



European Food SCP Round Table: case study

Nicolas MARTIN, FEFAC

Partnership on the environmental
benchmarking of livestock supply chains

Rome, 4th July 2012



Road Map

- The EU Food SCP Roundtable in short
- Main features of the Envifood Protocol
- Lessons to be learned



Key characteristics

- Official launch:** 6 May 2009 in Brussels
- Vision:** Promote science-based, coherent approach to SCP in the food sector, consider interactions across the entire food chain
- Working areas:** Methodology, communication, continuous improvement
- Scope:** Food and drink products across the whole life-cycle
- Food actors:** 23 European food chain organisations
- Co-chairs:** European Commission (DGs ENV, SANCO, JRC, ENTR)
- Support:** UNEP, European Environment Agency
- Observers:** National governments, Eurogroup for Animals, UN FAO, UNDP, Spanish Consumers Union (OCU)
- Participation:** EU level organisations subject to expertise and commitment



Three Key Objectives:

1. Establish scientifically reliable and uniform **environmental assessment methodologies** for food and drinks
2. Identify suitable **tools and guidance for voluntary environmental communication** to consumers and other stakeholders
3. Promote **continuous environmental improvement** measures along the entire food supply chain;

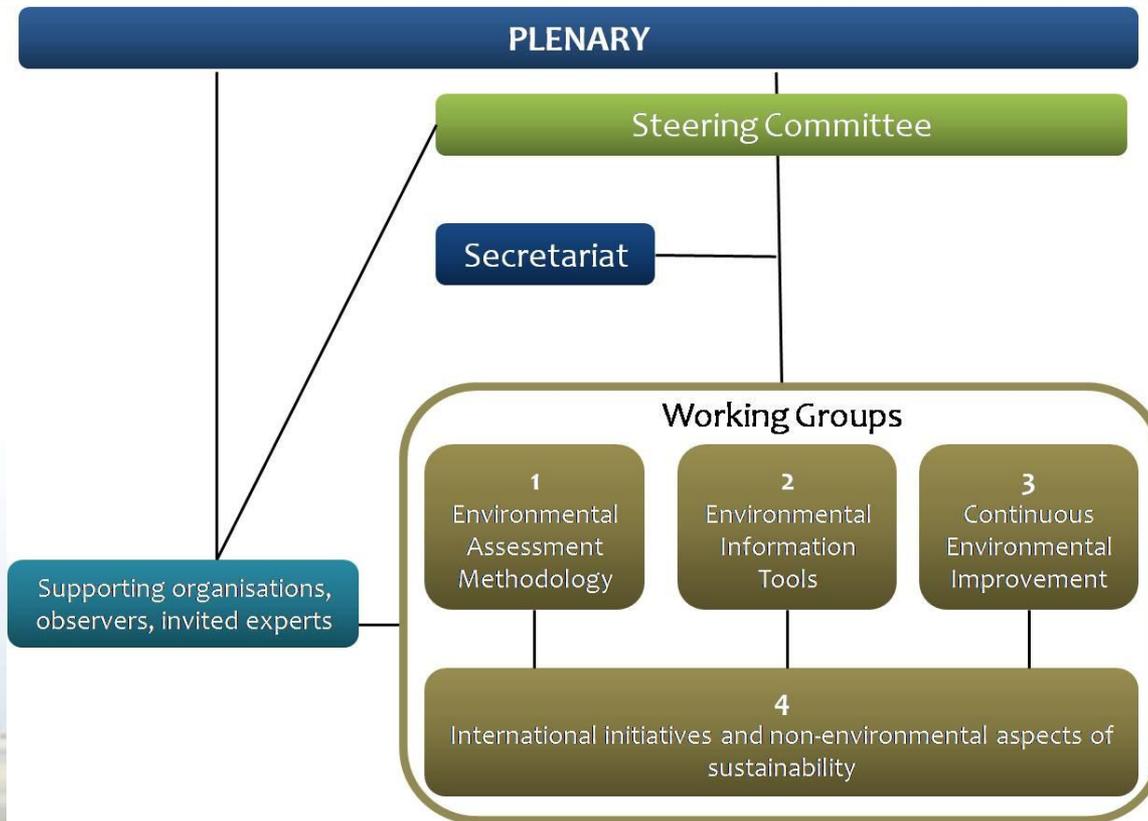




FEFAC



Governance structure



All RT bodies are co-chaired by the European Commission and representatives of the RT constituencies

