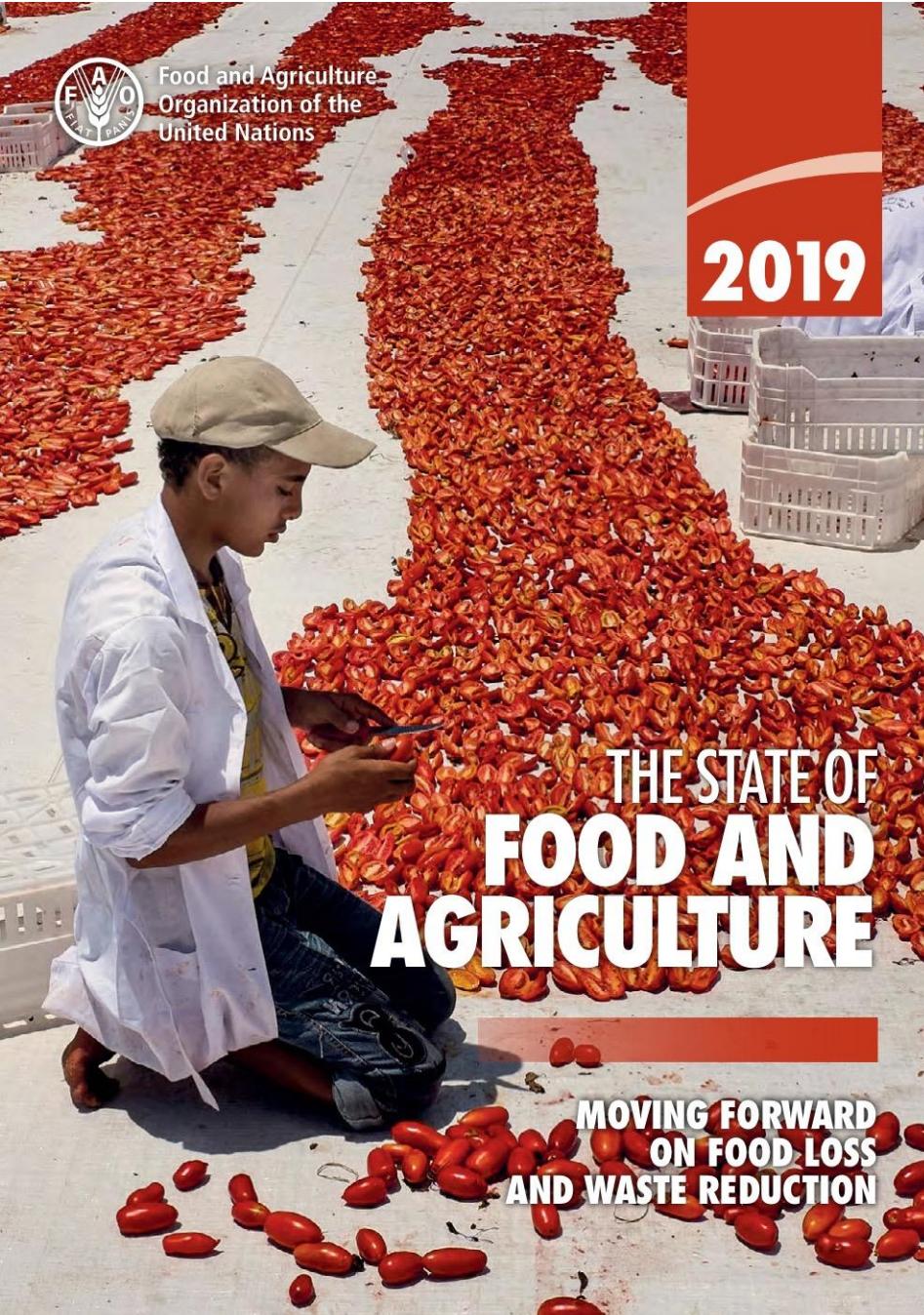




THE STATE
OF
THE WORLD



2019

THE STATE OF **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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

