

**Table S1.** Global vision of the 81 articles analysed.

Title and Authors	Product	Raw Material	Comparison with other polymers	Multifunctionality	System Boundaries	Software	LCIA Methodology	Databases
Valorisation of polylactic acid (PLA) waste: A comparative life cycle assessment of various solvent-based chemical recycling technologies [35]	Treatment of 1 t of PLA residue	NA	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	GaBi v.10	NA	International; Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD); Product Environmental Footprint (PEF). Industrial data collected from producing company.
Ecological analysis of selected stages of the food packaging production process [49]	Bottle	NA	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	Ecoindicator 99	Ecoinvent (version 3.3); Scientific literature.
Application of LCA Method for Assessment of Environmental Impacts of a Polylactide (PLA) Bottle Shaping [36]	Bottle	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro v. 8.4.1	ReCiPe 2016	Data on individual process steps from company in Poland; Ecoinvent 3.2.
Life Cycle Assessment of Two Alternative Plastics for Bottle Production [30]	Bottle	NA	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro v.8.4.0	CML 2; ReCiPe2016.	Ecoinvent;
Using atmospheric plasma to design multilayer film	Packaging “clamshell”	Potato Starch	PET and PP	System Expansion	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v. 7.3.3	Impact 2002+ ReCiPe	

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from polylactic acid and thermoplastic starch: a screening Life Cycle Assessment [50]								Data for plasma treatment from pilot plant.
Environmental performance of bioplastic packaging on fresh food produce: A consequential life cycle assessment [51]	Management of 1 t of residues	Corn	PP, HDPE, LPPE and PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	Open LCATM v.1.10.2	Environmental Footprint (EF) 2.0	Environmental Footprint (EF) 2.0; Production of PLA packages – data from Ecoinvent 3.5 based on NatureWorks
Life cycle assessment (LCA) of bio-based packaging solutions for extended shelf life (ESL) milk [29]	Packaging for 1L of milk	Corn	PET and HDPE	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v. 9	ILCD 2011	Ecoinvent 3
Life cycle assessment of bioplastic production from whey protein obtained from dairy residues [11]	1000 kg of bioplastics	Corn	PP, LPDE and HDPE	Allocation by substitution	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8.4.0.0	CML baseline 2000	Ecoinvent 3
Assessment of the environmental break-even point for deposit return systems through an LCA	Cup	NA	PP and PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8	NA	Ecoinvent v3.3

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analysis of single-use and reusable cups [25] Using life cycle assessment to quantify the environmental benefit of upcycling vine shoots as fillers in biocomposite packaging materials [52]	Tray	Corn	PP and PHBV	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8.5	ReCiPe 2016 Midpoint Hierarchist (H)	Ecoinvent v.3.4; Scientific literature and industry data.
Life cycle assessment of wheat gluten powder and derived packaging film [53]	Film with 1m <sup>2</sup> and 0.15mm	Wheat	LDPE	Mass Allocation	Cradle-to-factory gate	NA	ReCiPe endpoint (H); IMPACT 2002+ Ecoindicator 99 (H)	Ecoinvent 2.1; Data from scientific literature
Life cycle assessment (LCA) of PET and PLA bottles for the packaging of fresh pasteurised milk: The role of the manufacturing process and the disposal scenario [54]	Bottle	Sugar Cane	PET	NA	Cradle-to-cradle	SimaPro v. 9.0.0.48	IMPACT 2002+	Ecoinvent 3; Primary data; Scientific literature
Life Cycle Assessment of Polylactic Acid and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottles for Drinking Water [37]	Bottle	Corn	PET	Mass Allocation	Cradle-to-gate and Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.7	Ecoindicator 99	Ecoindicator 99 and Ecoinvent v.2.0