Envifood Protocol

- The Protocol specifies requirements for assessing the environmental issues associated with food and drink products along their life cycle.
- The Protocol aims at ensuring that assessment results are scientifically reliable and consistent in supporting informed choice.



Guiding principles

I - Principles for the voluntary environmental assessment of food and drink products

1. Identify and analyse the environmental aspects at all life-cycle stages.
2. Assess the significant potential environmental impacts along the life-cycle.
3. Apply recognised scientific methodologies.
4. Periodically review and update the environmental assessment.



Guiding principles

II - Principles for both voluntary environmental assessment and communication

7. Ensure transparency of information and underlying methodologies and assumptions.
8. Ensure that all food chain actors can apply the assessment methodology and communication tools without disproportionate burden.
9. Support innovation.
10. Safeguard the Single Market (Internal Market) and International trade.



Similarities between the Envifood Protocol and the Partnership

- Multistakeholder initiative
- Build on existing standards and guidance
- Sector-specific guidelines
- Voluntary approach



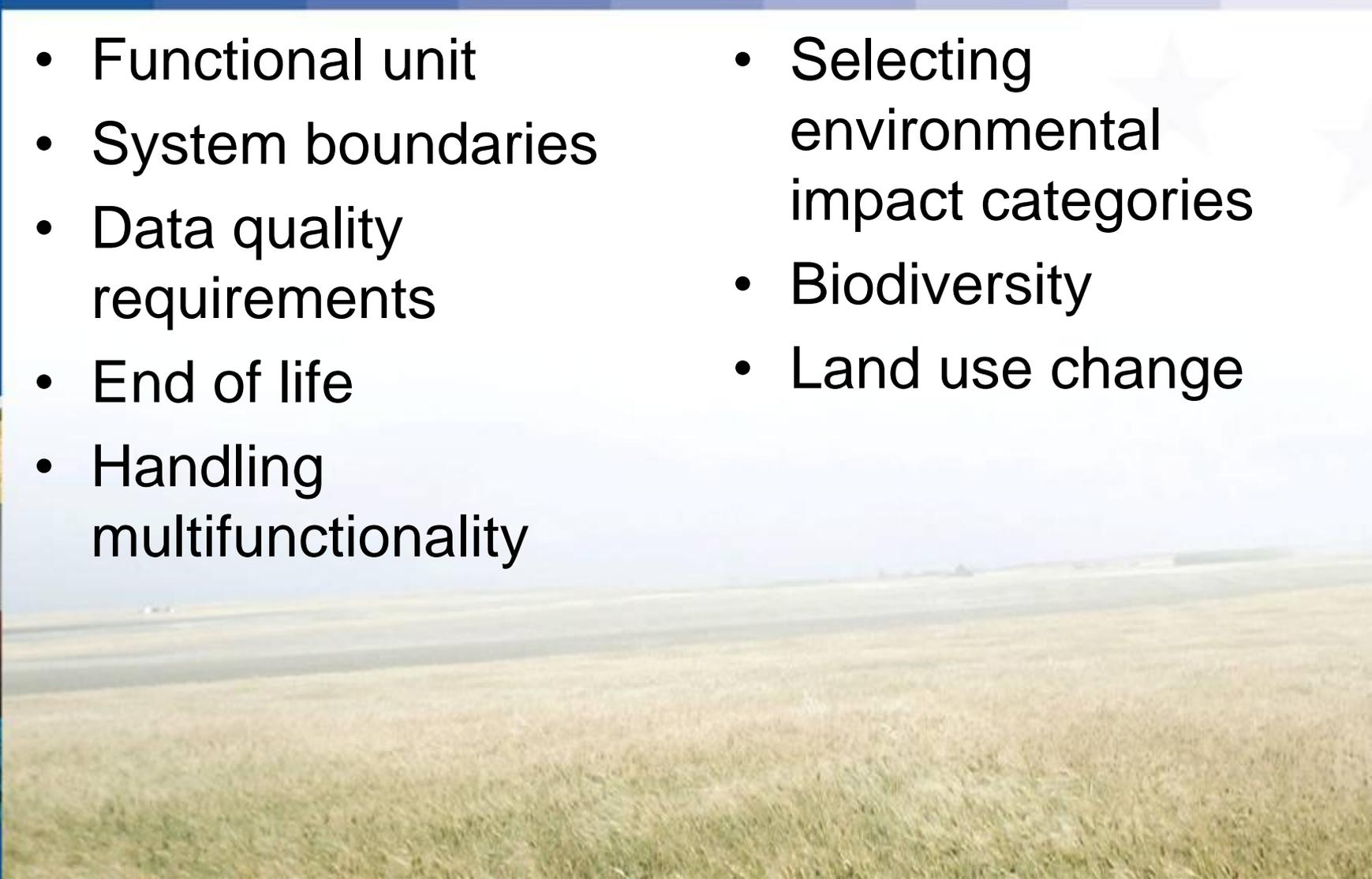
Building on existing guidance

- 
- ISO
 - ILCD, PAS 2050, GHG Protocol...
 - Envifood Protocol
 - Partnership ?



Main features of the Envifood Protocol

- Functional unit
- System boundaries
- Data quality requirements
- End of life
- Handling multifunctionality
- Selecting environmental impact categories
- Biodiversity
- Land use change



