

GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Purpose- This article has been carried out to determine the situation of green supply chain practices, which are of great importance worldwide, in Turkiye/Diyarbakir province food companies. Supply chain management starts with the procurement of raw materials. After the supply, the product is processed and delivered to customers through the distribution channel. After the consumption stage, the supply chain management process is completed with the return of the product that has completed its life cycle to the enterprise. The main objective of supply chain management is to make the best use of the factors in use. These factors are listed as technology, process management, personnel management, and performance measurement after completing the management process. With these parameters, it is aimed to be prepared for the expected changes in the market in supply chain management and to determine strategies against possible changes.

Methodology- The survey method was used to obtain the study data. The questionnaire form, which was created following the scope of the study, was applied to the determined companies face-to-face and via email. In analysing the data obtained, the study data were analysed by frequency analysis through statistical programs. The results were presented in tables and interpreted.

Findings- The survey data created within the scope of the study were analysed using statistical programmes. The data obtained were analysed by taking into account the strategic position and market share of Diyarbakir province in Turkiye.

Conclusion- As a result of the research, it was determined that food companies operating in Diyarbakir province are aware of green supply chain management. In addition, it was determined that they pay attention to the use of environmentally friendly and recyclable products or activities from the raw material procurement stage to the production stage. In addition, it has been determined that they are sensitive to production, supply and distribution activities by international standards.

Keywords: Green supply chain, food industry sector, supply chain, green supply chain management

JEL Codes: Q50, Q56, G34

1. INTRODUCTION

Utilizing the latest technological services to maintain supply chain management in the food industry can increase the company's confidence in its products and production. In addition, under the umbrella of supply chain management is the protection or minimization of risk from inefficient logistics. This process will affect the profitability of the company. Therefore, an effective supply chain management process can also help to give new efficient ideas to deal with problems arising from logistics or any problem related to the management of the product assembly. It is one of the important procedures that directly affect the economy (Saleem and Sezen, 2022).

In the food sector, which plays an important role in maintaining our lives, it is an important issue to ensure the production of foodstuffs under reliable conditions. In this respect, the food supply chain can be evaluated in two stages: from the processing of food products to the processing process, and from processing to consumption. The relationship of food businesses with their suppliers is a situation that provides advantages in financial and non-financial issues in the first stage (Acar, 2014).

With the development of environmental awareness, customers and governments exert environmental pressure on food businesses and suppliers, encouraging businesses to be sensitive to environmental issues. In recent years, food businesses have been adopting more "green" practices and have started to develop strategies to effectively achieve and improve their competitiveness in the international arena. In this context, green supply chain management is a modern management style

that integrates environmental protection ideas. In this framework, food businesses, governments, customers, and suppliers should share information and cooperate to prevent environmental problems and solve existing environmental problems.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Özkaya and Kazançoğlu (2020), in their study, define green supply chain management and state what factors drive the green supply chain. In their study, they used qualitative research methods and interview techniques. Akben (2021) states in his study that production activities should become more environmentally friendly with the awareness of consumers on environmental issues and the change in purchasing behaviour of consumers, where natural resources are at the point of depletion. He states that with the green supply chain, businesses will strive to create an environmentalist image as well as fulfil their social responsibility duty by minimising the damage they cause to the environment.

Despoudi, (2020), Climate change leads to changes in policies and regulations for the green approach. Supply chain management increases the need for a green approach. To achieve this, companies need to adopt a sustainable development plan by focusing on green activities such as energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as changes in their basic organisation. Food companies need to incorporate environmental thinking into their core strategy and extend it to the green supply chain. Trivellas et al. (2020), in their study, state that they focus on working on green supply chain management related to environmental activities in which companies create their supply chain against increasing environmental factors. The special requirements identified in food logistics go beyond product quality by improving the transport and storage conditions of perishable goods and go beyond environmental and sustainable. It states that it requires the creation of green logistics management by demanding the spread of areas.

Safarlı and Avunduk (2023), in their study, state that the natural environment is damaged due to reasons such as lack of environmental awareness, industrialization, and excessive waste. They state that these damages can be overcome by minimising the waste of natural resources and sustainable businesses in environmental control and green supply chain practices. Görgülü et al. (2023), in their study, state that the green supply chain is an important paradigm for companies, that it will minimise the cost concept, and that a green and sustainable environment will be created by selecting the appropriate facility area.

Sayın and Köse (2019), In the study, it was tried to analyse the effect of green supply chain practices on business performance and competitiveness, which indirectly affects all sectors, although it is generally seen in the production sector, where companies and producers have developed the green supply chain to be beneficial to nature and human beings. Soyer and Türkay (2020) stated in their study that with the rapid development of technology, the opportunity to offer more varieties and quantities of products to the market has increased. However, it is stated that a new decision model should be developed for green supply selection, where consumers prefer more environmentally friendly products and green supply choices come to the fore. Özdemir and Arslan (2020) stated that the transition to production with the Industrial Revolution led to the formation of some environmental problems as well as the diversity of the goods produced. Businesses have had to struggle with the increase in the competitive environment. With the increase in environmental awareness, businesses have turned to green practices to produce environmentally sensitive goods and services. In his study, concepts such as the effects of green supply chains on business performance were mentioned.