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Environmental impacts of functional fillers in polylactide (PLA)-based bottles using life cycle assessment methodology [24]	Bottle	Potato Starch	PLA fibers and CaCO <sub>3</sub>	NA	Cradle-to-gate	eFootprint software system of IKE Environmental Technology Co., Ltd	NA	Data from Chinese production; CLCD-China-ECER0.8.1; Ecoinvents-Public 2.2.0; Ecoinvent 3.1.0; ELCD 3.0.0.
Life Cycle Assessment of Bioplastics and Food Waste Disposal Methods [55]	1 kg of effluent to treat bioplastics and food waste	NA	NA	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	ReCiPe Midpoint (H)	Ecoinvent and Easetech
Biopolymer production and end of life comparisons using life cycle assessment. [5]	1 kg of polymer	Corn	PET, PE and TPS	Physical allocation	Cradle-to-grave	NA	TRACI v. 2.1.	Scientific literature and data collected.
Techno-economic risk assessment, life cycle analysis and life cycle costing for poly (butylene succinate) and poly (lactic acid) production using renewable resources [23]	1 kg of PLA	Corn glucose syrup, maize straw and sugar beet pulp	PBS	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-gate	GaBi	ReCiPe 1.08	GaBi; CML 2001; Scientific literature; UniSim.
Assessment of the environmental profile of	Packaging “clamshell”	Corn	PET and PS	NA	Cradle-to-cradle	SimaPro v. 7.18	IMPACT 2002+	Ecoinvent; Plastics Europe.

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PLA, PET and PS clamshell containers using LCA methodology [21]								
A Comparative Life Cycle Assessment of Meat Trays Made of Various Packaging Materials [32]	Tray	Corn	PS, PET and PP	NA	Cradle-to-gate (and end-of-life)	GaBi v.8	ILCD; Recommendations from ILCD/PEF v.1.09	Data from industry - GmbH & Co. KG (Troisdorf, Germany) e Sirap Gema SpA (Verolanuova (BS), Italy) Pilot plants; Scientific literature; GaBi and Ecoinvent.
Life cycle assessment of recycling options for polylactic acid [22]	Treatment of 1 t of PLA residue	Corn, Beetroot and Sugar cane	NA	NA	Cradle-to-grave	GaBi 2017	ILCD	
A cradle-to-gate life cycle assessment of wood fibre-reinforced polylactic acid (PLA) and polylactic acid/thermoplastic starch (PLA/TPS) biocomposites [56]	Packaging “clamshell”	Cellulosic fibers from wood	PP	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-gate	NA	TRACI + CED	Data from laboratory research; LCI database from USA; US-EI
Life Cycle Impact Assessment of Polylactic	NA	Sugar cane	NA	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro v. 8.4.0	ILCD 2011 Midpoint +	Data of PLA production from Total Corbion;

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Acid (PLA) Produced from Sugarcane in Thailand [34] Cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment of single-use cups made from PLA, PP and PET [3] Life cycle assessment of biobased chemicals from different agricultural feedstocks [57] Comparative Study of a Life Cycle Assessment for Bio-Plastic Straws and Paper Straws: Malaysia's Perspective [58] Life cycle and economic assessment of sugarcane bagasse valorization to lactic acid [26] Carbon and energy footprints of high-value food trays and lidding films made of common bio-based and conventional packaging materials [59]	Cup	Corn and sugar cane	PET and PP	Physical allocation, replacement and expansion of the system	Cradle-to-grave	GaBi 2017	ILCD	Scientific literature. Primary data; Scientific literature; Ecoinvent
	1 kg of PLA	Sugar cane, corn and sugar from beetroot	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	GaBi v.10.0.0.71	CML 2001–2016	Scientific literature
	Straws	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SuperPro Designer v.9.0	NA	Scientific literature and industry data.
	1 kg of PLA	Sugar cane bagasse	NA	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-gate	OpenLCA v.1.9	ReCiPe (H) midpoint 2016	Ecoinvent; Research data; ASPEN Plus simulation.
	Tray	Sugar cane, corn, wheat and sugar from beetroot	PET, PP and PE	NA	Cradle-to-grave	PAS 2050	NA	Scientific literature

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Comparative assessment of the environmental profile of PLA and PET drinking water bottles from a life cycle perspective [60]	Bottle	Mandioca	PET	Physical allocation	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	CML 2 baseline 2000	Association of Plastics Manufacturers of Europe (APME); Other data.
Sustainable bioplastics from amyloid fibril-biodegradable polymer blends [31]	1 kg of PLA	Organic residue	HDPE and PBS	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-grave	NA	EF3.0	Ecoinvent v.3.6
Bioplastic Wastes: The Best Final Disposition for Energy Saving. [61]	Packaging “clamshell”	Corn	PS and PE	NA	Cradle-to-gate and Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v. 7.2	GWP100a	Ecoinvent v.2.2; NatureWorks and Mater-Bi Data collected from producers, companies, laboratories, pilot plants and literature.
Comparative life cycle assessment of coffee jar lids made from biocomposites containing poly (lactic acid) and banana fiber [62]	Lid	Corn	HDPE	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8.3	ILCD ReCiPe midpoint 2016	
Banana fibre-biocomposite applied to bottle lid case - life-cycle engineering model for material selection [63]	Bottle	NA	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro v.8.4.0	CML 2; ReCiPe2016.	Ecoinvent 3.2; Data from Polish company.

