

1) What do you use as key measures and indicators?

As a manufacturer of food products, the key indicators we currently track involve water use, energy use, solid waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions from our production facilities. In addition, we are beginning to track the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions generated in moving our products from our production facilities to our distribution centers and ultimately to our customers' warehouses and/or stores.

As a large purchaser of both specialty and commodity crops, we are also working within our own organization and with multi-stakeholder groups to track key indicators related to sustainable agriculture. These indicators include water use and water quality as well as land use and soil quality.

There are additional measures which we believe are critical for future measurement and understanding, most notably biodiversity and socio-economic indicators.

2) Which data sources do you rely upon?

Recently, "Field to Market," the Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture published a first of its kind report detailing what (if any) progress is being made to reduce the environmental impact of production agriculture. The peer-reviewed study is a key source of data for the 4 largest production crops in the U.S. *Field to Market* conducted a broad-based peer-review process that included 17 experts from universities, government and other institutions to help enhance the methodology. http://keystone.org/spp/envsustain_ag.html.

Following this report, a Grower Tool is being rolled out to provide individual growers with a way to model their current practices for their crops in their geography and compare their environmental impact vs. national and regional trends. This tool will allow growers to understand what impact they will achieve by changing or adopting new practices.

3) What do we know about conditions and trends in key indicators?

Progress has been made over the last 20 years. The initial index shows that soil-loss efficiency trends have improved substantially by 30 to nearly 70 percent for the four crops evaluated. Energy use per unit of output is down in corn, soybean, and cotton production by nearly 40 to more than 60 percent. Irrigated water use per unit of output has also decreased 20 percent to nearly 50 percent while carbon emissions per unit of output have dropped by about a third for these three crops. New technologies have been a key factor in this progress. This includes genetics as well as technology on the farm. The difficulty of projecting these trends ahead lies in the acceptance/availability of new technologies in countries outside of the United States.

4) Status of our knowledge (or ignorance).

As a food industry, we are still in the beginning stages of understanding the full impact agriculture has on our environment. We are also still in the early phases of understanding what the best practices are at the individual farm level in order to lessen the environmental impact and still meet the increasing global demand for safe sources of food, fuel, feed and fiber.