

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



PRACTICE ABSTRACT No: 55

Easy Life Cycle Inventory with MEANS-InOut

The MEANS-InOut software in two words

What?

A Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) is the quantification of resource consumption (energy, raw materials) and emissions (to air, water, soil, waste) throughout the life cycle of a system. It is an essential step in performing a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The MEANS-InOut software is designed to assist users in the agricultural and food sectors with this complex task. It is useful both for LCA practitioners who are not familiar with inventory production for these sectors and for non-practitioners who wish to model inventories for their agricultural and food systems

How?

The MEANS-InOut software is accessible online at <https://means.inrae.fr/>. Users describe their system through pre-filled forms. This allows them to:

- Precisely describe the system and methodological choices
- Calculate associated emissions using built-in emission models
- Generate LCIs exportable to LCA software

Why?

Modeling LCIs (Life Cycle Inventories) is a complex task requiring both LCA expertise and sector-specific knowledge. It is time-consuming and data-intensive. However, it is a crucial step in assessing the environmental impacts of a system and must be carried out diligently. Using tools like MEANS-InOut enables users to leverage the expertise of the developers to quickly produce more robust LCIs.

Use cases

The MEANS-InOut software has been used in the FAIRCHAIN project for Greek and Belgian case studies (respectively to produce inventories for sheep and goat milk production and for apple production).

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End Users

Select from: Consumer, Farmer & Cooperative, Industry & Retail, Policy maker, Technology provider, other

Country

Worldwide



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Links for additional information

<https://means.inrae.fr/>

[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEDIRECT.COM/SCIENCE/ARTICLE/PII/S2352340923003268](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352340923003268)



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ABOUT FAIRCHAIN

All Practice Abstracts prepared by FAIRCHAIN can be found [here!](#)

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.

FAIRCHAIN PARTNERS



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