

How to reduce the environmental footprint of consumer goods: LCA studies on fruit and vegetables production

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How to reduce the environmental Footprint of Consumer Goods

- Aim: Ecological improvement of food consumption
 - Product range selection
 - Buying behavior of end-users
- Basis: Life cycle assessment
- Emergence of sensitive parameters regarding:
 - 1. Carbon footprint
 - 2. Land use / biodiversity
 - 3. Water use



General conditions

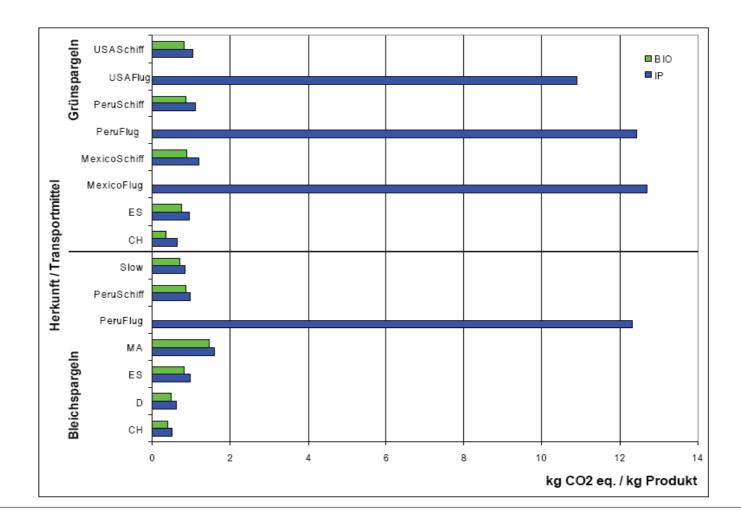
- 28 vegetables & fruits
- 29 countries of origin
- Integrated and organic production
- Field-grown and greenhouse production
- Background data for transport, energy, fertilizer, pesticides etc. are based on ecoinvent v2.01 / SimaPro 7
- Functional unit: 1 kg vegetables or fruits at POS (original substance)



