

Nr. xxxx

Title:

The implementation of PEF, PEFCR and the GFLI database in Denmark and comparable countries.

Disclaimer: This version of the guideline may not be the latest and may therefore only be used after contact with DAKOFO (hge@dakofo.dk).

Introduction

The EU Commission has developed a method for determining the “Product Environmental Footprint” (from here on called PEF). This framework has general descriptions of how environmental footprint (EF) is determined on all products. But, due to the deviations between product groups, in what data is demanded, the EU Commission enabled stakeholders from the different product categories to develop Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR), to ensure a fitting framework for specific considerations and rules that apply to different product categories. The category ruleset for feed for food producing animals (PEFCR feed) was first published in 2018 and was valid until 2021. The PEFCR Feed is now being updated, to accommodate the updated version of the PEF framework and the 3.1 version (to come) of the EF-database and methodology. As the updates of the EF databases are being done every three years, there was need for a more rapidly developing set of data for even more feed products. Therefore, the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) developed a database, that now hold more than 1500 datasets on feed ingredients, that is calculated with the PEF method.

The Netherlands

Nevedi, the Dutch feed association, has been the source of understanding the work with climate footprint on feed in the Netherlands.

Initially (2012-2013) Feedprint was developed as a hotspot analysis for farmers/producers to analyze the major factors that would drive the overall EF. However, this tool was not good enough for commercial use, and is now mainly used as student tool.

The dairy sector had high wishes and need for EF data on feeds, and therefore Nevedi engaged the development of a national feed-database, the Nevedi-list. The Nevedi-list is a database where regional datasets of different feed ingredients are registered to be used only by Nevedi members (part of the members fee). There is a budget reserved for the addition of 4-5 new EF datasets on feed ingredients annually, which is outsourced to be calculated by Blonk Consultants. The data is regional datasets for single ingredients, based on the PEF/GFLI method. The calculations are based on national averages, e.g., 20% homegrown, 60% Germany, 20% Hungary imported. However, on corn and soy, it is possible to calculate

specific regional differences. The ambition of Nevedi is to move towards branded (company specific) datasets, to allow the consumer of the feed, to choose a product with a low EF. Nevedi is planning on making the national data a GFLI exert dataset, but the availability to others than Netherland citizens is not clarified yet. Now, more by-products are getting incorporated into the national database, but there is a wish for these to be branded data, to allow segregation and clarity on the EF, to compare two products within the same category. The emission data is dairy specific, but all other data is applicable to other livestock sectors. The Nevedi-list is updated annually, and with it comes a detailed guideline on how to use and communicate the data. There is no certification on calculations, communications, or use of EF data, but there is a strong wish for this, as the quality/reliability depends on it. Data for transport is all handled by Blonk Consultants and is based on average default data. A project to estimate distances of inbound road transport, is currently ongoing, for national use. There are default data to use for outbound transport, but companies are now investing in low energy trucks – which the companies surely want to account for in the total EF of their product. However, this is not possible now as the data is default, and not primary data. Dataset describing energy for production (milling etc.) are based on a research study that yielded national averages. This was performed by government body as a measure of benchmarking the overall industrial energy use.

Belgium

Belgian Feed Association (BFA), the Belgian trade association for feed companies, has been a source of understanding of the work with climate footprint on feed in Belgium.



In Belgium, BFA is working on the implementation of GFLI as the reference database. Further, BFA is promoting the use of the PEFCR Feed and the PEF to the feed producing companies. However, there is still other methodologies and tools being used, especially in the dairy sector. The agricultural sector has a focus now on reducing methane, nitrogen, and phosphor emissions. The feed producers do not label their feed with the feeds EF yet, but there seems to be an interest for doing this in the near future. In Belgium they have implemented a B2C labelling system like Nutriscore called Ecoscore. The Ecoscore is labelled on the groceries in the stores, to give the customers a chance of choosing the most ecofriendly groceries when shopping.

France

EUROFAC, the assembled French feed association has been the source of understanding the work with climate footprint on feed in France.



France would like to be able to measure/calculate CO2 emissions at farm level. From 2025, it is mandatory for food to be climate labeled B2C. The retail companies in France are requesting specific climate data. They have a national database with default data on several feed products, and that data is generally the most used in the industry at this moment in time. However, they are aware of the PEF and PEFCR feed, and are also aware of the need for a gathered European approach that can enable comparison and allows transparency in the environmental footprints, through Europe.

Germany

DVT, the organization of the feed industry, and they have provided the understanding of the work with climate footprint on feed in Germany.



