



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**2019**

# THE STATE OF **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**MOVING FORWARD  
ON FOOD LOSS  
AND WASTE REDUCTION**

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**Washington DC, Nov. 19, 2019**



# There is wide variability in food loss and waste

FAO's new estimates for food loss are a big step towards action

**1/3 of food is lost or wasted**

FAO raised awareness on food loss and waste with a global estimate in 2011



**SDG Target 12.3**

reflects growing attention to the issue

Creation of two indices to measure progress towards this target



**FOOD LOSS INDEX**



**FOOD WASTE INDEX**

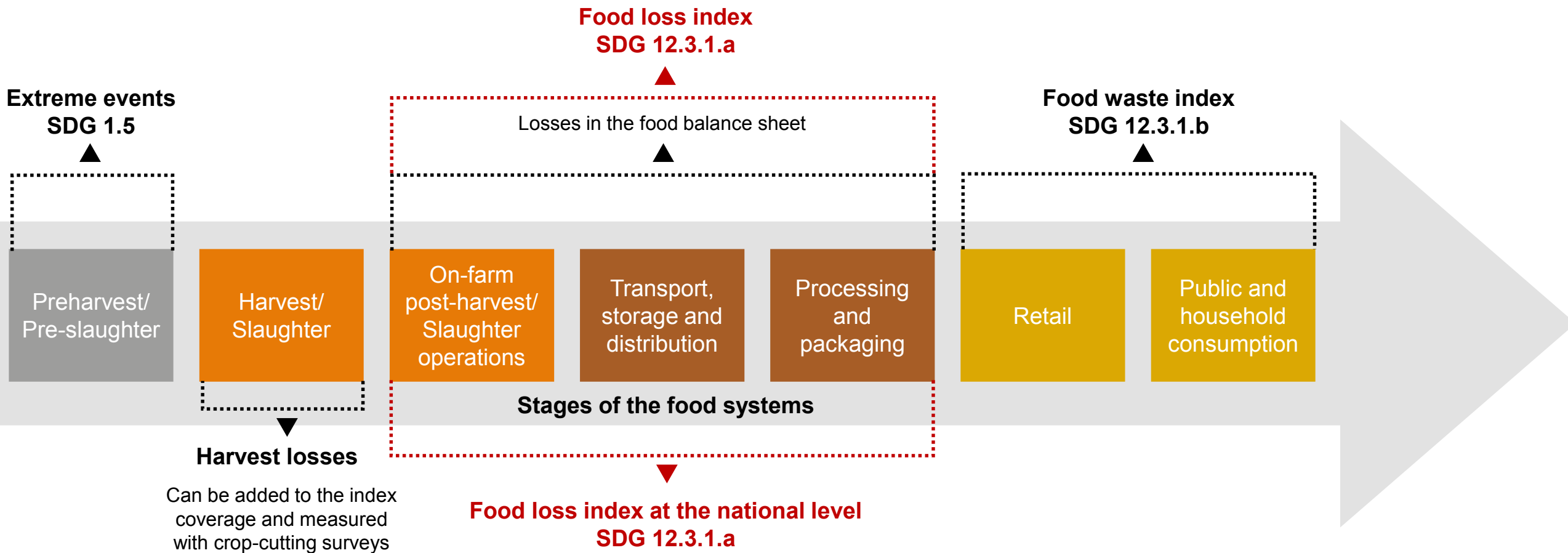
Food Loss and Waste is the decrease in **quantity** or **quality** of food along the food supply chain.

**Food Loss** – losses occurring along the food supply chain from harvest / slaughter/ catch upto but not including the retail level.

