

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

### **Renewable carbon opportunities in the production of succinic acid applying attributional and consequential modelling.**

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#### **Summary**

This document contains the supplementary information and results of the paper entitled “Renewable carbon opportunities in the production of succinic acid applying attributional and consequential modelling”. The Life cycle inventory (LCI) tables for the system under study (production of 1 kg of biobased succinic acid from SSL), the results for succinic acid market growth and marginal mix estimations as well as the inventories for Consequential LCA are detailed. Figures presenting further results, complementary to the main manuscript are depicted here as well.

## 1. System boundary description

The detailed description of each subsystem included within the scope of the analysis is provided below.

**SS1. Eucalyptus woodchips.** Short rotation *Eucalyptus globulus* wood is the raw material processed in the paper pulping facility. This subsystem includes seedling activities, planting, weed control and fertilizing, felling, forwarding, harvesting and wood chipping. The production yield was considered as 10.1 m<sup>3</sup>/ (year ha) in the region of Galicia (Spain) [1,2] and a carbon content of 31.7% [3].

**SS2. Pulp and paper industry.** In this subsystem, eucalyptus chips were transported over 100 km from the wood production site through road transportation (lorry). Bisulfite pulping was the processing technology considered for pulp production, yielding the SSL stream used as sugar nutrient source in subsequent subsystems. Calcium bisulfite (Ca (HSO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) is the main the cooking chemical utilized for the digestion of wood. It is produced on site, with liquid sulfur, burned to obtain SO<sub>2</sub> and put in contact in an absorption column with an aqueous calcium carbonate solution. The digester, which is operated at 145°C for 4 hours requires 4 metric tons of liquor per ton of wood chips. The contents of the digester are transferred to a blow tank, in which vapors —mainly SO<sub>2</sub>— are recovered and recycled. The pulped wood is washed in countercurrent with water. Two main streams are obtained after the washing cycle. First, the pulp which is further processed and bleached to obtain paper (out of the scope of this work). Second, the liquor or SSL, which is a stream containing dissolved sugars and lignosulfonates [4]. Emissions to water and air from the pulping section of the paper producing facility were considered [5].

**SS3. Pretreatment.** The SSL stream from SS2 —the pulp and paper facility— contains solubilized lignin in the form of lignosulfonates and sugars (mostly xylose, galactose and glucose). Thus, pretreatment is required prior to the fermentation section in order to remove the lignosulfonates (which act inhibitory to microbial growth) and to obtain a lignin-free stream rich in sugars. SSL is diluted with water in a 1:3.5 ratio. Successively, lignosulfonates are separated through nanofiltration (800 Da) with a 97% removal efficiency [6]. Nanofiltration also served as sterilization procedure for the SSL stream prior to fermentation.

**SS4. Sterilization.** This subsystem includes the mixing of nitrogen sources and minerals (NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, NaCl, MgCl<sub>2</sub>, CaCl<sub>2</sub>) that are necessary for the fermentation, and inoculum preparation. The nutrients are sterilized via continuous sterilization at 140°C using low pressure stream at 160°C.

**SS5. Fermentation.** In this study, fermentation was operated in fed-batch and continuous mode, with the bacterial strain *Basfia succiniciproducens* for an annual succinic acid production capacity of 30 kt. The fermentation was conducted at 37°C with agitation and maintaining pH at 6.7 with NaOH. For the fed-batch mode, the final SA concentration was 33.8 g/L with a productivity of 0.56 g/(L·h) and yield 0.58 g<sub>SA</sub>/g<sub>SSL Sugar</sub> [6]. The respective values for continuous fermentations were 19.6 g/L, 0.79 g/(L·h) and 0.49 g<sub>SA</sub>/g<sub>SSL Sugar</sub> at a dilution rate of 0.04 h<sup>-1</sup> [7].

**SS6. Downstream.** bio-SA was recovered from the fermentation broth in a series of steps in the downstream section. First the bacterial biomass was separated and discarded through a centrifuge. The active carbon columns allow the decolorization and removal of impurities from the solution. Cationic resins were used for the acidification of organic acid salts (e.g. acetate, formate, lactate) into their corresponding acid forms. The rich in organic acids stream was concentrated in an evaporator system where part of the volatile organic acids are removed (formic acid 89% and acetic acid 76%). The concentrated liquid was driven to a crystallizer where

the succinic acid was separated in the form of crystals. The SA crystals are removed and dried through rotary filter and spray drier units, respectively.