Gilanlı (2018), Supply chains are one of the most important elements of sustainable practices in enterprises. With the development of environmental awareness, businesses have to be sensitive to the environment. He states that the concept of green management has become important with the formation of deterioration in environmental valuations. Koska et al. (2016), Nowadays, businesses should focus on environmental issues, evaluate the negative effects of businesses on the environment with green thinking, and start environmental activities by adapting the green concept to the supply chain. In their study, they tried to emphasise the importance of the green supply chain by determining the obstacles in front of green supply chain management. Gedik (2021) states in his study that supply chain management is extremely critical in the global business environment. Sustainability and business activities are the most important factors in supply chain management. It states that supply chain management is the management of supply chain operations, resources, and information to maximise social welfare and supply chain profitability while minimising impacts.

Gökoçlan and Atalan (2022), In their study, they found that rapidly developing technology requires a more comprehensive and efficient structure in the supply chain. With the application of blockchain technology to the supply chain structure, it is thought to have a more efficient structure in terms of both time and cost. The gains to be obtained with the supply chain technology applied in the food sector have been investigated to determine whether these gains can be positive in terms of time and space costs. Ala et al. (2015), in their study, analyze the ordering, transport, storage, and distribution aspects of the food sector from a green perspective, arguing that supply chain management affects the eco-efficiency and profitability of many products. Environmental advantages for companies include energy savings and cost reduction; economic reasons; fuel efficiency; and resource savings.

Miranda et al. (2017), found in their study that food production causes great damage to the environment and that supply chain network design will provide an important perspective on this issue in terms of strategic decision-making. With the

addition of the term green to supply chain activities, it is aimed at including environmentally sensitive thinking in the supply chain. Beske et al. (2014), in their study, state that in the food industry, customers have high expectations about food safety, and there is a demand for foods produced in a sustainable environment. It states that a sustainable environment will be created with a green supply chain. Mastos and Gotzamani (2022) say that developments in the green supply chain have paved the way for the reshaping of the sector by changing the environmental, social, and economic balance. Environmental purchasing and the use of sustainable packaging will contribute positively to the sustainability of the supply chain. Integrating supply chain methods for sustainability performance in the food sector leads to increased economic and social performance. Sharma et al. (2017) reveal that the importance of the green supply chain in protecting and sustaining the environment in the food sector is at the forefront. Many countries and companies have started to realise the importance of a green supply chain. It is stated that the implementation of green supply chain management will increase the performance and reliability of companies.

3. Conceptual Framework

3.1. Supply Chain

Customers or end users buy products from retailers and wholesalers. They may also buy from a shop that is both a wholesaler and a retailer. Wholesalers or retailers source and buy products from distributors or manufacturers to sell them. Distributors are transporters. Manufacturers buy raw materials or semi-finished products from suppliers and then add value to them to sell to customers (Çeke, 2022).

It is seen that companies with a global presence are struggling to improve the supply chain to create sustainable environmental, social, and economic results related to the supply chain. Sustainable improvements by companies will pave the way for positive results in the supply chain (Koberg and Longoni, 2019).

Supply chain management is a comprehensive management problem that establishes a dynamic cooperative relationship between suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, and end users, involving information flow, capital flow, logistics, and labour flow. There are several problems with current supply chain management. First, supply chain information can be isolated within an organisation, leading to information silos. Upstream and downstream businesses expand knowledge, causing a whiplash effect (Lim et al., 2021).

The supply chain is a network of producers and distributors who supply raw materials, transform the raw materials into semi-finished and finished products, and deliver the finished products to end users. From another perspective, a supply chain is defined as a cluster of business partners, such as suppliers, logistics service providers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, through which materials, products, and information flow. A typical supply chain consists of a network in which suppliers, manufacturers, warehouses, distributors, and retailers are integrated and coordinated to transform parts, raw materials, and subassemblies into final goods and deliver them to the final customer (Akben and Güngör, 2018).

Supply management manages the entire supply chain to minimise negative environmental, social, and economic impacts while increasing positive impacts. It ensures that the supply chain is operated in a sustainable, environmentally, and socially sound manner. The supply chain includes all activities related to the production and delivery of a product or service, from the extraction of raw materials to the disposal of the final product (Abualigah et al., 2023).

A supply chain is a process that starts with procuring raw materials and parts, converting these raw materials and parts into final products, adding value to these products, and distributing and marketing the products to retailers or customers. It can be defined as an integrated system that harmonises several different processes to facilitate the exchange of information between various business units (such as suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, third-party logistics providers and retailers) (Akşahin, 2014).

