

Global Food Losses and Food Waste

1.3 billion ton
(1 300 000 000 000 kg)



Food Losses

Food Waste

Awareness raising

Public

Politics

Food producers

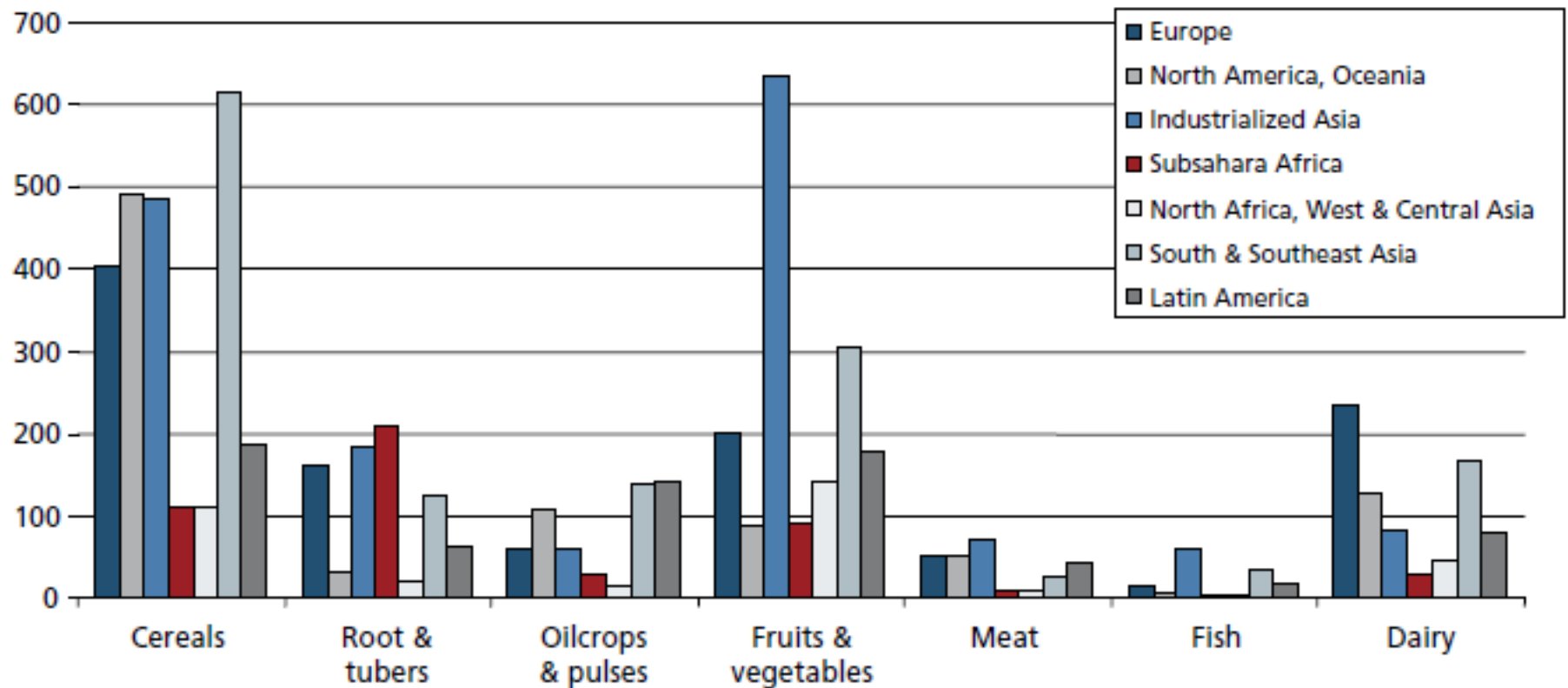


Robert van Otterdijk
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FAO Agro-industry officer
Rural infrastructure & agro-industries
Division
25 years work on
Postharvest loss reduction
and
Prevention of food losses