**Business as usual (BAU) scenarios.** The fossil production of SA considered for benchmark was the production of SA from maleic anhydride hydrogenation in liquid phase and metallic catalysts. The process includes SA hydration, crystallization, filtration, and drying steps [8]. The BAU biobased alternative was the production of SA from sorghum saccharification and fermentation by anaerobic bacteria. In this process ammonium sulfate is produced as co-product [9]. ç

## 2. Details of the methodology

### 2.1 Attributional LCA

For SS1 and SS2 the impacts were assigned to the two main products exiting SS2, the pulp and the pre-processed SSL. For economic allocation, since we are dealing intermediate products, it was estimated that the economic value of SSL and pulp was that of their further processed end products (i.e., fermentable sugars and dissolving pulp respectively) [10,11].

In SS3 (nanofiltration) the allocation was performed among the two main valuable products obtained, pre-treated SSL —which would be one of the main substrates carried forward into fermentation— and lignosulfonates. The economic value of lignosulfonates is based in their potential application as plasticizing additives in cement mixtures [12].

Especially in the case of CO<sub>2</sub>, which experiences a shift from emission to input flow (technical flow), the consideration of allocation rather than considering zero background emissions is pertinent, as to account correctly for emissions in CCU. In this case, as in every input for LCA its background impacts in a cradle-to-gate perspective should be accounted for. Allocation was performed between CO<sub>2</sub> and clinker [13] and CO<sub>2</sub> and bioethanol [14] in the fossil and biogenic CCU scenarios [15]. For economic allocation, the cost of capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from diverse point sources, evidently differs, which was considered [16]. The BAU biobased scenario impacts have been allocated to succinic acid and ammonium sulfate respectively, for comparability reasons [17,18].

### 2.2 Consequential LCA

The first step in C-LCA is to determine the reference product and co-products of the system. The products of the system under study are SA and lignosulfonates. Lignosulfonates are the dependent co-product, since their revenue does not exceed 80% of the total revenue of the system following the identification of the determining product criterion. Therefore, the system is expanded to include the co-product (lignosulfonates) which is considered as an avoided burden of another market (i.e., plasticizer additive in the cement industry) [19]. The production of SA from sorghum as the first-generation biomass conversion scenario (BAU) produces ammonium sulfate, considered as avoided product in C-LCA [8].

The case of SSL displays a constrained market meaning that it is a dependent by product of the pulp and paper industry. The system boundaries are thus expanded to include its use or treatment. Analyzing its current market, bioethanol is the main product derived from SSL — stream rich in sugars apt for any fermentation. However, the shift of producing SA from SSL rather than the state-of-the-art production of bioethanol results in the need to compensate the bioethanol produced by SSL with the corresponding marginal technology that will be able to absorb the demand. The identification of marginal suppliers was performed on the basis of the 5-step procedure developed by Weidema et al. [20] resulting in the identification of the suppliers that would be able to change their production capacity in response to a change in demand. In a growing market such as that of bioethanol, the marginal technology is that with the greatest historical production growth (i.e., bioethanol produced from maize) [21]. The sugar

contents in SSL and sugar consumption patterns for the production of bioethanol were considered for the estimation of the amount of bioethanol per functional unit that should be compensated [6,22].

Obtaining CO<sub>2</sub> from point sources, to produce bio-SA from SSL would lead to an intrinsic change of the clinker and bioethanol industries. These are industries with the feasibility to absorb the increase of demand of CO<sub>2</sub>, however they would experience a shift in which the current BAU production with carbon emissions to the environment will be substituted by an identical production with a carbon capture plant and with the consequent elimination of 90% of the carbon emissions to the environment [23]. The result, in our system, is a process substitution in which the reduction or increment of indirect and direct emissions will be accounted as a difference and included in the inventory.

The production of SA with SLL as carbon source will lead to displacing the BAU production methods in the current market. The affected suppliers in this study are part of the selection of a marginal supply mix obtained by extrapolating available market trends. The use of a marginal supply mix makes sense for newer markets with less availability of data or increased uncertainty due to their bio-based nature, which makes difficult to predict their evolution. The SA market is expected growth with an annual rate of anywhere from 7 to 49% in the next years [24–27].