**Food Waste** – losses occurring at the retail and consumption level.

# FAO's earlier estimate has changed due to methodologies

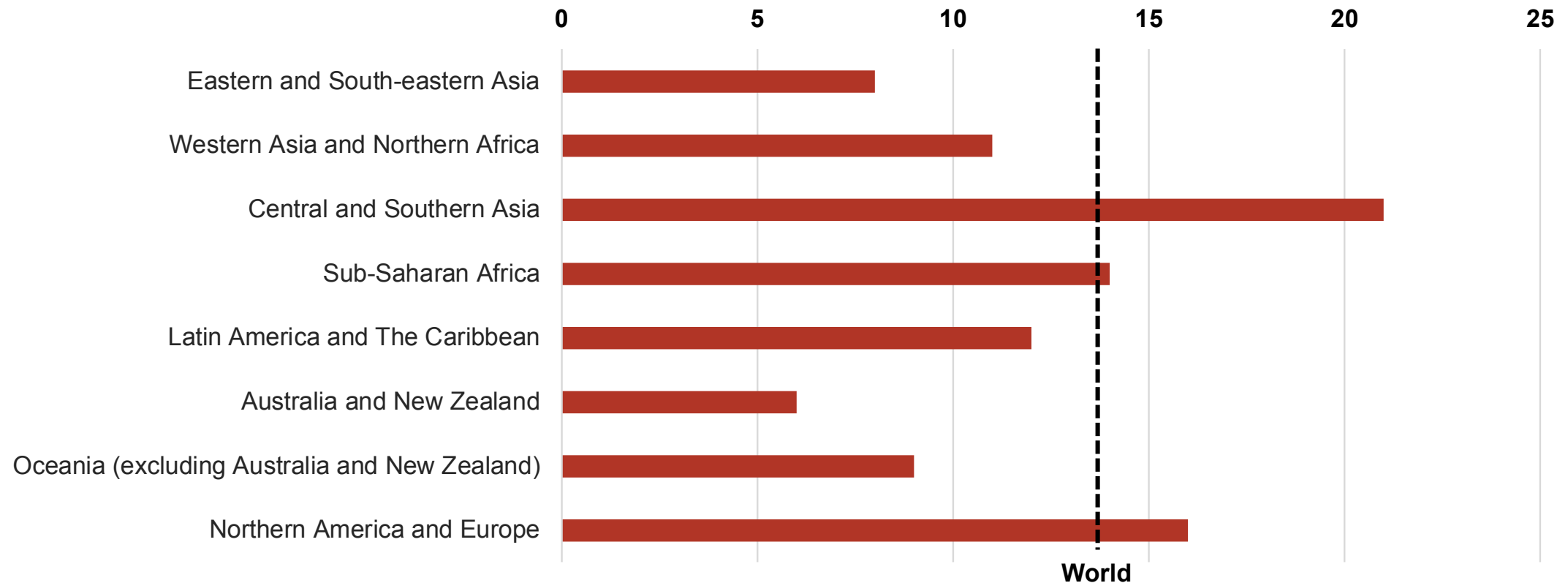
Methodological differences in **coverage**, **concept**, **valuation** explain how we moved past “**1/3**” estimate



# Globally, around 14% of food produced is lost

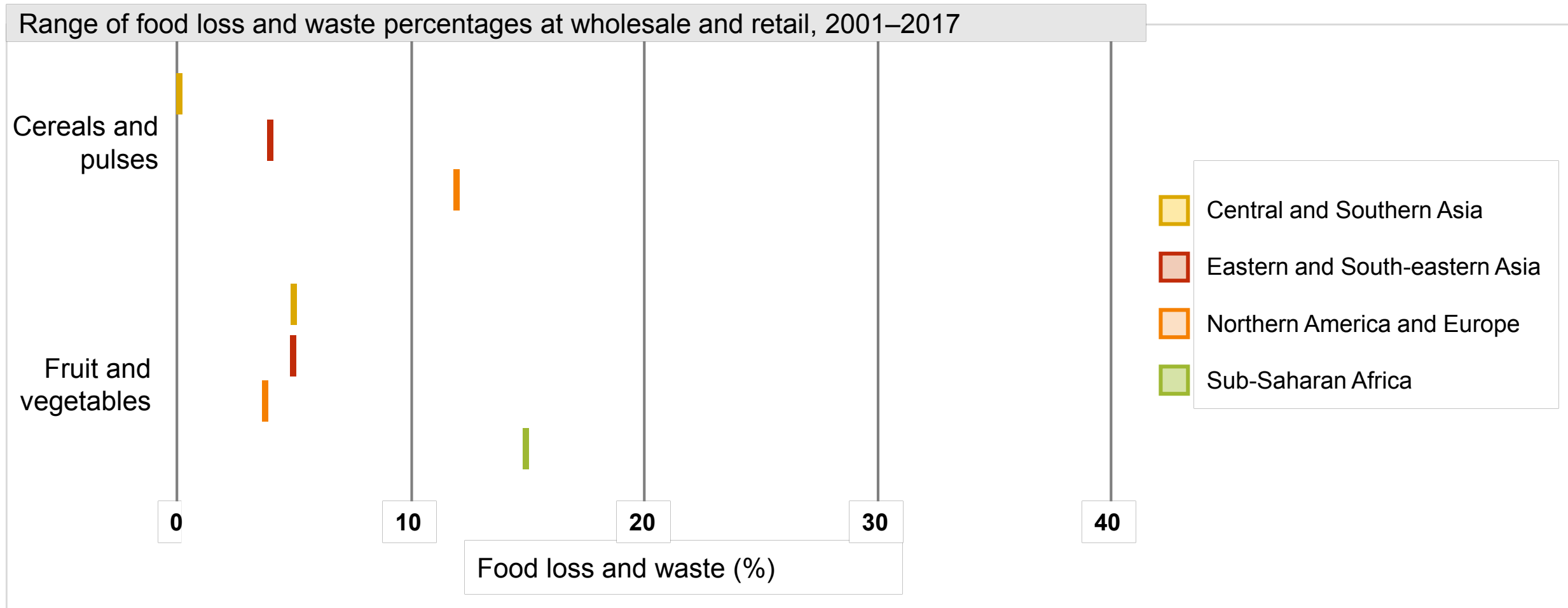
From post-harvest to (but excluding) retail stage