1. Extent of food losses and waste
2. Causes of food losses and waste
3. Prevention of food losses and waste

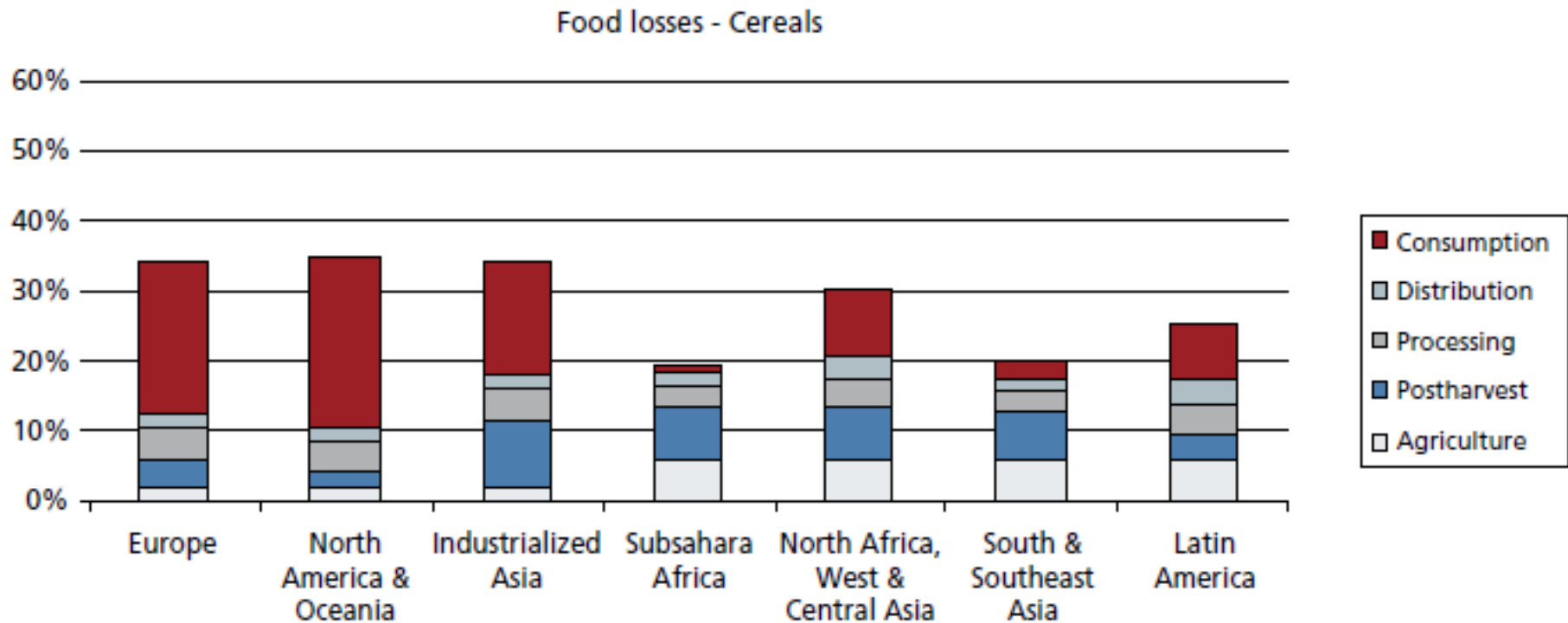
1. Extent of food losses and waste

Figure 1. Production volumes of each commodity group, per region (million tonnes)



