

A Sustainable Supply Chain Practices for International Manufacturing Industries Within the Greater Bay Area China: Basis for Enhancement Program

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Abstract: This research investigates the SSCP in international manufacturing industries within China's Greater Bay Area (GBA), aiming to develop an enhancement program. The study identifies key green strategies, such as circular economy initiatives, renewable energy adoption, eco-friendly logistics, green manufacturing practices, and stakeholder collaboration. It addresses the challenges of environmental disruptions, inconsistent regulations, and technological shifts that international firms face in achieving sustainability. Using a quantitative approach with data mining, the research analyzes the implementation of sustainable practices across inbound logistics, operations, outbound logistics, and support services. The proposed enhancement program offers strategic recommendations to optimize the SSCP, improve resource efficiency, and foster long-term viability for international industries in the GBA.

Keywords: Sustainable Supply Chain; Greater Bay Area (GBA); International Manufacturing Practices; Circular Economy; Eco-friendly Logistics; Stakeholder Collaboration; Green Packaging Solutions; After-sales Traceability; Enhancement Program.

1. Introduction

In recent times, most countries experienced a shift towards sustainable practices in their manufacturing industries including China. Driven by global market trends, demands, and internal policies, the shift was evident in the increasing attention toward the Sustainable Supply Chain Practices (SSCP) by international industries in the manufacturing sector in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Despite China's efforts and the progress made in sustainable practices in the supply chain, the country was still facing the challenges. The lack of unified regulations and standards for Sustainable practices has led to inconsistent implementation across the international industry. The need for continuous improvement to stay aligned with the shifting of technologies in the market. These issues render manufacturing industries to fully scale implementation strategies for fear of technological changes made over time rendering full implementation obsolete in technological advancements especially in the GBA.

Reluctantly, there are also issues faced by international manufacturing industries in the GBA relating to its sustainable supply chain. These problems include environmental factors such as disasters and climate, as well as logistical in sourcing eco-friendly materials and controlling and disposing of waste. In addition to the problems, consumers, stakeholders, and government regulations are increasingly paying attention and exerting pressure on companies to fully commit to sustainable practices, adding to the already complexities of sustainable supply chain management. Further, the evaluation provides how different cities within the GBA can adopt eco-friendly logistics practices.

The researcher aimed to address these concerns by proposing a practices for enhancing the practices in the GBA. By analyzing the current trends and best practices in international manufacturing industries this research will provide a benchmark and insights into what industries are

doing to overcome regulatory barriers and implement cost-effective technologies about sustainable supply chain. Moreover, this endeavor aims to explore innovative solutions to effectively manage environmental risks. Support China's long-term viability of international manufacturing industries within its realm of influence. Zhang Tong's (2023) study on the impact of sustainable supply chain management to be effective suggests the integration of sustainable practices including the following: government regulations and policies, circular economy initiatives, water management practices, collaboration with stakeholders, renewable energy adoption, green packaging solutions, green manufacturing practices, eco-friendly transportation, environmental reporting and certification, and supply chain traceability, are crucial for achieving long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design

The research design that involved quantitative techniques, and the researcher took an active role in gathering data through data mining methods. Data mining involved extracting trends, patterns, and insights from large datasets. The Researcher collected data from a variety of sources, such as databases, online repositories, to create a comprehensive data-set for analysis. Quantitative techniques allowed for the systematic and examination of relationships between variables in order to test the hypotheses and come up with a conclusion based on evidence. Using data mining methods, the researcher sought to uncover hidden patterns in the data that were not evident using traditional survey collection methods, whereby increasing the depth and breadth of the findings of the study. In most cases, when surveys are conducted using questionnaires, employees will choose to answer affirmatively in order to protect the company's reputation. Using data mining reduces this problem. Because researchers will fill out the forms themselves, ensuring

uniformity and consistency in the assessment.

2.2. Data Management

To ensure data consistency, data input needs to be verified. Maintenance of data ensured that only the researcher had access to the data depository to ensure confidentiality. Coding of data assigned and substitute name with number and letters to ensure anonymity. Backup data ensured and prevent data loss. Strict adherence to ethical standards was ensured through anonymity since it is the researcher gathered data through data mining. In this research, the researcher utilized the secondary data that involved collection of data from existing datasets from company's website, government database, industry reports. The approach ensured extensive data sets to ensure a comprehensive review and discovery of new trends.

