

FOOD COSTS UNCOVERED

Launch of the True Costs of Food Database



AGENDA

- Keynote:

Introducing the True Costs of Food Database and the Data Gaps Report

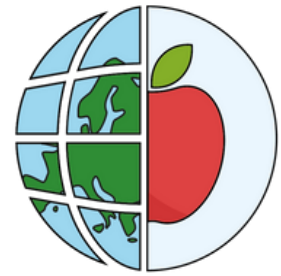
- Q&A

- Panel discussion:

Food Systems TCA: data and use cases

- Q&A

PART OF THE PLAN'EAT PROJECT



PLAN'EAT

Website



Knowledge Center



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FOOD COSTS UNCOVERED

Launch of the True Costs of Food Database



KEYNOTE

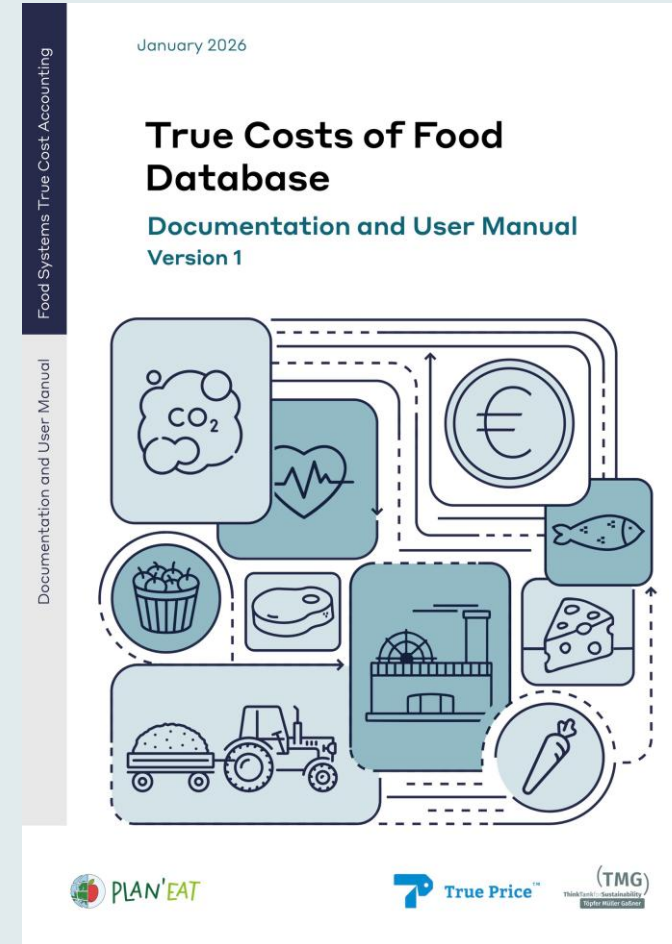
Introducing the True Costs of Food Database and the Data Gaps Report



PRESENTATION OF



Çinar, G., Ghukasyan, S. & Riemer, O. (2026). Identifying and Bridging Data Gaps for True Cost Accounting Assessments of European Diets. Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.35435/1.2026.1>



Çinar, G.; Galgani, P.; Kanidou, D.; Martí Malvido, E.; & Riemer, O. (2026). True Costs of Food Database: Documentation and User Manual, V1. Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.35435/3.2026.1>

DATA GAPS REPORT

- Examines the availability, accessibility, and usability of secondary data sources for a TCA analysis of European diets
- Highlights existing gaps that impede a comprehensive TCA analysis
- Provides recommendations on how to bridge the gaps

Food Systems True Cost Accounting









January 2026

Identifying and Bridging Data Gaps for True Cost Accounting Assessments of European Diets

Summary Report



DATA GAPS REPORT: KEY FINDINGS

Data type	Availability	Accessibility	Usability
Food consumption and composition data 	Green	Yellow	Green
Supply chain input and management data 	Orange	Orange	Yellow
Environmental impact data 	Green	Yellow	Green
Social impact data 	Orange	Orange	Yellow
Human impact (incl. health) data 	Orange	Orange	Yellow
Environmental impact monetization factors 	Green	Green	Green
Social impact monetization factors 	Orange	Green	Green
Human impact monetization factors 	Yellow	Green	Green

SOURCE: Çinar, G., Ghukasyan, S. & Riemer, O. (2026). Identifying and Bridging Data Gaps for True Cost Accounting Assessments of European Diets. Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.35435/1.2026.1>

DATA GAPS REPORT

Recommendations for...



