

## EVALUATION OF LOSSES IN CITRUS CULTIVATION

FEDERACIÓN DE COOPERATIVAS AGROALIMENTARIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA (CACV)

Within the **ToNoWaste** project, pilot studies in European cities including Vienna, Graz, and Valencia are tackling food losses and waste challenges. As detailed in **Practice Abstract 15**, the focus for the Comunitat Valenciana is on agricultural outputs such as citrus and persimmon, through direct collaboration with producers and cooperatives. After the pilot was evaluated by the **ToNoWaste** project, the final action for **CACV** was determined focusing on the "**Evaluation of losses in citrus cultivation**" specifically in orange production. This action has now started thanks to the participation of **COPOBLA**, a leading cooperative in citrus production since 1977, known for its innovative and future vision.

This effort unfolds in six phases: from initial preparation and methodology planning through data collection on field and warehouse losses, to propose and apply losses reduction strategies, with **ToNoWaste** evaluating the applied solutions.

Currently, the action plan is in the data collection phase, with **COPOBLA** facilitating the monitoring and loss estimation processes. The implementation phase outlined a detailed flowchart, considering pre-harvest, post-harvest, and warehouse stages, alongside selecting two varieties of oranges—**Navelina** (early-season) and **Lane late** (late-season)—to assess and compare loss patterns across different harvest periods.



Some of the qualitative results collected to date show different causes leading to these food losses. Examples are non-compliance quality standards due to malformations, lack of calibre, healed and colour defects. Others are related to the presence of pests, climate change, or failure to harvest the fruit in time.

This comprehensive approach aims to shed light on food losses from citrus cultivation, to understand the causes, guiding the identification, development, and evaluation of targeted interventions to reduce food losses effectively. It signifies a pivotal step towards achieving the goals of the **ToNoWaste** project, emphasizing sustainability and efficiency in agricultural practices.



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