Percentage of food loss globally and by region



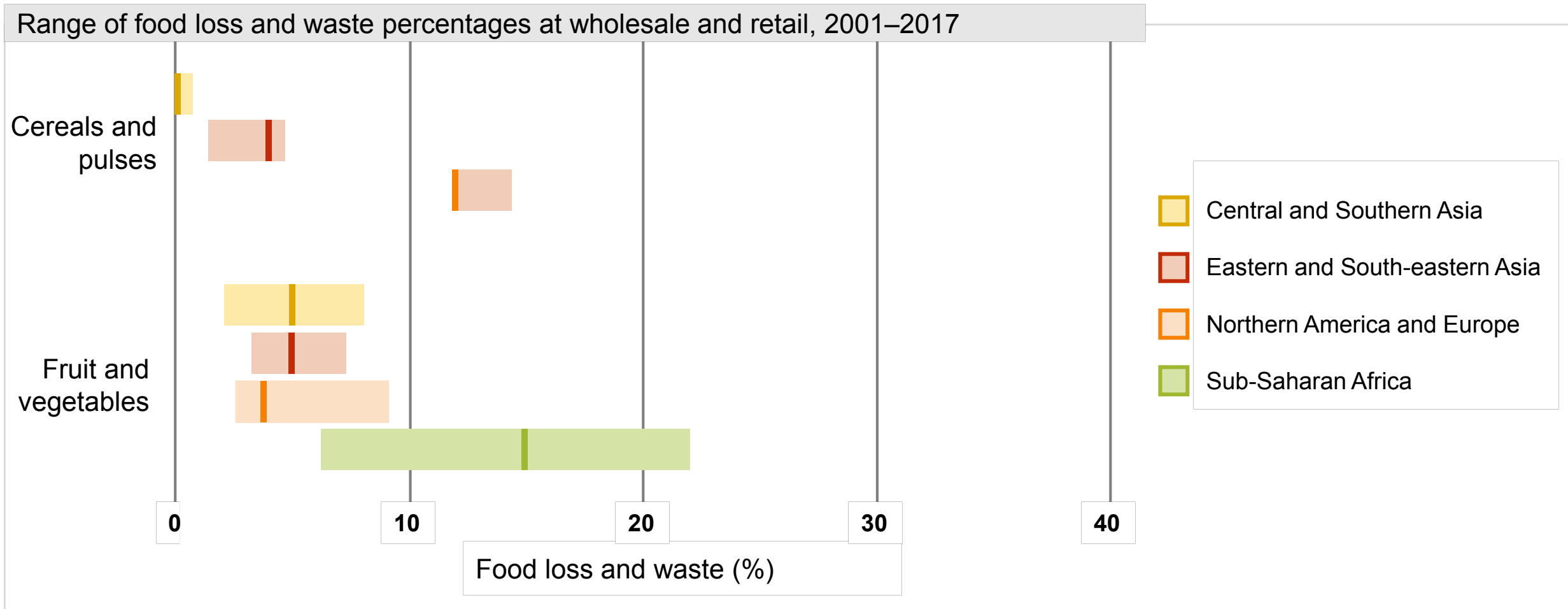
# Guidance on where to intervene

The median values of FLW across regions, commodities and stages of food supply chain