### 3. Life cycle inventory

**Table S1.** Inventory for silviculture activities (SS1) per m<sup>3</sup> of eucalyptus wood and their CO<sub>2</sub> uptake estimation [1–3]

<b>SS1. Production of eucalyptus wood chips (1m<sup>3</sup>)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Land use (forest extensive occupation)	0.091	ha·a
E. globulus stems	22	stems
Diesel	0.68	kg
Petrol	7.78	g
Lubricants	30	g
Herbicide (glyphosate)	87	g
Ternary fertilizer (16%N 8%P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> 12%K <sub>2</sub> O)	0.14	kg
Diammonium phosphate (18%N 46%P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	1.33	kg
Lorry 3.5 t	0.52	tkm
<b>Inputs from nature</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub> uptake from Eucalyptus Woodchips	1.16	kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kg wood
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Wood chips	1	m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Emissions to air</b>		
SO <sub>2</sub>	7.26	g
NO <sub>x</sub>	40	g
CO <sub>2</sub>	2.38	kg
CO	9.17	g
VOC	5.4	g
N <sub>2</sub> O	24	g
Pentane	0.24	g
NMVOOC	24	mg
CH <sub>4</sub>	97	mg
Particulates	0.89	g
N <sub>2</sub>	70	g
NH <sub>3</sub>	59	g
<b>Emissions to water</b>		
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1.51	kg
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	12	g

**Table S2.** Inventory for the pulping (SS2) with calcium bisulfite of wood (in a pulp and paper factory (no bleaching or further pulp processing included) [4,5])

<b>SS2. Pulp and paper factory (per kg SSL)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Eucalyptus woodchips	$9.99 \cdot 10^{-4}$	m <sup>3</sup>
Sulfur	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
Calcium carbonate	$1.18 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
Process water	12.19	kg
NaOH	$3.64 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg
Transport (lorry)	105	kgkm
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity	$6.55 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kWh
Steam	0.26	kg
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
SSL	1.00	kg
Pulp	0.78	kg
<b>Emissions to air</b>		
Water (vent)	$4.73 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
CO <sub>2</sub> (vent)	$2.91 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
SO <sub>2</sub> (vent)	$8.00 \cdot 10^{-6}$	kg
NaOH (vent)	$4.73 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg
Steam out	$7.03 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
<b>Emissions to water</b>		
COD	$4.10 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
BOD	$1.67 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Total P	$6.39 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg
Total N	$3.62 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg

**Table S3.** Inventory for the pretreatment of SSL (SS3), through nanofiltration obtaining lignosulfonates as co-products, continuous operation [6]

<b>SS3. Pretreatment (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity filtration	0.01	kWh
<b>Outputs</b>		
SSL	4.25	kg
Lignosulfonates	2.15	kg

**Table S4.** Inventory for the pretreatment of SSL (SS3) through nanofiltration, obtaining lignosulfonates as co-products, fed batch operation [6]

<b>SS3. Pretreatment (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity filtration	0.06	kWh
<b>Outputs to process and technosphere</b>		
SSL	4.25	kg
Lignosulfonates	2.15	kg

**Table S5.** Inventory for the sterilization of inputs to the fermentation (SS4), continuous operation [7]

<b>SS4. Sterilization (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Steam for sterilization	0.27	kg

**Table S6.** Inventory for the sterilization of inputs to the fermentation (SS4), fed batch operation [7]

<b>SS4. Sterilization (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Steam for sterilization	0.20	kg

**Table S7.** Inventory for continuous fermentation for the production SA (SS5)

<b>SS5. Fermentation (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Water	1.00	kg
Yeast extract	0.25	kg
NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O	5.91·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	1.58·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
NaCl	5.09·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
MgCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1.02·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
CaCl <sub>2</sub> · 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	1.02·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
NaOH	1.00	kg
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.37	kg
Process water cooling	4.00	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity agitation	1.43	kWh
Electricity cooling	3.10·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kWh

**Table S8.** Inventory for fed batch fermentation for the production SA (SS5)

<b>SS5. Fermentation</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Water	0.59	kg
Yeast extract	$1.48 \cdot 10^{-1}$	kg
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	$1.48 \cdot 10^{-1}$	kg
NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> x H <sub>2</sub> O	$3.40 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	$9.20 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
NaCl	$2.96 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
MgCl <sub>2</sub> x 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	$5.90 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
CaCl <sub>2</sub> x 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	$5.90 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
NaOH	1.20	kg
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.30	kg
Process water cooling	4.00	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity agitation	2.07	kWh
Electricity cooling	$3.10 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kWh

