

## **Empirical assessment of socio-cultural sustainability in LCA**

Katja Lähtinen, Pekka Leskinen, Tanja Myllyviita & Susanna Sironen

Finnish Environment Institute, Joensuu Office (Finland)

The life-cycle effects of production systems include abreast with ecological and economic impacts also social and cultural effects on sustainability. The definition of indicators used in sustainability evaluations may be based either on political top-down processes or bottom-up approaches grounded on expert views and local participation. In assessing social and cultural sustainability in a local context, bottom-up indicator definition can be employed for taking into account the diversity of local communities and their special social and cultural needs. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce an empirical example of bottom-up socio-cultural indicator definition process in a local context and to examine the opportunities of employing the outcomes of such an approach in analyzing the social and cultural life-cycle effects of forest-based bioenergy production systems in Finland.