

SFAP- Verified CO₂- statement

CO₂ footprint related to crop input, soy processing and transport and CO₂ footprint related to No Land Use Change during the last 20 years.

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1. Introduction

The Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme (SFAP) is an international programme for the verification of sustainable practices in agricultural production at the level of the farm. The programme is globally applicable and is relevant for all arable crops that are transformed into feed (e.g. soy, maize, barley, wheat).

About SFAP

The main characteristics of SFAP are:

- Independent programme, open for all farmers and farmer groups irrespective of their supply chain partners
- Created and managed in close cooperation with farmers
- Applicable to a broad range of (arable) crops
- Global applicability
- Robust, cost-efficient verification module
- Strong non-conversion chapter
- Area mass balance supply chain model linking impact to origin sourcing

ProAgros *1) is the owner of the SFAP programme.

For more info on ProAgros see: "www.proagros.eu"

2. Verified CO₂-statement

Food and feed companies are more and more aware of and held accountable for their contribution to climate change. They are challenged to take adequate action to make the CO₂-footprint visible and take actions to lower their climate impact. This need for action has resulted in zero-deforestation commitments and sustainability certification in the supply chain. The movement into showing the CO₂- footprint and making fact-based CO₂-calculations is rather new, but developing quickly.

The feed industry has initiated the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) to promote and align efforts to make the CO₂-footprint of feed ingredients and feed products visible. GFLI builds upon the LEAP methodology. GFLI makes use of the AgriFootPrint database created by Blonk Consultants and other experts. Although the LCA methodology proposed by LEAP and the set-up of the FeedPrint database is solid and sciencebased, the method itself is only as strong as the data introduced to the model.

At this moment, the parameters introduced to the model are generic in nature (default values) and there is no distinction between regions in producing countries. In addition, there is no distinction between sustainable production methods and conventional farming methods. Farmers, farmer groups and companies in the feed chain can at the moment not really distinguish themselves with a low CO₂- footprint, despite the efforts they take to lower this footprint. That is why SFAP is working with its farmer groups to change this and make their specific CO₂-footprint visible in a trustworthy and verified manner.

Our approach

The CO₂ footprinting calculation used by SFAP is aligned with the rules of the GFLI methodology, that are based on the FAO-LEAP approach. By including SFAP's local experts and extension workers, an independent inspection body and an independent expert in LCA-methodology, SFAP is able to create a very accurate picture of the CO₂-footprint of the certified farmer group(s).

The next section elaborates on the method used:

Data collection: Crop input data

Farmers in our farmer producer group(s) are requested to fill in a detailed survey about their production practices (e.g. agrochemical use, fossil fuel use, etc) for each specific crop. The questionnaire is very specific in order to obtain a thorough understanding of the practices on the ground. The survey protocol is created by Blonk Consultants and the answers of the farmers are verified by our regional experts based on their experience in the specific region. By taking the average of the individual farmers in the group, a solid picture of that farmer group is established. Blonk Consultants has processed these data into SFAP CO₂ Footprint specific data within the Agrifootprint Database.

The data is specific on Cerrado based soybean production of SFAP Producer Group(s). The questionnaire will be updated every 4 years, unless there are reasons to do so sooner. SFAP's local experts will keep track of changes in production practices that might result in a lower or higher footprint.

Data collection: Land use Change (LUC) data

In addition to the specific crop production data of the farmers in the farm group(s), official land change satellite images are analyzed to compare the situation of 20 years ago with the present situation.

Using the Satellite maps, the CB (Control Union) will identify the area's which have been converted 20 years or longer ago. The 20 years limit is introduced by the FAO-LEAP method. If conversion took place more than 20 years ago, the negative impact on the environment (Land Use Change Contribution) is not included into the calculation.



Example of satellite images of 1999 compared to 2019. In 1999, 19% of farm land was used for production and in 2019 this increased to 81%. Only the 19% may be used under the positive LUC provisions.

Addition of data to AgriFoot print and GFLI database

The farmer group specific CO₂-data ('branded data') is added to the Agri-Footprint database, managed by Blonk Consultants. In this database there is data for SFAP Soybeans Cerrado production, SFAP soybean meal crushed in Brazil and SFAP soybean meal crushed in North West Europe both included transport up to the feed mill. Table 1 provides an overview of the CO₂-reduction possible when using SFAP branded data.