Geneva | November 20, 2019

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

UN 
environment

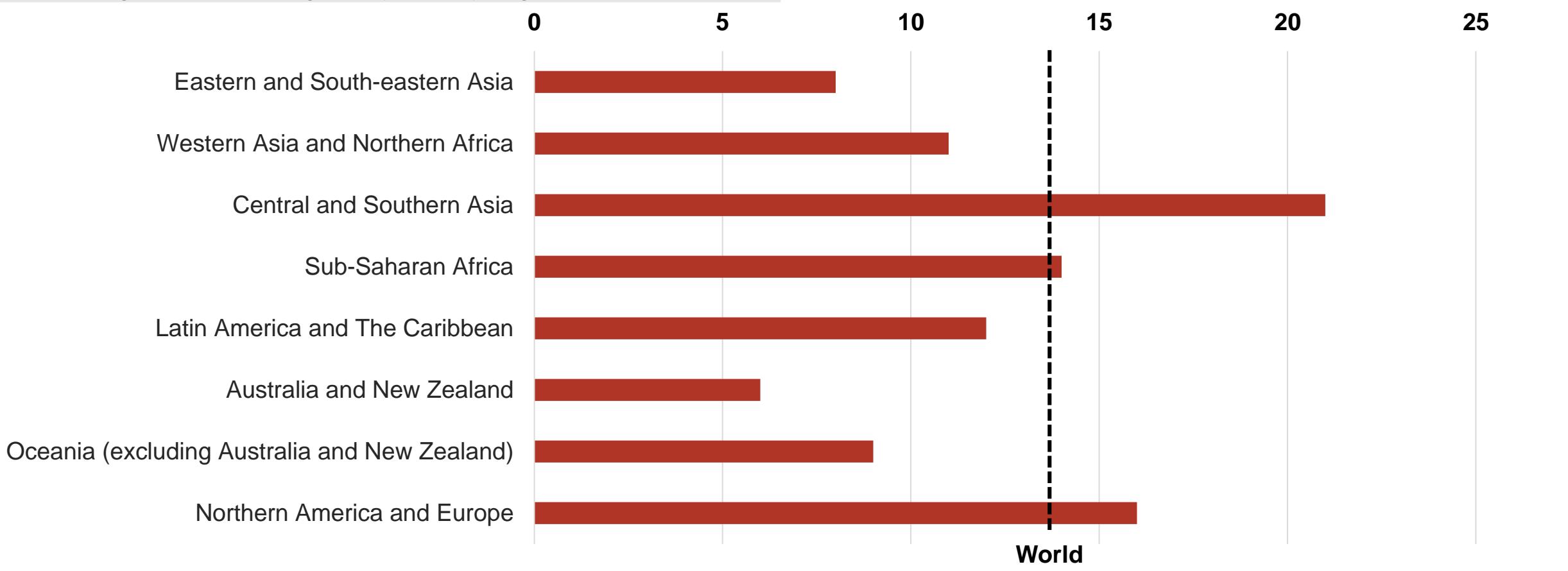
FOOD WASTE INDEX

Globally, around 14% of food produced is lost

From post-harvest to (but excluding) retail stage