**Table S9.** Inventory for the separation sequence of SA in continuous operation (SS6)

<b>SS6. Downstream (per kg SA)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Activated carbon, columns	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Resin, ion exchange	$4.00 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg
HCl	0.90	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity centrifugation	$5.40 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kWh
Electricity evaporation	1.60	kWh
Electricity crystallization	0.19	kWh
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Wastewater	1.45	kg
Succinic acid	1	kg
<b>Waste to treatment</b>		
Bacterial biomass to incineration	0.12	kg
Spent activated carbon	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Spent ion exchange resin	$4.00 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg

**Table S10.** Inventory for the separation sequence of SA in fed batch operation (SS6)

<b>SS5. Downstream</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Activated carbon, columns	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Resin, ion exchange	$4.00 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg
HCl	1.1	kg
LP steam evaporation	0.29	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity centrifugation	$3.16 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kWh
Electricity evaporation	0.94	kWh
Electricity crystallization	0.19	kWh
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Wastewater	1.74	kg
Succinic acid	1	kg
<b>Waste to treatment</b>		
Bacterial biomass to incineration	0.15	kg
Spent activated carbon	$1.20 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Spent ion exchange resin	$4.00 \cdot 10^{-4}$	kg

**Table S11.** Inventory for the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the production of clinker assuming 90% capture rate (SS5) [28]

<b>Carbon capture and utilization (fossil alternative)</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub> from fossil point source, long-term supplier, cement industry (per ton clinker)		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Clinker (no CC)	1.00	kg
Ammonia	$2.00 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
MEA	$2.60 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
Limestone	$1.40 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity	$7.00 \cdot 10^{-5}$	MWh
Heat	$2.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	GJ
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Clinker (with CC)	1	kg
CO <sub>2</sub> (90% captured)	0.76	kg
<b>Emissions to air</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub> (10% not captured)	0.084	kg

**Table S12.** Inventory for the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the production of bioethanol assuming 90% capture rate (SS5) [29]

<b>Biobased carbon capture and utilization</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub> from biogenic point source, near-term supplier, bioethanol fermentation		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Bioethanol from wood (no CC)	1.00	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity	0.11	kwh/kg CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Bioethanol (with CC)	1	kg
CO <sub>2</sub> (90% captured)	1.16	kg
<b>Emissions to air</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub> (10% not captured)	0.13	kg

**Table S13.** Inventory for the petrochemical production of SA used as business as usual (fossil BAU) [8]

<b>Petrochemical SA (1kg)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Maleic anhydride	0.89	kg
Hydrogen	0.25	kg
Water	0.30	kg
Nitrogen	$7.29 \cdot 10^{-2}$	kg
Palladium catalyst	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	kg
Natural gas	0.10	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity	0.36	kWh
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Succinic acid	1	kg
<b>Waste to treatment</b>		
Waste (generic)	0.32	kg

**Table S14.** Inventory for the biobased production of SA used as business as usual (biobased BAU) [9]

<b>First generation SA (1kg)</b>		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Mass inputs from nature</b>		
CO <sub>2</sub>	2.01	kg
Cooling water	1.23	m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Mass inputs from technosphere</b>		
Sorghum grain	1.66	kg
Sulfuric acid	1.11	kg
Ammonia	0.41	kg
Tap Water	1.67	kg
Ultrapure water	25.3	kg
Glucose	1.30·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
<b>Energy inputs from technosphere</b>		
Electricity	2.67	kWh
Heat	14.77	MJ
<b>Outputs to technosphere</b>		
Succinic acid	1	kg
Ammonium sulfate	1.49	kg
<b>Waste to treatment</b>		
Wastewater	1.1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	m <sup>3</sup>
Biowaste (incineration)	8.2·10 <sup>-1</sup>	kg
Sorghum bagasse	3.95·10 <sup>-1</sup>	kg
<b>Emissions to air</b>		
Water	2.72	kg
Volatile organic compounds	2.00·10 <sup>-3</sup>	kg
Carbon monoxide	1.50·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg
Nitrogen oxides	5.00·10 <sup>-3</sup>	kg
Particulates μm<10	1.00·10 <sup>-3</sup>	kg
Ammonia	1.72·10 <sup>-4</sup>	kg
Lead	5.20·10 <sup>-6</sup>	kg
Sulfuric acid	8.06·10 <sup>-5</sup>	kg