Green or white Asparagus: Transport is one of the key elements



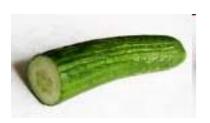


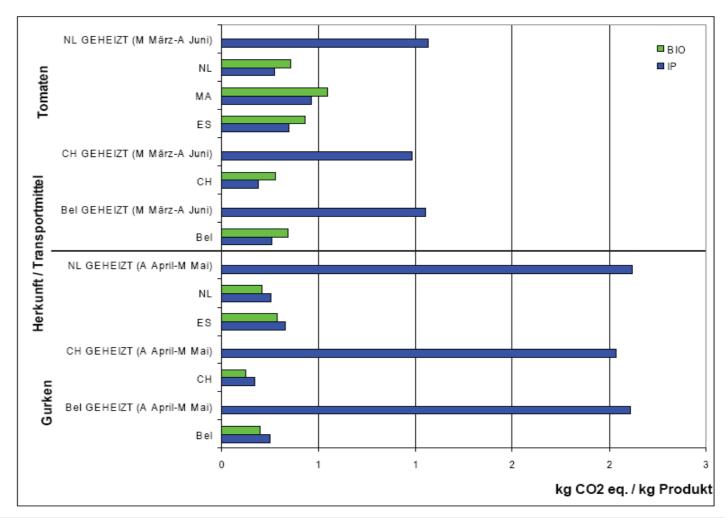




Greenhouse Production: Heated or non heated makes the difference

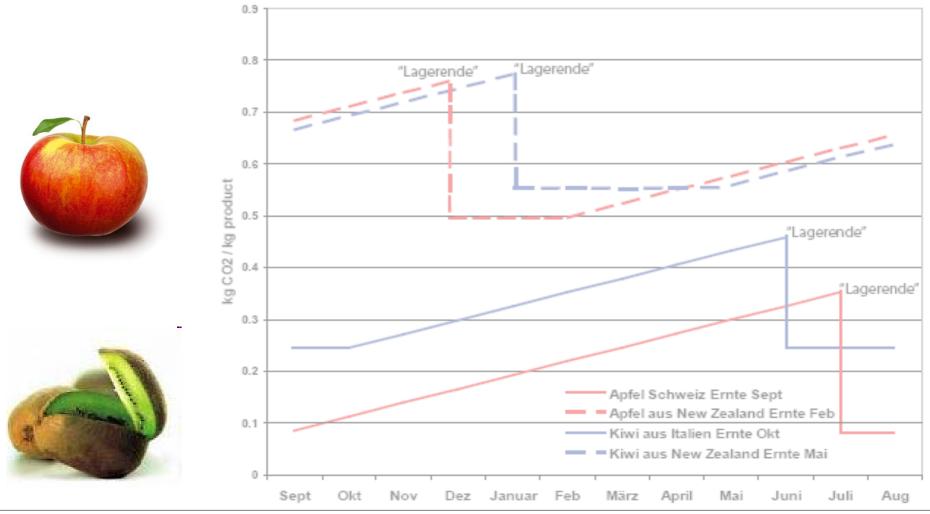






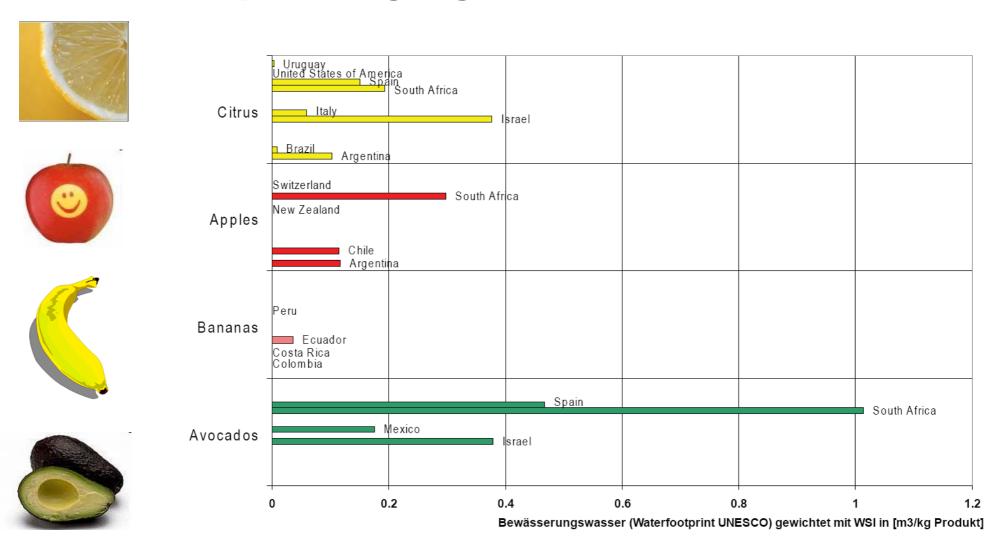


Greenhouse gases: Seasonal aspects must be considered





Water Footprint: Big regional differences





Communicating with consumers: Which messages can be given?

Climatop







TESCO

60W Pearl Lightbulb

Production 1% Distribution 0% Store 0% Use 99%

Waste management 0%

Total unit footprint per 1,000 hours use: 34kg

100W Pearl Lightbulb

11W CFL (low energy)

20W CFL (low energy)

60W Spotlight

working with the Carbon Trust



per 1000 hrs of use

The carbon footprint of this lightbulb is 34kg per 1000 hours of use and we have committed to reduce it

By comparison the footprint for the equivalent energy saving lightbulb (11w) is 6.5kg per 1000 hours of use

" Casino s'engage pour l'environnement en collaboration avec ses fournisseurs pour réduire ses émissions de gaz à effet de serre "

L'INDICE CARBONE*

est une estimation de la quantité de gaz à effet de serre (CO2...) émise lors des principales étapes du cycle de vie du produit (production + transformation + emballage + transport + distribution).

Cette méthode d'évaluation est issue d'une collaboration avec un organisme indépendant. La mesure est exprimée en g équivalent CO₂ pour 100 g de produit.

* Valable en France Métropolitaine

L'INDICE CARBONE de ce produit



Plus d'informations : www.produits-casino.fr ou SERVICE CONSOMMATEURS







Declaring and offsetting goods transported by air

- By air transports create the **biggest impact** of greenhouse gases
- Declaration of air-freighted goods is easy to understand for consumers, but has it changed their purchasing habits?
- Target: Cut down on air freight in 2009 no more promotions with air freight fruits and vegetables
- CO₂ offsets financed by the Coop Sustainability Fund
- But: A study shows that roses imported by air from Kenya produce less CO₂ throughout the entire lifecycle than roses from heated greenhouses imported by truck form the Netherlands.









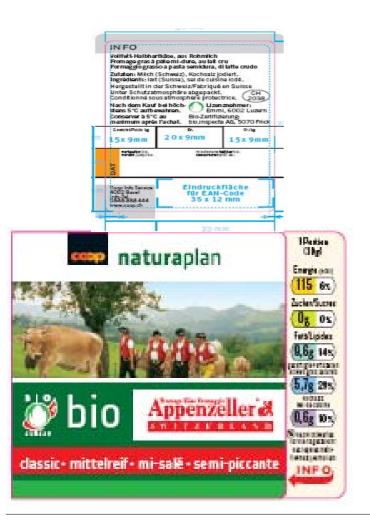
A possible way of labeling LCA results in the future?







Additional information on pack – who will read it?







What about existing standards for sustainable production?























Conclusions regarding CO₂ Labeling

Focus on reduction of impact and improving of processes:

- The aim is to achieve a long-term reduction in CO₂ emissions
- For this, it is sufficient to give relatively general information to consumers on consumption or to take account of eco-audits when making purchasing decisions (Gatekeeper function of Retail sector)

– Too early for CO2 labeling:

- A label must be easy to understand; figures on their own are confusing especially when there is no harmonization between different labels
- A label is useless unless it triggers an improvement or at least on offset by the supplier or consumer
- Eco-labels that differ form country to country only create new trade barriers

Harmonization is imperative!



Thank you for your attention



