

## Campaign launch "Ackern für die Tonne" with State Secretary Manuela Rottmann

*On 2 May 2022, which also marks the awareness day on food waste, foodsharing e.V. and Deutsche Umwelthilfe launched a new campaign on the issue of waste at the agricultural level. The kick-off includes a handover of political demands and a symbolic crooked carrot.*



The aim of the campaign is to draw attention to the underestimated high amounts of waste in the field and barn. According to new estimates, waste at the level of agriculture is more than ten times higher than previously assumed by politicians (own calculation, based on WWF, 2021)

Up to now, the real amount of waste has been massively underestimated by politicians in official statistics. One of the reasons for this is that at the agricultural level, only losses AFTER the harvest need to be measured and reported. Unharvested food, food that is ploughed under again due to aesthetic defects, or animals that never arrive at the slaughterhouse are thus not included in the waste figures. As a result, the majority of the actual waste is not recorded.

**The symbolic action of the vegetable tasting made it clear that huge amounts of food that do not reach the retail due to aesthetic quality demands taste delicious and are indeed edible.** All participants agreed: the crooked carrot tastes just as good as the standardised carrot and must end up on the plate instead of in the bin.

**To achieve this, politicians urgently need to improve the data basis and implement binding reduction targets for all levels of the value chain.** In order to get to the root of the problem, three concrete demands were handed over to the State Secretary. The entire event was attended by press representatives.

### Nationwide Petition "Ackern für die Tonne" starts simultaneously

From the location of the event, food savers set out on a tour through Berlin on cargo bikes to convince pedestrians of the taste and quality of misshapen food and to draw attention to the nationwide petition that was launched on the same day together with environmental activist Viktoria Heyn and foodsharing e.V..

**The signatures collected should give additional political weight to the demands and call on the German agricultural minister to act.**

## Our demands:

In concrete terms, we demand the realisation of three actions:

- 1. A binding EU regulation to reduce waste from farm to fork must be implemented in Brussels. The EU Commission is currently working on a draft for binding reduction targets.** For a successful law, the entire value chain must be addressed. So far, the option of only targeting retails and consumers, but leaving agriculture out of the equation, is still being considered. We want to prevent this at all costs. Food losses that occur before and after the harvest must urgently be taken into account. That is why we call on Mr Özdemir to advocate this in the Agriculture Council.
- 2. Nationwide legally binding reduction targets must address waste per sector from 2023 onwards.** As the EU regulation will only take effect in several years, we call on the federal government to initiate a law in Germany now, so that it becomes mandatory by 2023 the latest. This is the only way to achieve the reduction target of "halving waste by 2030" and thus meet the UN sustainability goal.
- 3. Recording waste along the entire supply chain more accurately and thus making the reduction of real waste measurable.** In order to stop food waste, policymakers urgently need to improve the data and align sector-specific targets with the much higher, more realistic numbers. We call on the Ministry to lobby Brussels to ensure that losses before and during the harvest are finally recorded! Germany must become a pioneer for food security, environmental and climate protection!