Newsleather

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Welcome

This is the fourth edition of our scientific newsletter, dedicated to providing the latest updates on research, regulatory developments, technology, and standard methods in the leather industry.

In this issue, we have a peer review article on a LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) of the leather industry published at Discover Sustainability. The work was compiled by Leather Naturally and Spin 360. Our Sustainability Committee Chair Kim Sena and I are co-authors of the paper.

The paper can be downloaded through the link or QR Code below.

Please share your comments and suggestions to secretary@iultcs.org

Kind regards,

Dr. Luis A. Zugno, editor

Sustainability - Kim Sena

Message from Kim Sena, IUS Chair

Sustainability is an unavoidable topic in the modern world. Humanity and its supply chains must adjust to the reality that the balance between the resources we use and the ability of Earth to regenerate them is clearly

negative. As part of very relevant value chains, the leather industry has been going through a surge of new data and information on its externalities. Nevertheless, it has long needed comprehensive and up-to-date studies on the environmental impact of leather production. Different studies have been published in the past, but mainly due to the lack of comprehensiveness failed to represent the entire leather segment.

This paper addresses these gaps by conducting an extensive Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) using modern methodologies and data from 56 studies across 16 facilities in 11 countries. The study covers various types of leather, such as automotive, shoe, upholstery, and goods, providing a global perspective. Key findings highlight that the farming stage significantly impacts most environmental categories, and there's a need for better data on raw materials and processing. On the other hand, some environmental impacts were lower than previously thought, providing some important insights. This research is crucial for leather manufacturers, as it identifies areas for improvement and highlights data gaps that, if addressed, could lead to more reliable and useful LCA results. The insights gained can guide the industry towards more environmentally friendly production methods, continuously positioning leather as a responsible material alternative for the future.

The paper can be downloaded here: https://rdcu.be/d9fe0