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## The Assessment and Improvement of the Sustainability-Related Issues of Foods in a Circular Bioeconomy Context

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### Message from the Guest Editors

The food and beverage industry is the leading industrial sector in the European Community (EC). Its Achilles' heel is that about 99% of all enterprises are unprepared to face fast-changing, complex global challenges to more sustainable development. Despite carbon footprint labelling having entered the mind of the consumer, the capability of the too many multi-environmental issue life cycle impact assessment (LCIA) methods currently available to assess and communicate the environmental performance of foods and beverages has not been fully explored yet. Even the EC's intention of developing the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method to estimate and classify the environmental impact of products has been a contentious topic for several industrial associations. The first criticism was rooted in the high costs estimated for assessing just a single PEF profile, especially when many SMEs have several food products in their portfolio—as demonstrated by Tesco's experience with CF-labelled products. The second critique arose from the use of environmental impact categories based on models with an inappropriate level of scientific consensus.



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**Special** Issue



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