2.3. Statistical Treatment

The statistical treatment was frequency and percentage for Country of Affiliation and Type of Industry, while Number of Years operation in China, the researcher will use average and standard deviation. The level of implementation to the SSCP and researcher used weighted mean as different weight were given to each statement. The frequency will be multiplied by the weight then divided by the total number of responses. The weighted mean will provide the average level of implementation on the variables given, providing a clear collective assessment on the level of implementation.

For the level of implementation to the SSCP and researcher used weighted mean as different weight were given to each statement. The frequency will be multiplied by the weight then divided by the total number of responses. The weighted mean will provide the average level of implementation on the variables given, providing a clear collective assessment on the level of implementation.

For the significant relationship among the profile of selected industries and the level of implementation to the SSCP, the researcher used multiple regression to calculate of the strength of the relationship. Then F test is used to calculate whether the relationship is significant. Given the set of data variables, it is not enough to calculate relationship but whether the relationship is significant.

For the dimension has the highest determinant in terms of impact in the SSCP, the researcher used the result of the weighted mean and standard deviation and compared them using descriptive statistics. For the relationship among the dimensions of the SSCP, multiple regression was used. It's essential not only to determine the relationship's strength but also to ascertain whether this relationship is statistically significant.

Last the researcher will use coefficient of determination to check the level of % that can be explained to each factor on their the SSCP. This statistical measure will help quantify the percentage of variability in the SSCP that can be explained by each factor under study. The researcher aims to identify and prioritize the factors that most significantly.

3. Literature References

Sun et al.(2019) and Zhu et al.(2019) are both into circular economy efforts, Xia and Ruan (2020) identify barriers to circular economy development.

Xiong et al.(2019) and Xu et al.(2019) both studies address water sustainability by looking into water scarcity, Liu et al.(2019) and Zhao et al.(2021) explored water conservation

thus a need for allocation. Liu et al.(2020) looked at water as a link to the energy supply and its impact on the global supply chain.

Jiang (2019) and Yang et al.(2022) both studies explored enhancing information sharing. Wang et al.(2020) emphasize decentralization to increase information sharing. Duong and Chong (2020) deal with resiliency through collaboration and partnership to overcome challenges. Ali et al. proposed a machine learning practices for collaboration to improve decision-making process and efficiency.

Takeda et al.(2019) and Akram et al.(2020) both address the social and carbon emission impacts of renewable energy. Lotfi et al.(2021) and Jelti et al.(2021) focused on resiliency and performance. Zhang et al.(2021) proposed an interplay between external and internal governance to foster renewable energy.

Resat and Unsal (2019) and Cankaya and Sezen (2019) focused on optimized green packaging solutions. Tavares et al.(2019) and Trivellas et al.(2020) explored the effects of green initiatives on supply chain outcomes. Porkar et al.(2020) discuss integrated logistics focused on green design and quality.

Yu et al.(2019) and Wang et al.(2020) both examined the impact of the SSCP on manufacturing performance. Trujillo-Gallego et al.(2021) and Awan (2022) focused on the impact of environmental collaboration and the mediation role of sustainable supply chains.

Enshaei et a. (2020) highlight innovative transport strategies including JIT implementation. Klimecka-Tatar et al.(2021) and Shramenko et al.(2022) looked into the adoption of green vehicles and logistic approaches. Dey et al.(2022) proposed an approach to reduce carbon emissions.

Seman et al.(2019) looked into the positive impact of a sustainable supply chain focused on ISO 14000. Castka et al.(2020) and Cheisvianny (2020) explored social and environmental accountability. Stranieri et al.(2021) positively cling to strategic motivations behind the adoption of environmentally – friendly certifications.

Jin et al.(2019, 2021) and Iftekhar and Cui (2021) emphasize the significance of traceability in addressing food safety concerns, particularly through inspection intensity and risk awareness. Additionally, Yingting Yi et al.(2021) and Dacan Li et al.(2022) highlight the role of blockchain technology in enhancing traceability systems. While Jin et al. (2019) focus on empirical surveys, Iftekhar and Cui (2021) explore blockchain applications specifically in the context of COVID-19. Conversely, Yingting Yi et al. and Dacan Li et al. delve into the enablers and barriers of traceability adoption and its implementation in Traditional Chinese Medicine, respectively.

The research results will have far-reaching implications, for the SSCP, for both academia and industry practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders. By supporting and overcoming challenges, international industries as well as China will benefit from this undertaking.

