Deliverable Factsheet

Date: 6th of July 2012

Deliverable No.	D.4.1.
Working Package	WP 4
Partner responsible	John E. Hermansen
Other partners participating	Marie Trydeman Knudsen, Peter Dennis, Sirpa Kurppa, Juha Virtanen
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Relevant Task(s):	Task 4.1

Brief description of the Deliverable

Report on conceptual framework for environmental assessment

Target audience(s)

Consultants and researchers working with environmental assessment and how to take into account the dimensions particularly relevant for low input and organic dairy systems.

Executive Summary

The prospects and long term competitiveness of organic and other low input dairy systems are dependent on the extent to which the production systems fulfil societal goals and expectations. One way to assess this is through environmental life cycle assessment (LCA) of the food produced. In this deliverable we present state of the art methodologies within LCA focusing on the particular aspects that are important in low input and organic dairy production. While the concept of LCA is clear, a number of choices have to be made in the practical work and these choices have a huge impact on the results obtained. Here we present a coherent framework to be used

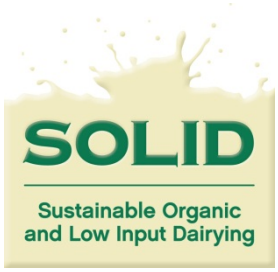
for making choices in LCA, taking into account the vast amount of work in different committees presently going on within the EU and globally for assessment of food chains. Environmental impact categories addressed in the work include climate change, acidification, eutrophication and ecotoxicity, which are common in LCA. In addition, we argue for a particular way of including biodiversity in LCA based on existing literature sources and current EU projects.

Potential Stakeholder impact(s):

In industry, among farmers and farmers associations, consumer groups and authorities a wide range of views and attitudes exist on how to value the externalities related to farming including dairy farming. This deliverables gives a state of the art methodology on how to include the dimensions that can be captured in a life cycle assessment. While the choices argued in the document may not be undisputable, it hopefully allows a comprehensive debate among stakeholders and experts on how to approach sustainability from a product oriented point of view, and thus foster sound reflections.

Interactions with other WPs Deliverables / joint outputs

WP no.	Relevant tasks	Partner(s) involved	Context of interaction
WP1	Sharing of methodologies for data collection in relation to the rapid assessment of sustainability issues at a farm - the OCIS Public Goods Tools – and the Life Cycle Assessment.	ORC	



Project no. 266367

Project acronym: **SOLID**

Project title:
Sustainable Organic and Low Input Dairying

Collaborative Project

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
KBBE.2010.1.2-02
Sustainable organic and low-input dairy production

Title of Deliverable:

D4.1 REPORT ON CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Work package Leader: John E. Hermansen

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