**Table S15.** Prices for outputs in the life cycle for the production of SA (Considered in economic allocation calculations)

<b>Product</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Average €/kg</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Bioethanol	0.47	\$/l	0.524	[14]
Clinker	37	€/t	0.0370	[13]
CO <sub>2</sub> from clinker	26-42	\$/ton	0.0299	[16]
CO <sub>2</sub> from ethanol	14	\$/ton	0.0123	[16]
Lignosulfonates	300	\$/ton	0.240	[12]
SSL (assuming price of fermentable sugars- xylose)	0.4	\$/kg	0.320	[10]

Pulp (assuming price of dissolving pulp)	1350	€/t	1.35	[11]
Ammonium sulfate	0.137	\$/kg	0.121	[17]
Succinic acid			2.8	[18]

**Table S16.** Economic and mass allocation factors in A-LCA

Subsystem	Outputs	Mass allocation (%)	Economic allocation (%)
SS2	Pulp	43.90	84.35
	SSL	56.10	15.65
SS3	SSL rich in sugars	66.41	72.49
	Lignosulfonates	33.59	27.51
SS5 (CO <sub>2</sub> from biogenic point emission source)	Bioethanol	46.20	97.30
	CO <sub>2</sub>	53.80	2.66
SS5 (CO <sub>2</sub> from fossil point emission source)	Clinker	57.00	62.10
	CO <sub>2</sub>	43.00	37.90
BAU biobased SA	SA	40.20	93.96
	Ammonium sulfate	59.80	6.04

#### 4. Market trends and marginal mixes for SA

**Table S17.** Historic market data for SA production volume

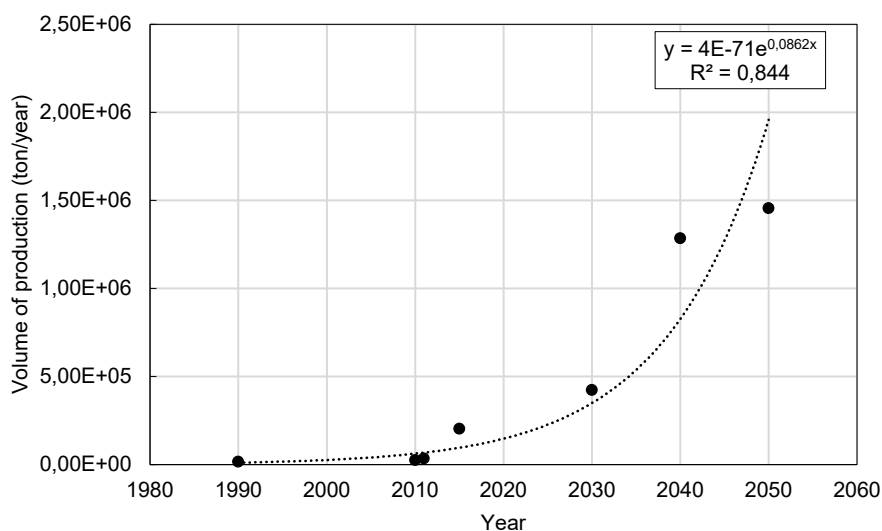
Year	1990 <sup>a</sup>	2010 <sup>b,c</sup>	2011 <sup>d</sup>	2015 <sup>d</sup>
<b>Fossil</b> (ton/year)	17,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
<b>Biobased 1<sup>st</sup> generation</b> (ton/year)	1	1,250	10,000	180,000
<b>Total</b> (ton/year)	17,001	26,250	35,000	205,000

a [26]

b [30]

c [9]

d [8]



**Figure S1.** Estimated projection of growth for succinic acid production from data in table S17

**Table S18.** Current mix of production of SA, year 2015

	Current mix
<b>Fossil</b>	12%
<b>Biobased 1<sup>st</sup> generation</b>	88%

**Table S19.** Marginal mix estimation for short-term scenarios in timeline 1 (LT1 scenarios)

	Fossil	Biobased 1 <sup>st</sup> generation
<b>Annual trend</b>	1.88	719,996
<b>Technology lifetime</b>	40	40
<b>Capital replacement rate (%)</b>	-2.5	-2.5
<b>Net annual trend (%)</b>	4.38	719,999
<b>Net annual change</b>	7,450	7,200
<b>Marginal mix (%)</b>	50.85	49.15