4. Conclusion

4.1. Profile of Industries

The research presents an overview of foreign companies operating in the Greater Bay Area. First, in terms of country of origin, Japanese companies dominate foreign investment in China and have a significant presence in various industries. These companies have adapted to China's changing economic

environment and have maintained an advantage over other competitors by taking advantage of their early entry into the market. The rapid growth of the automotive industry has made China an important player in the world market, further solidifying its industrial and economic influence. These findings offer valuable context for understanding the sustainable supply chain's sustainable development in the GBA.

4.2. Level of Implementation

Inbound Logistics

The government has introduced mandatory policies to promote the development of sustainable supply chains in the GBA manufacturing industry. Companies are committed to minimizing their impact on the environment by reducing waste generation. In terms of collaboration with stakeholders, close collaboration with manufacturers is the most widely used part. This collaboration aligns production processes with sustainable development goals. In contrast, collaboration with retailers to ensure sustainable product distribution is the least likely to occur. Because retailers are often reluctant to share information with manufacturers, they worry that such transparency may lead to them being excluded from the supply chain, which creates a significant obstacle to achieving a fully sustainable inbound logistics network.

Operations

In terms of operations, renewable energy, packaging, and green manufacturing practices, which showcases key trends in it.

Outbound Logistics

In the field of environmentally friendly transportation, eco-friendly warehouse design is the most common approach. Companies prioritize sustainable building design to minimize energy consumption and carbon footprint. However, the use of electric vehicles to replace traditional modes of transportation is not widely implemented. Overall, while progress has been made in creating environmentally friendly infrastructure and reporting systems, significant gaps remain in the adoption of environmentally friendly transportation and advanced technologies.

After sales support

The summary of findings for customer support, with a focus on traceability, highlights both the progress and challenges in implementing effective systems. This complexity hinders the seamless flow of real-time information, impacting the efficiency and responsiveness of customer support in supply chain traceability efforts.

4.3. Significant Difference

The drivers for adopting sustainable supply chain strategies appear to be external pressures, such as regulatory frameworks, environmental innovation, and stakeholder expectations, rather than internal company characteristics. siveness of customer support in supply chain traceability efforts. These studies also showed that the type of business does not significantly affect the adoption of GSCM. Similarly, as confirmed by Reche et al. (2020) and Jo & Kwon (2021), the length of time a firm has been in the market is not a determining factor in the degree of GSCM implementation. Finally, also does not affect GSCM practices.

4.4. Impact of Dimensions

The support services, especially in areas such as traceability and safety measures at warehouses, are the most

implemented dimensions that reflecting their key role in ensuring operational efficiency and project success. The results align with previous studies, which highlighted barriers to integrating sustainable practices into inbound logistics, particularly in the background of the circular economy transition. Overall, the importance of support services and the SSCP management, while also highlighting the need for improvement in inbound logistics and renewable energy adoption.

4.5. Significant Relationship

The analyzes the important relationships between the various dimensions, emphasizing the interconnectedness of logistics and support services in achieving environmental sustainability. There is a very strong correlation between inbound logistics and operations. This finding consistent with the research of An et al. (2021), which emphasizes that promoting green logistics operations requires strong infrastructure construction and prompt resource utilization efficiency, especially in terms of renewable energy.

4.6. Enhancement Program

Enterprises can effectively achieve sustainable supply chain goals by following inbound or outbound services.

The first program, the Inbound Logistics – Operations. It focuses on establishing inbound logistics as the basis for implementing a sustainable supply chain and optimizing inbound logistics to promote the operational development of enterprises. The study highlights a strong correlation between operations and the successful implementation of the SSCP. Therefore, optimizing inbound logistics can significantly improve operations.

The second program, the Outbound Logistics - Support Services. It promotes sustainable supply chain management by optimizing outbound logistics, developing support services, etc. to control and track related activities. Research shows that a very strong correlation in support services and the SSCP. which shows that support services, including traceability systems, are critical for the implementation of sustainable supply chain.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Profile of Industries

Based on the insights provided about foreign companies operating in the GBA, particularly their country of origin, years of operation, and industry focus, make some recommendations.

1. Enhance Collaboration between Local and Foreign Companies
2. Leverage Experience of Long-standing Firms to Boost Sustainability
3. Develop Industry-specific sustainable supply chain Strategies

These recommendations aim to further improve the adaptability, resilience, and sustainability of foreign companies in the GBA, ensuring that both economic growth and environmental sustainability can be balanced effectively.