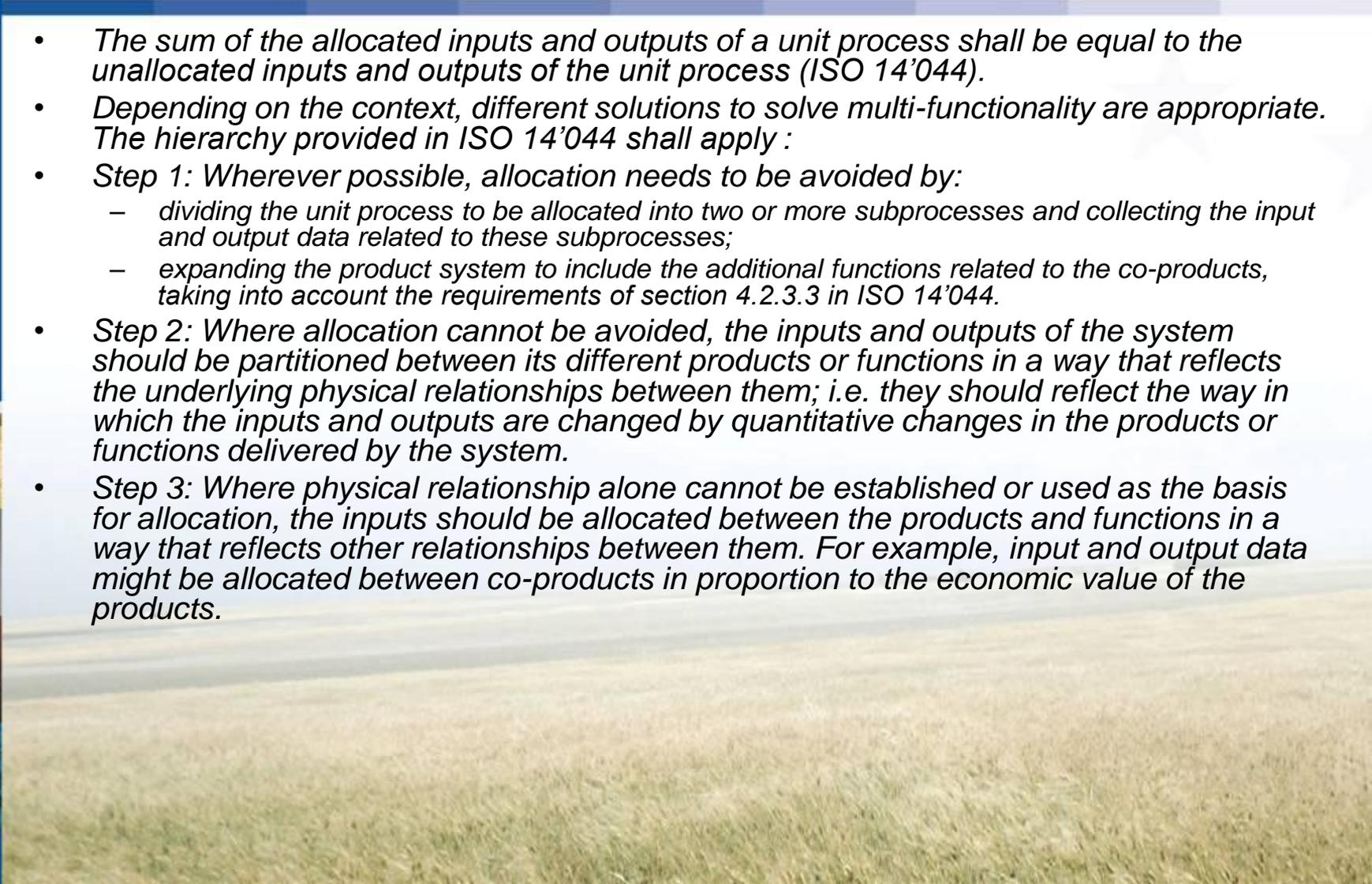
Structure of the Protocol

- Each part dealing with requirements for assessment is divided in three sub-headings
 - Educational part (topic is briefly explained to facilitate the reading by non expert audience)
 - Requirements : additional requirements to ISO 14044:2006 are specified
 - Areas where more guidance is needed : issues requiring product specific rules

EnviFood protocol : allocation

1) Description

- *The sum of the allocated inputs and outputs of a unit process shall be equal to the unallocated inputs and outputs of the unit process (ISO 14'044).*
- *Depending on the context, different solutions to solve multi-functionality are appropriate. The hierarchy provided in ISO 14'044 shall apply :*
- *Step 1: Wherever possible, allocation needs to be avoided by:*
 - *dividing the unit process to be allocated into two or more subprocesses and collecting the input and output data related to these subprocesses;*
 - *expanding the product system to include the additional functions related to the co-products, taking into account the requirements of section 4.2.3.3 in ISO 14'044.*
- *Step 2: Where allocation cannot be avoided, the inputs and outputs of the system should be partitioned between its different products or functions in a way that reflects the underlying physical relationships between them; i.e. they should reflect the way in which the inputs and outputs are changed by quantitative changes in the products or functions delivered by the system.*
- *Step 3: Where physical relationship alone cannot be established or used as the basis for allocation, the inputs should be allocated between the products and functions in a way that reflects other relationships between them. For example, input and output data might be allocated between co-products in proportion to the economic value of the products.*