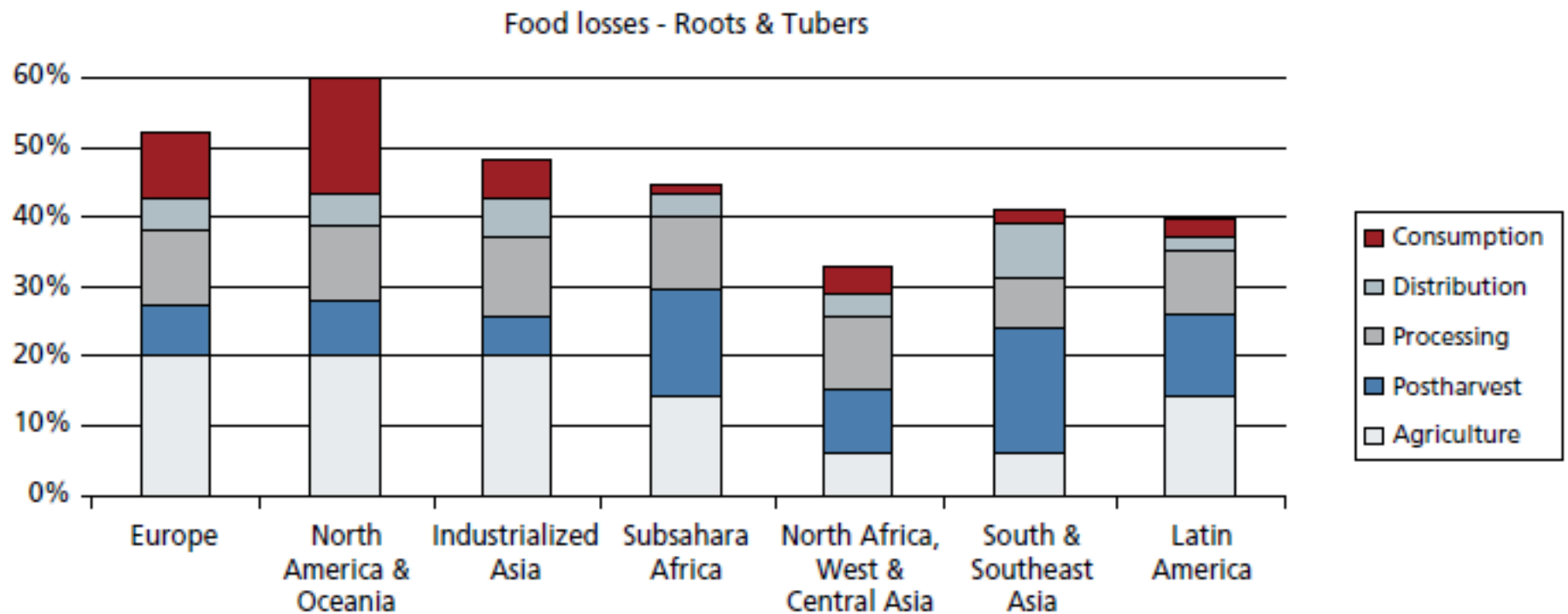
1. Extent of food losses and waste CEREALS

Figure 3. Part of the initial production lost or wasted, at different FSC stages, for cereals in different regions

