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Environmental Performance Indicators and Ecological Benchmarks as Indicators for the Performance of the Environmental Management (EMAS) within the Dairy Industry in Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

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The aim of the research project was the development of a set of environmental performance indicators (EPI`s) for enterprises of the dairy industry. The EPI´s should support an internal comparison of the environmental performance as well as an interfirm comparison.

Therefore - in a first step - a set of EPI´s was developed and implemented at the company „Milchwerke Schwaben eG“ in Ulm (Germany). The evaluation of the set of EPI`s as well as the internal comparison can be gained from the internal environmental audit.

These intermediate results have been discussed with other representatives of dairies and a group of external experts. The second step was the conception, further development and standardisation of a set of dairy-EPI´s.

The pilot experience has shown that the introduction of environmental performance indicators gives an important input to the reduction of environmental impacts and to securing economic competitiveness on a corporate level. By this, it shows a realistic way forward towards sustainable economic development.