# Assessing the environmental impact of the food production chain from a Flemish perspective

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In Flanders, EE-IO tables with high resolution (117x117) have been developed in recent years, both for 2003 and 2007. The model includes data on imports and exports, both from and to Europe (data from EU NAMEA 2000, adapted resolution) and the rest of the world (US IO 1998, adapted resolution). Most of the work done with the Flemish IO-model focused on the validation of the model. More recently, a number of government agencies have shown their interest in the model as a tool to determine and support certain policy decisions. Today, one of the topics high on the Flemish (and European) policy agenda is the environmental impact related to the production and consumption of food.
The environmental impact of the production of food in Flanders will be calculated, both from a production (territorial) perspective as well as from a consumption perspective. Through this, a number of questions will be answered: what is the environmental impact of the agriculture in Flanders compared to other sectors in the Flemish production chain? Looking at the consumption of food by Flemish households, is the Flemish production chain the main provider of the food or are we depending more and more on imports? Which sectors, besides the agricultural sector, play an important role, both economically as environmentally? Can we observe (absolute or relative) decoupling in the food chain ? We will highlight the most significant phases in the food chain and this for different relevant environmental impacts (e.g. climate change, acidification).
The presentation will discuss the most significant findings with regard to the environmental impact of the Flemish food production and consumption. These results will make up the starting point for a more elaborate study focusing on the opportunities of the Flemish EE-IO model for policy support.