OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT BUSINESS DECISION-MAKING

DR SARAH SIM
EVOLVING SCIENCE WITHIN UNILEVER

- Defining 3 corporate sustainability initiatives
- Embedding sustainability in Brands/marketing
- Integrated business strategy
- Systems thinking

Timeline:
- 1980: Product LCA
- 1990: Overall Business Impact Assessment
- 2000: Brand Imprint
- 2010: USLP footprint

1990 - 2015
SEAC 25 YEARS OF SCIENCE
SYSTEMS THINKING

- Risks / Vulnerabilities / Impact / Uncertainty

- Knock-on / Indirect effects increase (+ve/-ve)
- Knowledge of system & connections decrease
KEY CAPABILITY AREAS

- Petro
- Bio-based

Spatially Explicit

Scale Assessment

Modelling Uncertainty & Variability

HELPING TO ELIMINATE DEFORESTATION

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

IMPROVING WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

1990 – 2015
SEAC
25 YEARS OF SCIENCE
PREDICTING EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION
UNDERSTANDING HOUSEHOLD WATER

% of population whose water source is located far from home (Source: Census 2011)

% of test samples that show at least one contaminant (Source: WQMSP, 3 million samples)

Data from Census 2011
IMPROVING RELIABILITY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PLANETARY BOUNDARY RELEVANCE FOR UNILEVER

Steffen et al. (2015)
SUMMARISING THE OPPORTUNITIES

Multi-disciplinary

Tools harnessing big data & analytics and visualisation techniques
Thank you

Questions?