

More sustainable, resilient, and competitive food systems through the development of intermediate food value chains



## PRACTICE ABSTRACT No: 21

### Sustainability framework for eco-design of intermediate value chains

A framework was developed for assessing sustainability of intermediate value chains.

Aiming for a limited set of relevant indicators to keep the evaluations and monitoring feasible, the sustainability framework was developed by combining different approaches for assessment targeting various principles and criteria relevant in sustainable design of intermediate value chains, considering all three dimensions of sustainability.

The framework consists of three distinct parts

- A generic sustainability checklist (qualitative)
- A short list of qualitative case-specific sustainability indicators for each FAIRCHAIN case study demonstrating the critical sustainability aspects (qualitative and quantitative)
- Sustainability indicators aimed at comparing the situation before and after the redesign of the new intermediate value chain (i.e., result indicators) (qualitative and quantitative).

The generic sustainability checklist, the case study specific checklist and the final list of result indicators in combination allow for sustainability guidance and assessment during the design of intermediate value chains, from idea to implementation, making use of simple qualitative indicators first and proceeding to more quantitative LCA models when case study-specific input data become available.

Further, the flexible design of the framework can reflect circumstances and specific needs of each CS by enabling adjustments and/or refinements of the indicators as well as inclusion of new indicators in a structured and transparent way as the needs of the case study evolve over time. Such an evaluation framework is an inexpensive way to monitor progress in implementing food value chain changes.

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#### End Users

Farmer & Cooperative, Industry & Retail, Policy maker, Technology provider, Consultants

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### ABOUT FAIRCHAIN

The FAIRCHAIN project launched in 2020 and coordinated by INRAE, is developing intermediate food value chains in the fruits and vegetable and dairy sectors. Through technological, organizational and social innovations and by developing business models FAIRCHAIN will enable small and mid-size stakeholders to scale up to supply fresh, sustainable and high-quality food products to consumers at a regional level.

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