5.2. Level of Implementation

There are many improvements were tried by implementation process of the SSCP. The following are some recommendations.

1. Promote the government guidance

2. Improve Recycling Processes and End-of-Life Product Management
3. Expand Water Conservation Efforts
4. Enhance Collaboration with Retailers
5. Invest in Renewable Energy Adoption
6. Encourage Innovation in Green Packaging
7. Promote Supply Chain Resilience
8. Incorporate More Electric Vehicles in Transportation
9. Enhance Reporting Standardization and Transparency
10. Strengthen Real-time Transparency in Supply Chain Traceability

5.3. Significant Difference

There are no obvious significant differences among the selected international manufacturing industries about the profile and level of implementation of the SSCP. Therefore, in addition to the previous suggestions for the manufacturing industry in the GBA, the following useful attempts can also be made.

1. Focus on Universal GSCM Drivers Across Industries
2. Emphasize Innovation and Environmental Collaboration
3. Promote GSCM Awareness and Training
4. Collaborate Globally on GSCM Innovations

By addressing these areas, companies can achieve greater success in their GSCM efforts and contribute to the broader goal of sustainability, regardless of their country, industry, or years of operation

5.4. Impact of Dimensions

Based on the analysis of the SSCP, support services emerge as the highest implemented determinant within the supply chain, specifically owing to strong concentrate on traceability, safety, and recall capabilities in warehouses. These factors enhance efficiency, ensure safety, and improve project success. Here are some recommendations to further strengthen the impact of support services on the SSCP.

1. Leverage Advanced Technologies for Traceability
2. Expand Safety and Recall Protocols
3. Prioritize Sustainability in Support Services Expansion
4. Integrate AI for Warehouse Management and Efficiency
5. Optimize Warehouse Layouts for Circular Economy Practices
6. Establish standards for sustainable supply chain Support Services

These standards can help companies continuously improve the SSCP and ensure their sustainable development.

5.5. Significant Relationship

Based on the significant correlations among the dimensions, the following recommendations are made to enhance its sustainability and effectiveness.

1. Prioritize Infrastructure and Resource Efficiency in Inbound Logistics.
2. Integrate Operations and Inbound Logistics for Seamless sustainable supply chain Implementation.
3. Strengthen Outbound Logistics to Enhance Support Services.
4. Enhance Collaboration Across the Supply Chain for Better Integration.
5. Leverage Data Analytics to Monitor and Improve sustainable supply chain Performance.

Use predictive analytics and data visualization to track key performance indicators (KPIs) such as carbon footprint, energy consumption, and waste reduction across all the

dimensions. Conduct regular audits of inbound, outbound, operations, and support services to assess alignment with environmental goals and identify areas for continuous improvement.

5.6. Enhancement Program

Inbound-Operations

The Program focuses on the early stages, focusing on sustainable practices in procurement, resource management and green manufacturing. Beginning with sourcing raw materials from suppliers who adhere to environmentally friendly practices, optimizing the energy, water and raw materials reduces waste to minimizes carbon footprint. In addition, green manufacturing practices should be integrated into the production process, prioritizing energy-saving technologies, reducing emissions, and ensuring that waste materials are recycled or reused during the production cycle.

Outbound-Support

The Program focuses on the later stages, prioritizing environmentally friendly distribution, packaging and enhanced customer service sustainability practices. Starting with environmentally friendly distribution methods, such as using electric vehicles, optimizing delivery routes, and consolidating freight to reduce emissions and fuel consumption. Prioritize green packaging solutions that use biodegradable or recyclable materials to further reduce your environmental impact. Enhanced customer service sustainability practices, such as providing real-time tracking of products and environmental impact reporting, can increase customer engagement and satisfaction. Additionally, by implementing support services such as product take-back programs or extending product life cycles, companies can promote a circular economy where products are reused or recycled rather than thrown away.

Through the two Programs of sustainable supply chain, companies can systematically address the different stages, ensuring that sustainability is integrated at every level. From raw material purchasing to product delivery and customer service experience, this approach reduces costs by focusing resources where they are most needed, but also improves the overall efficiency of the SSCP.

In short, the governments, industries and enterprises in the GBA need to work Jointly and to promote the development of the SSCP and international manufacturing sustainable supply chain in the region. It is hoped that the proposed programs can provide reference for international manufacturing enterprises in the region and provide suggestions for the sustainable development of these industry.

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