



IDF PRESS RELEASE

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THE IDF GUIDE ON WATER FOOTPRINT METHODOLOGY FOR THE DAIRY SECTOR IS RELEASED

Water is an essential element for life and dairy farming. Freshwater withdrawals are expected to increase with the expanding human population, potentially worsening local water resources in many regions. Our sector therefore requires advanced tools for sustainable water management.

Different methods and tools are available for measuring water use along the food chain and clear guidance is needed for interpretation of the results. The new IDF Bulletin *IDF Guide to Water Footprint Methodology for the Dairy Sector* provides the principles and requirements for [water footprint](#) assessment by describing the steps, data and models needed for life cycle assessment (LCA) calculations. The IDF guide maps the various water-related life cycle impact assessment methodologies, providing examples and recommendations on both consumptive and degradative water use models.

"This practically oriented publication will provide guidance to measure the continuous improvement of our sector practices towards more efficient, safe and responsible use of natural resources. The livestock sector is extremely diverse and the path to sustainability requires different solutions across production systems, climatic areas and species" explained Dr. Ying Wang, current Chair of the IDF Standing Committee on Environment.

"Improving the environmental impact of our sector goes beyond mitigating GHG emissions. The Common Carbon Footprint Methodology developed by IDF has been updated with the latest Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) science and feedback from users. The Guide on Water Footprint was developed using the same approach. By providing harmonized metrics and methodologies, results are globally comparable, mitigation options more conveniently identified, and progress more easily measured"*, continued Dr. Wang.

Through this new tool, IDF reiterates the importance of efficient management of water resources to ensure food security and sustainability of the dairy and livestock sectors, and a better future for the next generations.

The IDF Bulletin N°486/2017 *IDF Guide to Water Footprint Methodology for the Dairy Sector* is available for download free of charge from the IDF Website.

* [Bulletin of the IDF N°479/ 2015](#): A common carbon footprint approach for the dairy sector – The IDF guide to standard

life cycle assessment methodology.

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International Dairy Federation

The International Dairy Federation is the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders of the dairy chain. IDF engages all stakeholders in productive activities and research projects to further current knowledge and science on a wide range of issues. Today, dairy is one of the most vibrant and strategic sectors, with a major impact on national economies, public health and the environment. Through its working bodies, events and work programme, IDF provides a common platform, systems and processes for the global dairy sector to come together to reach consensus. Given its consensus-building capacity, IDF represents the global voice of dairy towards stakeholders and intergovernmental organisations. For more information, please visit www.fil-idf.org.



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