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Influence of the source of starch and plasticizers on the environmental burden of starch-Brazil nut fiber biocomposite production: A life cycle assessment approach [28]	1 kg of biocomposite reinforced with BSF	Sugar cane, corn, wheat and sugar from beetroot	TPA and PP	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro v.9.1.0.11	ReCiPe endpoint	Ecoinvent 3.6; Scientific literature.
Evolution of drinking straws and their environmental, economic and societal implications [64]	1 kg of PLA	Corn	PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8.0.4.26 multi-user	NA	Ecoinvent 3
Circular economy: Comparative life cycle assessment of fossil polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and its recycled and bio-based counterparts [33]	1 metric t of plastic	Corn starch	PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	ReCiPe Midpoint (H)	Ecoinvent and Easetech
Plastic recycling in a circular economy; determining environmental performance through an LCA matrix model approach [65]	1 t of final product	NA	PP, PE and ABS	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8	ReCiPe 2008	Ecoinvent 3.4
Plastic (PET) vs bioplastic (PLA) or refillable	Bottle	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	Open LCATM v.1.8	ReCiPe	Ecoinvent; Scientific



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aluminium bottles – What is the most sustainable choice for drinking water? A life-cycle (LCA) analysis.[1] Carbon footprint of plastic from biomass and recycled feedstock: methodological insights [66] Sustainability Analysis of Active Packaging for the Fresh Cut Vegetable Industry by Means of Attributional & Consequential Life Cycle Assessment [67]	1 kg of PLA	Corn	PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8.0.4.26 multi-user	NA	literature; Industry reports.  Ecoinvent 3
	Packaging “clamshell”	Corn starch	PP	End-of-life processes allocation	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro v.8	ReCiPe	Ecoinvent v3.2; Scientific literature.
Applications of life cycle assessment to NatureWorks™ polylactide (PLA) production [68]	NA	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	NA	Association of Plastics Manufacturers of Europe (APME); Data of cultivation from Nebraska and Iowa; Data from Cargill Dow; Boustead Core database;

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Comparing two types of mainstream disposable lunch boxes by LCA and exploring the possibility of converting carbon dioxide into products [69]	1 kg of tableware	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	Eco-indicator99	Local information. Environmental Impact List of the Disposable Degradable Plastic Tableware Production Project of Wuhu Lv Kang Environmental Protection Technology Co., Ltd
3D printing to enable the reuse of marine plastic waste with reduced with reduced environmental impacts [27]	1 kg of 3D printed material	Corn	Bio-PA and PHB	NA	Cradle-to-grave	OpenLCA	ReCiPe	Ecoinvent v3.7 Gabi bioplastics 2019
Comparative Assessment of the Greenhouse Gas Emission	NA	Corn and Sugarcane	PS	NA	Cradle-to-grave	NA	NA	Data from three regions of Thailand

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and Land Use Capacity of Plastics Waste in Thailand [70]								
Development and characterization of sustainable PLA-Olive wood waste composites for rehabilitation applications using Fused Filament Fabrication (FFF) [71]	3D ornamental element printed by FFF technique with a volume of 8000 cm3	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	CML	Ecoinvent v3.8
Life Cycle Assessment of Biodegradable Polylactic Acid (PLA) Plastic Packaging Products—Taking Tianjin, China as a Case Study [72]	NA	Corn	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Data from MSW treatment facility Data found in literature
Life cycle assessment of disposable drinking straws - A trade-off analysis with marine litter in the United States [73]	500 million single-use straws	Corn	PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	GaBi	CML	Data found in literature GaBi Ecoinvent

