Abstract

In this paper the sustainability of the supply chain is investigated and the main conditions required for its accomplishment are defined, including the importance that collaboration among the actors has in order to achieve it.

In addition an overview of the industrial sector of Costa Rica is presented, with the characteristics of its supply chains and the main proposals for their sustainability. The usefulness of the carbon footprint indicator scope is analyzed in terms of sustainability, and some estimations of carbon emissions for situations derived from a supply chain network design are presented, demonstrating how worthwhile it is to analyze the network when promoting initiatives for sustainability.

Finally, the paper proposes improvement options and challenges that industrial companies will need to affront in Costa Rica in order to achieve sustainability in the manufacturing sector and even more in the country.

Keywords: sustainability, supply chains, carbon footprint