

# The Food Processing Benchmarks Tool

Descriptor and User Guide

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# The Food Processing Benchmark Tool

## Version 2

IFC's Food Processing Benchmark Tool or Food Benchmark Tool (FBT), contains information on 9 types of environmental benchmarks for 12 food processing sub-sectors, collected from 126 different sources.

- Meat processing
- Fish processing
- Fruit and vegetables processing
- Milk processing
- Bakeries and pasta processing
- Drinks and beverages including mineral and drinking water
- Sugar (beet)
- Sugar (cane)
- Coffee, Cocoa and Tea processing
- Vegetable oil and fat manufacturing (soy, sunflower and palm)
- Grain processing (milling, starch flour and malt)
- Alcohol production (as part of food processing units, excluding biofuels)

Please download FBT (an XLSM file - macros must be allowed) using the adjoining hyperlink.

The use of this tool requires expertise and requires caution. The intention behind the tool is saving time for professionals collecting information. FBT neither provides nor validates the best value for a particular client or situation. This is purely for the user to decide.

# About the Benchmark Tool

## What it is

FBT is a collection of environmental performance benchmarks for the food industry compiled from select publications. The tool enables the user to search for collected benchmarks within industry sub-sectors such as:

- Meat processing
- Fish processing
- Fruit and vegetables processing
- Milk processing
- Bakeries and pasta processing
- Drinks and beverages including mineral and drinking water
- Sugar (beet)
- Sugar (cane)
- Coffee, Cocoa and Tea processing
- Vegetable oil and fat manufacturing (soy, sunflower and palm)
- Grain processing (milling, starch flour and malt)
- Alcohol production (as part of food processing units, excluding biofuels)

For each sub-sector collected benchmarks have been sorted into industry segments, wherever applicable. A segment is a food industry segment of a specific sub-sector. An example, “Poultry” is a segment of the sub-sector “Meat processing”.

## Users

The benchmark tool may be useful for IFC’s internal staff as well as external technical experts.

## Purpose

- Quick access to relevant environmental benchmark data
- Enter, store, and use analogical data obtained by technical experts from different resources including clients
- Share collected data within IFC

## Functionality

FBT allows easier use of information already collected as compared to books/brochures or other traditional means. The user can:

- see,
- filter,
- group,
- sort by data sources, and
- print selected data.

The tool is also intended for dynamic use and thus enables the user to:

- add own benchmarks,
- include new benchmark types, and
- add benchmarks or comments to individual benchmark figures.

This upgraded version 2.0 of the FBT tool, which has been extended to additional subsectors in 2019, is considered to be “beta testing” for a period of 6 months. The tool will be distributed to targeted internal and external audiences, with the request for feedback provision after 3 and 6 months. The feedback will provide the base for decisions on next steps.

## Source and quality of information

The information included in the tool originates from select publicly available sources (always referred), but there were no specific quality checks on benchmark values.

The sources include IFC E&S guidelines, EU BREFs and content of “Benchmarking guide (Ecofys)” and some internet sites. Sources are listed in the FBT spreadsheet.

Benchmarks may “repeat”. For example, the same type of information from different sources may appear, as well as the same issue may be covered by different types of benchmarks.

## How to apply this tool

The proper application of data collected in this tool:

- Requires critical technical assessment
- Must take into account reliability of data
- Must take into account uncertainties, when it comes to detailed specification of what the data covers and does not
- Preferably calculates intervals and compares/analyses different types of information

The tool could be more user-friendly at higher costs. Since the software is to be used by technical specialists, and is meant to pilot and test the approach and usefulness, we decided to limit these costs. It may be necessary, therefore, to refer to this guide when performing less frequent tasks or to fully utilize the tool’s possibilities.