In Germany, the feed producing companies differ in size and this correlates to the ability or readiness of companies to perform PEF studies. The DVT has held two workshops – one to inform about the PEF/GFLI and the details of this work, along with Hans Blonk from Blonk Consultants. The second workshop was held to explain how to perform this type of calculation, which programs that easiest enable this and the application of these values on feed labels.

However, for the moment, the companies focus is the CO2 emissions, and how these may be reduced. This is also something that is focus on further down the value chain, as this is an impact category that is possible to calculate, not only on feed – but also on food products. DVT is working on raising awareness and informing the German feed sector about the existence and use of the PEF, the PEFCR feed and the GFLI database. The companies may not all be ready to perform the PEF studies, but there is work being done to enable this. The DVT is also part of the work with the FEFAC “green feed labelling” guidelines, as they are directly influencing the guide as part of the working group around this. Germany is working on the implementation of the PEF method, and are actively raising knowledge of the European work

Sweden

Foder och Spannmål, the Swedish feed association has been the source of understanding the work with environmental footprint on feed in Sweden.



Foder och Spannmål has developed a national guideline for implementing the PEF method and the GFLI, when estimating EF on feeds. Through this guideline, they recommend the use of the PEFCR feed, along with PEFCR compliant databases (in hierarchical order, the EC data sets (EC databases), the GFLI-database, a set of national datasets developed by Foder och Spannmål for special national feed materials). If no dataset is available or missing, this can be reported to the Foder och Spannmål committee, so that it can be prioritized and calculated, and added to the national list of feed materials. However, they do not account for packaging, which is otherwise a necessity in the PEFCR method. They recommend following the rules of the PEFCR for the calculations of EF data. Therefore, it is recommended to use economic allocation for the EF value. The EF data is updated at least every 12 months for production, inbound transport, composition, and ingoing raw materials. The EF data for the compound feed is estimated as a 12-month average. They state outbound transport separately – not part of the overall calculation. Companies are actively calculating and communicating their feed products footprint.

Foder och Spannmål is also working on informing other parts of the value chain, as the food producing companies are the ones to receive the EF values for further use in calculating the EF value on food products. The Foder och Spannmål climate conference day is one example of their work to involve chainpartners in the work with climate footprint calculations on feeds.

Denmark

DAKOFO, the Danish feed and grain association has been authors to this paragraph.



In Denmark, DAKOFO are working with the implementation of the PEF, PEFCR feed and GFLI in calculations of EF on commercially produced compound feed. A guideline has been developed, to ensure a streamlined implementation of the tools and describe how calculations shall be performed, stating rules and options in the calculations of EF. This guideline will be adopted by SEGES to ensure that farmers that buy raw materials and cultivate their own feed crops, calculate the EF the same way, to ensure a comparability between these two parts of the feed sector. This will provide comparable data for the companies that produce and sell livestock derived food products, to calculate an EF by the PEF method, and with the use of a comparable value for the feed contribution of the EF.

DAKOFO and SEGES are, much like Sweden and the Netherlands, working with GFLI and Blonk Consultants to produce national datasets on special Danish crops and forage, to ensure that the PEF studies can be conducted with a high level of accuracy, and with Danish values. This shall also enable companies to choose between protein sources produced nationally, to optimize the EF of their feeds, and provide farmers with “Climate feeds”, that have a lower EF.

Conclusion

Conclusions of this brief report are clear – even though it may not be every European country that is calculating the environmental footprint on feed, there is a clear understanding and agreement, that the PEF, PEFCR and GFLI are the necessary tools for a common and comparable way of estimating the environmental footprint of feeds. There is a difference in how far along the companies of the different countries are with implementing the PEF, PEFCR and GFLI as reference methods. However, the work is progressing, and the awaiting legislative framework for the communication and calculation of EF will surely be implemented faster if the countries continue the preparation for the European Commissions “Sustainable Products Initiative” expected in 2023, “Frame initiative for sustainable food systems” expected in the last quarter of 2023, and the feed additive legislation expected in the late 2022 or early 2023.



DAKOFO

Danneskiold-samsøes allé 9, 1434 København K

T: +45 2488 3932 - E: info@dakofo.dk

Ansvar: Informationerne på denne side er af generel karakter og søger ikke at løse individuelle eller konkrete rådgivningsbehov. Hverken DAKOFO eller SEGES Innovation P/S er således i intet tilfælde ansvarlig for tab, direkte såvel som indirekte, som brugere måtte lide ved at anvende notatets informationer.