# Guidance on where to intervene

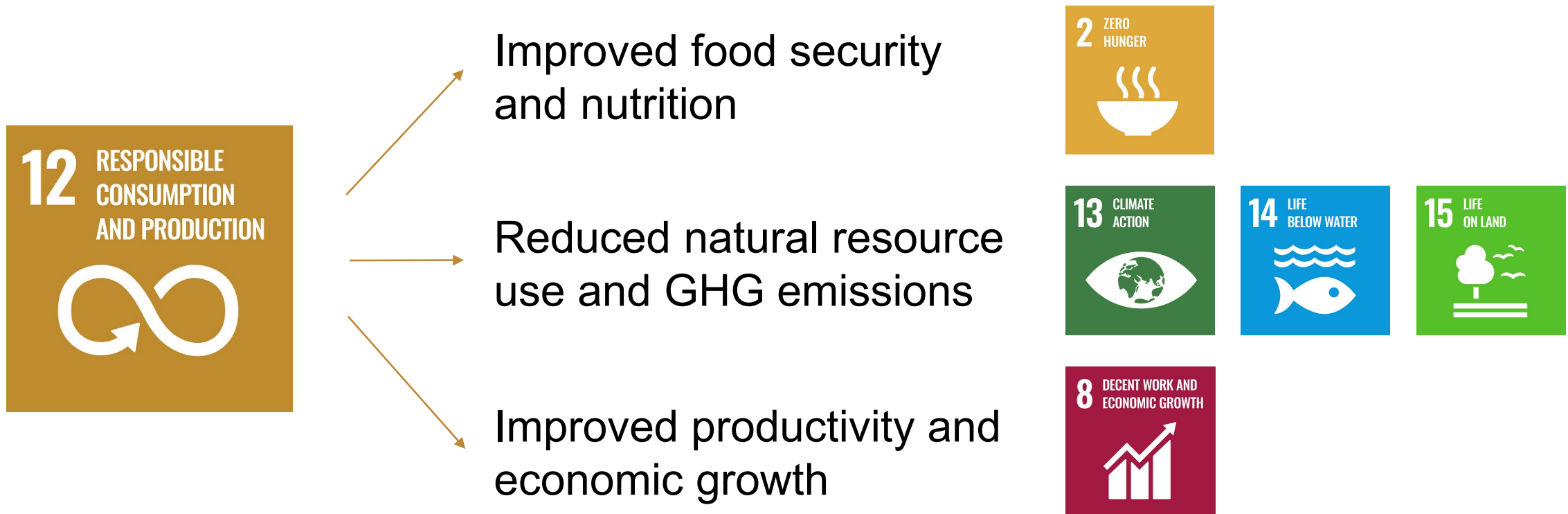
The boxes around the median lines highlight substantial variability of FLW





