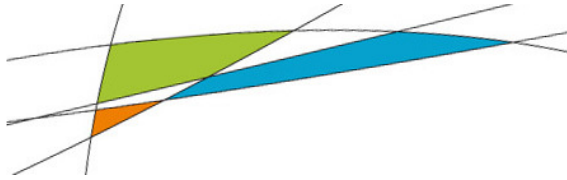




Reporting the social indicators to the functional unit for food products

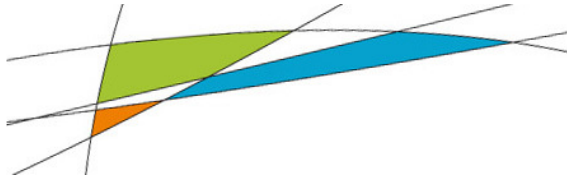
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Warning!

- This paper is not a case study!
- The conceptual framework of social LCA (e.g. UNEP SETAC 2009) is far from being comprehensive...
- This paper is a small contribution towards building a conceptual framework for the « social LCA of pathways » which would be a method :
 - Underpinned by a theory of what really count as « social impacts »
 - Delivering assessement of « transfers of social impacts » between steps, between impacts, between stakeholders, when you skip from one scenario to another,
 - For long time stakes...





Objectives

- **Challenging 2 usual and implicit assumptions in social LCA literature:**
 - 1) the source of impacts would be either from « technical origin », or from « social one »
 - 2) Companies are singly and freely choosing their practices
- In order to suggest other ideas,
- Because it allows us to choose another way for reporting social impacts to the « functional unit »



Social impacts are not stemming from unit processes

In Environmental LCA, inventory is made for each unit process...

- Hypothesis 1: « In social LCA, the source of impacts, the stressor would be either from technical origin, or from social one. So, the technical ones can be linked with unit processes. »
- Our answer: unit processes are often time and space stabilized enough for us to build environmental data bases, but not for social issues, because of the decision chain between the unit process and the social impact (e.g. injury). « *social here refers to poverty that would prompt 14-year old Liu pan to work 72 hour weeks on an unsafe machine, at 60% of China's legal minimum wage, to the point of exhaustion* » (Boje, 2009)
- It is useless to search social impacts at the level of the unit process. The future social impacts is unpredictable from the unit process state.



Companies comply with institutional isomorphism

- Hypothesis 2: « Companies are singly and freely choosing their practices, like being observant of codes of ethic or not, and even imposing social behaviours. »
- Our answer: Companies are embedded within the social fabric. They create it (Emery & Trist, 1965) and comply with it (Di Maggio & Powell, 1983): the companies belonging to one industry tend to become similar along the time. E.g. the labour rights violation risk depends on the contextual factors surrounding the company: national level and practices of members of the industry (Dreyer et al., 2010)
- Thus, we speak in favour of assessing the social impacts at the sector or industry level:

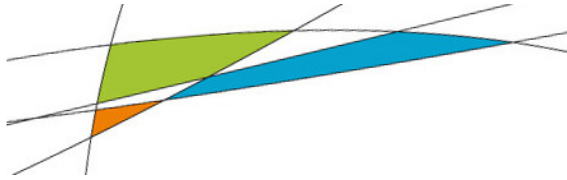
Number of child hours worked into the rice industry / Quantity of rice processed by the rice industry



What is the relevant level for picking up data?

Level for collecting data	Time stability	Example 1: Where are the drivers to change the life expectancy of workers in rice industry?	Example 2: Where are the drivers for using or not child labour?
State level	Very stable	The average life expectancy at birth depends on drivers handled at the Nation level.	It is a cultural issue, so if drivers exist, they are handled at the Nation level.
Agri food sector level	Stable	Some features of the sector (e.g. often outdoors working conditions) entail differences around the average. Some drivers are handled at this level.	Some features of the sector (e.g. low qualification level needed) entail differences. Some drivers are handled at this level.
Rice industry level (companies processing rice)	Stable	Some features of the industry (e.g. localisation of the rice industry in remote areas) entail differences around the former average. Some drivers are handled at this level. .	Some features of the industry (e.g. localisation of the rice industry in remote areas) entail differences around the former average. Some drivers are handled by this level.
Group of companies level within the rice industry	Average stability (depends on the size of the group compared with the industry size)	Depends on the size of the group within the industry	Depends on the size of the group within the industry
Company level (e.g. packaging plant)	Between weak and average stability	When the former drivers are not triggered, a company alone may handle drivers, depending on the type of company.	There may be huge differences according to the type of company (e.g. globalized versus local company) if the former drivers are not triggered.
Agricultural itinerary	weak	No relationship	No relationship
Unit processes level	weak	No relationship	No relationship

Table 1: Stability of collected data and existence of drivers, according to the level of the collect, within the agri food field.



To conclude...

- **We delivered here only a tiny part of the whole map towards social LCA of pathways...**

**Thank you for your attention...
And for your comments!**