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								US Life Cycle Inventory
Life Cycle Assessment of Selected Single-Use Plastic Products towards Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations in Sri Lanka [74]	1-time use of cutlery fork/spoon 1 cotton bud 1 Joss-Stick wrapper 1 cloth wick wrapper 1-time use of <750 mL pesticide bottle 1 grocery bag 1 straw 1-time use of 750 mL water bottle	Corn	PS, PP, LDPE, HDPE and PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	ReCiPe IPCC 2013	Data found in literature Data from unspecified LCI databases Data from manufacturers Ecoinvent v3.0
Challenges for Sustainability in Packaging of Fresh Vegetables in Organic Farming [75]	packaging bag	Corn	LDPE and PCSB	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	ReCiPe 2016 CED	Data found in literature Ecoinvent v3.4

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Melt Extrusion of Environmentally Friendly Poly(L-lactic acid)-Sodium Metabisulfite Films for Antimicrobial Packaging Applications [76]	1 kg of packaging film	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-grave	OpenLCA	ILCD	Ecoinvent v3.3
Application of LCA Method for Assessment of Environmental Impacts of a Polylactide (PLA) Bottle Shaping [36]	1L PLA blottles	NA	NA	NA	NA	SimaPro	ReCiPe 2016	Ecoinvent v.3.3
Hybrid life cycle assessment of potato pulp valorisation in biocomposite production [38]	1 kg biocomposite	Potato pulp	PHA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Data from literature Ecoinvent v.3 Potato Council EXIOBASE
Life cycle greenhouse gas emissions and energy use of polylactic acid,	one kg of waste plastics that ends up in the landfill or composting	Corn	Bio-PE, HDPE and LDPE	NA	Cradle-to-grave	NA	REET IPCC	Data found in literature Data found in REET model

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bio-derived polyethylene, and fossil-derived polyethylene [77] Eco-efficiency of Poly (lactic acid)-Starch-Cotton composite with high natural cotton fiber content: environmental and functional value [78]	production of 100 g of thermoplastic composites	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	BEST	Koellner model EU PEF BASF model	Data based on regional average Ecoinvent
Carbon Footprint of Packaging Films Made from LDPE, PLA, and PLA/PBAT Blends in South Korea [79]	400,000 pieces of film	Corn	LDPE	Three waste treatment scenarios	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	CML IPCC	corn producers of 26 counties in the U.S Ecoinvent 3.0
Close-looped recycling of polylactic acid used in 3D printing - An experimental investigation and life cycle assessment [80]	1 kg of 3D printable PLA	Corn	NA	NA	End-of-Life	GaBi	ReCiPe	Primary data Data from GaBi database
Cradle-to-Grave Life Cycle Assessment and Techno-	NA	NA	NA	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-grave	NA	TRACI	MBase database

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Economic Analysis of Polylactic Acid Composites with Traditional and Bio-Based Fillers [81]								
Eco-Efficiency Assessment of Bioplastics Production Systems and End-of-Life Options [82]	Boxes of 650 mL	Cassava and Sugarcane	PHAs, PBS and PP	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-grave	Excel	ReCiPe	Thai national life cycle inventory database Ecoinvent v 3.0
Environmental Impact Assessment of Polylactide(PLA)/Chicken Feathers Biocomposite Materials [83]	Plate	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	CML ReCiPe	primary data Data from manufacturer Ecoinvent v 3.0
Life cycle assessment of bottled water: A case study of Green2O products [84]	Bottle	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	Impact 2002+ IPCC	Green2O Ecoinvent v3
Systematic assessment of triticale-based biorefinery	Producing 100,000 tonnes of PLA	Triticale	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	IMPACT 2002+	Ecoinvet

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strategies: environmental evaluation using life cycle assessment [85]								
An attributional Life Cycle Assessment application experience to highlight environmental hotspots in the production of foamy polylactic acid trays for freshfood packaging usage[86]	1kg of trays	corn	NA	NA	Manufacturing, delivering and disposal	SimaPro	Impact 2002+	Company data Ecoinvent v2.2
Degradability and Sustainability of Nanocomposites Based on Polylactic Acid and Chitin Nano Fibrils [87]	1 kg of pellets	Corn	NA	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	ILCD ReCiPe	Ecoinvent v.2
Evaluation of physiochemical/microbial properties and life cycle assessment (LCA) of PLA-based nanocomposite active packaging [88]	Providing customers with 100 000 kg of fresh fruits during one year	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	IMPACT 2002+ EDIP 2003	Primary data Ecoinvent v.3