Figure 1 shows the schematic of the supply chain management study. According to Figure 1, the supply chain from the producer to the last final consumer is included. This process starts with the demand of the consumer and ends with the fulfilment of the specified demand. The supply chain starts with a solid supply base and suppliers delivering raw materials to production units and includes every activity that follows to ensure that the finished product is delivered to the end consumer. All of the various activities involved in this cyclical process are the links that make up any supply chain. Many activities, functions, and people work in synchronisation to ensure that the flow of goods and/or services to the end user is uninterrupted and carried out as efficiently as possible.

Figure 1: Schematic Representations of Supply Chain Management Study



Source: <https://blog.cedarmanagement.co.uk/supply-chain-backbone-of-any-industry/.com.tr>.

3.2. Green Supply Chain Management

In our age, with the importance and priority of environmental protection and sustainability of natural resources, companies need to be more sensitive to the environment in the production process and all post-production activities, starting from their relations with suppliers. The need to develop strategies related to environmental management in the supply chain has increased. Accordingly, researchers working on supply chain management have turned to issues that include environmental management in supply chains. One of these issues is green supply chain management (Elaldi, 2021:10).

With global warming, environmental measures need to be taken. Green purchasing and environmental performance provide a theoretical framework linking public and private partnerships. It is recommended that firms increase market research and stakeholder dialogue to promote environmental sustainability by giving importance to environmental practices and increasing environmental sustainability by creating green practices (Tuffour, 2023). The green procurement pearl is to reduce waste and increase operational efficiency to increase the sustainability of green purchasing. Although this practice has gained importance in recent years and attracted significant scientific interest, there is a lack of studies evaluating the field of green procurement (Rejeb, 2023).

Green supply chain management integrates environmental issues and logistics functions at every stage of an organisation's supply chain management. There are many ways to explain the basic concept of green supply chain, for example in some places it is green purchasing between buyer and seller. In other cases, the green supply chain is the endless logistics cycle of reuse and management of materials and products (Nadeem, 2018)

In recent years, protecting our living spaces has become an important issue worldwide. Due to increasing human and industrial impacts on climate, environmental issues have become more critical and inevitable. In this context, organisations need to strike a balance between environmental and business objectives. This paper is an attempt to explain the path towards this goal and includes steps to be taken by commercial organisations in the packaging industry through green production networks (Lekesiztürk, 2021).

It presents the concept of Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) as Green Supply Chain Management = Green Product Design + Green Materials Management + Green Manufacturing Process + Green Distribution and Marketing + Reverse Logistics (RL). The impact areas of the sub-headings that make up green supply chain management are briefly explained (Bedük, 2017).

Green purchasing is defined as sustainable products and services that minimise negative environmental impacts (Karakan et al., 2022). Green purchasing is an important component of green supply chain management. Firms are among the important factors in the green supply chain due to environmental practices. It tries to reveal the green impact mechanism by

emphasising the importance of areas such as green education in the green supply chain (Liu, 2020). Green production, producing minimum waste and reducing environmental pollution, remanufacturing and lean production, cleaner production, improved capacity utilisation, reducing raw material costs, gaining production efficiency and improving corporate image, increasing the number of goods delivered on time, not using hazardous or restricted materials during production, minimizing waste during production, and replacing toxic inputs with environmentally friendly ones (Tantan, 2023).

Green marketing was first discussed and defined at the seminar on 'ecological marketing' organised by the American Marketing Association in 1975. According to this definition, ecological marketing consists of studies on the positive and negative effects of marketing activities on environmental pollution, energy consumption, and the consumption of other resources. The development of green marketing is divided into three different sections. These sections are 'ecological' green marketing, 'environmentalist' green marketing, and 'sustainable' green marketing. In a narrow context, marketing that focuses on reducing dependence on certain products that are predominantly considered harmful is called ecological marketing; marketing that is a more comprehensive initiative that tries to reduce environmental damage by using green consumer demand and competitive advantage opportunities is called environmental marketing; and marketing that tries to cover all environmental costs of production and consumption to create a sustainable economy with a more radical approach to the market is called sustainable marketing (Gedik et al., 2014).

Green distribution is the realisation of the distribution activities of the products towards the customers with the least damage to the environment. In the journey of the finished products towards the customer, determining the most suitable vehicles, determining the best distribution routes, and determining the most suitable warehouse locations are the activities related to green distribution. While companies distribute products, they can use their resources or they can outsource the distribution. Distribution activities have strategic importance for companies. An effective green distribution has many advantages for both the environment and the supply chain (Yıldız and Göktepe, 2020).