**Table S20.** Marginal mix estimation for short-term in timeline 2 (LT2 scenarios)

	Fossil	Biobased 1 <sup>st</sup> generation
<b>Annual trend</b>	1.88	2,860
<b>Technology lifetime</b>	40	40
<b>Capital replacement rate (%)</b>	-2.50	-2.50
<b>Net annual trend (%)</b>	4.38	2,863
<b>Net annual change</b>	7,450	35,781
<b>Marginal mix (%)</b>	17.23	82.77

**Table S21.** Marginal mix estimation long-term scenarios (LT)

	<b>Fossil</b>	<b>Biobased 1<sup>st</sup> generation</b>
<b>Annual trend</b>	0	2,860
<b>Technology lifetime</b>	N/A	40
<b>Capital replacement rate (%)</b>	N/A	-2.5
<b>Net annual trend (%)</b>	N/A	28,623
<b>Net annual change</b>	N/A	35,781
<b>Marginal mix (%)</b>	0	100

## 5. Life cycle inventory Consequential LCA

**Table S22.** Current scenario (no change in current mix of SA)

<b>Current scenario</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
SA fossil (12%) + SA biogenic (88%)	1	kg
Avoided ammonium sulfate	1.31	kg

**Table S23.** Consequential LCA inventory for short term scenarios (TL1)

<b>Short term scenario, B-ST-TL1</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
SA (present study, no allocations, biobased CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.322	kg/kg SA
Substituted bioethanol industry (now with CC)	0.296	kg/kg SA
SA avoided (50.9% fossil, 49.1% biobased)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg/kg SA
<b>Short term scenario, F-ST-TL1</b>		
SA (present study, no allocations, fossil CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.322	kg/kg SA
Substituted clinker industry (now with CC)	0.494	kg/kg SA
SA avoided (50.9% fossil, 49.1% biobased)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg/kg SA

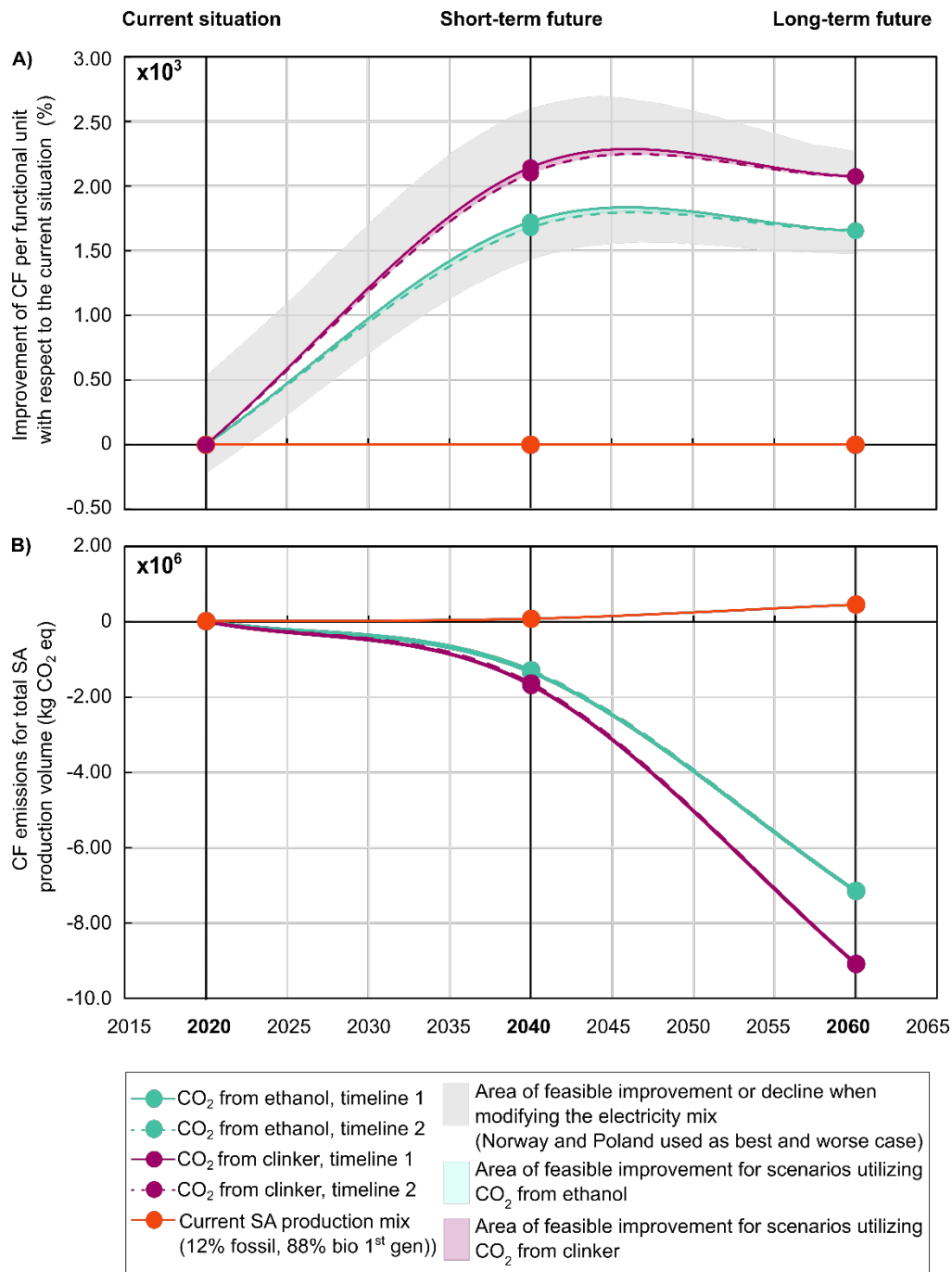
**Table S24.** Consequential LCA inventory for short term scenarios (TL2)