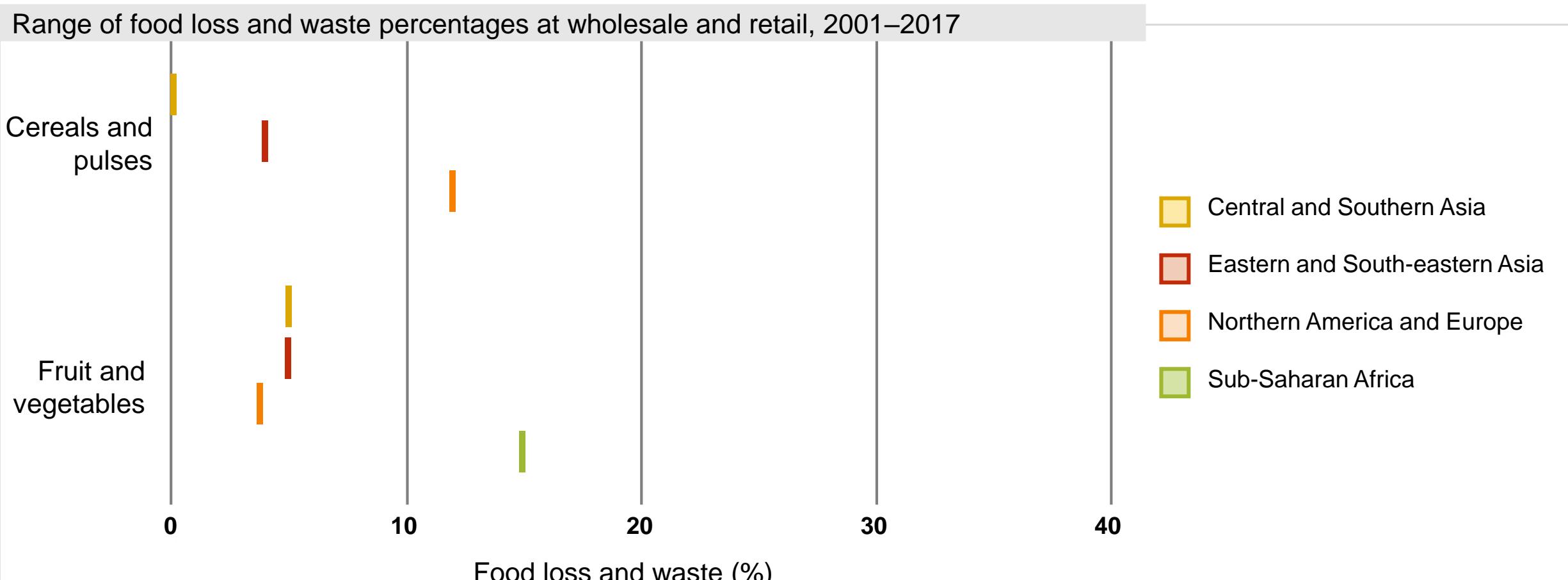
Percentage of food loss globally and by region





Guidance on where to intervene

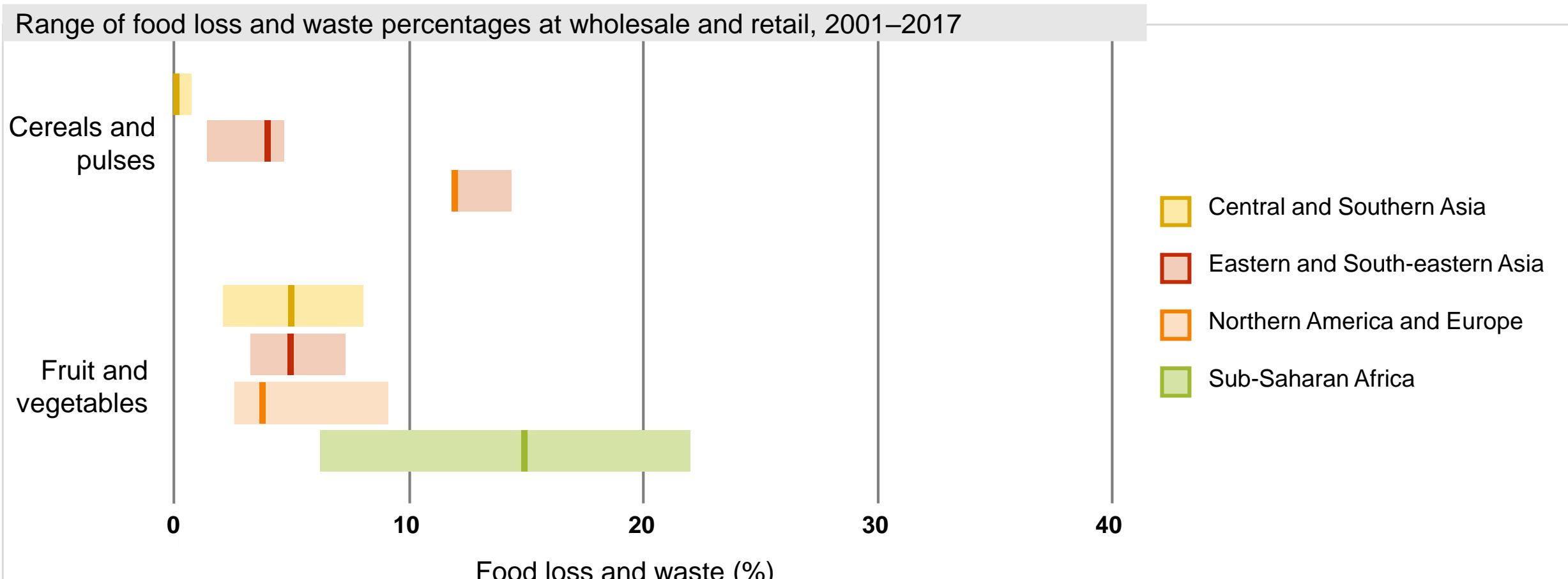
The median values of FLW across regions, commodities and stages of food supply chain