EnviFood protocol : allocation

2) RT Guidance

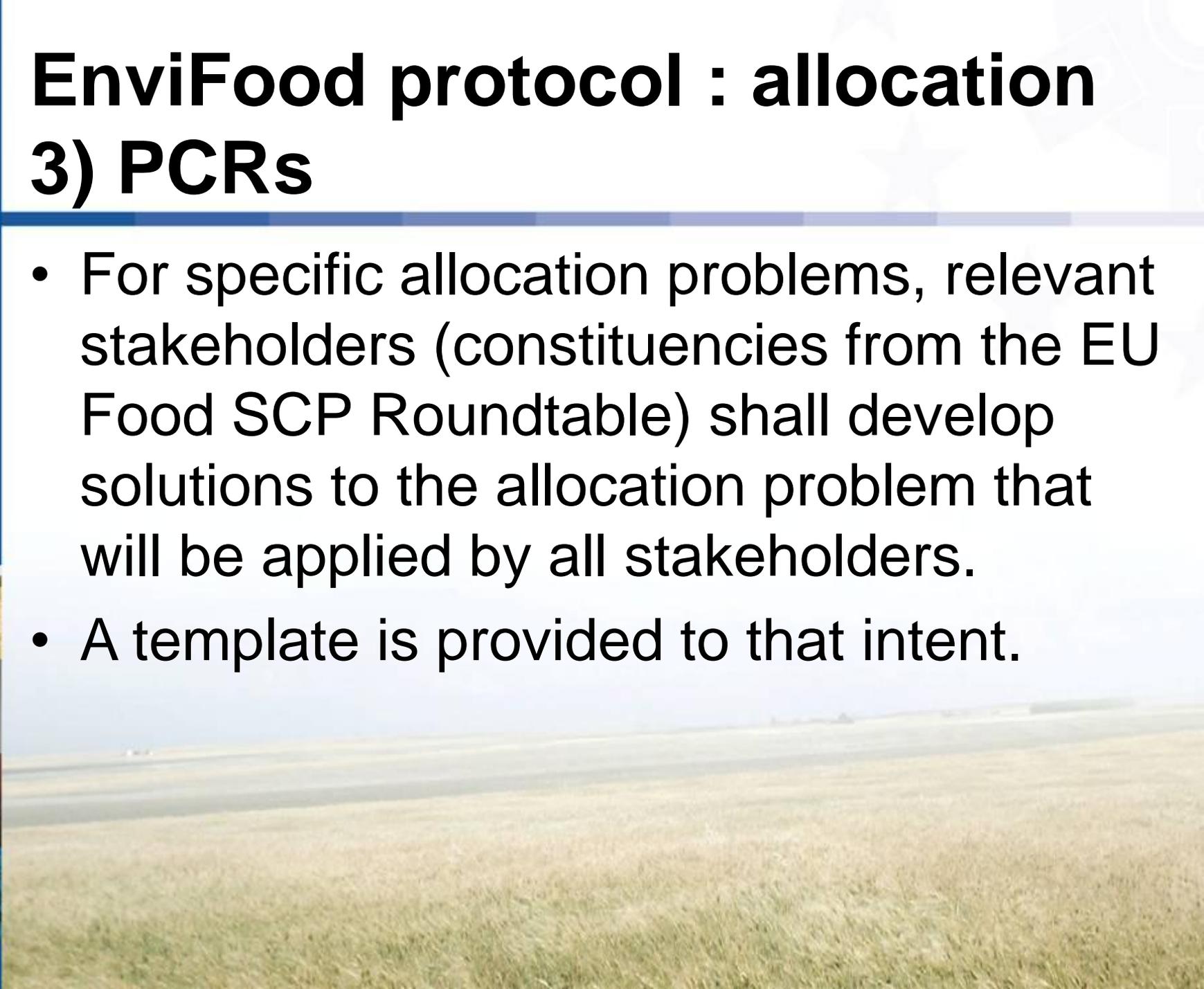
- Beyond the above guidance from ISO, the following shall apply for the food & drinks sector:
- Economic allocation shall be used by default in Step 3, using a price average over a three year period. If possible, the price of the market on which the product is available shall be used.