<b>Short term scenario, B-ST-TL2</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
SA (present study, no allocations, biobased CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.322	kg/kg SA
Substituted bioethanol industry (now with CC)	0.296	kg/kg SA
SA avoided (17.2% fossil, 82.8% biobased)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg/kg SA
<b>Short term scenario, F-ST-TL2</b>		
SA (present study, no allocations, fossil CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.3216	kg/kg SA
Substituted clinker industry (now with CC)	0.4940	kg/kg SA
SA avoided (17.2% fossil, 82.8% bio)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg/kg SA

**Table S25. Consequential LCA inventory for long term scenarios (LT)**

<b>Long term scenario, B-LT</b>	Value	Units
SA (present study, no allocations, biobased CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.322	kg /kg SA
Displaced bioethanol industry (now with carbon capture)	0.296	kg /kg SA
SA avoided (0% fossil, 100% bio)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg
<b>Long term scenario, F-LT</b>		
SA (present study, no allocations, biobased CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	kg
Displaced ethanol (from corn)	0.322	kg /kg SA
Displaced clinker industry (now with CC)	0.494	kg /kg SA
SA avoided (0% fossil, 100% bio)	1	kg
Lignosulfonates (avoided additives-plasticizer for cement)	2.15	kg

## 6. Results



**Figure S2.** Projection of C-LCA impacts in Carbon Footprint (CF) to 20 and 40 years from the current situation. SA is produced in fed-batch operation. A) Displays the percent improvement of the CF with respect to the current SA scenario per functional unit B) Displays the total CF of SA market considering a growth in the SA production volume