Guidance on where to intervene

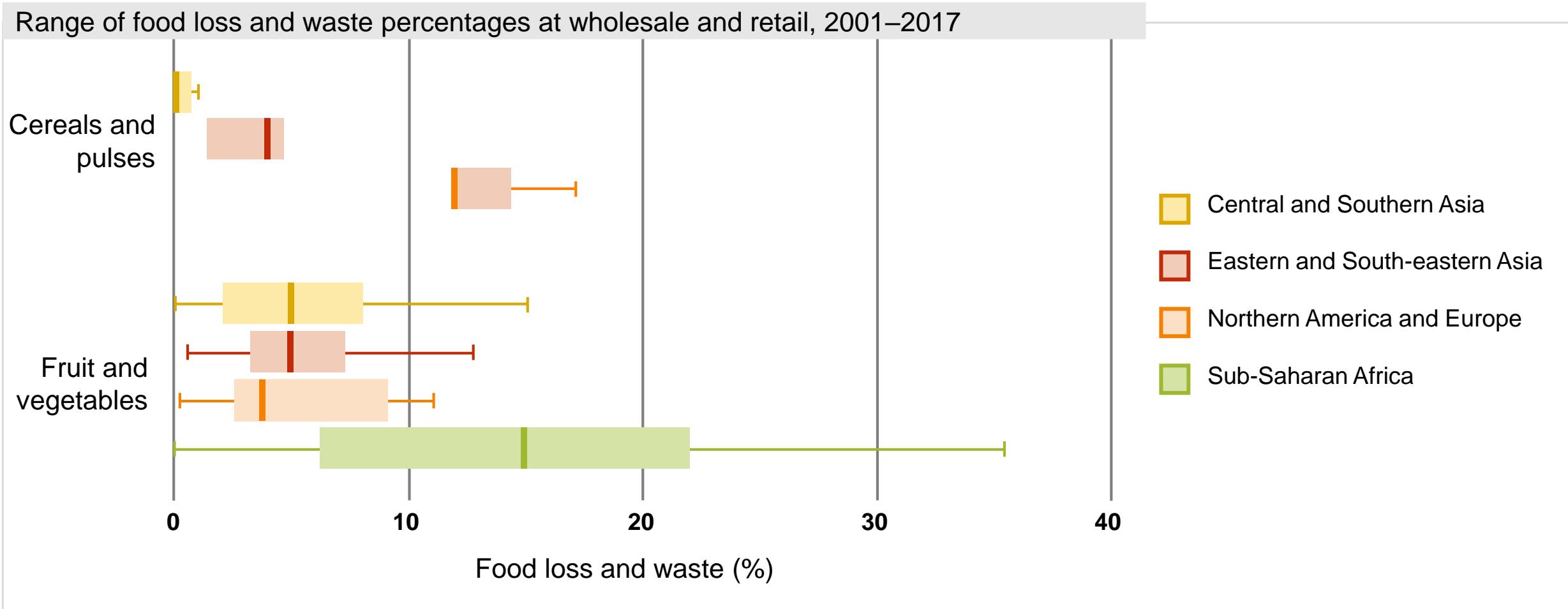
The boxes around the median lines highlight substantial variability of FLW