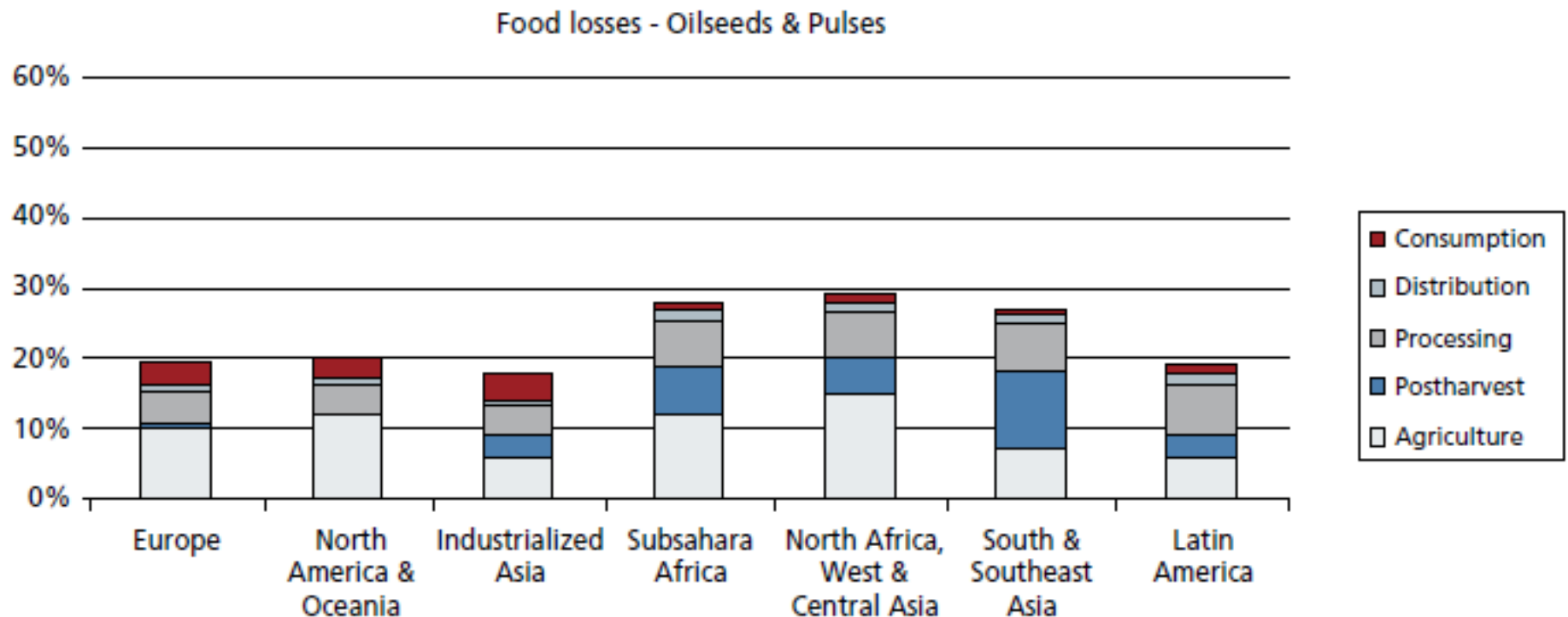


1. Extent of food losses and waste - ROOTS & TUBERS

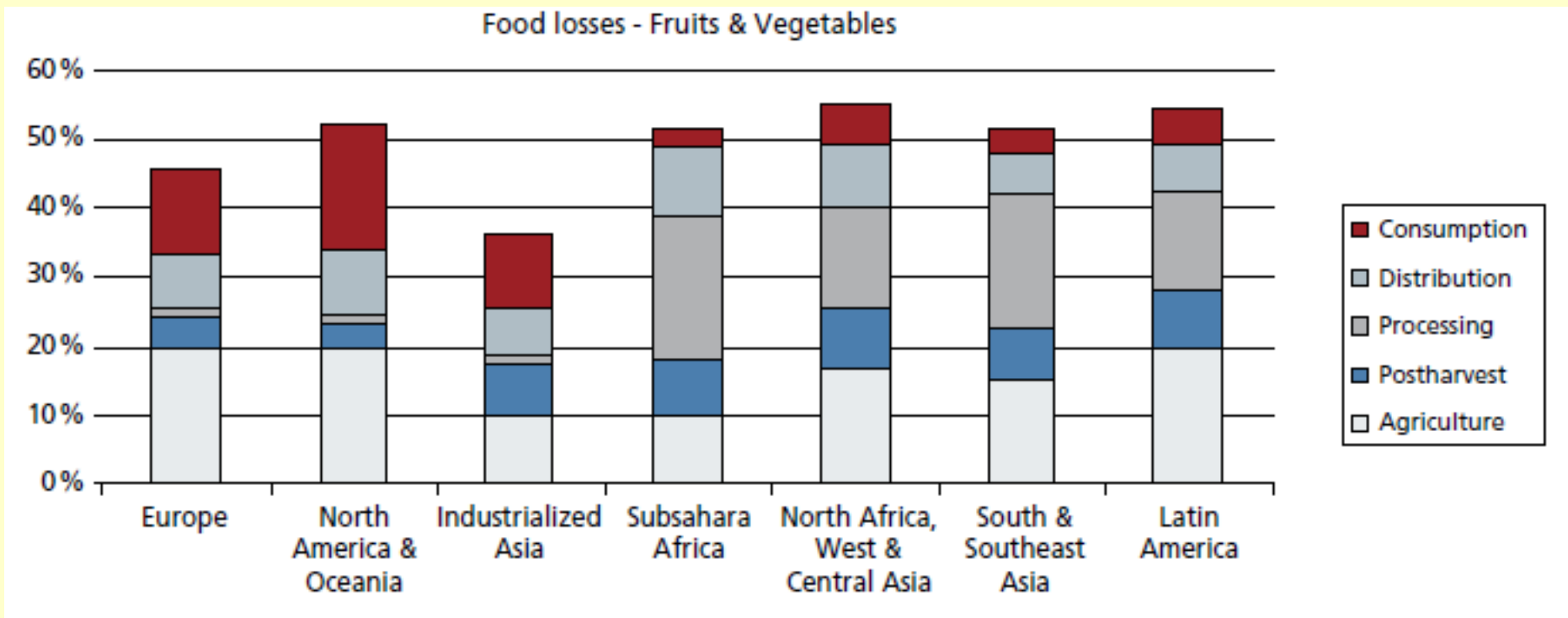
Figure 4. Part of the initial production lost or wasted at different stages of the FSC for root and tuber crops in different region