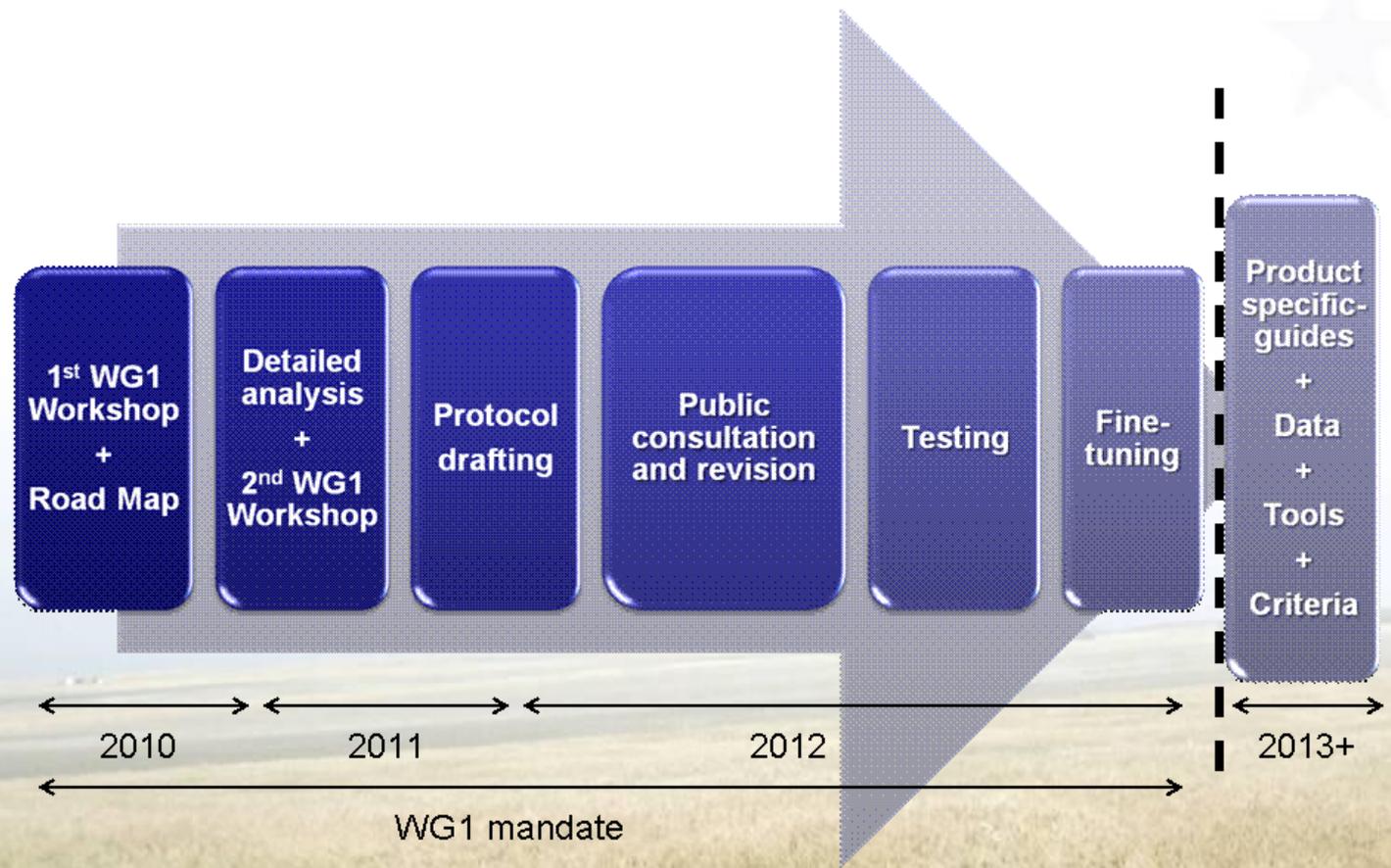
EnviFood protocol : allocation

3) PCRs

- For specific allocation problems, relevant stakeholders (constituencies from the EU Food SCP Roundtable) shall develop solutions to the allocation problem that will be applied by all stakeholders.
- A template is provided to that intent.



Timeline



Lessons to be learned

- Non-specific standards or guidelines are too general to enable consistency.
- Interpretation of these general guidelines is useful
- Balance between consensus and technical ambition is challenging. However, the lowest common denominator may not be a sufficient target.

