



Brussels, 25 June 2013

- PRESS RELEASE -

FEDIOL releases gate-to-gate study on environmental performance of oilseeds crushing and vegetable oil refining

On the occasion of its 55th Annual General Assembly meeting, FEDIOL released an LCA study, which establishes a representative and up to date gate-to-gate lifecycle inventory database and evaluates the environmental performance of oilseed crushing and vegetable oil refining in the EU.

Carried out under the leadership of Professor Matthias Finkbeiner from the Technical University Berlin, the study represents an ISO compatible and peer-reviewed life cycle assessment (LCA) of EU rapeseed and soybean crushing and rapeseed oil, soybean oil and palm oil refining. Alain Brinon, President of FEDIOL explained, *"the goal of this study was to establish a robust and up to date Life Cycle Inventory dataset to assess the key potential environmental impacts of these activities"*.

The so-called 'system boundary' in this LCA is from oilseeds entering a crushing plant to the refined vegetable oil leaving the refinery. In this 'gate-to-gate' approach only inputs (e.g. raw materials, energy) and outputs (e.g. emissions, waste) associated with the processes within the boundary are included.

The results from this study allow FEDIOL companies to perform site-specific comparisons and will thus be instrumental in environmental management decisions. They can also serve as a basis to understand the relative contribution of this sector to potential environmental impacts of the supply chain as a whole. The fact that this LCA is developed at European level is facilitating the internal market. The study not only enriches the literature on LCAs in the industrial agro chains, it could also form the basis of future Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

The methodology presents a new concept for analyzing environmental issues to support environment related management decisions. However, LCAs of products or processes require complex modeling. This is due to the application of different methods, different data and different assumptions at the various stages of the value chain. Therefore, a lot more progress has to be booked in these fields before the LCA methods can become instrumental for delivering consumer information.

At a moment when questions on how to drive sustainable food consumption and production are getting even more attention and trigger further debate, FEDIOL is committed to supporting environmental assessments. Alain Brinon added, *"we are ready for further dialogue within the SCP Round Table, with the European Commission and within the FAO Lifecycle Environmental Assessment Partnership on how to best shape LCA methodologies in the agro supply and food chains"*.

- END -

FEDIOL AISBL - THE EU VEGETABLE OIL AND PROTEIN MEAL INDUSTRY

168, avenue de Tervuren (bte 12) • B 1150 Bruxelles • Tel (32) 2 771 53 30 • Fax (32) 2 771 38 17 • Email : fediol@fediol.eu • <http://www.fediol.eu>
Ets n° 0843946520 • Transparency Register n° 85076002321-31

Note to editors:

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oils and proteinmeal industry. With over 150 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 56 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets.

Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and proteinmeals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses (pharmaceuticals, paints, detergents, biodiesel, etc.), proteinmeals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein.

More information and the study on environmental performance can be found on the [FEDIOL website](#)

Contacts

Nathalie Lecocq, FEDIOL Director General: + 32 (2) 771 53 30