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Design of Cleaner Production Frameworks: an Operational Tool for Sustainable Transition

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Abstract

Growing out of macroeconomic agenda, streamlined resource efficient cleaner production guidelines emphasizes more than ever on the importance of organizational sustainability. The cohesion between resource efficient cleaner production and social and environmental responsibility policies also suggests that if institutionalized, cleaner production guidelines rooted in the concepts and depositions of sustainability could result in development of strategic managerial frameworks with micro and macroeconomic benefits. Appropriately, and in support of such principle, this paper suggests development of an interconnected managerial framework that can translate general principles of sustainability into formulation of the resource efficient cleaner production guidelines. The applicability of the proposed approach was tested in a pilot study in Costa Rica. While emphasizing on the importance of the local policies and perceptions of the internal and external stakeholders, results highlighted the need for institutionalization and customization of the frameworks according to organizational type, size, culture, capability, capacity and location. Although universal, the proposed framework could be specifically instrumental to the developing nations aiming at a sustainable transition.

Keywords: Sustainable development goals (SD), Sustainable transition, Corporate social responsibility (CSR), Cleaner production (CP), Costa Rica.