# Reducing food loss and waste benefits the whole society

But interventions need to be tailored to countries' contexts and objectives

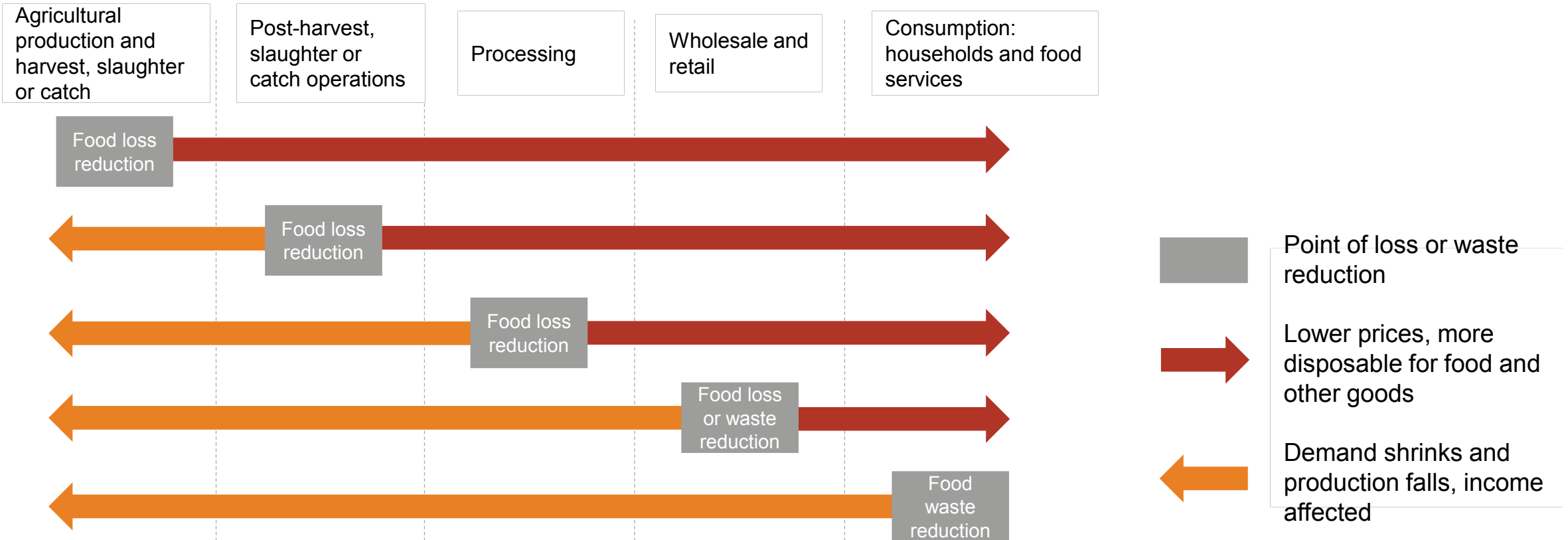




# Impact of reductions on food security and nutrition

Reductions should occur early on in the supply chain and in highly food-insecure countries

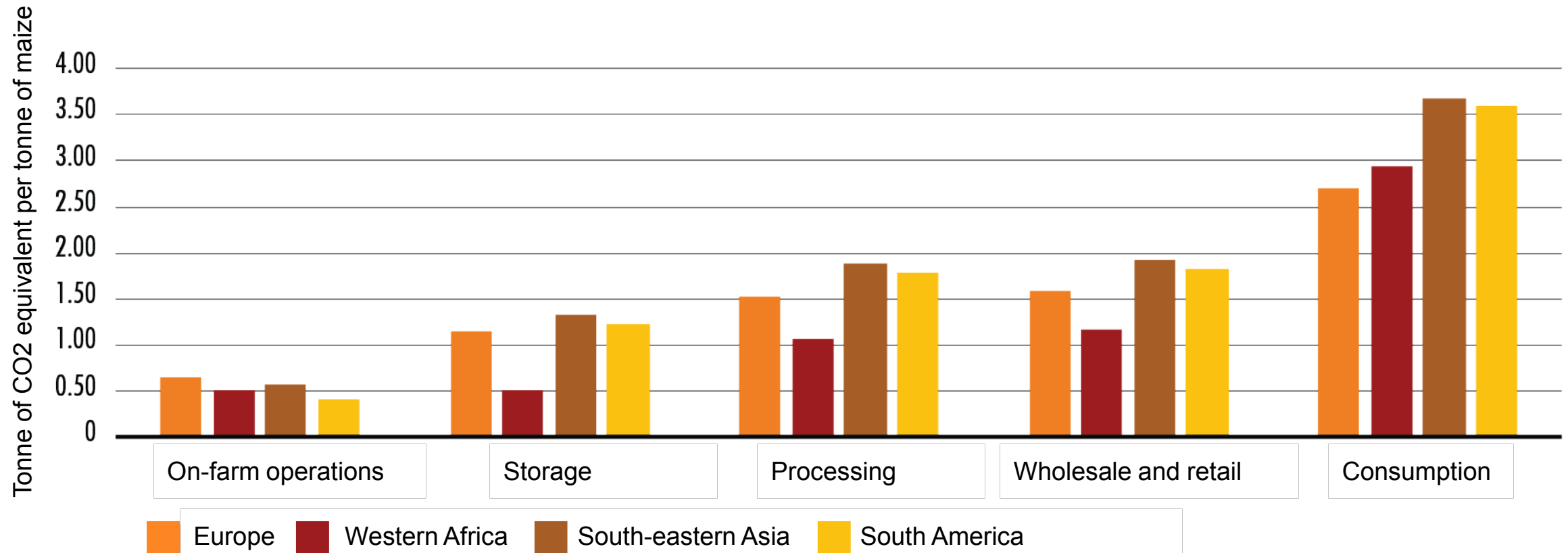
## Price and income effects of food loss and waste reduction along the supply chain