Environmental cooperation with customers, similar to environmental cooperation with suppliers, refers to the efforts of businesses to improve the environmental performance of customers. Environmental cooperation with customers involves the exchange of technical information between the business and its customers, leading to transactional benefits including more innovation and better environmental performance (Güzel and Demirdögen, 2016). Green design plays a major role when it comes to manufacturing industries because it encourages supply chain members to think about the life and afterlife of a product early in the process (Nadeem, 2018). Reverse logistics is defined as "the role of logistics in product returns, resource reduction, recovery material substitution, material reuse, waste disposal and incineration, repair, and remanufacturing" (Gilanlı, 2018). Internal environmental management covers the successive practices that are expected to result in the achievement of internal targets predefined by the senior managers of the organisation or mandated by legislation (Gündoğdu, 2021). China, the world's largest and fastest-growing economy, has a high ecological cost and has been identified as the country with the highest ozone-depleting substance emissions and the second highest greenhouse gas emissions. Due to these factors, GSCM initiatives are of great importance in China. As a result, green supply chain practices are frequently observed and analysed in China. It is also stated that these green supply chain activities and cooperation with customers positively affect company performance (Kutlu, 2023).

Figure 2: Schematic Representations of Green Supply Chain Management Study



Source: <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/72772.com.tr/> / 21 February 2020

Figure 2 shows the schematic representation of the green supply chain management study. According to Figure 2, environmentally sensitive activities take place at every stage of the supply chain. The process starts with the demand of the consumer and ends with the demand of the consumer. In this process, it is seen that environmental sensitivity and recycling are at the forefront at every stage. The most obvious reason behind adopting a green strategy is to reduce the burden of a polluted environment. It is a concept that describes the relationship between supply chain operations and the natural environment.

3.3. Green Supply Chain in The Food Industry

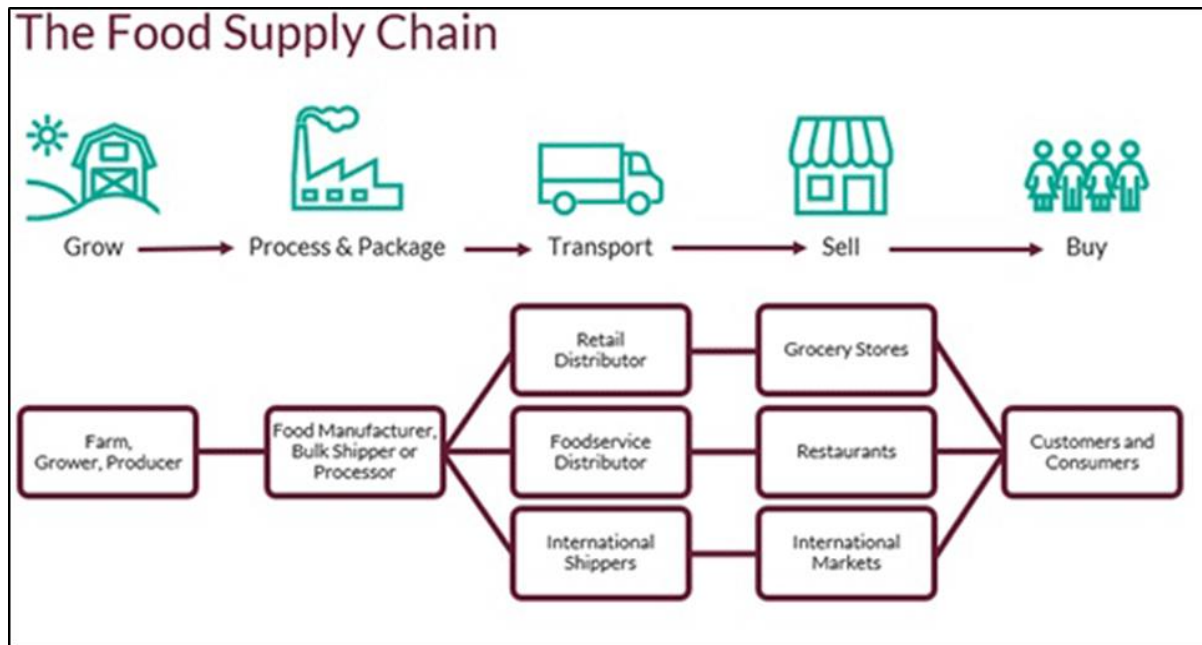
The food industry is a branch of the manufacturing industry that transforms the plant and animal raw materials obtained from agriculture into products with a long shelf life and ready for consumption by one or more processes. According to the International Food Standard Industry Classification (ISIC-3) system, the food industry covers products obtained by subjecting agricultural raw materials to one or more processes, and the food industry is divided into 8 sub-sectors: meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, aquaculture products, starch products, fruit and vegetable processing, vegetable oil and products, sugar and sugary products, and feed industry (Demir and Tuncay, 2012).

It is a whole that starts with the supply of quality and safe raw materials, the processes that food undergoes, intermediate and finished product logistics, and the data related to all activities in the process until it reaches the consumer. It aims to protect food safety and quality and is the coordination of business processes to ensure the smooth sustainability of products and information flow throughout the chain. The requirements for the proper management of the food supply chain are effective communication between stakeholders, the ability of the chain to adapt to developments in technology and standards, and effective logistics management (Keleş and Ova, 2020).

