



International Food Waste Coalition celebrates first year with expansion of successful SKOOL food waste pilot programme into new schools

Brussels, October 14, 2016 – One year since its creation by founding members Ardo, McCain, PepsiCo, SCA, Sodexo, Unilever Food Solutions and WWF, the International Food Waste Coalition — a collaborative farm-to-plate alliance against food waste throughout the food service industry — continues to promote value chain collaboration, implement concrete actions and drive the conversation around food waste reduction. The Coalition is currently rolling out its first action-oriented programme, SKOOL, designed to help schools across Europe reduce food waste.

In Europe, approximately 88 million tons of food are wasted annually, with associated costs estimated at €143 billion. One-fourth of the food wasted globally would be sufficient to feed 870 million people, 12 per cent of the world's current population. The ethical, economic and environmental implications of food waste highlight a critical need for industry to take action.

In April 2015, united by a conviction that companies – working together across the value chain – represent the strongest opportunity to drive real change, Ardo, McCain, PepsiCo, SCA, Sodexo, Unilever Food Solutions and WWF joined forces to fight against food waste. The Coalition aims to reduce food waste throughout its own value chain and inspire other companies and organisations to adopt comprehensive food waste reduction programs.

Damien Verdier, President of the IFWC, said:

"Together, the members of the Coalition represent the largest geographic food services footprint in the world. We have outlined a singular strategy to create a more sustainable future for people and society through collaborations across the value chain and action-oriented programmes – including the SKOOL programme. We wanted to begin our efforts in schools, knowing that children represent the future and are the best change agents. Our collective work will provide a clear vision and achievable future without food waste."

Over the last year, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the IFWC achieved a major step with the SKOOL programme, its first action-oriented programme to help schools adopt a comprehensive approach to reduce food waste and enable children to act as change agents. In schools important quantities of food are wasted every year. On top of providing children with knowledge and key tips to reduce food waste, the IFWC wants to deliver packages to value chain players, education teams and cafeteria and kitchen staff to implement reduction actions along the whole food chain.



Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General a.i., Economic and Social Development Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, explains:

“The problem of food waste may be more complex to tackle, as it requires changes in the way we value and consume food. Our current consumption patterns are not sustainable. Food waste is effectively linked to consumer behaviour, which constantly evolves and is influenced by many factors including cultural and social ones. Thus, consumer awareness is a basic step to improve our skills in food planning, purchasing and consumption. Education on these matters in schools and political initiatives are important starting points”

This pilot phase was deployed across six schools in France, Italy and the United Kingdom from January to July 2016. After six months, close to 2,800 children and 5,000 family members have been impacted. Participating schools achieved an average overall (kitchen and cafeteria) 12 per cent food waste reduction, corresponding to 2.5 tons of food waste and almost 5 tons of CO2 emissions avoided. The pilot also delivered valuable food waste data from schools recorded over significant period of time (on average 45 days).

Since September 2016, SKOOL has entered an extension phase aimed at increasing the number of European countries to benefit from the programme. Free access to the whole programme will be provided across Europe via an online platform for the 2017 school year.

For more information on the Coalition and SKOOL programme, download the SKOOL 2016 Full Report:

http://internationalfoodwastecoalitionorg.webhosting.be/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/IFWC_SKOOL-Report2016.pdf

About the International Food Waste Coalition AISBL:

The International Food Waste Coalition (IFWC), a not-for-profit association under Belgian law and based in Brussels, was created the 28th April, 2015. The Coalition is self-funded by members' subscriptions and grants.

With the largest geographic food services footprint in the world, the IFWC members are ready to reduce the food waste across the whole value chain.

For more information, visit <http://internationalfoodwastecoalition.org/>

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