

## Table of contents

Abstract .....	i
Resumen .....	ii
Resum .....	iii
Acknowledgments .....	iv
Dedication.....	v
Preface .....	vi
Figures .....	ix
Tables.....	xiii
List of acronyms and abbreviations .....	xvi
<b>CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Spanish agriculture.....	2
1.2. Sustainable agriculture .....	5
1.3. Sustainability assessment .....	7
1.3.1. Framework to represent sustainability .....	7
1.3.2. Quantitative tools for agricultural sustainability assessment .....	8
1.4. Motivation for the dissertation.....	11
1.5. Goal of the dissertation.....	12
1.6. Methodological overview .....	12
1.7. References .....	16
<b>CHAPTER II. RESULTS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2.1. Title: Assessing the environmental impact of Spanish vineyards in Utiel- Requena PDO: the influence of farm management and on-field emission modelling. .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Abstract .....	24
Keywords.....	24

2.1.1.	Introduction .....	25
2.1.2.	Materials and methods.....	27
2.1.2.1.	Study area .....	27
2.1.2.2.	Goal and scope .....	28
2.1.2.3.	Life cycle inventory (LCI) .....	29
2.1.2.3.1.	Agricultural field operations .....	29
2.1.2.3.2.	Input production.....	30
2.1.2.3.3.	Emissions from fertiliser and pesticide application .....	30
2.1.2.3.4.	Blue water consumption from irrigation .....	32
2.1.2.4.	Impact categories and impact assessment methods.....	32
2.1.2.5.	Statistical analysis .....	33
2.1.3.	Results .....	33
2.1.3.1.	Productive systems .....	33
2.1.3.2.	Emission modelling approaches.....	37
2.1.3.3.	Uncertainty Analysis .....	38
2.1.4.	Discussion.....	40
2.1.5.	Conclusion .....	41
2.1.6.	Referencies.....	43

## **2.2. An approach to regionalise the life cycle inventories of Spanish agriculture:**

### **Monitoring the environmental impacts of orange and tomato crops..... 49**

Abstract .....	50	
Keywords.....	50	
2.2.1.	Introduction .....	51
2.2.2.	Methodological approach.....	53
2.2.2.1.	System boundaries and functional unit.....	54
2.2.2.2.	Estimation of activity data for the life cycle inventory .....	55
2.2.2.2.1.	Greenhouse and irrigation system structure.....	55
2.2.2.2.2.	Fertiliser consumption .....	55
2.2.2.2.3.	Pesticide consumption.....	56
2.2.2.2.4.	On-field operations .....	57
2.2.2.2.4.1.	On-field fertiliser emissions.....	57
2.2.2.2.4.2.	On-field pesticide emissions .....	57
2.2.2.2.5.	Fuel consumption for machinery use.....	58
2.2.2.2.6.	Irrigation.....	59
2.2.2.3.	Impact categories and impact assessment methods.....	59

2.2.2.4.	Uncertainty analysis .....	60
2.2.2.5.	Software .....	60
2.2.2.6.	Data types and quality requirements .....	61
2.2.2.7.	Description of the case studies as regards tomato and orange production .....	63
2.2.3.	Results of the case studies on tomatoes and oranges and discussion .....	64
2.2.3.1.	Average environmental impacts of orange production .....	64
2.2.3.2.	Environmental impacts of tomato production.....	67
2.2.3.3.	Inferential statistics analysis of the environmental impacts of the reference holdings analysed	70
2.2.4.	Discussion and comparison with other LCA studies on tomato and orange crops in Spain	72
2.2.5.	Conclusion and further research .....	76
2.2.6.	References.....	78

### **2.3. Dataset to monitor regionalised environmental impacts of the main agricultural products in Spain ..... 88**

Abstract .....	89
Keywords:.....	89
2.3.1. Specifications table .....	90
2.3.2. Value of the data.....	92
2.3.3. Objective .....	92
2.3.4. Data description .....	93
2.3.4.1. Excel files .....	93
2.3.4.2. R objects.....	100
2.3.5. Experimental design, materials and methods .....	101
2.3.6. Software.....	101
2.3.7. References.....	102

### **2.4. From farm accountancy data to environmental indicators: monitoring the environmental performance of Spanish agriculture at a regional level .....105**