1. Extent of food losses and waste - OILSEEDS & PULSES

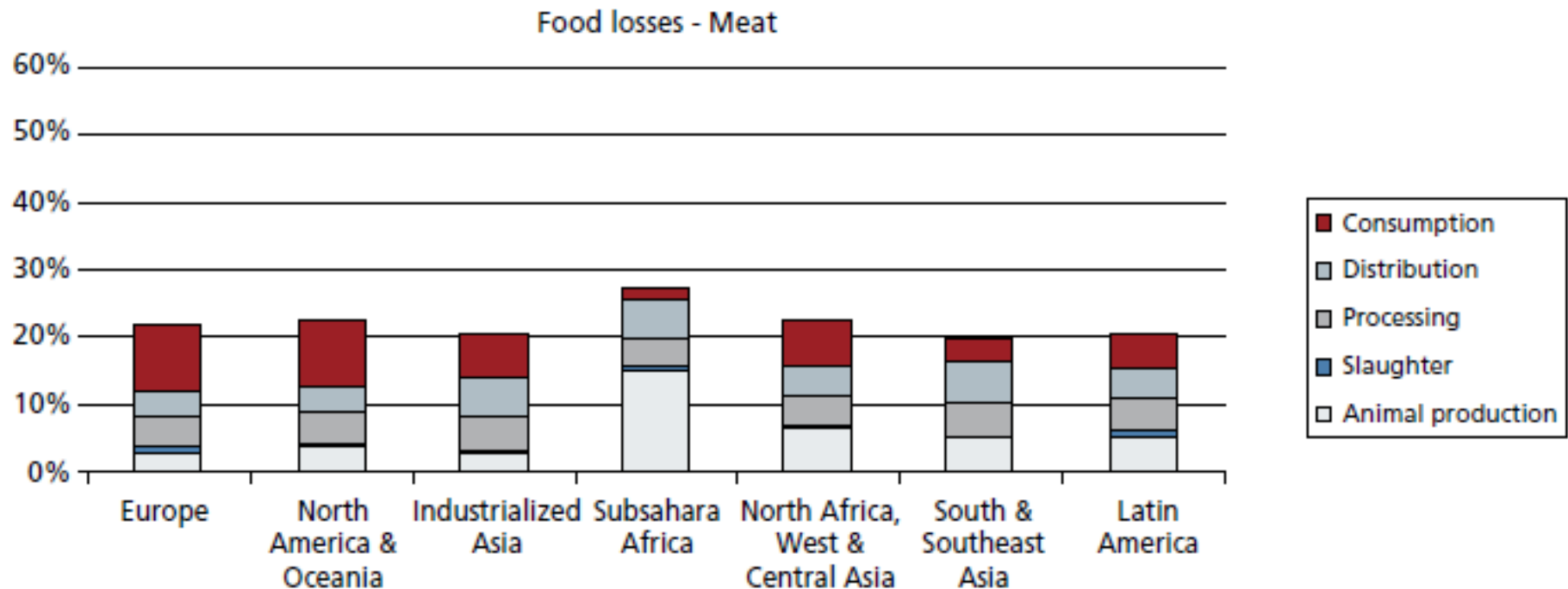


1. Extent of food losses and waste - FRUITS & VEGETABLES



1. Extent of food losses and waste - MEAT PRODUCTS

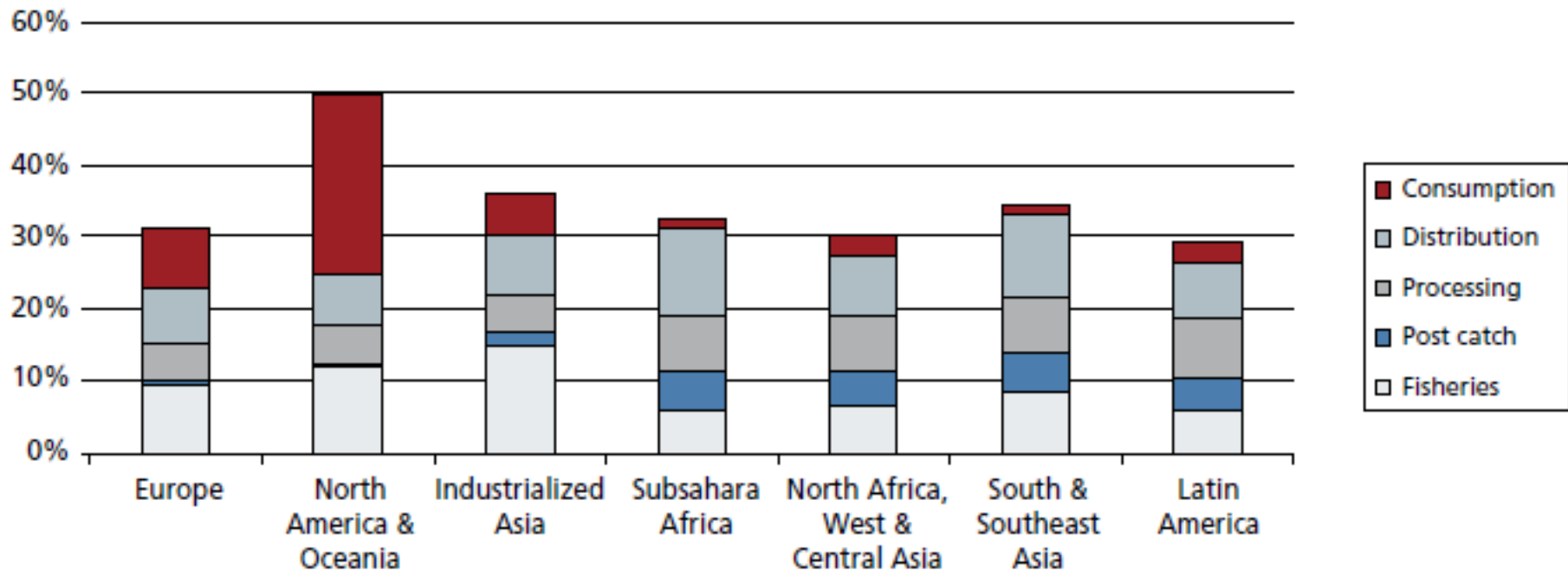
Figure 7. Part of the initial production lost or wasted for meat products at different stages in the FSC in different regions