### Percent-improvement calculations for consequential values

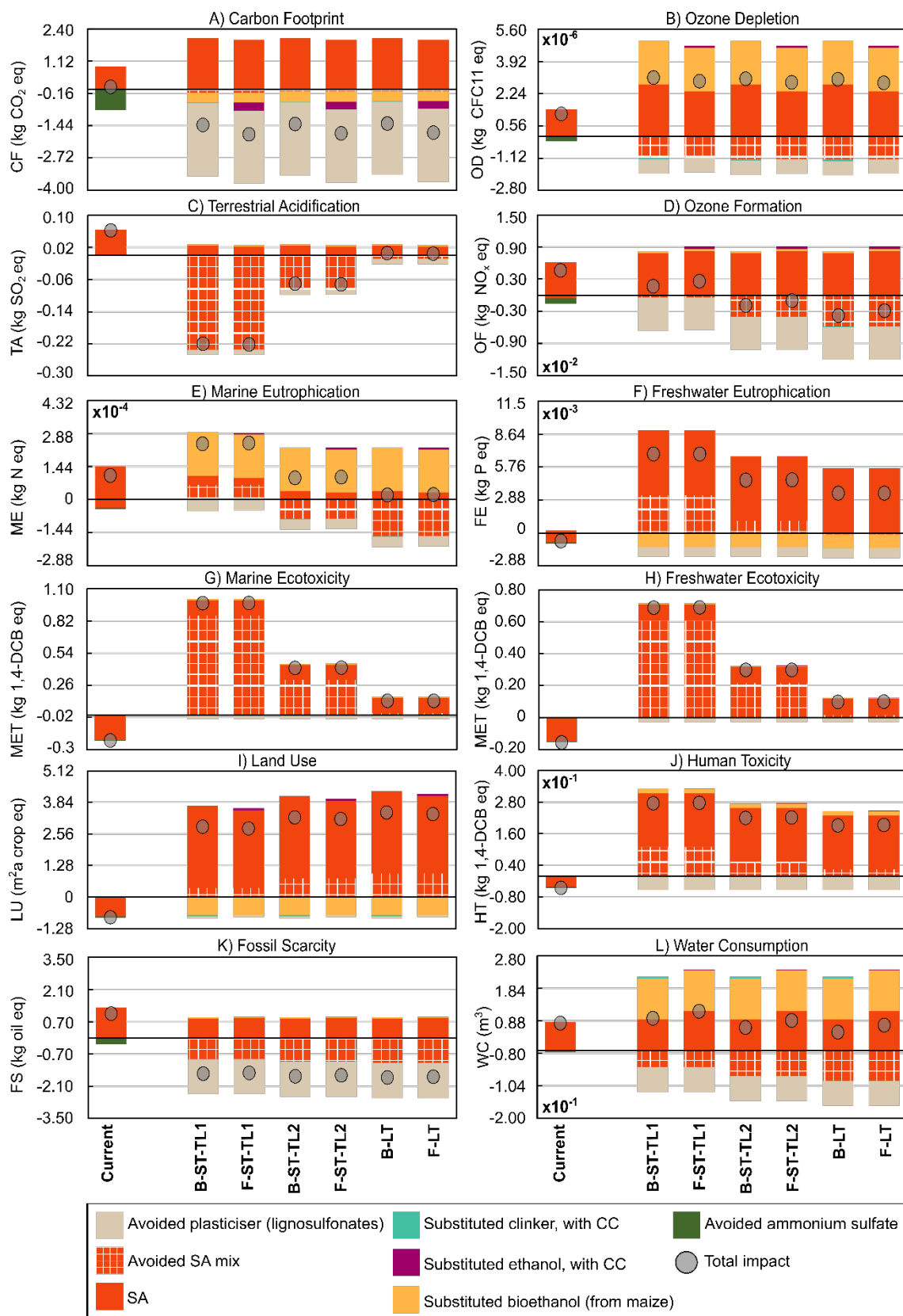
The maximum value for the percent-improvement in each CCU scenario corresponds to that of TL1 (short-term, timeline 1), which are, for fossil and biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> the best scenarios with respect to the BAU. The percent-improvement was obtained as follows:

$$\text{Improvement (\%)} = \frac{\left(\frac{\text{CF}}{\text{FU}}\right)_{\text{BAU}} - \left(\frac{\text{CF}}{\text{FU}}\right)_{\text{SCEN}}}{\left(\frac{\text{CF}}{\text{FU}}\right)_{\text{BAU}}} \times 100\% \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

Where  $\frac{\text{CF}}{\text{FU}}$  is the carbon footprint per functional unit for each scenario, BAU is the business-as-usual case (current scenario), and SCEN represents any of the scenarios in the current study. Regarding the results from Eq. 1 presented in the main manuscript:

For 1465%, SCEN= F-ST-TL1

For 1023%, SCEN= B-ST-TL1



**Figure S3.** Comparative evaluation and breakdown of environmental profiles through C-LCA for SA produced in fed-batch operation. A) Carbon footprint B) Ozone depletion C) Terrestrial acidification D) Ozone formation E) Marine eutrophication F) Freshwater eutrophication G) Marine ecotoxicity H) Freshwater ecotoxicity I) Land use J) Human toxicity K) Fossil scarcity L) Water consumption.

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