

Training on Data Acquisition and Dataset Development for Life Cycle Inventory

Exercise 1 - Primary raw data acquisition and modeling

Data for data collectors and dataset modelers:

You were recently hired to create datasets for mango producers that are interested in modeling their production chain from cradle to gate.

To create the datasets you will need all the information about the elements involved in Mango production from raw materials extraction and preprocessing until the harvest or storage of Mangos.

There are many ways of obtaining such information but the best way, in order to create a reliable dataset, is to go to the source i.e. interview the mango producers and find out what they use for their production.

It is worth noticing that the dataset may consist of more than one process and although for this exercise all producers cultivate mangos the same way, in reality there are several ways of producing the fruit, manure the soil, irrigate and so on. This might require what is called sample stratification. Stratification is a way to define relevant differences among producers and then refining your data collection strategy to ensure that the eventual dataset, e.g. a national production-weighted average, or datasets are representative

To create your dataset, take the empty data collection template and interview one of the mango producers that should provide you with primary data.

Define a quantitative reference flow and keep in mind the correct units and reasonableness of amounts while collecting the data.