EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The 3rd Annual Kolkata Supply Chain Conference 2023, held in Talkutir Auditorium on 16th Jun 2023 with a theme of 'Supply Chain to Responsible Chain' took a reality check on environmental sustainability through Supply Chains.

Distinguished speakers from the industry and academia highlighted the following key issues:

- The need for large organisations and industry leaders to set targets to achieve Net Zero in line with the Nations stated objectives.
- The need to create circular economy within cities and their immediate suppliers to reduce carbon footprint.
- While the industry is becoming aware and taking steps to reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions, there is a need to identify and reduce Scope 3 emissions.
- Need to define sustainability goals upstream and downstream by Industry to follow responsible sourcing, manufacturing, packaging, and green logistics.
- Understand Strategic Sourcing needs of Nations to be in tune with changing regulatory practices being adopted by blocs like EU border adjustments.
- An ESG audit of all supply chain decisions to ensure they meet sustainability goals. Guidelines for retrieval of all packaging making manufacturers responsible for such retrieval by giving fair remuneration for return of each package to source.
- Calculate carbon footprint size, set ambitious targets, identify hotspots, redesign products, packaging, and sourcing practices to align strategic sourcing with environmental sustainability.
- Create Green Supply Chain by process transparency, redesigning processes, changing people's mindsets, technology and products.
- Need to identify hotspots in supply chain like small transporters and providing them with incentives to go green by building a sustainable supply chain.
- Define guidelines and provide incentives for green warehousing using solar/wind/hydroelectric power, electrically driven fork-lifts, and other Material Handling Equipment.
- Use of AI and blockchain to drive sustainability goals in supply chains like automated storage and retrieval systems in warehousing.
- Guidelines for reduction of paper consumption to achieve paperless offices by a target date by Government organisations and Industry.
- A study of the HA-RO-PA port concept of France and issue of guidelines for identification and implementation of similar projects in India.
- Use of sustainable practices and technology in healthcare to reduce carbon footprint like online consultation and doorstep delivery of health services.
- Guidelines to prevent ESG Frauds, green-washing, and incorporation of trained personnel by Government agencies and industry to identify and check such frauds.
- Guidelines for use of ethical and sustainable practices in labour intensive industries like tea, agriculture, and dairy.