Currently, we are witnessing a growing environmental, social, and governmental concern with sustainable development. In this context, society, organizations, and the market demand that companies innovate in business and new sustainable business practices. Governments have been implementing new policies to guide innovation towards sustainability, thus reducing negative impacts on the environment. These policies are aligned with the Millennium Development Goals.

On the other hand, companies have as main objectives the reduction of costs and the increase of productive capacity. This causes companies to constantly seek a reduction in personnel expenses and increase the demand for natural resources. These objectives can create social problems and gradual environmental degradation. Thus, strategies must be developed to create new alternatives. Thus, the promotion of sustainable development in business organizations should ensure environmental, economic, and social well-being.

In the last two decades, managers have increasingly invested in reducing waste in their supply chains through pollution prevention, pollution control, and quality management. In this way, they have been trying to reduce pollution by making their supply chains increasingly green.

At this juncture, the field of circular economy and industrial symbiosis has been increasingly applied, as these take into account the waste that moves between organizations. Thus, the symbiosis industry consists of the use of residual by-products from one company that serves as raw material for another company. Besides the by-products, the concept also considers the use of other resources. In this way, companies can create value (innovating) based on their waste while forming creative inter-organizational relationships. This business innovation (services, products, or processes) should positively impact the regional environment so that stakeholders can increasingly approve and implement it.

The six articles in this special issue cover a range of aspects related to sustainable development, sustainable innovation, circular economy, industrial symbiosis, or sustainable supply chain management. Each of these articles has undergone a double-blind peer review. This special issue is composed of both quantitative and qualitative articles.

The paper “Circular Bio-Economy Voyage: Its Defining Elements From the Managerial Vantage Point” by authors Prigya Rawat and Vinay Singh embarks to contemplate the circular bio-economy applying managerial approach by splitting the complicated abstraction into a more straightforward
structure using VOS Viewer software. The paper discovers nine determinant variables supported by the point of organizational advantage. The nine variables are: 1) industrial symbiosis; 2) sustainable transitions; 3) multi-level perspective; 4) bio-economic regions; 5) governance; 6) innovations; 7) challenges; 8) sustainability; 9) and regional value chains. The variables were analyzed by experts and ordered by relevance. The variable challenges came first in the order, followed by sustainable transitions. The least relevant variable evaluated by the specialists was industrial symbiosis.

The authors Gyanendra Bagri, Dixit Garg, and Ashish Agarwal, contributed to the special issue with the paper “To Analyze the Relationship Between Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats of Indian Coal Mining Industries Towards Sustainable Development”. The paper aims to quantify the strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of coal mines company to develop a suitable strategy to minimize negative environmental impact towards sustainable development. This study helps coal mining strategy managers to minimize coal waste generation by waste management techniques. For this work Hybridizing DEMATEL with Trapezoidal fuzzy and then combining it with SWOT can be a novel tool for determining the most important factors of the SWOT matrix.

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leverage the impact of technological innovation to drive economic growth. However, the authors state that the impact on environmental regeneration and the social gap is highly questionable.

With this special issue, we intend to contribute with new findings on the role of business innovation in sustainable development to meet the new expectations of stakeholders and the new demands of markets. This special issue may also contribute to the development of new innovative and sustainable business models.

João M. Lopes
Luís Farinha
Guest Editors
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