FOOD'PRINT & SPIN IT,
TWO SIMPLE SOFTWARE FOR ACHIEVING COMPLETE LIFE CYCLE ASSESMENT

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CONTEXT & OBJECTIVE

Life Cycle Assessment aims at providing metrics to enable both companies and citizen to find the best way in order to keep quality of life while reducing environmental burdens. Unfortunately this is often a complex exercise for small and medium size companies. With the overall purpose of facilitating the use of LCA for companies, Cycleco is developing innovative applicative software with respects to the international and French standards (ISO 14040-44 [1]; ILCD [2]; PEF Guide [3]; BPX 30-323 [4]).

METHODOLOGY

Main limitation impeding the use of LCA for SME's

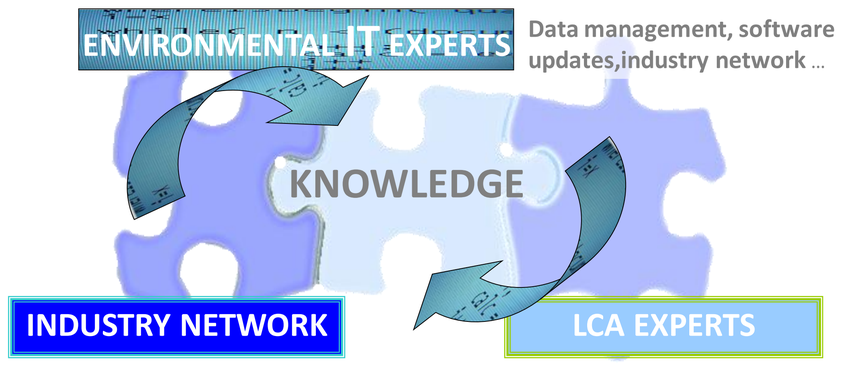
Implementation of LCA can be frustrating to implement for small and medium size companies, mainly because of a lack of time and Human Ressources to:

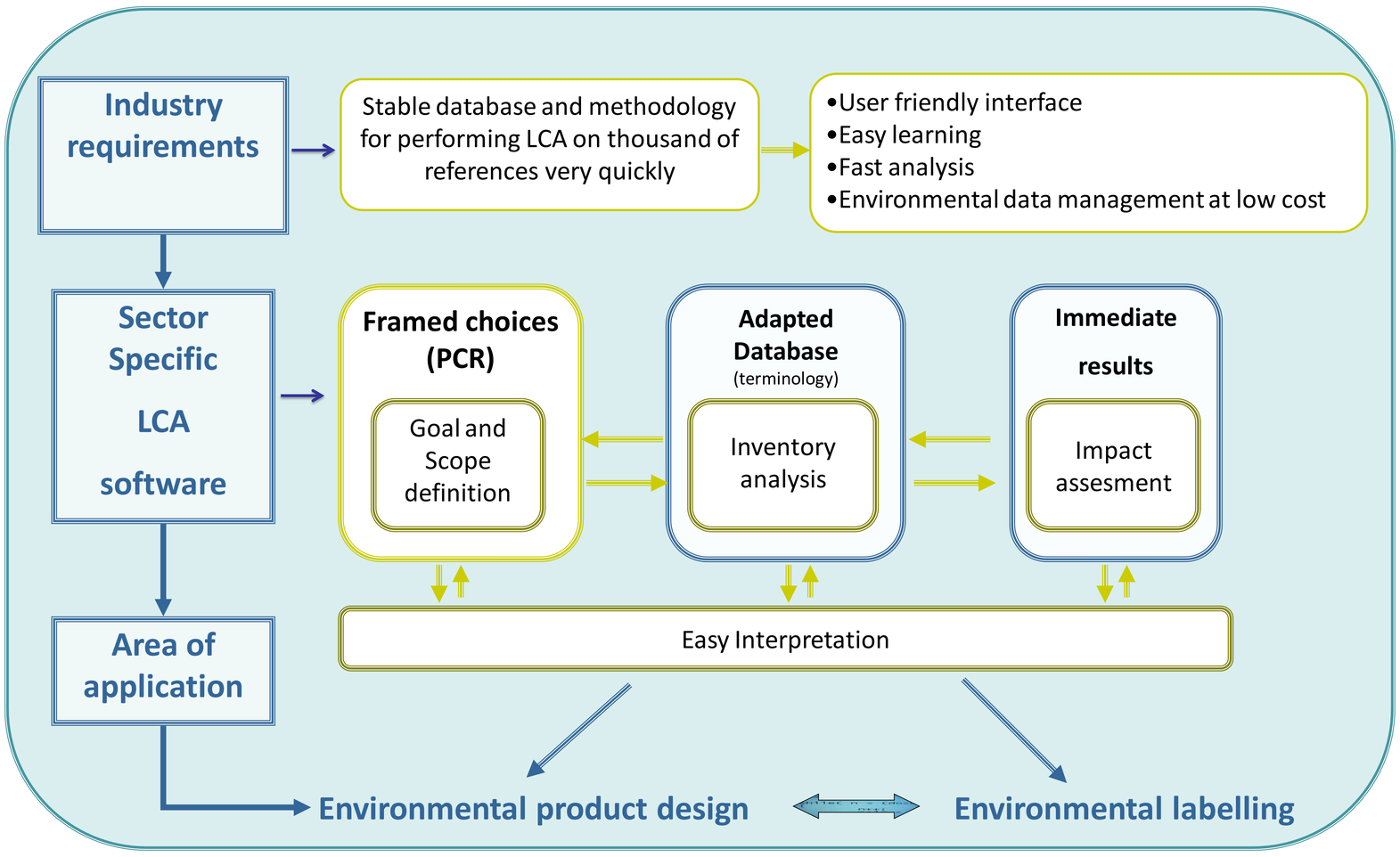
- Understand the standard (ISO 14040-44),
- Learn how to apply the method,
- Manage Life Cycle Inventory databases,
- Decide which impact categories, and which characterization models are relevant depending on the strategy of the company and the type of product.

