

A4S Study on Carrier Bags

As part of the much larger debate on plastic carrier bags, Sainsbury's completed an assessment using the Decision-Making Tool, developed by the Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) Project, on carrier bags containing different levels of recycled material from different countries with potentially different levels of social and environmental impact. Sainsbury's was then able to make an informed decision on the best option.

Sainsbury's are signatories to the WRAP Courtauld Commitment and are fully committed to reducing our packaging use. The complexity was interesting; products were sourced from East Asia, where there were potential concerns about worker welfare, but giving business to those communities may help the community development. However, the alternative product from a Western European source had a much lower carbon footprint.

This is a good example of a situation where there is no simple answer. This assessment helped Sainsbury's come to the decision to move to the carrier bag with the highest recycled content, while continuing to drive our longer term ambition to minimise the number of single use carrier bags.



A4S Study on Oranges

By completing an assessment using the Decision-Making Tool developed by the A4S Project on oranges Sainsbury's has been able to understand the sustainability issues from orchard to fruit bowl in more detail.

Sainsbury's are committed to reducing the levels of pesticide residues in all our fresh produce. In some areas this has been achieved through integrated crop management and improved agronomy. For citrus fruit it has been a real challenge to reduce the levels of fungicide. We used the A4S tool to assess several theoretical scenarios. These included reducing the level of fungicide applied to the point that no residue was detectable. This confirmed that there would be a significant increase in wastage due to mouldy fruit throughout the distribution chain, which in turn, affects the commercial sustainability of the crop and increases the carbon footprint. Another scenario considered was changing the transport from sea to air freight to allow the reduction in fungicide and minimise the wastage but would clearly have a significant impact on the carbon footprint.

The purpose of using the A4S tool was to evaluate if the 'intuitive' assumptions were correct and identify potential actions that could be implemented to reduce the fungicide levels, that would not in turn, jeopardise another part of the product sustainability. This project has not yet been finalised but several opportunities have been identified in the product lifecycle where positive improvements can be made, although this remains a complex area where there is no simple single technology solution.



A4S Study on Bananas

By completing an assessment using the Decision-Making Tool on the impacts through the lifecycle of Sainsbury's bananas (which have been 100% Fairtrade Standard since 2007) we were able to identify potential areas of vulnerability that were 'Beyond the Fairtrade Standard'

The Fairtrade Standard covers many issues in relation to the Economic and Social sustainability of the farming communities but these may not encompass the whole supply chain.

Using the A4S tool demonstrated the importance of assessing the sustainability of a product throughout the whole supply chain. This assessment confirmed our commitment to Fairtrade bananas and resulted in improved standards of agronomy.

Sainsbury's, the UK's no.1 Fairtrade retailer.*

Sainsbury's sells more Fairtrade products than any other supermarket in the UK. But we believe that we can always do more. Following our industry-leading commitment in December, we're delighted to say that by the end of July, every single one of the 10000 bananas we sell every minute will be Fairtrade. With your help, we can directly make a difference to farmers and their communities.



Patrick Jones's farm, St Ludo's, Windward Isles



Sainsbury's Dairy Development Group

The Sainsbury's Dairy Development Group (SDDG) was formed in 2006 to build closer relationships with the 325 farmers who supply Sainsbury's with liquid milk.

The SDDG are working to develop standards in herd health and husbandry, environment and energy, collaborative working and business development.

Through Sainsbury's investment the SDDG has developed a carbon footprinting scheme, which has been used to measure the footprint on each farm, and an Environmental Score Card used to assess the environmental standards. Each farm is independently audited to measure the carbon footprint and environmental status. We are confident that our Dairy Farmers will show a significant reduction in Carbon emissions when we complete the 2nd year of the plan.

Other initiatives have also arisen out of the SDDG which all support British Farmers;

- 1) A scheme to take cull cows into Sainsbury's beef supply chain linking into a national network of abattoirs.
- 2) Developing the market for UK veal by taking black-and-white bull calves from SDDG farms.
- 3) An initiative to rear SDDG dairy bull calves for Sainsbury's beef supply chain.

Sainsbury's believes that by demonstrating the benefits, and taking time to engage with farmers, we can be sure of longer lasting, sustainable working relationships.