ENHANCING DATA AVAILABILITY & QUALITY

Standardize data collection frameworks

Mandate data collection

Standardize methodology and reporting

Allocate dedicated funding



ENHANCING DATA ACCESSIBILITY

Establish publically accessible databses

Share data



STRENGTHENING DATA GOVERNANCE

Establish a data governance framework

Standardize methodologies

Make tca data part of the European TCA portal

Establish JRC as the TCA data governing body

Scale up Agribalyse to European level



FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Focus on holistic, system-level assessments

Broaden assessment scope

Perform scenario modelling

DATA GAPS REPORT: KEY MESSAGES

Dietary transition is key to effective food systems transformation



TCA can play a key role in the transition to sustainable and healthy diets



Despite the potential of TCA, data gaps pose challenges in conducting comprehensive analyses of diets...



...but taking concrete actions can bridge these gaps



True Costs of Food Database



True Price™



PLAN'EAT

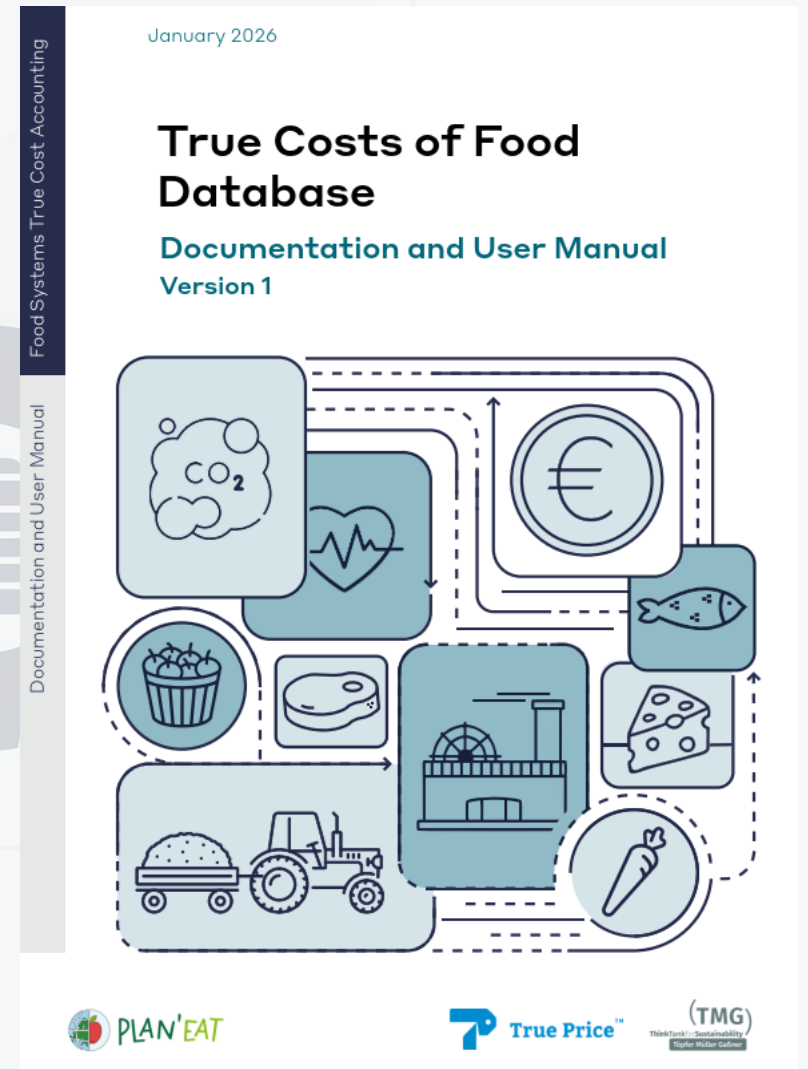


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DOCUMENTATION & USER MANUAL

- Detailed description of methodology behind the database
- Guidance on how to use

Access database
and manual here:

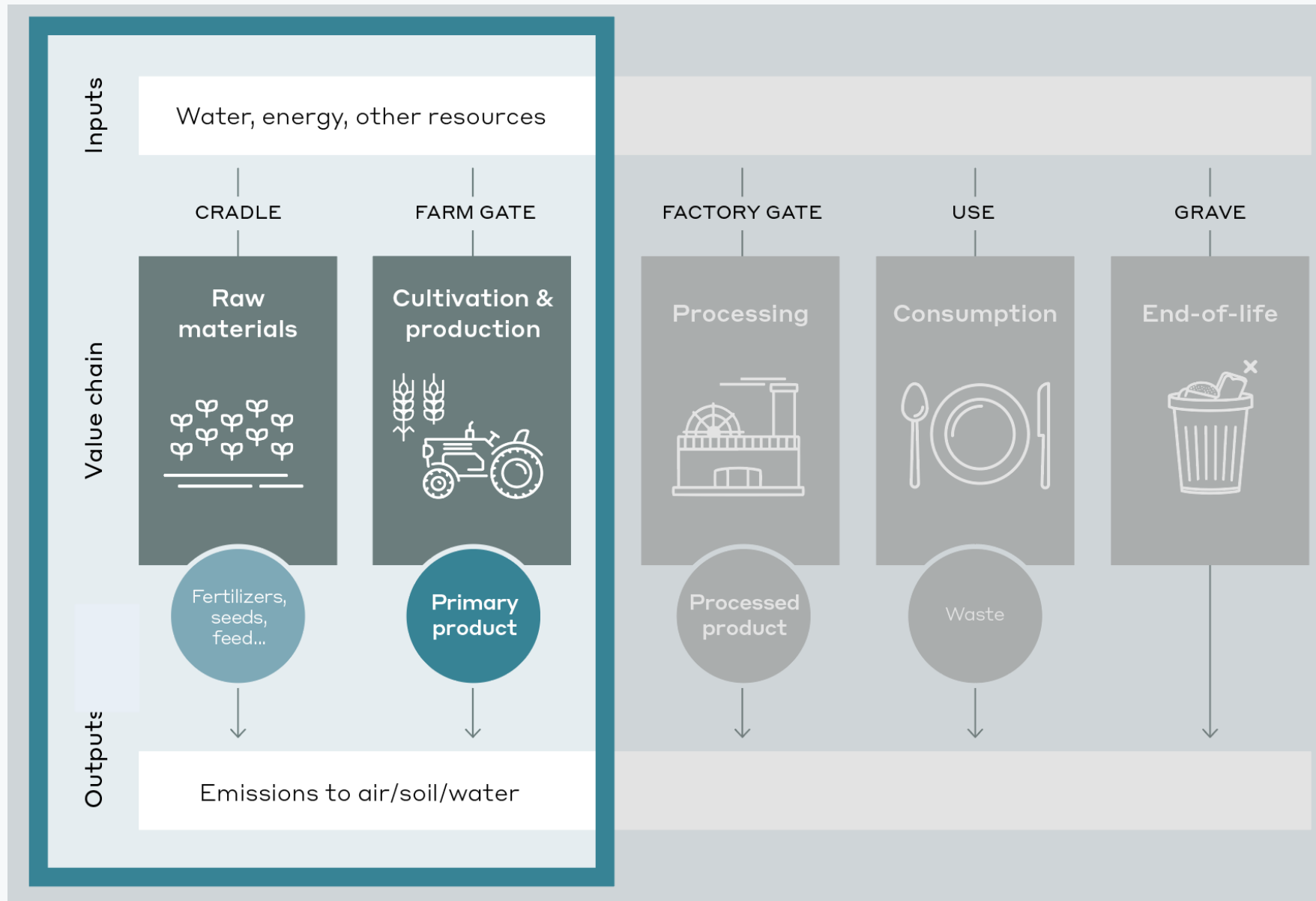


SCOPE OF THE DATABASE

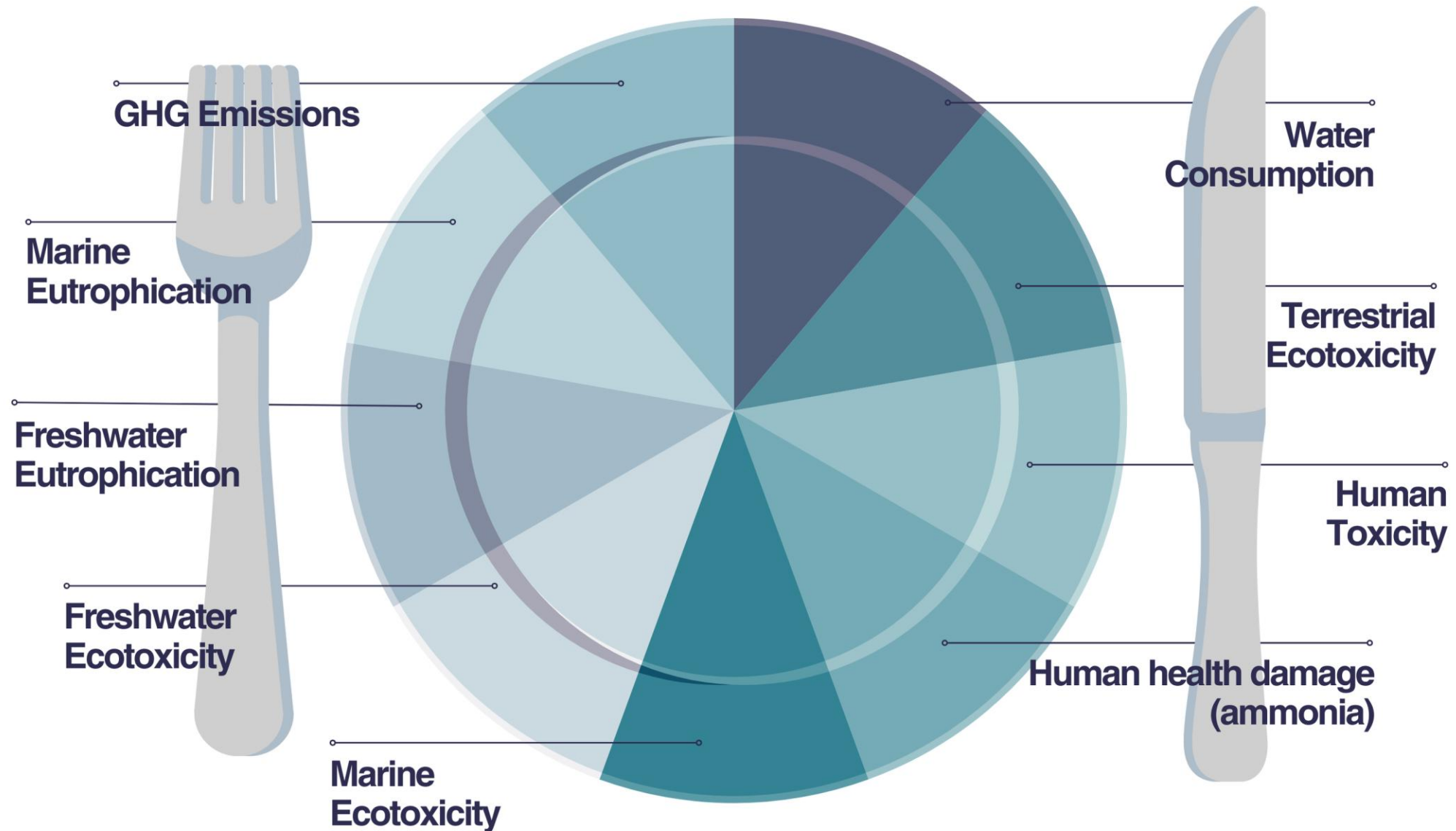
- 208 products consumed in EU
- Sourced from 81 countries
- 2000+ product-country combinations