The food sector has a very important place in the manufacturing industry because it produces nutrients, one of the most basic needs of human life. The preservation of this strategic importance of the food sector in parallel with population growth depends on maintaining an adequate and healthy food supply. Food businesses, while producing products that have a direct impact on human health and performance, must also take into account that customer demands and expectations may change over time. Investments in products with a short product life curve in food businesses bring the risk of product deterioration as well as the cost of stocking every day the product cannot be sold. To compete in domestic and foreign markets and maximise their profits, enterprises operating in the food sector should focus on FTE practices. Many companies are under serious pressure in the period from receiving the order to the distribution of the goods. All channels of a broad spectrum, including the manufacturer and its suppliers, vendors, and customers, work to provide a common good, service, or piece of information that the customer wants to buy. To satisfy their customers, businesses are trying to strengthen and develop cooperation with all members of the value chain (suppliers, producers, retailers, etc.). Otherwise, it seems inevitable that the disruptions occurring in the supply chain will have a heavy cost for enterprises. For example, according to a study conducted in the US food sector, it has been determined that 30 billion dollars are lost annually due to the lack of cooperation between the members of the supply chain to the desired extent. Today, the main goal of businesses that want to achieve competitive advantage is to provide better-quality products at a lower cost, to closely follow the rapid changes in the market, and to increase business performance by creating superior customer value (Tekin and Öztürk, 2020).

In the food industry, the corporate social responsibility issues of the supply chain are faced with many risks due to the criticism of the supply chain by the public. It is necessary to utilise industry trends to develop a comprehensive framework of the supply chain in the sector (Maloni and Brown, 2006). Environmental degradation is becoming a focal point as increasing consumer demand stimulates activities in all product and service sectors. Countries increase productivity by improving environmental performance and promote environmental policies by reducing environmental pollution. With the implementation of the green supply chain, it will prepare the ground for the establishment of environmental policies by reducing pollution in the food sector (Wang et al., 2016). Creating a sustainable environment in the field of green supply chain management paves the way for research to be translated into information and related aspects of the supply chain. It contributes to the understanding of the suboptimal use of environmental information at different stages of the food supply chain. Applications in the food sector indicate how they should be positioned within the green supply chain.

Figure 3: Schematic Representations of Food Supply Chain



Source: <https://fmtmagazine.in/what-is-global-food-supply-chain/.com.tr>.

In Figure 3, supply chain management in the food sector is shown schematically. According to Figure 3, activities are carried out by taking into account the environmentally sensitive and recycling as a whole of the activities in the stage of transmission of the product from raw material to the end consumer. The medium-term future of food supply chains will be about aggregating a network of suppliers that can provide durable harvests throughout the year, with inputs distributed worldwide. The food supply chain is responsible for transporting, processing and marketing the world's food.

4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. Purpose and Importance of the Research

Today, environmental problems are increasing, and measures should be taken against environmental problems. The food sector is one of the leading sectors causing environmental pollution. Companies in the food sector cause serious damage to the environment during production. Firms should act more consciously towards nature; first of all, supply chain practices should be reviewed.

The supply chain method refers to the process from the beginning of production to the completion of the product cycle from an environmentalist perspective. Thanks to environmental practices, the importance of the green supply chain is increasing day by day. The supply chain method will become more meaningful when combined with green supply. The fact that production in the food sector harms the environment emphasises the importance of the green supply chain in the sector.

In the research, the importance of green supply chains in the food sector is emphasized, and it is emphasized that companies should develop and use more applications for green supply chains. It is an undeniable fact that the green supply chain will benefit the companies that produce food to the point of being more careful about the environment. Green supply chain practices aim to create a more sustainable environment by drawing attention to green purchasing, green production, green packaging, green distribution, and green logistics. It tried to determine the effect of green supply chain management practices on businesses in the food sector. This study is very important in terms of determining the effect of green supply chain activities in the food sector on food sector performance.

4.2. Data Collection Method and Sample of the Research

The research is qualitative, and interviews were conducted with face-to-face and online survey methods. The purpose of choosing this method is to examine the practices of green supply chain management in the food sector in detail and to set an example for other studies on this subject.

The main mass of the research consists of companies operating in Diyarbakır province and serving in the food sector. According to the data obtained from the Diyarbakır Organized Industrial Site (OIS), it was determined that 37 companies are actively operating in the food sector. In the research, it was determined that 24 companies among 37 companies operating

in the food sector realised the green supply chain application by selecting a sample. A sample of 17 companies participating in the research was selected, and the answers of these companies were taken as the basis. Interviews with the participants were conducted between January 1 and January 19. Interviews were conducted by going to Diyarbakir OIS. The companies whose locations could not be determined were interviewed by telephone.

In the research, the participants were asked questions about the demographic characteristics of 17 companies related to the green supply chain. Questions The companies in the food sector that have studies on the green supply chain of the companies in the food sector have been selected. A questionnaire form was used in the research. There are 20 statements in the questionnaire. Firms were asked questions consisting of 20 statements. The data obtained as a result of the research were analysed with the SPSS package program, and the importance of the green supply chain in the food sector for the companies was emphasised.

