



Agricultural LCA Database Agri-footprint Now Available in SimaPro

May 23, 2014 – Amsterdam - PRé Consultants and Blonk Consultants are proud to announce the exclusive release of the agricultural life cycle assessment (LCA) database Agri-footprint in SimaPro, the world's leading LCA software. This collaboration opens up the field of agricultural LCA to practitioners from the food industry, and offers new options for companies in the chemical and energy industries looking to incorporate bio-based production methods.

Growing Demand for Agricultural LCAs

"Environmental impacts of agriculture are becoming an urgent issue everywhere," says Hans Blonk, CEO of Blonk Consultants. "Countries are enacting sustainability policies on agricultural production and consumption, and companies need to understand their products' life cycles to meet demands for reporting. Agriculture is the most important source of impacts for a large number of environmental issues." PRé CEO Mark Goedkoop agrees: "Agriculture just has a tremendous impact on everything from climate change to soil deterioration. The [EIPRO study](#) showed that producing food is the cheapest way to pollute the environment. But agriculture isn't going away – bio-based production methods are gaining in popularity, and the world's growing population needs increasing amounts of food. I think agriculture will turn out to be the most important factor in the sustainability discussion."

The First Extensive Agricultural Database

Agricultural LCAs tend to be more involved than other types of LCA, due to the complex implications of land use, the fact that the production facilities are living creatures, and other agriculture-specific issues in methodology. "LCA first arose as a method to assess non-food products," says Hans Blonk. "Methodologies for agricultural LCA are now reaching maturity, and our Agri-footprint database is the first of its kind – a large, high-quality database that's 100% focused on agriculture, with consistent methodological premises, geared to help users quickly identify potential for improvement."

Agri-footprint contains approximately 3,000 products and processes for agricultural LCA, from crops to animal production systems and background processes. It offers users a wide range of agriculture-specific impact categories such as water use, land use and soil carbon content. Land use change is fully integrated. The database is 100% focused on agricultural products, and allows users to choose from 3 pre-defined allocation options: mass, energy and economic. Agri-footprint methodology and data quality is compliant with ILCD and ReCiPe, and have been reviewed by the Centre for Design and Society of the RMIT University.

The Latest Modern Database to be Released in SimaPro

"Our ambition with SimaPro is to diversify databases, offer our current customers more options and become more useful to potential clients and new industries," says Mark Goedkoop. Many SimaPro users buy the software not just for its analytical power, but for the excellent databases that come with it. "Agri-footprint fits right in with this policy – it's a high-quality product, and the offer by Blonk Consultants came at exactly the right time."

Several current pilot projects, such as the EU [Product Environmental Footprint](#) (PEF) and the UN [Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership](#) (LEAP), are developing reporting structures and guidelines for the food sector. Agri-footprint offers data in PEF- and LEAP-compliant formats, allowing users to stay abreast of the latest developments and to have a voice at a critical juncture in this discussion.

Increasing Options for Sustainability Professionals Valuing Life Cycle Thinking

Releasing Agri-footprint in SimaPro is a great development for sustainability professionals. Users of SimaPro will be able to use Agri-footprint to improve current LCAs and perform new LCAs that were previously out of range. And sustainability professionals within the agri-food industry get to use a dedicated agricultural database in the world's leading LCA software package, newly equipped with a more accurate calculation engine. [Contact PRé](#) or [Blonk Consultants](#) for information about the Agri-footprint database or its implementation in SimaPro.

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The PRé Portfolio — Tools for Actionable Sustainability

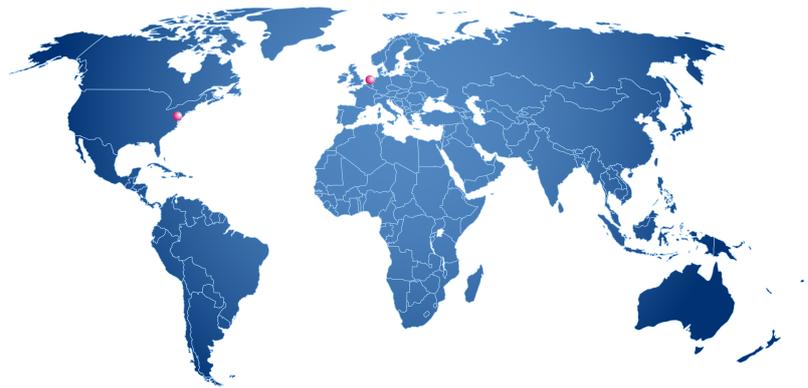
PRé has led the way in the sustainability arena for more than two decades, contributing greatly to the field of product and supply chain sustainability. PRé is a leader and innovator in conducting comprehensive sustainability analyses founded on measurable and meaningful metrics.

PRé offers a variety of services to guide you on the road to sustainability, from landscaping workshops and stakeholder engagement to sector trend analyses relevant to your industry. Depending on your needs, PRé can provide you with life cycle studies, from brief screening Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) to comprehensive and ISO compliant LCAs, supply chain impact scans, and product footprinting analyses.

PRé's team has extensive experience in the development of industry standards and initiatives such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, The Sustainability Consortium, ISO standards for carbon and water footprinting, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). With our industry-specific knowledge, we provide our clients with the relevant metrics and tools to map out a clear path to success.

PRé is the developer of SimaPro, the world's leading LCA software. We also offer the product evaluation web tool SimaPro Easy, which provides quick insight into your product sustainability performance and can be deployed across teams and locations.

Internationally, leading businesses work with PRé to integrate sustainability into their product development procedures in order to create business value. PRé has offices in the United States and the Netherlands, plus a global partner network to support large international or multiclient projects.



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*We look forward to being your
partner in putting the metrics
behind sustainability.*

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Get in Touch with PRé

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Find out more about what we can do for your organization at pre-sustainability.com