1. Extent of food losses and waste - FISH & SEAFOOD

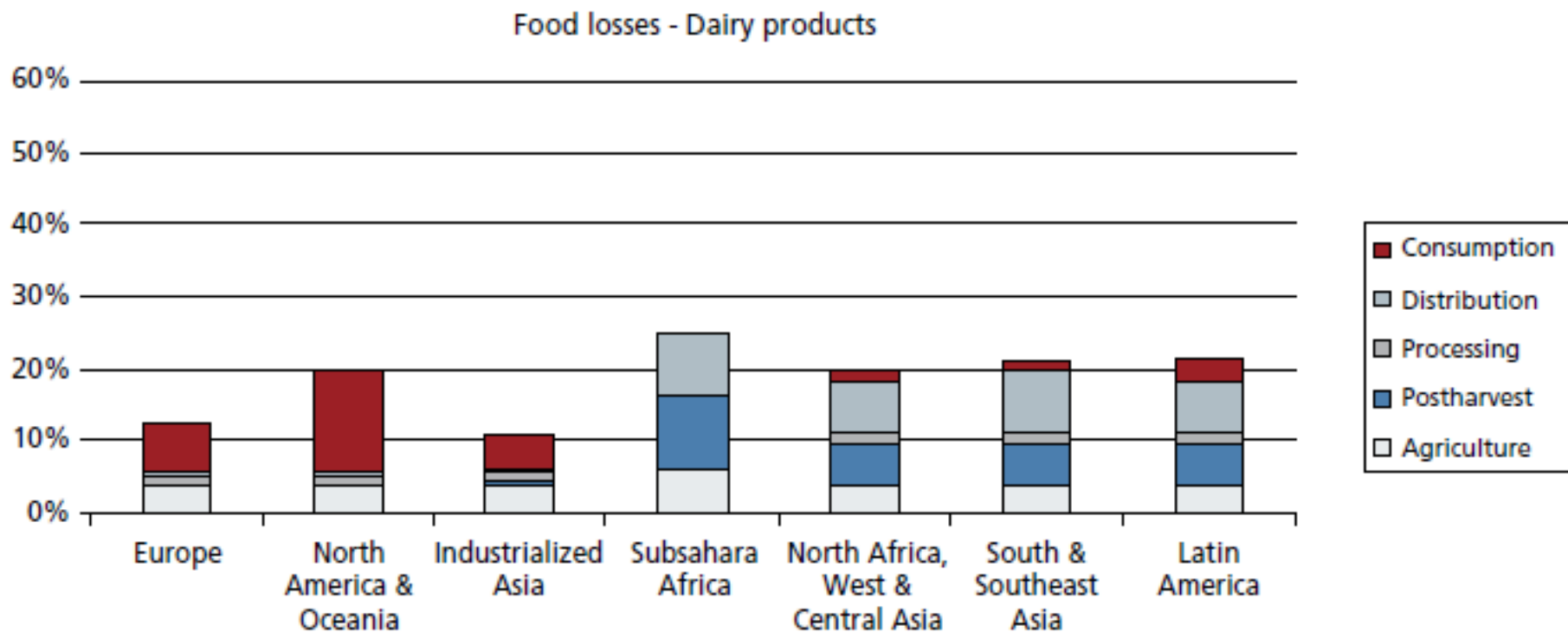
Figure 8. Part of the initial catchings (fish and seafood harvested) discarded, lost and wasted in different regions and at different stages in the FSC

