Foreword

The relationship between economic growth and environmental pollution is meanwhile increasingly well-known and well-discussed. Various methods have been developed, in order to assess environmental pollution. Plenty of guidelines and handbooks in this area have already been published. Numerous case studies have analyzed the whole life cycle of different industrial products and have assessed the impacts of these industries on the environment. Nevertheless, to some extent, some industries have been less well-studied. The food industry, respectively the dairy industry, is an example of this. In particular, the focus is on assessing the environmental impacts of milk production (at dairy farms) rather than analyzing the impacts of milk processing (at dairy factories).

The mitigation of global environmental impacts of industries requires combined consideration of all life cycle stages of industries. All countries must participate in the mitigation of global climate change. This study, as (most probably) the first Armenian Environmental Life Cycle Assessment study focusing on the Armenian dairy industry, could play a supportive role in this case.

In this dissertation thesis, the statement of the problem in the Republic of Armenia is described within the first chapter after a short introduction. The theoretical basics of the methodology of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) according to the instructions of ISO 14040 (2009) and ISO 14044 (2006) are introduced in the second chapter. This chapter introduces, in addition, the state of the scientific knowledge and literature frameworks regarding the LCA. The third chapter deals with the research material and methodologies. The forth chapter introduces the results. The fifth chapter discusses the calculated results and the sixth chapter presents the conclusions of this dissertation thesis, recommendations, and the further perspectives.