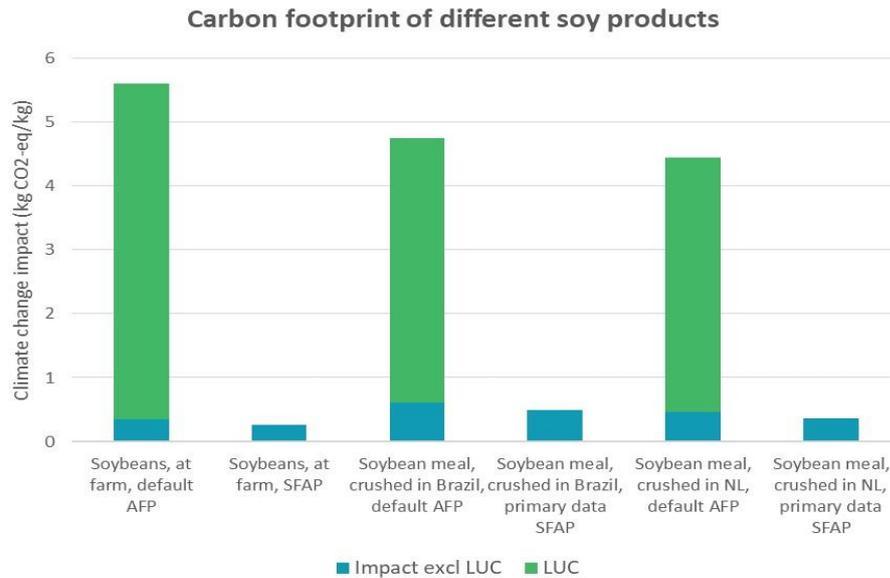


Table 1: Climate change impact (kg CO₂ eq/kg) of various soy products and origins (source: AgriFootprint)

Ideally feed companies make use of carbon footprint data that is recognised by the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) as being credible data. Currently the data in the GFLI database is generic in nature and default values for different production countries are included. GFLI is in the process of identifying the rules for adding and accepting branded data to their database. SFAP follows the developments in GFLI closely in order to add the SFAP data to the GFLI database as well, as soon this is possible. Note that as long as SFAP-farmer group data is not specified in the GFLI FeedPrint database, users of the verified CO₂-statement can use the generic default values without LUC.

	Impact excl LUC	LUC	Total
Soybeans, at farm, default AFP	0.352	5.251	5.603
Soybeans, at farm, primary data SFAP	0.267		0.267
Soybean meal, crushed in Brazil, default AFP	0.615	4.136	4.751
Soybean meal, crushed in Brazil, primary data SFAP	0.494		0.494
Soybean meal, crushed in NL, default AFP	0.464	3.985	4.449
Soybean meal, crushed in NL, primary data SFAP	0.363		0.363

Table 2: Soybeans and soybean meal with and without land use change (Source: Agri Footprint)

Creation of SFAP verified CO₂-statement

The verified CO₂-statement is always linked to the farmer group(s) with whom we have a long lasting relation in the field of sustainable production/-certification). SFAP believes that the efforts of farmers within a programme in the area of responsible agricultural production -in addition to their commitment to non-conversion- makes that they have a low CO₂ footprint. That is why the verified CO₂-statement is always linked to these specific farmer groups.

A subset of the full area owned by the SFAP farmer group qualifies for an extra low CO₂-footprint. That means that for areas that are converted at least 20 years ago, no Land Use Change Contribution is counted which is in line with the FAO-LEAP LCA methodology.

The SFAP Verified CO₂ Statements will only be issued for those volumes of agri product in scope originating from (a) Producer Group(s) , related to the area which qualifies for a Non LUC contribution on CO₂.

The SFAP verified CO₂ Statement will include the Branded data on SFAP soymeal out of the Blonk Agrifootprint database.

Companies that invest in SFAP-non conversion certificates *1) and using either the B/CI or Area Mass Balance supply chain model, can obtain a SFAP verified CO₂-statement on top of a sustainability certification.

*1) or equivalent scheme (at least FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines compliant)

Data renewal process

Data on land use change will be updated on an regular basis. Due to the rolling deadline of 20 years, it can be that for certain lands the exclusion of the Land Use Change Contribution becomes applicable. The land use change data will also be updated if the producer group changes of composition. In the situation of new farms being included in the producer group(s), new Satellite maps may be collected, assessed and verified. The area calculation will be changed according to this new data.

Roles and responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities are defined in the process of arriving at a SFAP verified CO₂ statement.

Scope of a SFAP verified CO₂ Statement

The scope of the SFAP verified CO₂ statement will be the producer group(s) area without LUC, whether it is a single group or a combination of more producer groups managed by the same Group Manager and certified by the same CB on a sustainability scheme -SFAP NC *1)

Related to CO₂ footprint crop production

Group Manager

- The Group Manager will distribute the survey on crop input data- as indentified by Blonk consultants as LCA Expert) and help the producers to fill in the survey.
- Group manager will collect the surveys on crop input data and checks the quality of data obtained from the producers.

