

Assessing Sustainable Agricultural Practice: The GLOBAL 2000 approach



Data of Your Paper



Topic

- Resilience
- Lifestyle
- Building
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Title of the Paper

[Assessing Sustainable Agricultural Practice: The GLOBAL 2000 approach](#)

Form of Presentation

- Poster
- Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

This paper presents the GLOBAL 2000 adaptive sustainability assessment approach (asap), with which the environmental performance of agricultural products is measured. Also first product specific results and lessons learned during the implementation phase will be presented.

The aim of the approach is to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the environmental impacts of a certain agricultural product and the connected life cycle. Furthermore, it strives to set incentives for farmers to adopt a more sustainable production mode and to help consumers make deliberative consumption choices, by informing them about the environmental impacts of products.

Five field-level based indicators (N-balance, P-balance, humus-balance, pesticide use and energy intensity) and five based on 'material input per service unit' indicators (carbon-footprint, biotic and a-biotic material input, water input and area used) are used. We calculate the indicators based on data provided by each producer and company along the production chain. The approach is process oriented and explicitly involves stakeholders in the refinement and adaptation of monitoring and benchmarking and serves as a discussion and knowledge transfer arena.

Our method is applied in the context of the REWE International AG, GLOBAL 2000 and Caritas Sustainability Program for Fruits, Vegetables and Eggs. It is used for the REWE label Pro Planet (www.pro-planet.at). This program provided the necessary frame and infrastructure to further develop the methodology and tools in a very applied context. Until now about 400 producers in 20 product categories, including eggs, have participated. We are now setting up a new data-interface within the GLOBALG.A.P data-base, which will allow a closer integration of controlling bodies and eliminate double recording and will in the end enable a wide application of our indicators. Our experience shows that LCA based indicators that focus on resource use and CO2 emissions are extremely useful in identifying sustainability hot-spots in production chains. For a holistic picture of the environmental impact of a production mode it might however be necessary to introduce additional indicators. For agricultural products the additional set of five indicators which are used in our program cover other important

environmental and health related impacts of agriculture. The calculation of humus and balance allows us to account for climate effects of humus depletion and fertilisation.

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