



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2019

THE STATE OF
**FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

MOVING FORWARD
ON FOOD LOSS
AND WASTE REDUCTION

Innovating to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

FOOD FOR PARTNERSHIPS
*Sustainable, resilient and climate-proof food
supply chains*

Online Roundtable
November 16, 2020

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



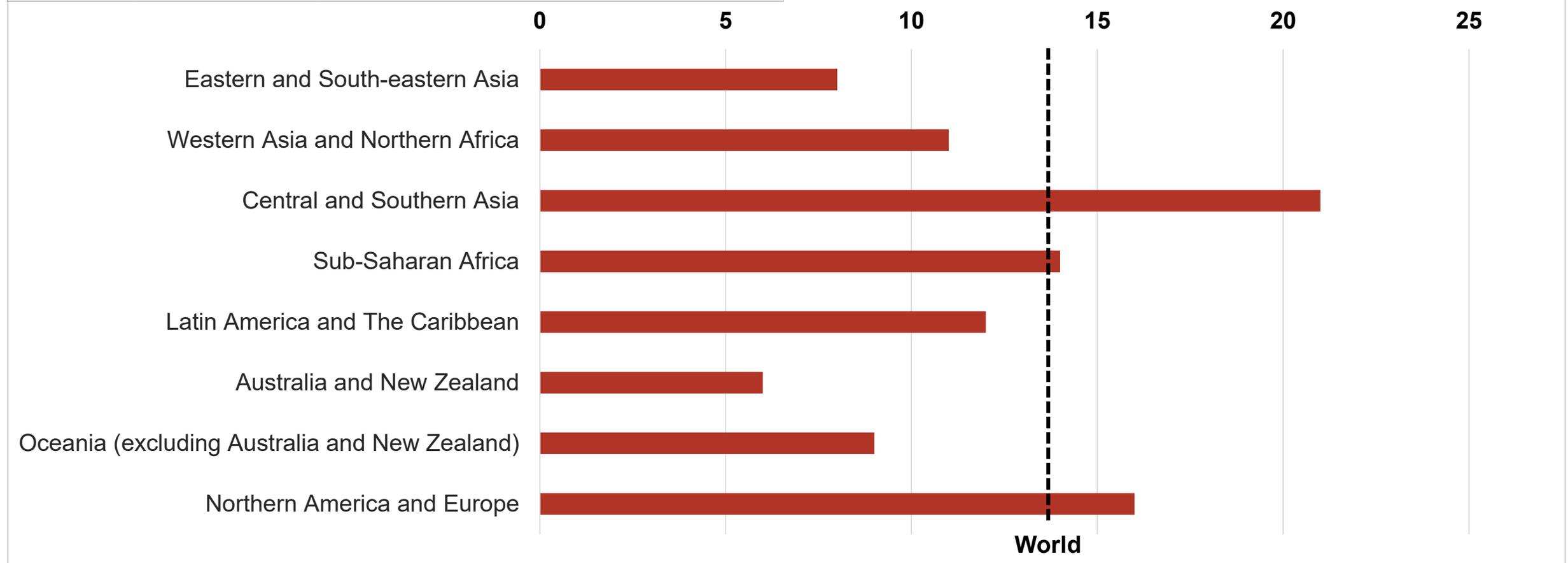
FOOD WASTE INDEX

Globally, around 14% of food produced is lost



From post-harvest to (but excluding) retail stage

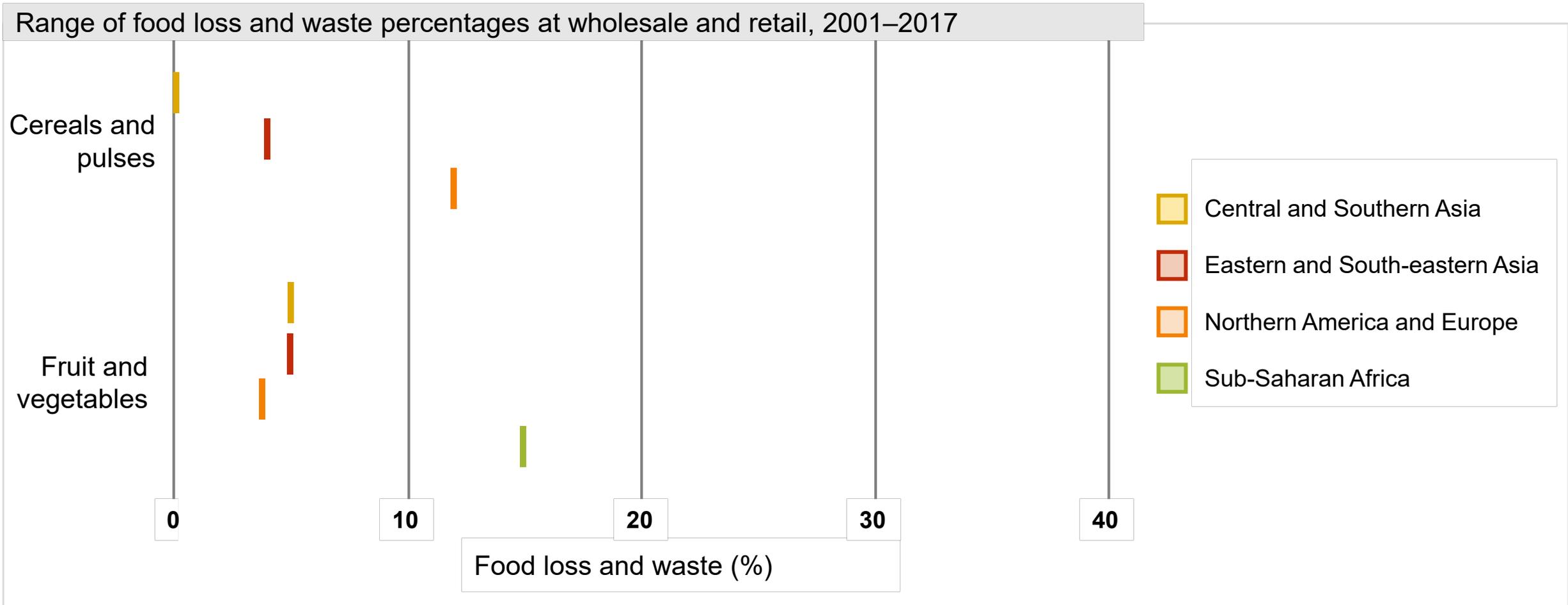
Percentage of food loss globally and by region



Guidance on where to intervene



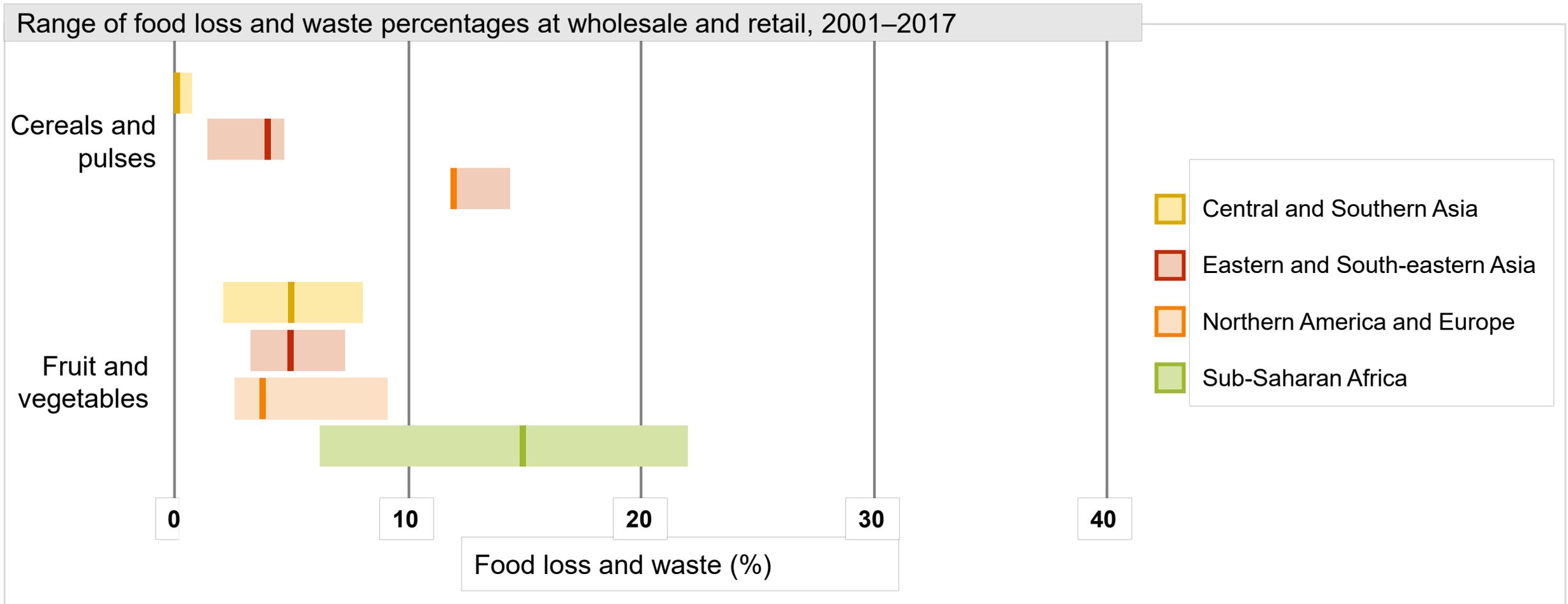
The median values of FLW across regions, commodities and stages of food supply chain



