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EXPLORING THE INSECT ECONOMY

Insects as bioresources open up potential for radical and incremental innovation of products and processes, and for the creation of new value networks - a potential that can further be leveraged by employing biotechnology as a converging technology. We identified 5 industry sectors that hold this innovation potential. Using insects does at the same time pose staggering opportunities for sustainable development because they potentially are a sustainable bioresource which can be a solution to address multiple global challenges such food scarcity, malnutrition and waste production. To address the latter, we introduce insects as bioresources into the context of industrial symbiosis where insects can be used as enablers to create novel industry networks that harness new value-added activities.

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SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTATION AND COMPETITIVENESS: IS SUPPLY CHAIN CONSIDERATION A MISSING LINK?

Corporate sustainability-orientation has increasingly been considered a key element of firm competitiveness. However, in prior research, sustainable firm behaviour has been related to dependent measures of competitiveness one at a time; studies including sustainability-orientation and multiple performance measures are rare. Moreover, although a close interaction with supply chain partners is believed to be a potential mediator in the sustainability-orientation-competitiveness relationship, much of the evidence to date remains anecdotal or speculative. This suggests that a broader nomological inquiry is needed to fully understand the effect of sustainability-orientation on competitiveness. Using survey data from chemical companies, structural equation modelling shows that sustainability-orientation has a direct positive effect on product price and it is an important driver of product quality and innovativeness, though this effect is only indirect and fully mediated by a firm's ability to integrate and align processes with upstream and downstream partners in the supply chain.

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INFLUENCING FACTORS OF UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECO-INNOVATION

In recent years policies have increasingly recognised the importance of entrepreneurship for sustainable economic growth and for finding solutions to fundamental challenges such as climate change. It is emphasised that universities should play an important role in supporting sustainable entrepreneurship, e.g. by sensitizing and educating future sustainable entrepreneurs. To date there has been hardly any research on university support for sustainable entrepreneurship. We address this research gap with a qualitative multi-case study approach. Based on 42 good-practice examples we carried out in-depth case studies investigating four universities from the US and Germany. We show which factors influence the emergence and implementation of university support for sustainable entrepreneurship. Two driving forces are dominant in our cases: (1) the institutional framework with a clearly defined strategy, structure and supporting culture and (2) key persons. Analysing the constraining factors of the support activities we found that the most common obstacles arise internally.

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SUSTAINABILITY ORIENTED INNOVATION CAPACITY IN CITIES

How can sustainability oriented innovation capacity in cities be assessed? There is a lack of research which develops innovation capacity analyses and assessment for cities. Based on experiences with assessments of sustainability oriented innovation capacity in six cities this paper develops perspectives and models for such innovation capacity assessment. Best practice approaches to innovation is problematized as well the importance to work systemically in innovation management in city context. The city innovation capacity assessment has pinpointed a number of innovation challenges for enhancing innovation in cities related to different innovation dimensions. The finding shows that city planning need to deal with a number of concrete challenges experienced to be considered in innovation and transition work in the energy innovation area.

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