

THE POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

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Abstract

Due to the strong social and cultural importance of the agri-food sector, it is important to be sustainable in the long term. The circular economy represents a paradigm shift in human society's relationship with nature since the global environmental degradation, the vulnerability of economies, the increasingly limited resources, and the emergence of new types of risk factors have highlighted the importance of the transition to a circular economy even more. The purpose of the circular economy is to reduce the emission of pollutants and waste, extend the life cycle of products and materials, keep them in use for as long as possible, and to support the regeneration of various ecological systems. (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015, p. 46). In this model, the energy and material loops in all value chains of economic processes are closed, valuable resources do not remain unused (Dokter et al., 2021; Sumter et al., 2021). In the circular economic model, which is gradually replacing the linear economic model (Pauliuk et al., 2021 ; Zeng & Li, 2021)., new challenges and opportunities await all participants in the value chains: new or rethought materials, technologies, and procedures increase innovation, social participation, the proactive participation of businesses and economic actors in the processes and the structural green economy of some sectors renewal, as well as the effective integration of social and environmental resources in addition to economic factors.

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