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

One participant from each company was interviewed, and the participants identified the company. Since they represent the participants, the word "participant" is used instead of "company" in the quotations. When writing the characteristics of the companies, Company 1 and Company 2, the characteristics of the participants, Participant 1 and Participant 2, were coded as Participant 1 and Participant 2, respectively. Findings In the table below, excerpts from the participants' statements are presented. 17 Although there were participants, in some tables, participants answered more than one question.

Table 1: Sustainability Reports of Companies

	Sustainability Report	Sector	Production Number of Employees	Environmental Protection Training	Organisation Location
Company 1	None	Foods	57	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 2	Yes	Foods	32	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 3	Yes	Foods	45	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 4	Yes	Foods	78	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 5	None	Foods	36	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 6	None	Foods	45	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 7	None	Foods	68	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 8	None	Foods	54	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 9	None	Foods	42	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 10	None	Foods	32	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 11	Yes	Foods	42	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 12	Yes	Foods	108	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 13	Yes	Foods	43	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 14	Yes	Foods	212	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 15	Yes	Foods	148	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 16	Yes	Foods	45	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS
Company 17	Yes	Foods	49	Training is provided.	DİYARBAKIR OIS

Table 1 shows the sustainability reports of the companies, what they produce, the number of employees, whether environmental protection training is provided and the region of establishment. As can be seen in the table, 10 companies prepared their sustainability reports, while 7 companies stated that sustainability reports were not prepared. The companies are located in organised industrial zones. While 82.3% of the companies have between 1-100 employees and 17.7% of the companies have between 100 and 300 employees, all of the companies have declared that their employees are given environmental protection training.

Table 2: Statistical Information on Companies

Gender	n	%	Age	n	%
Female	6	35	20 Under age	8	47
Male	11	65	Between 21-40 years old	8	47
Total	17	100	41 and above age	1	6
Level of Education	n	%	Total	17	100
Undergraduate And Before	5	29	Professional experience	n	%
License	10	59	1 Year And Under	2	12
Postgraduate	2	12	2-5 Year	5	29

Total	17	100	6-10 Year	4	24
Do you have information about green supply chain?			11-15 Year	6	36
I have information	4	24	Total	17	100
I have very little knowledge	8	48			
I have no idea.	3	18			
Never heard of it	2	12			
Total	17	100			

Figure 2 shows the demographic characteristics of the research participants. According to Figure 2 the majority of the research participants were male. The participants are generally between the ages of 20 and 40, have a bachelor's degree, and have 2 to 5 years of professional experience. It was determined that the majority of the participants knew about the green supply chain.

Table 3: First Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

Question	Answers	Frequency	Percent
Why are green management practices important to you?	Quality Production	1	5.8
	Awareness of Responsibility	7	41.2
	Legal Obligation	3	17.7
	Occupational Health and Safety	4	23.5
	Favouring Interests	2	11.8
	Total	17	100

Table 3 shows the answers of the participants to the question, "Why are green management practices important for you?". Responsibility awareness with 41%, occupational health and safety with 23%, and legal obligation with 17% are among the answers given. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

Apart from the documents required by our customers, there are some inspections and rules to be followed by the state. These rules are protected by legal guarantees. Our priority is to provide the conditions determined by the law and attach importance to inspections. Occupational health and safety practices have become our most important agenda item after increasing occupational accidents. The laws are very challenging for us. To cope with the laws, our company must act by the laws.

Table 4: Second Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

Question	Answers	Frequency	Percent
At which stage in the supply chain process do you pay more attention to environmental protection?	Green Production	4	23.5
	Green Purchasing	6	35.3
	Reverse Logistics	5	29.4
	Green Distribution	2	11.8
	Total	17	100

Table 4 shows the answers of the participants to the question "At which stage of the supply chain process do you give more importance to environmental protection?". According to Table 4, 35 per cent of the companies attach more importance to the environment at the purchasing stage and 29 per cent at the logistics process. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

In green supply chain management, companies take into account environmental sensitivities in all elements of the value chain, starting from the supply of raw materials and materials required for production activities to the wastes generated at the end of product use by the end consumer.

Table 5: Third Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

Question	Answers	Frequency	Percent
What are the factors you pay attention to in the production process for environmental protection?	Raw Material Selection	5	29.4
	Waste Management	6	35.3
	Energy Consumption	3	17.7
	Recycling	3	17.7
	Total	17	100

Table 5 shows the factors that the participants pay attention to in the production process for environmental protection. In line with the answers, it is seen that 35% of the respondents attach importance to waste management. 29% of the respondents attach importance to raw material selection. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

Companies fulfil their obligations as a result of the obligations brought about by the changes in laws, laws and regulations aimed at protecting the environment and the heavy sanctions imposed on businesses.

