

## Guest Speaker

### Professor Greg Thoma

The Sustainability Consortium's role in driving sustainability through supply chains

The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) is a diverse partnership of more than 100 organisations that works on measuring and improving the sustainability of consumer goods. Its members include Mars, Monsanto, Tesco, Unilever and Walmart. The vision of the TSC is “to advance science to drive a new generation of innovative products and supply networks that address environmental, social, and economic imperatives.” This presentation will provide insights into how The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) is realising its vision by creating sustainability-related knowledge on particular product categories, and use of its Sustainability Measurement and Reporting System (SMRS). A particular focus will be the role of the TSC in driving change through supply chains – and what this means for companies based in New Zealand.

Greg is a Professor at University of Arkansas, and former Research Director at The Sustainability Consortium. The consortium is “an organisation of diverse global participants that work collaboratively to build a scientific foundation that drives innovation to improve consumer product sustainability. We develop transparent methodologies, tools, and strategies to drive a new generation of products and supply networks that address environmental, social, and economic imperatives.” It involves a number of multi-nationals including Walmart, Unilever, Mars, etc. They have developed a Sustainability Measurement and Reporting System (SMRS) which is used to assess products in different product categories; find out how it works and how influential it is.

Greg also led a recent study on the greenhouse gas emissions associated with US milk production (see <http://www.adpi.org/tabid/74/mid/419/newsid419/856/Dairy-Industry-Completes-Fluid-Milk-Carbon-Footprint-Study-as-Part-of-Industry-Wide-Sustainability-Commitment-/Default.aspx>).