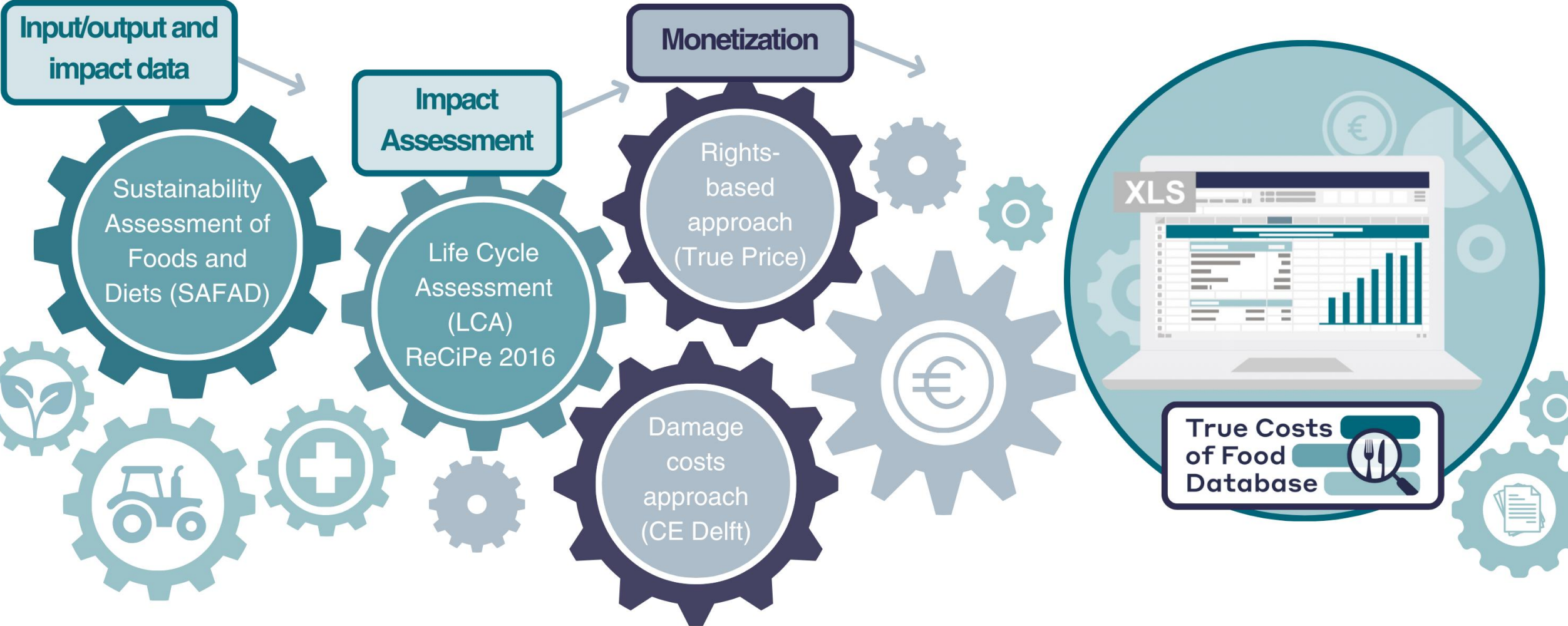
SCOPE OF THE DATABASE



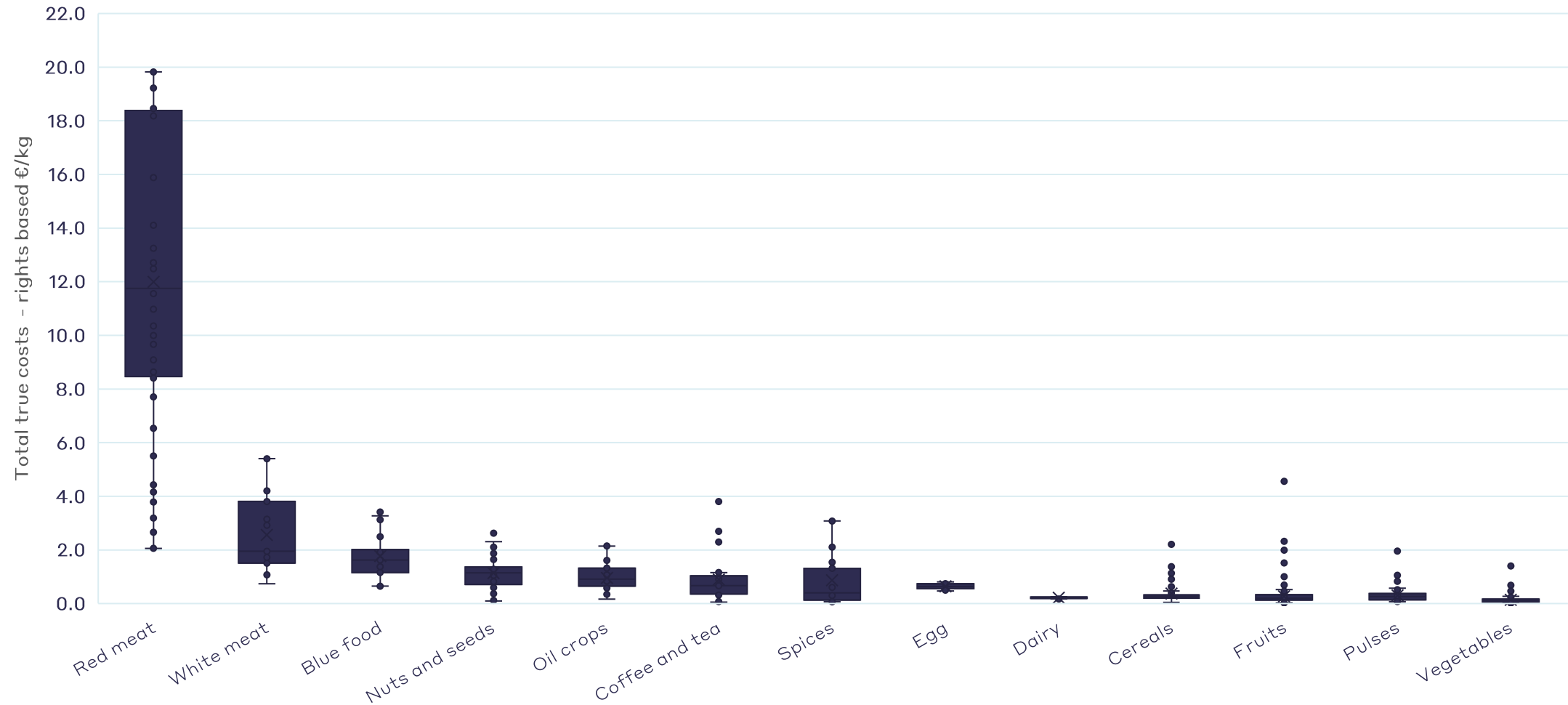
SCOPE OF THE DATABASE



How are true costs calculated?