# Impact of reductions on environmental sustainability

Reductions close to the farm stage are most effective in reducing land and water use.  
Reductions at consumer, retail levels are most effective in reducing GHG emissions.

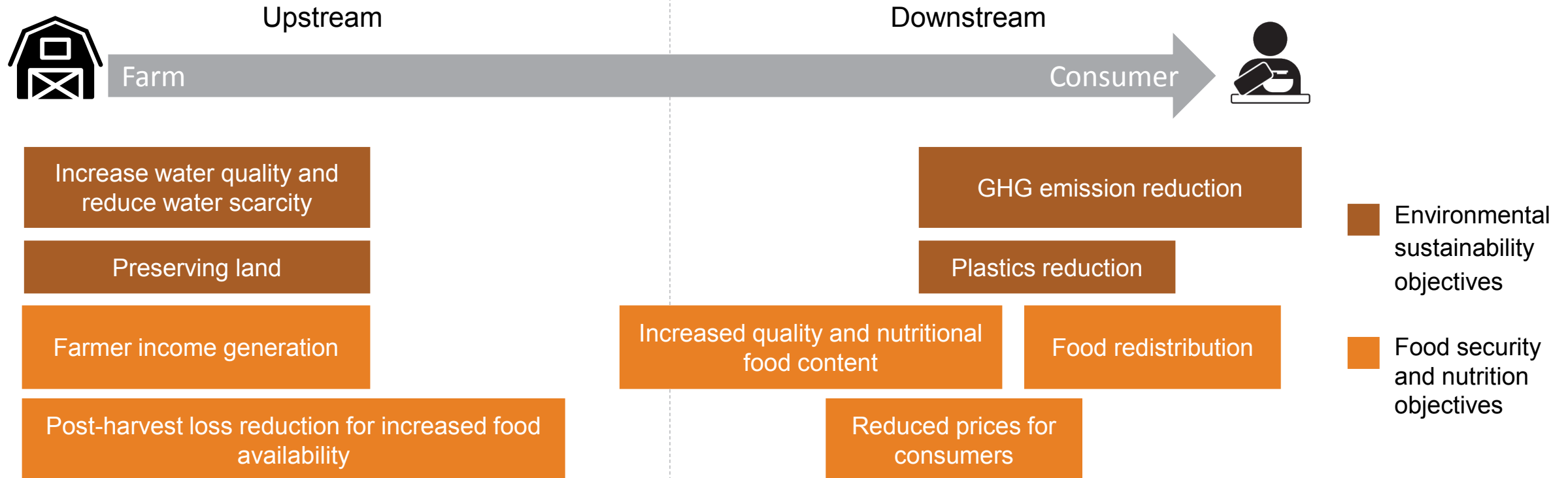
Carbon footprint of maize production along the supply chain



# Adapting strategies to country context

Objectives are different from country to country. They should formulate strategies in line with their objectives.

Aligning objectives and intervention entry points along the food supply chain



# FAO's priority: closing the information gap

Moving forward, all countries must boost **capacity development**, **targeted investments** to reduce loss, and **inform the public** about food waste

FAO has generated improved estimates on food loss

FAO has developed guidelines to help countries collect  
data

FAO assists countries to identify critical loss points

# Thank you



**Consult the SOFA series  
starting from 1947**

[www.fao.org/publications/sofa](http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa)



**Consult available data on FLW at:** [www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/flw-data](http://www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/flw-data)