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# **Towards a Methodological Framework**

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## The Starting Position

**There is a need for cross-cutting and shared approaches.**

**The feasibility of such approaches cannot be taken for granted.**

## Key Elements for Consideration

- 1. The objective of the specific impact analysis**
- 2. The methods available**
- 3. The challenges facing implementation**

## Some Potential Objectives of Standards Impact Assessment

- **To inform public authorities on appropriate policy interventions and approaches**
- **To assist standards bodies in achieving improved impact (continual improvement)**
- **To assist consumers in making responsible choices**
- **To assist firms and producers in assessing strategic opportunities**

# Characteristics of Different Methodologies

Standards Impact Assessment Matrix

		Cost-benefit	Multi-criteria analysis	Gravity Analysis	Lifecycle Analysis	Ecological Footprinting	Global Commodity Chain Analysis	Livelihoods Analysis	Emergy	Material flows Analysis	Industrial Organization Analysis
<b>Thematic Coverage</b>											
	<i>Social</i>		x				x	X			
	<i>Economic</i>	x	x	X			x	x			x
	<i>Environmental</i>		x		x	x			x	x	
<b>Stage of the Supply Chain</b>											
	<i>Field/Firm</i>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	x
	<i>Community/Landscape</i>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
	<i>Country/Regional</i>	x	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	x
	<i>Market/Supply chain</i>			X	X	x	x	X	x	x	x
<b>Data Sources</b>											
	<i>Case studies</i>	X					X	X			X
	<i>Focus groups</i>						X	X			X
	<i>Survey-questionnaire</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x	X
	<i>Direct Sampling</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	<i>Market and other Macro Statistics</i>	x	X	X		X	x	X	x	X	x

# Challenges

- 1. Scarcity of data**
- 2. Cost of gathering (quality) data**
- 3. Difficulty of determining counterfactuals and comparability**
- 4. Attribution**
- 5. Diversity of supply chains and sectors**

## Different Kinds of Frameworks

- **Information sharing without a framework**
- **A framework for information sharing**
- **A framework for data collection and dissemination**
- **A framework for analysis**