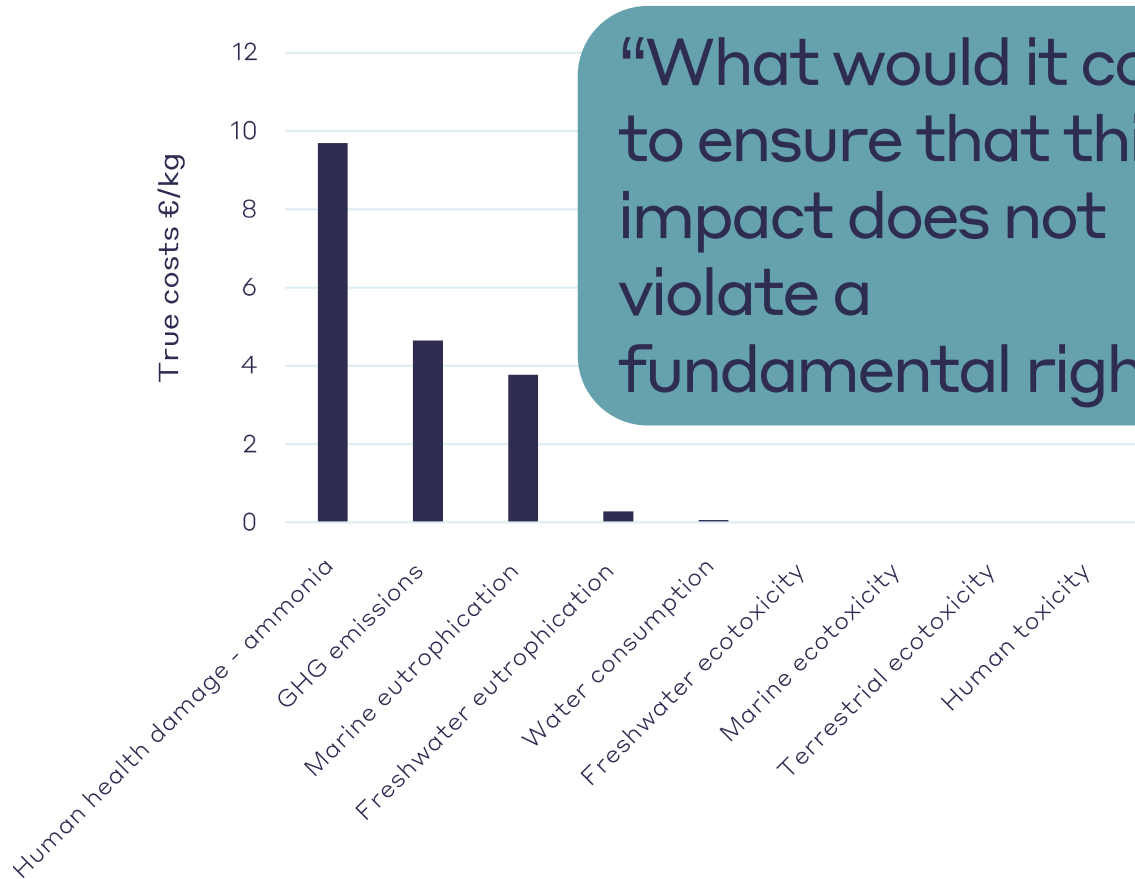
TRUE COSTS OF FOOD CATEGORIES



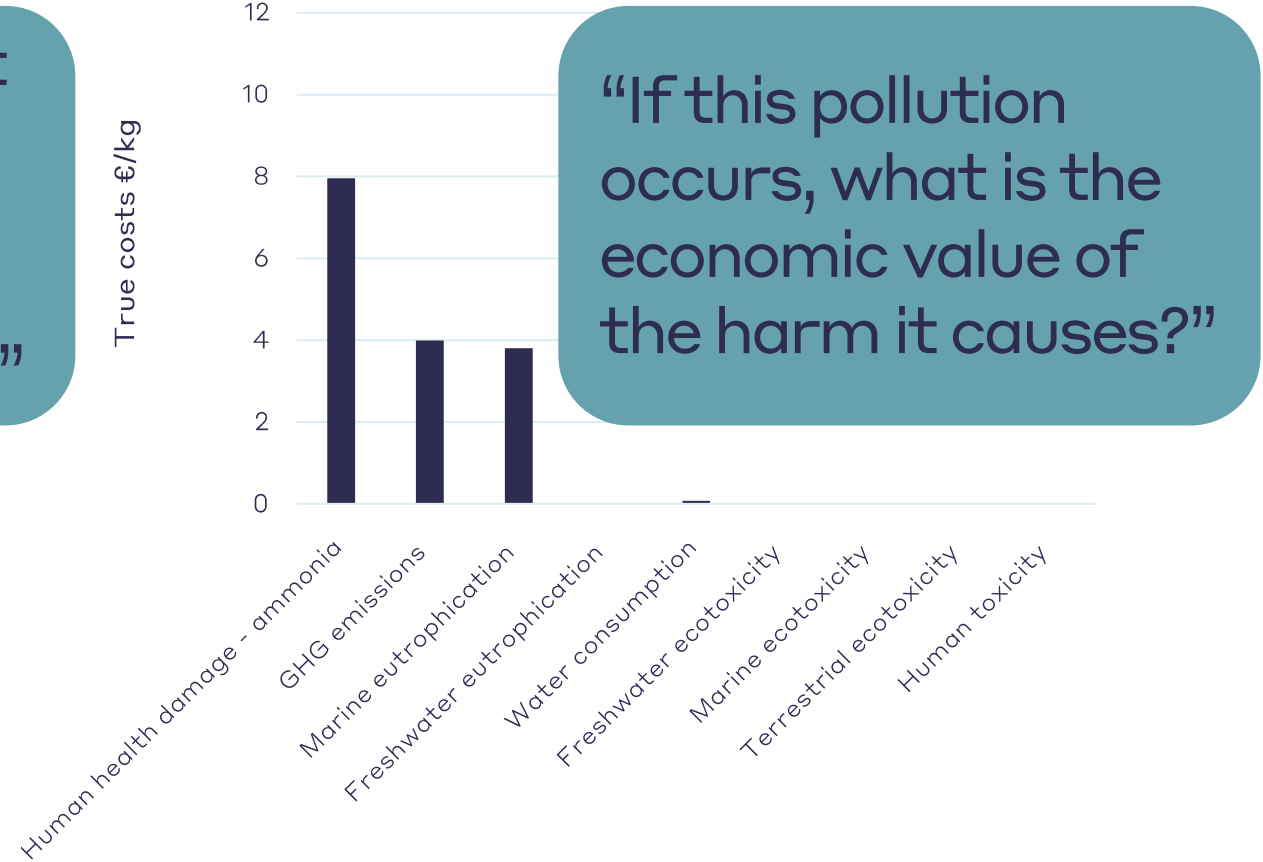
SOURCE: True Costs of Food Database V1. TMG Think Tank for Sustainability, 2026.