CYCLECO's innovative solution to facilitate the use of LCA:
Online applicative software enable knowledge's sharing and growth

Functional and pragmatic software associated with sector specific databases with clear and easily accessible methodologies allow LCA to be applied directly by people working in their own field, without being LCA expert.

CYCLECO'S STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING ECO-DESIGN & FOOTPRINTING SOFTWARE





Target audience

Food Print and Spin'IT, are functional and pragmatic LCA software with sector specific database and clear methodology.

They shall be used directly by people working in their own field of experience without being expert in LCA.

With limited training efforts, it provides:

- **Reliable** product ranking on the basis of their environmental performances over their whole life cycle;
- **Feasibility** of products ecodesign (such as sourcing improvement, choice of material, processes, etc);
- **Low cost and efficient** LCA studies to provide coherent environmental footprint results on a wide range of textile and agro-food products.

CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

The work done by Cycleco and TOOLS to develop new software facilitating LCA access for companies lead to a series of innovative solution which has very different specificities compared to existing LCA software:

Developing specific software for given industry sectors limits the adaptability of the software but on the other hand ensure fast reliable results. Compared to general LCA software, sector specific tools are not adapted for research because they strongly frame phase 1 and 4 of the LCA framework.

Spin'IT and Food Print are sector specific powerful software that make **LCA applicable to a large scale even in SME's**, for eco-design purposes and/or for environmental footprinting. It is furthermore necessary to develop such software for all industry sectors. These developments will require important efforts from LCA experts to ensure both the quality of LCA framework and a good response to companies' requirements.

With 6 sector specific LCA software available, Cycleco has taken a important role in this new efficient way of performing LCA. This has now to be extended to other industry sectors.

[1] ISO 14040-44 : 2006. Environmental management – Life cycle assessment
[2] Institute for Environment and Sustainability. Joint Research Centre. European Commission. International Reference Life Cycle Data System handbook. 2010.
[3] Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre. European Commission. Product Environmental Footprint Guide. 2011 (under revision)
[4] AFNOR / ADEME France. BP X30-323. Principes généraux pour l'affichage environnemental des produits de grande consommation. 2011.

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