Food losses - Fish & Seafood



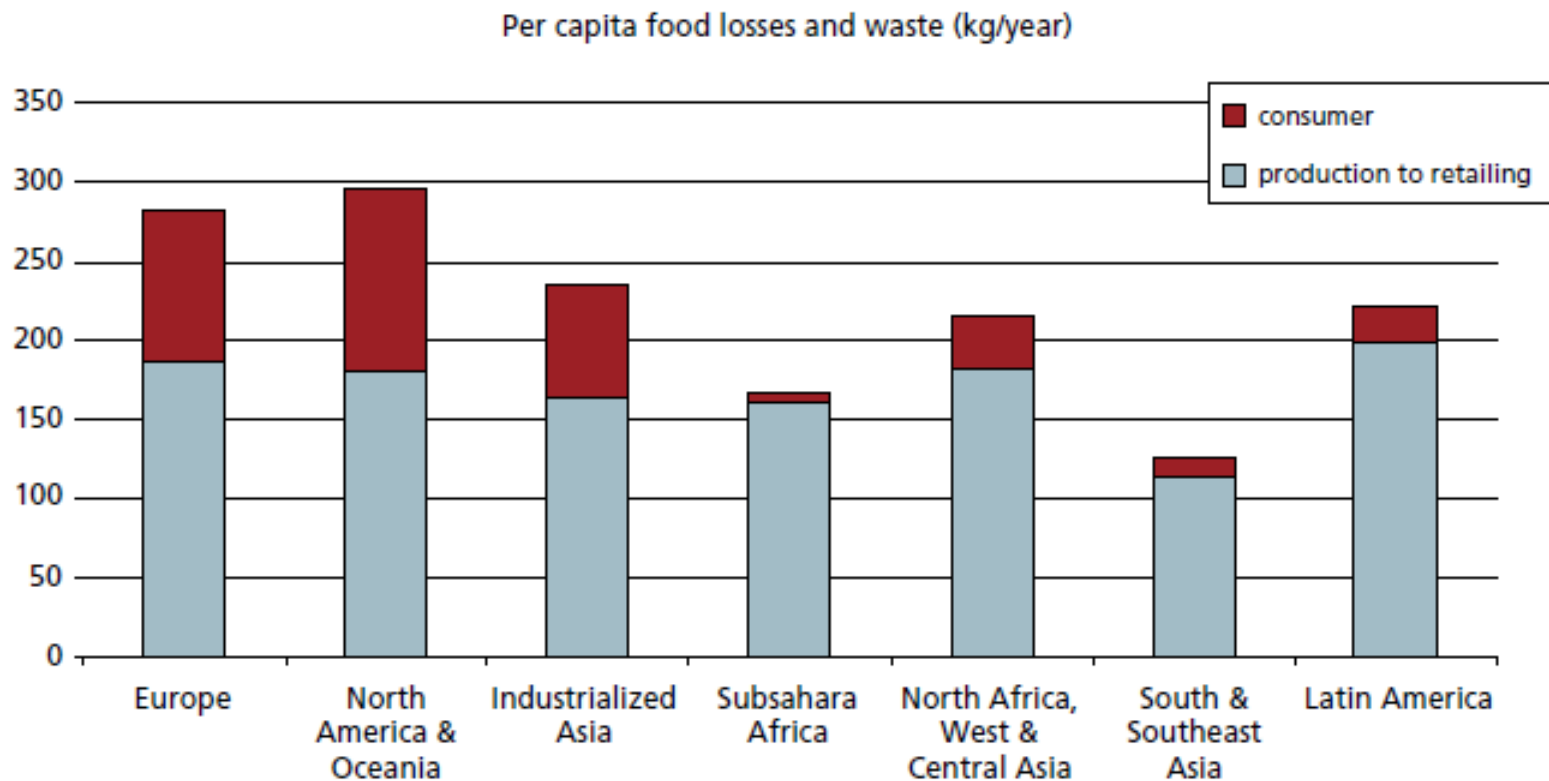
1. Extent of food losses and waste - DAIRY PRODUCTS

Figure 9. Part of the initial milk and dairy production lost or wasted for each region at different stages in the FSC



1. Extent of food losses and waste - PER CAPITA

Figure 2. Per capita food losses and waste, at consumption and pre-consumptions stages, in different regions



Food wasted at consumer level is minimal in developing countries.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

In industrialized countries food gets lost when production exceeds demand.



Prevention: Communication and cooperation between farmers.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

In developing countries and food may be lost due to production problems.



In developing countries and, sometimes, developed countries, food may be lost due to premature harvesting.

Prevention: *Organizing small farmers and diversifying and upscaling their production and marketing.*

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

High 'appearance quality standards' from supermarkets for fresh products lead to food waste.



Prevention: Consumer surveys by supermarkets.

Prevention: Sales closer to consumers.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

Poor storage facilities and lack of infrastructure cause postharvest food losses in developing countries.



Prevention: investment in infrastructure and transportation.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

Unsafe food is not fit for human consumption and therefore is wasted.



Prevention: develop knowledge and capacity of food chain operators to apply safe food handling practices.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

'Disposing is cheaper than using or re-using' attitude in industrialized countries leads to food waste.



***Prevention:** develop markets for 'sub-standard' products.*

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste



Lack of processing facilities causes high food losses in developing countries.



Prevention: improve investment climate for agro-industry

Prevention: develop contract farming linkages between processors and farmer

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

Large quantities on display and a wide range of products/ brands in supply lead to food waste in industrialized countries.

Inadequate market systems cause high food losses in developing countries.



Prevention: Marketing cooperatives and improved market facilities.

Causes and Prevention of food losses and waste

Abundance and consumer attitudes lead to high food waste in industrialized countries.

Prevention: Public awareness.



CONCLUSIONS

Need for more detailed studies, quantifying food losses per cause, on a regional basis.

Analysing the cost of food loss prevention measures.

Integrated Food Supply Chain solutions.

The impact of international trade.

Producer vs Consumer perspectives.

THANK YOU