Table 6: Fourth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>What are your priorities for not harming the environment in your product design?</i>	Cost	3	17.7
	Recycling	6	35.3
	Storage Conditions	8	47.0
	Total	17	100

In Table 6, the priorities of the participants in order not to harm the environment in product design are revealed. Among the answers given by the participants, storage conditions ranked first with a rate of 47%, while the mode of shipment ranked second with a rate of 35%. The number of companies that shape their designs by giving importance to storage conditions is noteworthy. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

Since companies aim to minimise the negative effects of products on the environment, a design framework is created on the basis of direct product-environment relations.

Table 7: Fifth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>What are your waste disposal methods?</i>	Sending to Licenced Companies	8	47.0
	Recycling	7	41.2
	Re-acquisition	2	11.8
	Total	17	100

Table 7 shows the answers given by the participants to the question "What are your waste disposal methods?". In line with the answers given by the companies, "sending wastes to licensed companies" draws attention with 47%. It is seen that the rate of companies that can apply recycling practices in their enterprises is 41%. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

Firms, waste disposal is an effective tool in the fight against environmental pollution. When implemented correctly, the waste management system contributes to environmental protection. For example: materials such as plastic, glass, metal and paper can be recycled into new products.

Table 8: Sixth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>What do you pay attention to in your green purchasing process?</i>	Product Quality	2	11.8
	Analysis Documents	3	17.7
	Quality Certificates	2	11.8
	Sustainability of Production	10	58.7
	Total	17	100

Table 8 shows what the participants pay attention to in the green purchasing process. In the answers given, it is seen that the sustainability of production is given importance with a rate of 58% in the green purchasing process. 17% of the respondents make purchases based on analysis documents. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

We use products with high energy efficiency, products with low use of natural resources, products that are suitable for recycling and contain a high proportion of recycled materials. In summary, we aim to prevent environmental pollution by using products that are suitable for recycling and contain a high percentage of recycled materials.

Table 9: Seventh Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>What do you pay attention to when choosing your suppliers in the context of green purchasing?</i>	Sustainability of Production	4	23.5
	Product Cost	4	23.5
	Reliability	3	17.7
	Being a Manufacturer Company	6	35.3
	Total	17	100

In Table 9, it is presented what the participants pay attention to when choosing their suppliers in the context of green purchasing. It is seen that companies are looking for more than one feature in order to make green purchasing. It is important to be a producer company with a rate of 35%. Sustainability of production and product cost stand out with 23%. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

We believe that choosing the right suppliers can reduce procurement costs, increase customer satisfaction and improve competitiveness in the market. therefore, when selecting our suppliers, we emphasise wider co-operation activities such as supplier training and support so that they can develop green products and innovations.

Table 10: Eighth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Which types of transport do you use?</i>	Land Road	6	35.3
	Sea Road	4	23.5
	Railway	2	11.8
	Airway	5	29.4
	Total	17	100

Table 10 shows the answers of the participants to the question "Which modes of transport do you use?". As seen in the table, the most preferred mode of transport is road with a rate of 35% and airway with a rate of 29%. In this context, the general details of the answers given by the companies to this question are as follows:

Considering the damages to the environment, the most harmless mode choice is maritime transport. However, due to our geographical location, we primarily use railway and road, followed by sea and airway.

Table 11: The Ninth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>How do you deal with packaging in order not to harm the environment?</i>	Suitable for Environmental Awareness	3	17.7
	Recyclable Packaging	5	29.4
	Compliant with the Law	5	29.4
	Emphasis on Quality	4	23.5
	Total	17	100

Table 11 shows the answers of the participants to the question "How do you behave in terms of packaging in order not to harm the environment?". Recycling and legal obligation were the highest responses with a rate of 29%. In general, companies that try to make a difference with biodegradable (self-destructing without harming nature) bags by packaging with recyclable bags come to the fore. Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

Table 12: Tenth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Do you do eco-labelling?</i>	Yes	11	64.7
	No	6	35.3
	Total	17	100

Why do you do eco-labelling?	For Environmental Awareness	1	9.1
	Creating Customer Awareness	4	36.4
	European Standards Requirement	5	45.4
	For Competition Purposes	1	9.1
	Total	11	100

Table 12 shows the answers of the participants to the question "Do you use eco labelling?". While 65% of the participants stated that their companies use eco labelling, 35% stated that they do not. When the companies that said yes with 65% are examined, the answers for customer awareness and compliance with European standards come to the fore. Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

Companies, eco-labelling system, eco-labelling, which enables businesses to make environmentally sensitive improvements in their production processes in order to protect their market share, contributes to the efficient use of resources and prevention of pollution, so we do eco-labelling.

Table 13: How Many Years the Companies Have Been Labelling

Firms	How long has it been?	Firms	How long has it been?
Company 1	15 years	Company 10	9 years
Company 2	8 years	Company 11	4 years
Company 3	-	Company 12	2 years
Company 4	3 years	Company 13	-
Company 5	4 years	Company 14	-
Company 6	18 years	Company 15	2 years
Company 7	6 years	Company 16	10 years
Company 8	8 years	Company 17	21 yeras
Company 9	-		

Table 13 shows the number of years the companies have been eco-labelling. As seen in the table, it is noteworthy that three companies, namely Company 1, Company 6 and Company 17, have been eco-labelling for more than 15 years.