- Group Manager send the collected data to the SFAP secretariat.

LCA expert

The LCA-expert Blonk Consultants will:

- Process the data obtained from the SFAP-secretariat (both production data and satellite images).
- Make the CO₂-calculations for the specific SFAP producer group(s).
- Add the data for the specific SFAP producer group(s) to the AgriFootprint database as SFAP Branded soy data.

SFAP Secretariat (ProAgros)

- Initiate the crop input data collection at the level of the Group Manager.
- Send the specified crop input data collected by the Group Manager to the LCA-expert.
- Communicate with the CB the results of the LCA calculation of the LCA Expert/Blonk Consultants. These Branded LCA Data will be part of the Verified CO₂-Statement issued by the CB.
- Follow developments in GFLI.

Related to Land use Change

Group Manager

- The Group Manager identifies together with the scheme owner of SFAP NC, the farms within the Producer Group(s) which will be analyzed for a 20 year Non Conversion, based on Satellite image comparison.
- Will calculate the average yield of the crop in scope for the Producer Group(s)
Yield data will be based on the figures used for the sustainability certification of the farms in the Producer Group.

Inspection body

The Inspection Body will

- Gather the Satellite maps for the identified farms in the producer group (s) for the current year and(at least) 20 years ago. Satellite Maps will have a resolution of 30 meters (or better)
- Evaluate the Satellite maps and determine the acreage already converted 20 years ago.
- Interpret the Satellite Images using recognised methodologies.
- Store the Satellite maps and make them upon request available to the SFAP-secretariat.

- Issue a SFAP Verified CO₂-Statement of the total acreage and production of the agri commodity in scope of the producer group(s) for the area with a 20 year Non Conversion. The area without LUC will be primarily allocated to the agri commodity in scope.
Volume will be calculated basis average yield of the producergroup(s) certification of the commodity in scope.
- A SFAP Verified CO₂ -Statement will be issued on volumes per crop year.

Management of the SFAP verified CO₂ statement

The Verified CO₂-statement is an additional piece of information that SFAP offers to the buyers of SFAP Book & Claim / Area Mass Balance certificates *1).

Buyers of the such Verified CO₂ -statements obtain the right to use the LCA-information for a volume corresponding to the volume mentioned on the Verified CO₂ -statement Transfer Document.*)

The Certification Body will on a yearly basis keep track of

- Total volume of CO₂-statements issued
- Volumes transferred to SFAP scheme owner
- Volumes transferred by SFAP scheme owner to the end-users/buyers of these CO₂ Statements
- Issue a CO₂ -statement Transfer Document from the scheme owner to it's buyers on a yearly basis (indicating volume of acquired Verified CO₂ Statement per calendar year and the CO₂ production data related Branded SFAP data ex AgriFootprint database)
- Yearly Starting- and End Balance of CO₂ statements in stock by the SFAP scheme owner.

Validity of a SFAP Verified CO₂ Statement:

Scheme owner level

Year of harvest of the product in scope+3

Final buyer level

Year of acquiring the CO₂ statement from the Scheme owner+1 (based on the data originating from the Verified CO₂ Statement Transfer Document).

Ownership

The SFAP-programme is owned by ProAgros.

ProAgros is a company that works for several large and small players in the agricultural commodity production chain. ProAgros offers supply chain solutions that are also well accepted by farmers to the market. ProAgros developed *Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme Non Conversion*® in close cooperation with local experts that have a vast experience in working with and managing farm groups. These experts add local farmer knowledge to the programme.

The aim of the programme is to help farmers prove in a credible and cost-efficient manner that they are producing in line with legal requirements and internationally accepted standards for responsible production. And thereby also creating market access to companies / countries that have certain additional sustainability requests and demand solid verification of the sustainability requests.

ProAgros is:

- Owner of the programme
- First contact organization for the programme
- Market facilitator: finding groups of farmers who want to certify and connecting them with supply chain partners who want to buy certified material (Book & Claim incl. Regional Credits)
- Issuing licences to partners who will certify farmers against the programme
- Responsible for the quality of the programme (e.g. by training auditors to execute the programme correctly etc.)

Disclaimer

- The SFAP program is exclusively to be used by ProAgros and its SFAP license holders; like farm group managers- and certification companies.
- Certificates to be issued exclusively by ProAgros after verification of the farm (group) by a SFAP licensed Certification Body.
- Certification registration will be done exclusively by or on behalf of ProAgros.