organizations and countries in order to help achieve an SDG target crucial to both food security and fighting hunger, as well as climate change."

Quotes from all Champions announced today are available online at www.champions123.org and by request.

Champions 12.3 currently includes:

- **Dave Lewis** (Group Chief Executive, Tesco – Chair)
- **Achim Steiner** (Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme – Co-Chair)
- **Vytenis Andriukaitis** (European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety)
- **Peter Bakker** (President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
- **Paul Bulcke** (Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé)
- **Wiebe Draijer** (Chairman of the Executive Board, Rabobank)
- **Shenggen Fan** (Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute)
- **Louise Fresco** (President of the Executive Board, Wageningen University)



- **Liz Goodwin** (Chief Executive Officer, Waste and Resources Action Programme)
- **Eva Kjer Hansen** (Minister of Environment and Food, Denmark)
- **Hans Hoogveen** (Vice Minister for Agriculture, The Netherlands)
- **Yolanda Kakabadse** (President, WWF International)
- **Sam Kass** (Senior Food Analyst at NBC News and former U.S. White House Chef)
- **Gina McCarthy** (Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- **Evelyn Nguleka** (President, World Farmers' Organisation)
- **Kanayo Nwanze** (President, International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- **Raymond Offenheiser** (President, Oxfam America)
- **Cao Duc Phat** (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam)
- **Paul Polman** (Chief Executive Officer, Unilever)
- **Juan Lucas Restrepo Ibiza** (Chairman, Global Forum on Agricultural Research)
- **Judith Rodin** (President, The Rockefeller Foundation)
- **Oyun Sanjaasuren** (President of United Nations Environment Assembly and Member of Parliament of Mongolia)
- **Feike Sijbesma** (Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Managing Board, Royal DSM)
- **Andrew Steer** (President and Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute)
- **Tristram Stuart** (Founder, Feedback)
- **Rhea Suh** (President, Natural Resources Defense Council)
- **Rhoda Peace Tumusiime** (Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, The African Union)
- **Sunny Verghese** (Co-Founder, Group Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Olam International)
- **Tom Vilsack** (Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture)
- **Senzeni Zokwana** (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of South Africa)

###

World Resources Institute

WRI is a global research organization that spans more than 50 countries, with offices in the United States, China, India, Brazil, and more. Our more than 450 experts and staff work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and and human well-being (www.wri.org).

No More Food to Waste

The Netherlands teamed up with key partners Viet Nam, UNEP, FAO and African Union Commission to organize a global multi-stakeholder conference last June in The Hague. The Conference NO MORE FOOD TO WASTE laid bare the link between food loss and waste, food security, climate change, and sustainable development. To help convert Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3 into reality, the No More Food to Waste Conference proposed the formation of "Champions 12.3.

<http://www.nomorefoodtowaste.nl/>