

Social sustainability of food production and consumption

FoodProFuture sustainability seminar

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Sustainability in FoodProFuture

- Two kind of sustainability will be considered:



- Environmental sustainability, already a lot of work has been done.



- Social sustainability: Work starts now.

What is social sustainability?



Sustainability=

People

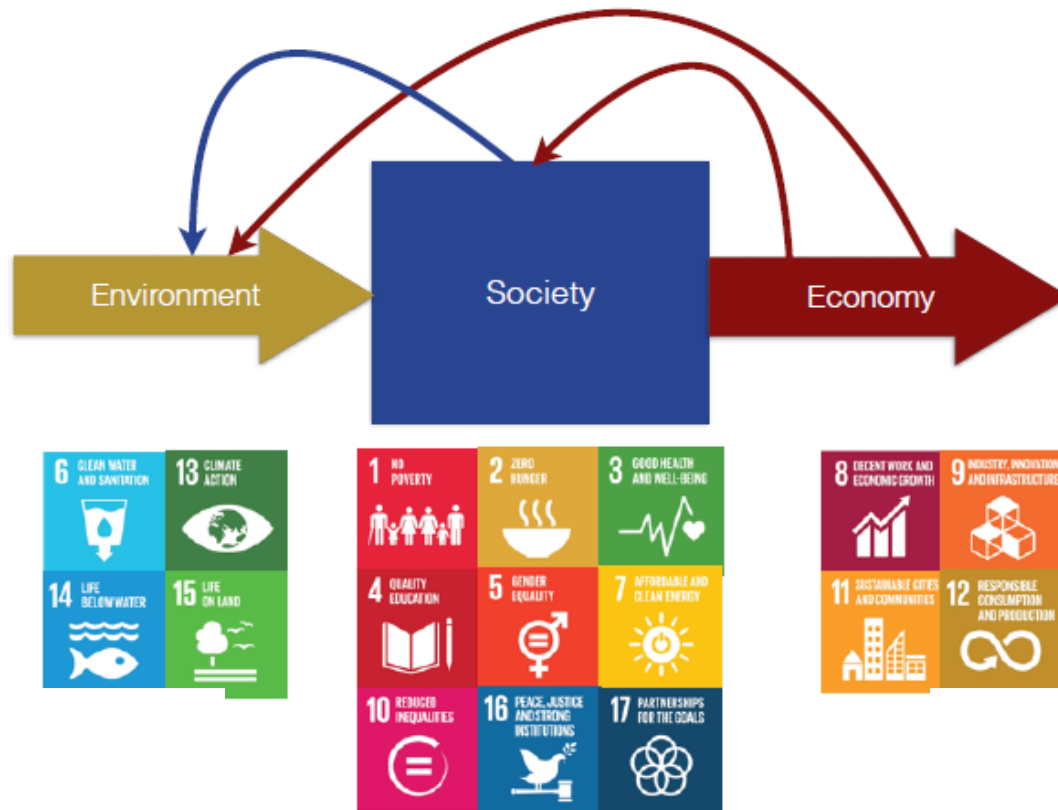
Profit

Planet

Social
sustainability is
about people.

Social sustainability describes how a process or product affects people`s wellbeing and ability to fulfil needs.

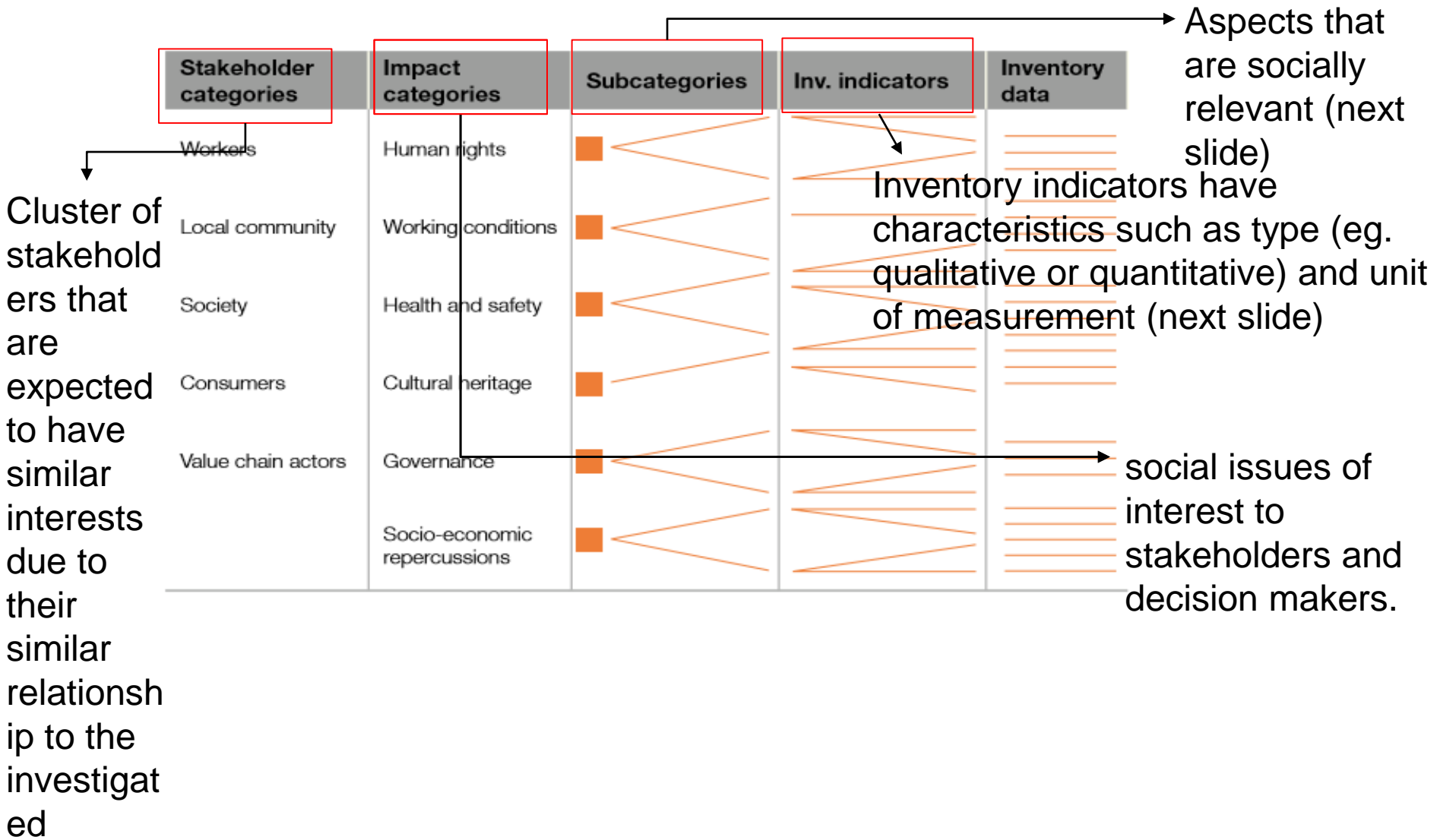
SDGs relevant for the different sustainability spheres.