Abstract .....	106
Keywords:.....	106
2.4.1. Introduction .....	107
2.4.2. Materials and methods.....	109
2.4.2.1. Context of the study.....	109
2.4.2.2. System boundaries and functional unit.....	112

2.4.2.3.	Inventory data.....	113
2.4.2.4.	Impact categories and impact assessment methods.....	113
2.4.2.5.	Uncertainty modelling .....	113
2.4.2.6.	Software and background processes databases.....	114
2.4.3.	Results.....	114
2.4.3.1.	Environmental footprint analysis.....	114
2.4.3.2.	Contribution analysis .....	116
2.4.3.3.	Implications of the selection of the functional unit .....	117
2.4.3.4.	Adverse economic results versus negative environmental consequences.....	119
2.4.3.5.	Assessing the representativeness of the results .....	120
2.4.4.	Discussion.....	120
2.4.5.	Conclusions .....	122
2.4.6.	References.....	123

## **2.5. Developing a composite indicator based on decision-makers' preferences to assess agricultural sustainability. .... 128**

Abstract .....	129
Keywords.....	129
2.5.1. Introduction .....	130
2.5.2. Case study.....	132
2.5.3. Methodology .....	132
2.5.3.1. Development of a theoretical framework .....	133
2.5.3.2. Selection of variables .....	134
2.5.3.3. Multivariate analysis .....	136
2.5.3.4. Normalisation of data.....	136
2.5.3.5. Weighting and aggregation.....	137
2.5.3.6. Robustness and sensitivity .....	138
2.5.3.7. Back to detail and links to other variables .....	139
2.5.4. Results and discussion .....	141
2.5.4.1. Selected variables .....	141
2.5.4.2. Multivariate analysis .....	141
2.5.4.3. Weighting.....	145
2.5.4.4. Sustainability composite indicator .....	145
2.5.4.5. Uncertainty and sensitivity analysis.....	148
2.5.4.6. Linking the composite indicator with sustainability determining factors .....	151
2.5.5. Conclusion .....	156

2.5.6. References.....	157
<b>CHAPTER III. OVERALL DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>162</b>
3.1. Overall discussion of the results .....	163
3.1.1. Eco-efficiency benchmarking of the Spanish reference holdings at the NUTS 2 level .....	164
3.2. Overall discussion regarding methodological issues and future research .....	168
<b>CHAPTER IV. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>CHAPTER V. ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Annex A. Supplementary material of section 2.1. ....</b>	<b>174</b>
A.1. Fresh water consumption .....	174
A.2. Nitrogen and Phosphorus Balances .....	175
A.3. Results of the Monte Carlo simulations .....	178
References .....	180
<b>Annex B. Supplementary material for section 2.2 .....</b>	<b>182</b>
B.1. ECREA database limited to orange and tomato crops .....	182
B.2. Supplementary material for irrigation .....	182
B.2.1. Freshwater irrigation requirement .....	182
B.2.2. Freshwater consumption .....	184
B.2.3. Energy consumption for irrigation .....	185
References .....	187
B.3. Upstream processes used in the LCAs .....	188
B.4. Activity data data for orange and tomato cropping in Spain .....	188
B.5. Environmental midpoint impacts from orange and tomato crops in Spain .....	188
<b>Annex C. Supplementary material for section 2.4 .....</b>	<b>189</b>
C.1. Features of the sample and production of the assessed crops .....	189

C.2.	Activity data for the Spanish reference holdings at the NUTS 2 farm-level.....	189
C.3.	Environmental impacts of the Spanish reference holdings at the NUTS 2 farm-level	189
<b>Annex D. Supplementary Material for section 2.5.....</b>		<b>190</b>
D.1.	Raw data, some partial results and statistics of validation.....	190
D.2.	Guidelines for the survey to gather preferences of decision-makers on the sustainability of Spanish agriculture. ....	190
D.2.1.	Survey goal .....	190
D.2.2.	Study goal .....	190
	References .....	193
D.3.	Complementary tables and figures of the results.....	194
<b>Annex E. Supplementary material for the general discussion.....</b>		<b>205</b>
E.1.	Raw data and results of the eco-efficiency analysis .....	205