Guidance on where to intervene

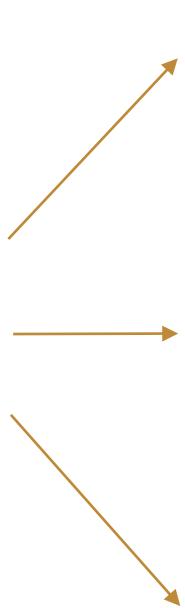
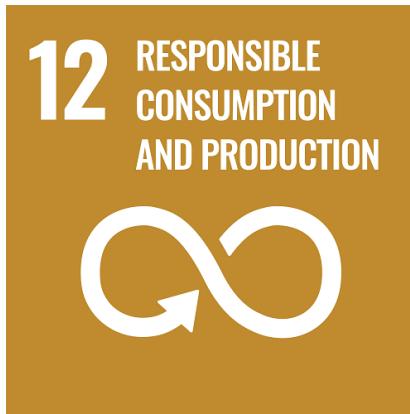
The wide ranges of variability show scope for reduction at higher-end of the range



Reducing food loss and waste benefits society, but trade-offs exist



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



Improved food security and nutrition



Reduced natural resource use and GHG emissions



Improved productivity and economic growth

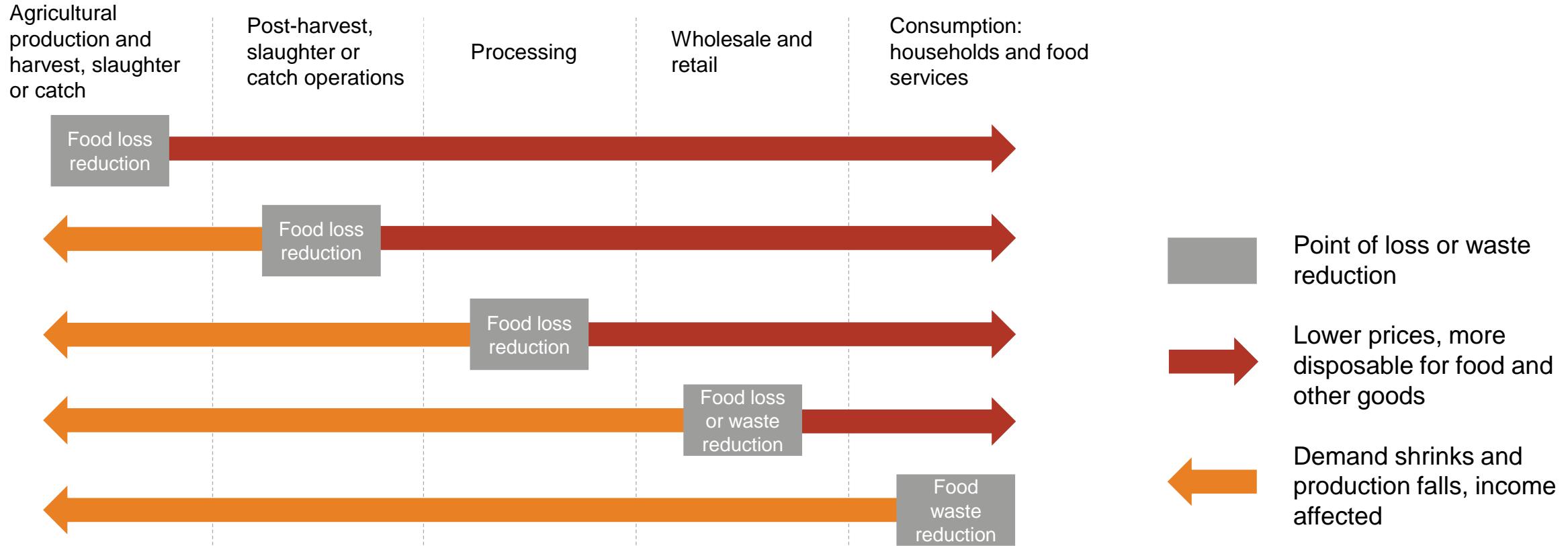


Impact of reductions on food security and nutrition



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

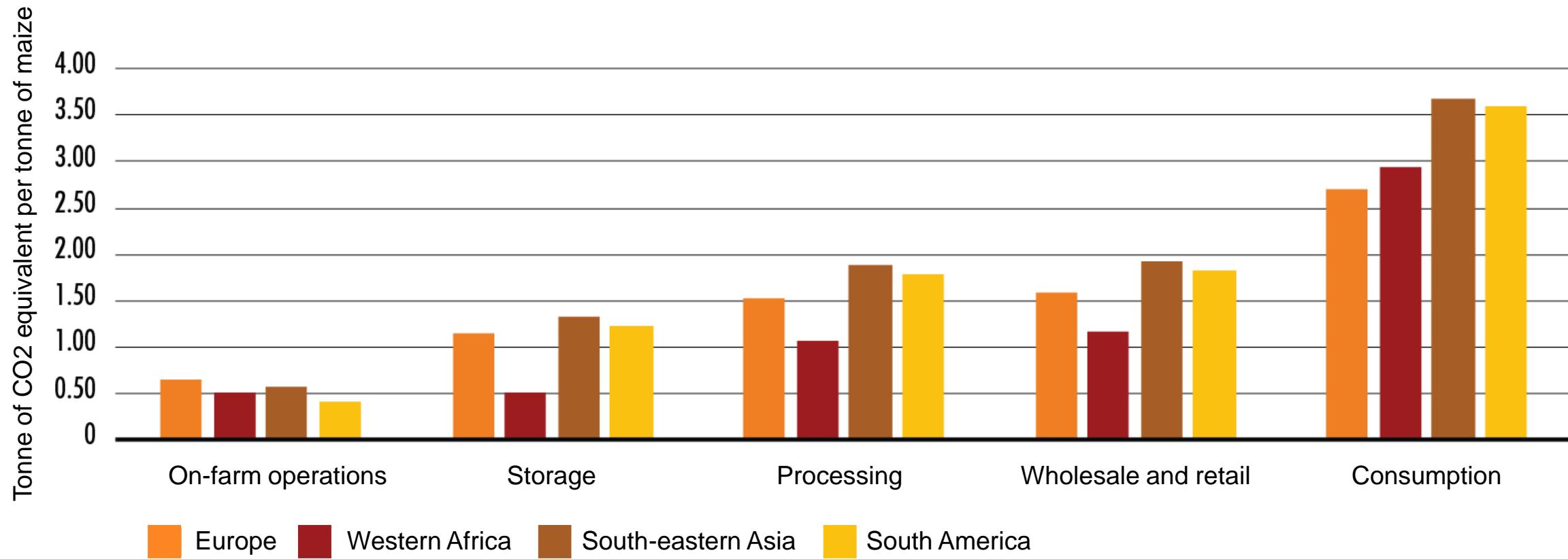


Impact of reductions on environmental sustainability



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