Social sustainability methods

- Many methods can be used, e.g. analysing statistics on health issues in farmers.
- The method «Social Life Cycle Assessment» is the social equivalent of regular Life Cycle Assessment.
- The objective of the S-LCA is to identify the Social hotspots, i.e. unit processes located in a region where a situation occurs that may be considered as a problem, a risk or an opportunity, in function of a social theme of interest.
- The S-LCA analyzes and assesses the social impacts of a product as complete as possible over the whole life cycle.
- Results are given as in regular LCA as impacts pr unit product.

S-LCA FRAMEWORK



How can impacts be quantified?

1. Identify issue

2. Identify impact

3. Find an indicator measuring the impact

4. Collect data and calculate impact

- Example

1. Farmers health

2. Stress related illness (or other impact)

3. Number of days ill from stress-related illness

4. Collect data from statistics and relate to amount of work pr product unit

Issues traditionally considered in social LCA

Sub-categories

Stakeholder “worker”

- Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
- Child Labour
- Fair Salary
- Working Hours
- Forced Labour
- Equal opportunities/Discrimination
- Health and Safety
- Social Benefits/Social Security

Stakeholder “consumer”

- Health & Safety
- Feedback Mechanism
- Consumer Privacy
- Transparency
- End of life responsibility

Stakeholder “local community”

- Access to material resources
- Access to immaterial resources
- Delocalization and Migration
- Cultural Heritage
- Safe & healthy living conditions
- Respect of indigenous rights
- Community engagement
- Local employment
- Secure living conditions

Stakeholder “society”

- Public commitments to sustainability issues
- Contribution to economic development
- Prevention & mitigation of armed conflicts
- Technology development
- Corruption

Value chain actors not including consumers

- Fair competition
- Promoting social responsibility
- Supplier relationships
- Respect of intellectual property rights

Social impacts in public debate

- Health: E.g. nutritional value of plants vs meat.
- Self-sufficiency. Will we have to import more when eating more plants?
- Jobs in rural areas with few other possibilities of employment, which impact to e.g. national security.
- Preserving cultural heritage.
- Biodiversity, especially regarding pastures.
- Using grass and other resources otherwise not utilisable for human beings.
- Impact of soy cultivation, in particular in Brazil.

Social impacts of Norwegian food products

- What issues are relevant for Norwegian food production?

The analyses must take into account the whole value chain, e.g. feed produced in other countries must be included.

Stakeholder farmer and farm workers

Norway	Other countries
Health and safety: Accidents, illnesses, injuries.	Forced labour, child labour, freedom of association,
Working hours: Long working days, much work in summer/autumn, little time for holidays, difficult to combine with family life?	Health and safety: Safe working conditions.
Work autonomy. Your own boss.	Liveable wages, social benefits, sick leave.
Recruitment. Will children take over the farm?	Access to education.
Adequate income: Possibility to live off what the farm produces.	

Stakeholder consumer

- Only consumers in Norway is analysed since the focus in the project is on Norway.
- Issues:

Health	
Safety	
Transparency	
Good taste	
Price/affordability	

Stakeholder local community and society, in Norway and other countries

Local community	Society	Other stakeholders
Jobs created (or lost), both directly	Health expenditure	Jobs created (or lost), indirectly
Population adequate to uphold schools and basic services like hospitals.	Contribution to economic development through e.g. tax income	Promoting social responsibility
Cultural heritage	National security	Fair competition
Access to traditional living areas	Technology development	
Access to local resources		

Group discussion

- What are the most relevant and important social sustainability impacts connected to Norwegian production and consumption of protein foods?