The Significance of Agri-food Supply Chain Transparency

Ikram Hasan¹, Md. Mamun Habib²
¹Graduate School of Business, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
²RAID Labs, Dept. of Industrial Engineering, University of Texas – Arlington, USA
¹h.ikram217@ur.unirazak.edu.my, ²mohammad.habib@uta.edu

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Agri-food supply chain transparency is a multi-dimensional concept that refers to the availability of information about the journey of food products from farm to table [2]. It involves providing consumers and other stakeholders with information about the origin, quality, and sustainability of food products, as well as the practices and processes involved in their production and distribution [1].

One of the primary benefits of agri-food supply chain transparency is that it enables better food safety and security [3]. By providing end-to-end visibility of food products, transparency can help to identify and address potential hazards such as contamination, adulteration, or mislabeling. This can not only protect public health and well-being but also prevent economic losses for the industry and the country as a whole.

Furthermore, supply chain transparency can promote fair trade and support local producers [4]. By providing consumers with information about the origin, quality, and sustainability of their food, they can make informed decisions and support small-scale farmers and local food systems [5]. This can create more opportunities for local producers to compete with larger producers and markets, which can help to reduce economic disparities and promote social and environmental sustainability.

In addition, supply chain transparency can help to reduce waste and environmental impact [6]. By knowing where food comes from and how it is produced, consumers can choose products that are sustainably grown and harvested [7]. This can encourage retailers and producers to adopt more sustainable practices and reduce their environmental footprint [8]. It can also help to minimize food waste by optimizing supply chain operations and reducing the amount of unsold food products.

The benefits of agri-food supply chain transparency are not limited to the food industry but extend to other sectors such as public health, environment, and social welfare [9], [10]. For instance, by
improving food safety and security, transparency can reduce the burden of disease and health care costs, which can have positive impacts on public health and well-being. Similarly, by promoting sustainable and responsible consumption and production practices, transparency can help to address environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion [11], [12].

In conclusion, agri-food supply chain transparency is a vital aspect of a nation's food system that can bring numerous benefits to consumers, producers, and the environment. By enabling end-to-end visibility and information sharing, transparency can ensure food safety and security, support local producers, and promote sustainable and responsible consumption and production practices. It is crucial for policymakers, industry players, and consumers to work together to promote transparency in the agri-food supply chain, which can contribute to create a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable food system for all.

References