TRUE COSTS OF RED MEAT

True costs (rights-based)

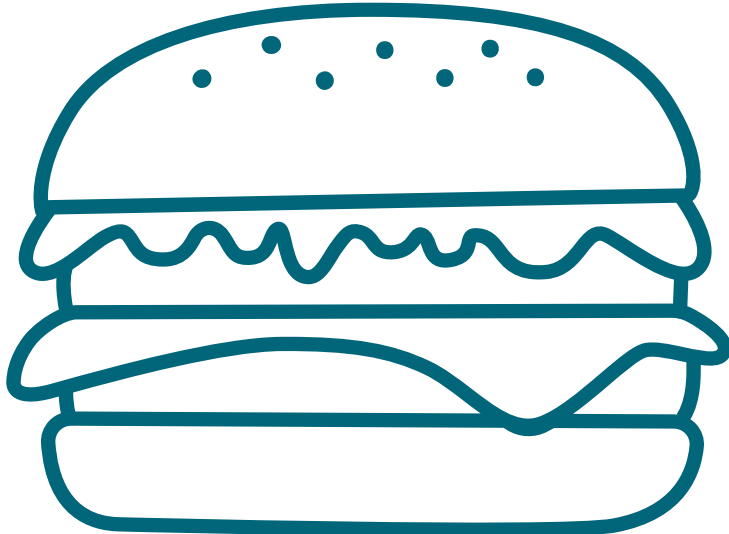


True costs (damage costs)



BURGER TRUE COSTS

Based on costs of primary food ingredients



Meat patty €2.77

Bean patty €0.61

Bread €0.02

Tomato €0.017

Lettuce €0.0016

Onion €0.0013

=

Meat burger
total hidden
costs €2.81

Bean burger
total hidden
costs €0.10

SOURCE: True Costs of Food Database V1. TMG Think Tank for Sustainability, 2026.

Q&A

Add your questions to the Q&A and upvote the ones you want to hear answered!



TODAY'S PANEL



Elin Rööös
Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences



Pietro Galgani
True Price



Adrian Müller
FiBL Switzerland

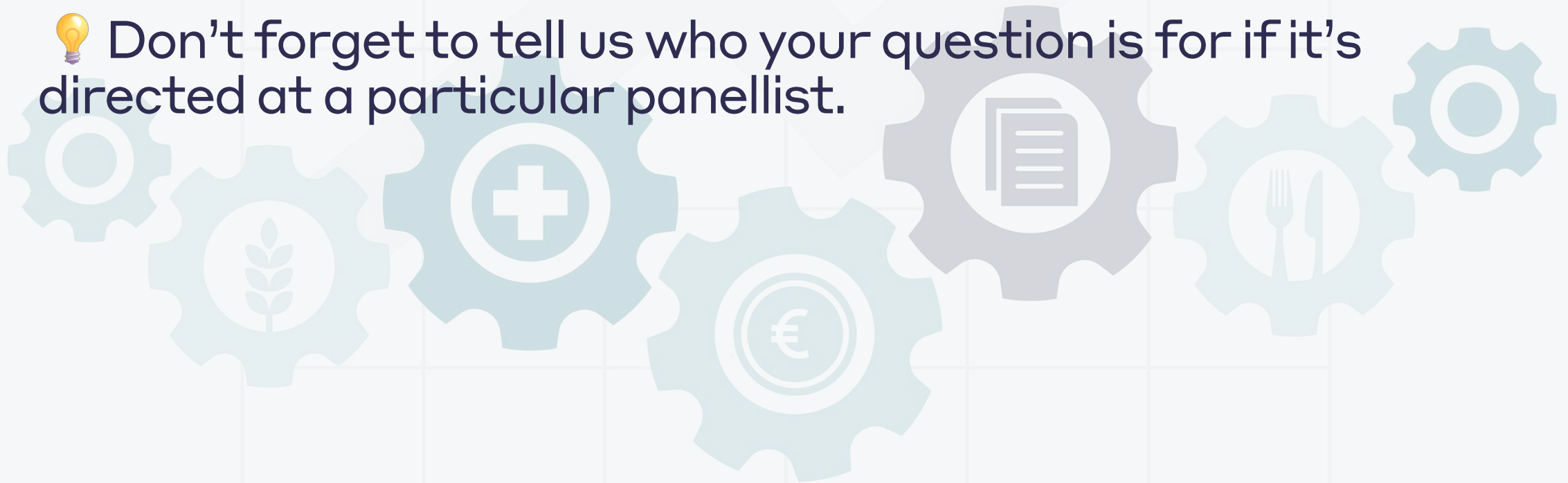


Olivia Riemer
TMG Think Tank for
Sustainability

Q&A

Add your questions to the Q&A and upvote the ones you want to hear answered!

💡 Don't forget to tell us who your question is for if it's directed at a particular panellist.



CONTACT

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