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By Nina Pullman

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Dave Lewis to chair new global food waste campaign



Dave Lewis is the chair of new initiative Champions 12.3

Leading CEOs and ministers from around the world have become **champions** of new partnership on food waste

Tesco chief executive Dave Lewis has been named as chair of a new high-profile global campaign to reduce food waste.

The movement, named Champions 12.3, was unveiled at the World Economic Forum in Davos last week and aims to “mobilise global action” to halve per capita food waste.

Alongside Lewis, it has been signed by 30 chief executives, government ministers and other leaders, including USDA secretary Tom Vilsack, Nestle chief executive Paul Bulcke, Unilever chief executive Paul Polman and president of The Rockefeller Foundation, Judith Rodin.

Countries that have signed up include Vietnam, the Netherlands, South Africa and Denmark.

The list of ‘champions’ will inspire action

by leading by example on how to reduce food loss and waste, motivating others, advocating for more innovation to reduce food waste, and communicating the importance of waste reduction.

“Reducing food loss and waste is a significant global challenge and it’s very important that business plays its part,” said Lewis. “At Tesco, we’re committed to tackling food waste not only in our own operations but also through strong and effective partnerships with our suppliers and by helping our customers reduce waste and save money. This is an opportunity for businesses to work together and make a real difference to Target 12.3.”

Eva Kjer Hansen, minister of environment and food, Denmark, said: “Food loss and waste is a huge challenge for global food security, human livelihoods and the conservation of the

environment that calls for global responses and individual action. And Denmark is ready to take its share and to engage in a new solution based global partnership.

“One of the initiatives we have launched in Denmark is a national partnership for reduction of avoidable food waste, which will foster voluntary and binding collaboration between all links in the food chain and relevant authorities and organizations, as solutions and barriers should be addressed across all stakeholders.”

Vice minister for agriculture from the Netherlands, Hans Hoogeveen, said: “Food that is ultimately lost or wasted consumes about a quarter of all water used by agriculture, requires cropland area the size of China, and is responsible for an estimated eight percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.”

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

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While Andrew Steer of the World Resources Institute said the champions “have the power to convert momentum into a global movement”.

The announcement was made alongside the launch of The Rockefeller Foundation’s new seven-year YieldWise

initiative, which aims to cut post-harvest losses in fruits, vegetables, and other staple crops in Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania.