

Sustainability challenges in the food supply chains of developing countries: a systematic review of literature

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Abstract

The agriculture and food production are major contributions from the rural sector to a nation's economy and social well-being. In most developing countries, the exportation of these commodities has generated economic growth and infrastructure changes. Brazil, for instance, has been self-sufficient in food production for the past several decades. Nonetheless, growing sustainability challenges within the food supply chain, regarding wastage and security, have become paramount issues for food industry stakeholders, requiring innovative capacity building through unique supply chain strategies and policies. The study aims to explore opportunities for rural development through a sustainable food supply chain, which deploys new technologies to support required infrastructure and capacity building. A systematic review of literature was conducted to uncover current sustainability challenges in the food supply chains of developing countries. The main outcome of the study will be a proposal for a conceptual model, which can be used by policy makers and local food industries to address these challenges.

Keywords

Food Supply Chain, Sustainability, Challenges, Developing Countries, Literature Review

Biographies

Dr Lilian Adriana Borges is a Senior Lecturer and Research Coordinator at UNIDAVI, in Rio do Sul, Brazil. Prior to her academic career, Lilian worked for large multinational companies such as Philip Morris and Bematech for ten years, dealing with imports and exports. She has 13 years of experience in teaching and research, having published in four-star journals and high-profile conferences. Currently, she is involved in four projects related to sustainability, which address food supply logistics (FSL) and the measurement of environmental performance in hospitals in Brazil.

Dr Usha Ramanathan is a Reader in the College of Business Law & Social Sciences of the Nottingham Business School at the Nottingham Trent University in Nottingham, United Kingdom. She has teaching experience in Higher Education for over two decades. Usha taught in various countries namely India, Oman and the UK. Usha's wide experience in education and management includes teaching and conducting case studies, interviews with businesses and conducting workshops in the UK and abroad. She is an experienced researcher and has published over 50 internationally recognized journal articles and a few books. Currently, Dr Ramanathan is involved in the Erasmus+ EUFORIA project with Kosovo for capacity building of local academics to support businesses locally.