Table 14: Eleventh Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

Question	Answers	Frequency	Percent
How do you inform your customers about the green procurement process?	Telephone Information	20	31.2
	Face-to-face Information	16	25
	Information by Labelling Method	6	9.4
	Information by Catalogue Method	12	18.8
	Notification via E-mail	10	15.6
	Total	64	100

In Table 14, it is presented how the participants inform their customers about the green procurement process. In this process, 31% of the participants answered that they inform their customers by telephone and 25% answered that they inform them face-to-face. Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

We explain to our customers our efforts to prevent environmental problems caused by the danger of depletion and pollution of natural resources and our efforts to ensure sustainable development without excessive and wasteful consumption of resources by minimising energy use in order to transfer the rights to use natural resources to future generations.

Table 15: Twelfth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

Question	Answers	Frequency	Percent
Do you have reverse logistics applications? If yes, why do you do it?	None	7	41.2
	Recycling	9	52.9
	Compensation for Production Defects	1	5.9
	Total	17	100

Table 15 shows the answers of the participants to the question “Do you have reverse logistics practices? If yes, why do you do it?” question. 7 participants stated that they do not use reverse logistics practices. When the answers given are analysed, it is seen that 52% of the answers are recycling and 6% of the answers are selling to other customers after the production errors are compensated. Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

Firms, we have reverse logistics application. We pay full attention to product return management or salvage management, which enables the reshaping of the life cycle of second-hand products and gives economic and environmental importance to industrial products at the end of their life cycle, and since it is easier to repair an existing product than to manufacture a product, we pay full attention to product return management or salvage management.

Table 16: Thirteenth Question and Participants' Answers to this Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answers</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>What are the obstacles you face in green supply chain practices?</i>	Audit	6	35.3
	Failure to Recycle	2	11.8
	High Cost Purchasing	8	47.0
	Limited Supplier	1	2.9
	Total	17	100

Table 16 shows the answers of the participants to the question “What are the obstacles you face in green supply chain practices?”. Among the answers given, high-cost purchasing attracts attention with 47%, while audit comes second with 35%. The inability to recycle ranks third with 12%. Companies are coping by using the green packaging system. We do not have any difficulty in coping with the fact that the packaging activity is recyclable, reusable, biodegradable in a way that causes minimal or no harm to nature.

Companies are under pressure from high-cost purchasing, limited suppliers and audits. The fact that the sector we are in is subjected to these practices is among the obstacles that force us.

6. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

In recent years, the increase in environmental problems, inadequate waste storage areas, and lack of experience in this field have increased interest in the green supply chain.

The negative impact on the environment has mobilised the public sector and non-governmental organisations. Thus, the period of developing processes to reduce the damage to the environment through global cooperation and control mechanisms has started. This process has brought Green Supply Chain Management, which is characterised as an environmentalist approach, to the agenda. As a result of the analysis of the study data obtained, the following information was obtained:

It has been determined that environmental protection training is given to all of the companies participating in the study. This result shows that the firms exhibit an environmentally sensitive approach. In addition, it has been determined that the majority of the companies have sustainability reports.

It has been stated that the majority of the companies participating in the study carry out green management practices due to their sense of responsibility. However, it is possible to mention that there is a significant share in occupational health and safety. Generally, companies pay attention to using a green supply chain in their purchasing processes. In addition, it has been determined that companies are aware of waste management for environmental protection. It has been determined that storage conditions are important at the stage of designing products in order not to harm the environment. It is generally stated that companies recycle their waste through licensed companies.

Firms pay attention to the sustainability of production in the green purchasing process. It has been determined that they pay attention to the fact that the supplier is a manufacturer company when purchasing raw materials. It is also stated that the cost and reliability of raw materials are also important issues. It has been determined that companies mainly prefer land routes when purchasing raw materials or in the shipment of products. Firms pay attention to compliance with the laws and recyclable materials in the packaging of their products. This situation shows that the companies are aware of environmental awareness. It has been determined that the majority of companies make and prefer eco-packaging, both to ensure compliance with the specified standards and to create customer awareness.

It has been determined that the companies participating in the research provide necessary information to their customers by using the green procurement process via telephone or face-to-face methods. It has been determined that half of the participating companies use reverse logistics applications and generally prevent or minimise the victimisation of customers

by receiving returns. It has been determined that companies generally have problems with high-cost purchasing in green supply chain practices.

It has been determined that the companies operating in the province of Diyarbakır are adequately informed about green supply. However, it is important to spread this awareness throughout the city and even the country through relevant units, universities, or working groups. Since it is a known fact that the widespread use of green practices can be a solution to the economic problems experienced both in the country and around the world, it is a conscientious responsibility for companies to give due importance to these issues.

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