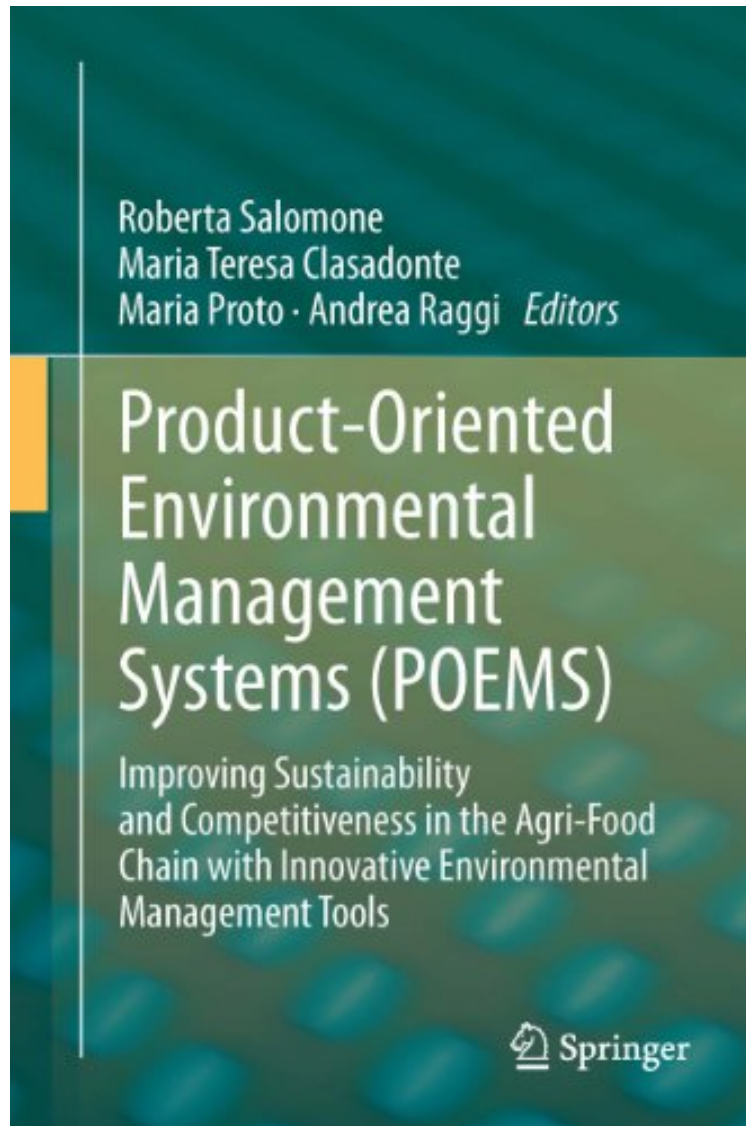


(Mobile book) Product-Oriented Environmental Management Systems (POEMS): Improving Sustainability and Competitiveness in the Agri-Food Chain with Innovative Environmental Management Tools

Product-Oriented Environmental Management Systems (POEMS): Improving Sustainability and Competitiveness in the Agri-Food Chain with Innovative Environmental Management Tools

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Chain with Innovative Environmental Management Tools:

Representing the coordinated work of a research group from four different Italian University departments which conducted the Eco-Management for Food (EMAF) Project, this book offers a systematic approach for managing and improving the environmental aspects of agri-food processes and products using Product-Oriented Environmental Management Systems (POEMS).

From the Back Cover Representing the coordinated work of a research group from four different Italian University departments which conducted the Eco-Management for Food (EMAF) Project, this book offers a systematic approach for managing and improving the environmental aspects of agri-food processes and products using Product-Oriented Environmental Management Systems (POEMS). The European Commission's EIPRO study estimates that food alone is responsible for 17% of overall emissions of greenhouse gases, and uses 28% of natural resources. Moreover, food wastage in Europe is estimated at 90 million tonnes per year, which translates to 180 kg per person annually. The 2011 European Road Map for Resource Efficiency sets ambitious targets for agriculture by 2020: 50% reduction of waste and wastage; conservation of natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystem services; reduction of land use and improvement of soil quality; independence from fossil fuels. The distinctive characteristic of the proposed POEMS model is its modular structure: it is composed of a collection of management tools that can be applied, individually (Integrated Management System, Life Cycle Assessment, product environmental labeling guidelines) or as combination of two or more elements, based on the specific requirements and objectives an organization aims to reach. The contents include the analysis of the individual environmental management tools of which the POEMS model is made up, with a description of their methodological structure and the main results of their implementation in different pilot agri-food companies, in order to verify their effective functioning and to highlight the strong and weak points of the POEMS model and of its individual fundamental components. The book is designed to help support sound sustainability decision-making, informed by scientifically-sound quantitative information.