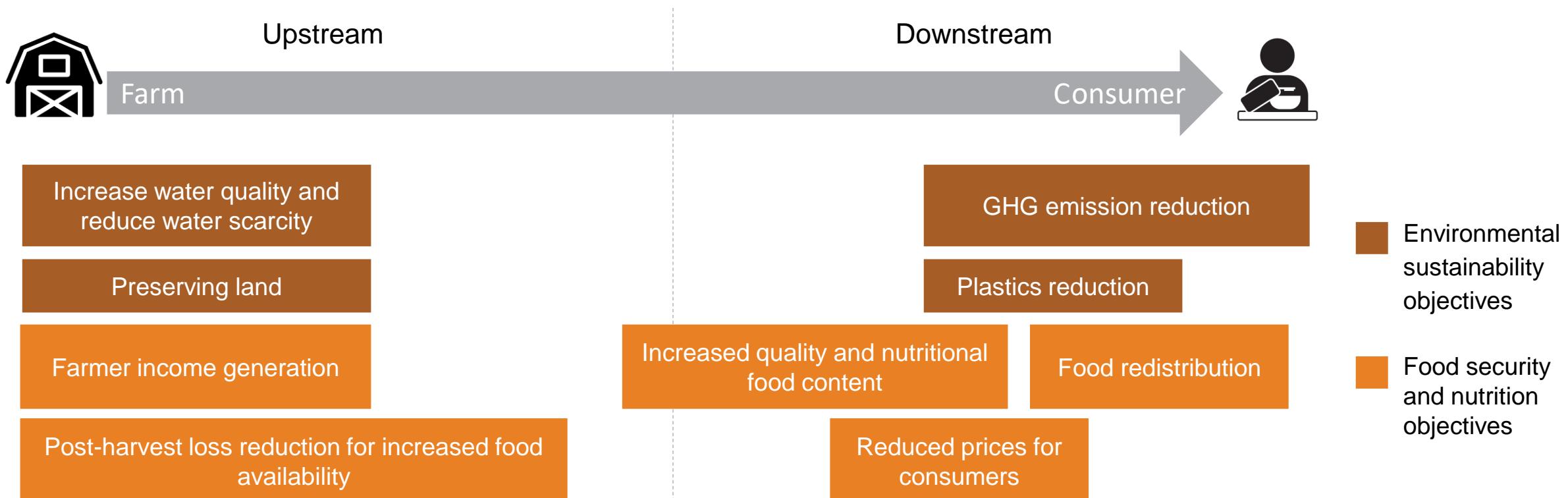




Adapting strategies to country context

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

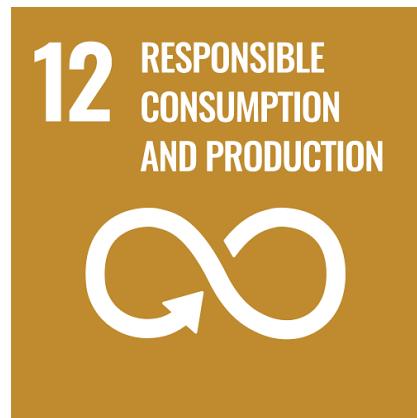
Aligning objectives and intervention entry points along the food supply chain



From a systemic point of view



What guidance can be provided based on the report?

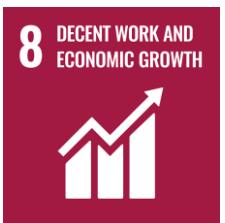


Improved food security
and nutrition



Actions early on in the supply chain in developing countries will likely have bigger impact

Improved productivity



Business-case ✓ but limited scope without systemic change

Reduced natural resource use and GHG emissions



For GHG emissions: more effective to reduce waste

For natural resources:
more effective to reduce losses close to farm-level



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

Some final thoughts of relevance to European context



- **Current initiatives**

- EU platform on FLW brings together stakeholders
- Improved measurement efforts are ongoing quantifying FLW at different stages in the supply chain (for SDG target 12.3)
- Guidelines to facilitate food donations

- **Areas that remain challenging**

- Very limited data on costs and benefits of reducing losses, which is key for deciding about interventions
- Reducing losses at scale likely more challenging than reducing waste at retailer and consumer levels



Thank you



Consult the SOFA series
starting from 1947
www.fao.org/publications/sofa



Consult available data on FLW at: www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/flw-data