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Greenhouse gas mitigation for U.S. plastics production: energy first, feedstocks later [89]	The set of services provided by the entire U.S. national production of commodity thermoplastics	Corn	NA	Economic allocation	Cradle-to-gate	NA	REET IPCC	Data found in literature
Comparative assessment of global warming impact and eco-efficiency of PS, PET and PLA boxes [90]	boxes with the same carrying capacity of 100 grams	Corn	PS and PET	End-of-life processes allocation	Cradle-to-grave	NA	IPCC 2006	Data found in literature Ecoinvent v2.2
Life Cycle Assessment of Poly(Lactic Acid) (PLA): Comparison Between Chemical Recycling, Mechanical Recycling and Composting [91]	1 kg of residual PLA	Corn	NA	End-of-life processes allocation	End-of-Life	SimaPro	ReCiPe	Data found in literature Primary data Data from computer simulaton Ecoinvent v2.2

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Corn-based Polylactide vs. PET Bottles - Cradle-to-gate LCA and Implications [92]	500 ml water bottle	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	CED	Data from companies BioGrace software Ecoinvent v. 2.2
Facility arrangements and the environmental performance of disposable and reusable cups [93] From “farm to fork” strawberry system: Current realities and potential innovative scenarios from life cycle assessment of non-renewable energy use and greenhouse gas emissions [94]	Cup	Corn	PS	End-of-life processes allocation	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro and Excel	CML CED	Ecoinvent
Multiple data sets and modelling choices in a comparative LCA of	250-gramme flow pack	NA	Mater-BI and PE	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	IPCC	Data from local producers Ecoinvent v. 2.2
	Disposable beverage cup fit for serving 180 ml hot	Corn	PS	End-of-life processes allocation	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	CML CED	Data found in literature Data from

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disposable beverage cups [95]	drinks by vending machines							companies ELCD database Ecoinvent PlasticsEurope
Bio-production from Australian sugarcane: an environmental investigation of product diversification in an agro-industry [96]	NA	Sugarcane	NA	NA	NA	SimaPro	Impact 2002+	Data found in literature
Life cycle assessment of bio-based products: a disposable diaper case study (Mirabella et al., 2013)[97]	Diaper	Corn	Mater-BI	NA	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	ReCiPe 2008 IMPACT 2002+ CED	Data from literature Data from the company Ecoinvent
Life cycle assessment of single use thermoform boxes made from polystyrene (PS), polylactic acid, (PLA), and PLA/starch:	Boxes	Cassava and Corn	PS	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	EDIP 2003	Thailand energy database Ecoinvent v1.01 and 2.2

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cradle to consumer gate [98] Accounting for the constrained availability of land: a comparison of bio-based ethanol, polyethylene, and PLA with regard to non-renewable energy use and land use [99]	1000 kg product	Corn, Wheat, Sugarbeet, Sugarcane and Miscanthus	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	NREU	Data found in literature PlasticsEurope
To compost or not to compost: Carbon and energy footprints of biodegradable materials' waste treatment [100]	1 kg of material	NA	Mater-BI, PBAT and PHA	End-of-life processes allocation	End-of-Life	NA	IPCC 2007 NREU	Data found in literature Data from unspecified LCI databases
Life Cycle Assessment of Polylactic Acid and Polyethylene Terephthalate Bottles for	500-mL bottle	Corn	PET	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	Ecoindicator 99	Ecoinvent v.2.0 24 European production sites

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Drinking Water [37]								
Bioplastics disposal: How to manage it [101]	Bottles of 1,5 litres	Corn	Mater-BI	End-of-life processes allocation	Cradle-to-gate	SimaPro	IPCC Ecoindicator 99	Ecoinvent v.2.0 Eco-profiles of the European plastics industry
Twisting biomaterials around your little finger: environmental impacts of bio-based wrappings [102]	Packaging film	Corn	Bio-PE, PET and PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	NA	CML	Data from companies Data from unspecified LCI databases
Life cycle assessment of the manufacture of lactide and PLA biopolymers from sugarcane in Thailand [103]	1 tonne of material at the factory gate in Thailand	Sugarcane	NA	NA	Cradle-to-gate	NA	NA	European Plastics Association's database Data from literature GaBi database

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Environmental assessment of biodegradable multilayer film derived from carbohydrate polymers [104]	Multilayer film	Corn	PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	SimaPro	NA	PlasticsEurope Data found in literature
Biodegradable Packaging Life-Cycle Assessment [105]	Yogurt package	Corn	PP	NA	Cradle-to-grave	NA	NA	NA