Guidance on where to intervene



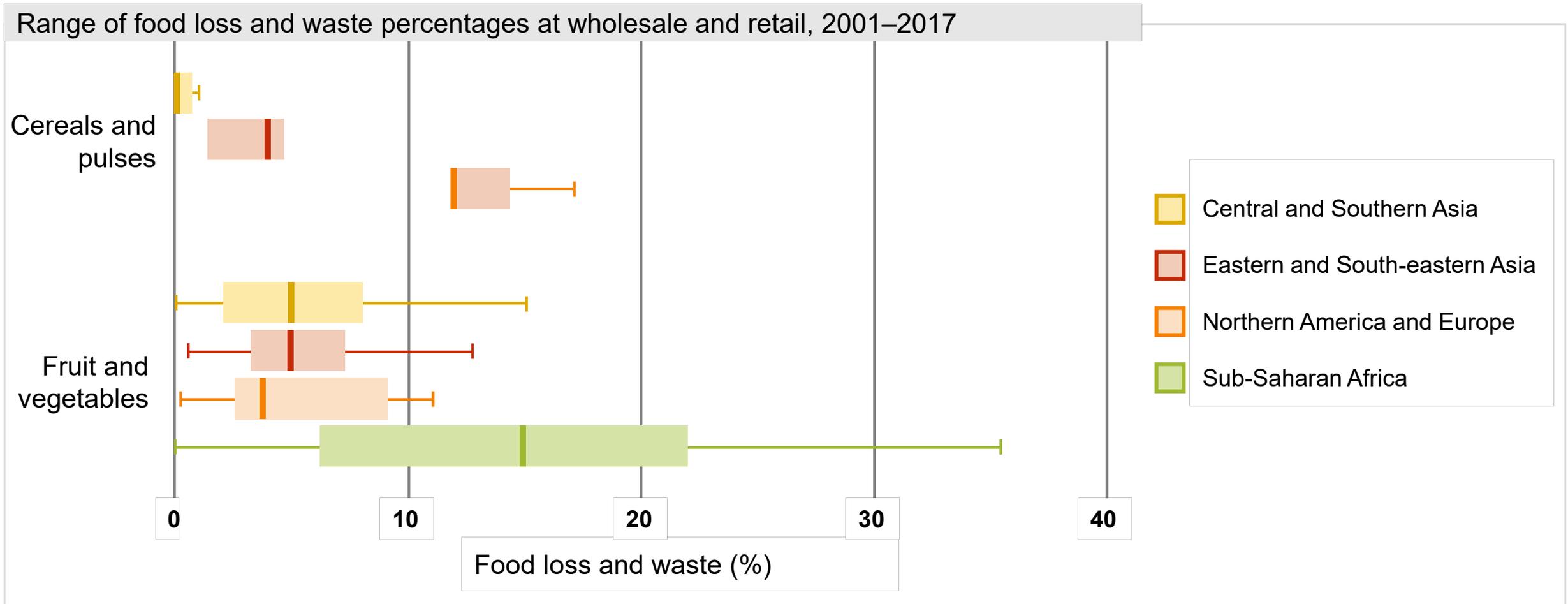
The boxes around the median lines highlight substantial variability of FLW



Guidance on where to intervene



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



Special issue on FLW in *Food Policy* (September 2020)

Reducing Food loss and Waste: Five challenges for policy and research

- 1) measuring and monitoring FLW,
- 2) assessing benefits and costs of FLW reduction and the tradeoffs involved,
- 3) designing FLW-related policies under limited information,
- 4) understanding interactions between stages along food value chain
- 5) preparing for shifting relative importance of losses and waste as economies develop

Blockchain technology is relevant for 4 out of 5 of these challenges

The **editorial article** is available at the following address:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344339293> Reducing food loss and waste Five challenges for policy and research





Insight #1 Not all FLW reductions are created equal in terms of impact

Insight #2 It is difficult to manage what you cannot measure

Insight #3 For food security: cheap technical innovations needed in low income countries to reduce losses upstream

Insight #4 Innovation important in nudging the business case for FLW reduction: broader investment strategy & policy coherence

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