

Exploring the Decade of Organic Food Supply Chain: A Study of Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

The study explores the conducted review of systematic literature for Organic Food Supply Chain (OFSC) using academic publications from top-rank journals from 2011 to 2021, making it the first-ever 10-year complete systematic literature review in this field. The study summarizes the essential contributions and themes/concepts in the OFSC sector and potential research possibilities that may be investigated further to progress in the discipline. The study also aims to evaluate significant ideas that support or are related to the OFSC area. SLR method is explored by inclusion of 1314 papers as a sample, filtered out through criteria, relevancy, keywords, and taken from the Scopus database. The analysis recommends that this study is beneficial for professionals who desire to serve in providing guidelines and understanding the concepts of various categories. Moreover, it allows the advantage to opt for future directions to accelerate industry in the developing world to design strategies for managing supply chain relevancy and organic food.

Keywords: Organic Food Supply Chain, Organic Food, Disruption in Organic Food.

Introduction

National prosperity is shaped that is not inborn (Porter, 2011). From ancient years, human beings have been willing to live healthily. Agriculture has a fundamental role in developing countries' sovereignty, improvement, and revolution. Food is a basic necessity. The organic movement initially appeared in the Western world in the 1960s. Organic food has seen a significant increase in demand across the globe. To eat healthy, humans have returned to eating naturally grown and processed food devoid of pesticides, fertilizers, poisons, and other harmful chemicals (Khan et al., 2023). The world has always welcomed nutritious organic food into a culture based on packaged and processed foods (Khan et al., 2023).

However, people worldwide have shifted their paradigm from non-organic to organic food because it is believed to be healthy and safe to consume while boosting immunity (Kalra, 2021). Conventional foods use chemicals, pesticides, and other harmful cultivation methods (Aslam, 2020). In traditional foods in recent eras, the ultimate passion of customers is to make more production, which enhances profitability. The farmer of conventional food is not concerned with human health. As in traditional food supply chains, things need to be appropriately managed from soil to end product and from farmer to consumer; less importance is given to the quality of the product (Jensen et al., 2013).

Compared to conventional food, organic food is better in quality; these products are prepared carefully. There is not any use of harmful pesticides or chemicals. The supply chain in organic food also needs great care (Kilic et al., 2021). All actors in the organic food supply chain, from consumers to farmers, must remain careful in all processes, which is the field of corporate social responsibility (Ahmad et al., 2022). From soil to end product, the organic products are

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carefully handled and tackled, maximizing profit (Khan et al., 2011). The soil without chemicals is prepared. From water to seed, all the healthy and hygienic products are used. Products are kept in an organic space and packed with organic standards. The products are preserved in organic standards (Mayangsari et al., 2018).

Quality of life is the primary concern for the new era, as organic products claim that it is free from all type of artificial chemicals, environment-friendly, and healthy. Hence, the customer prefers organic food to conventional food (Popa & Dabija, 2019). Organic food, compared to traditional food, is more beneficial because it reduces the risk of many diseases like chronic carcinoma, type 2 diabetes, and gut microbiota. The organic product also promotes healthy living and a happy lifestyle by improving many deficiencies in the human body (Barroso et al., 2019; Kalra, 2021). Organic products, in comparison to conventional products, are considered better. Organic products are helpful and control vitamin D deficiency, which boosts immunity. Organic products not only produce a healthy life but also increase the healthy lifestyle (Gumber & Rana, 2021)

The organic products industry is proliferating (Khan et al., 2021). It has become challenging to manage the supply chain of organic products. Creating sustainability in an organic food supply chain is entirely different from creating a conventional food supply chain. The supply chain activities in organic food are real-time. Investment in effective business deals with huge profit and economic stability (Amir et al., 2023). In the organic food supply chain, from the producer to the consumer, all actors are coupled together (Kottila et al., 2005). Many supply chain techniques in organic food are being deployed in the organic food industry. Standard organic food supply chain methodologies are short-distance and long-distance organic food supply chains, etc. The organic food supply chain must be organized, and all actors should be aligned to gain sustainability and value chain benefits (Bui et al., 2021). Ecology plays a vital role in the organic food industry. Sustainability and ecology ensure success in organic products (Kottila et al., 2005). Sustainability and ecology in the organic sector are essential for soil, farmers, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers. All should be connected. A sustainable and prosperous supply chain cannot exist without ecology (Gunathilaka et al., 2021).

This research explores and examines the systematic review of academic literature to recognize key refrains or ideas in the Organic food supply chain and potential research directions or gaps that may be investigated further to improve the area. As a result, the following questions will receive the most attention:

1. What have been the significant contributions and topics in organic food supply chain research during the last decade, and how can these findings be applied to enhance the organic food supply chain in South Asia?
2. What are the key characteristics of the organic food supply chain, and how can these characteristics be leveraged to address South Asia's sustainable agriculture and health policy goals?
3. What future research directions or gaps must be addressed in organic food supply chains, focusing on South Asia, to promote economic growth, food security, and environmental sustainability?

Literature Review

Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a critical component of various industries, including the organic food supply chain. SCM involves coordinating material, information, and financial flows across multiple organizations, aiming to deliver valuable products and services to consumers (Carissimi et al., 2023). This integration of processes is essential to meet customer demands effectively and enhance the competitiveness of the entire supply chain (Giovanardi et al., 2023).

However, the organic food supply chain, like any other, is vulnerable to disruptions that can disrupt the normal flow of processes, events, and products. These disruptions can lead to lost sales, financial losses, and operational setbacks. The sources of disorders are diverse, ranging from natural disasters and climate change to political instability and operational contingencies (Shahid et al., 2023). Innovations in supply chain processes, like just-in-time techniques and real-time monitoring, can mitigate disruptions (Kanike, 2023). Organic food differs from conventional food in that it is produced without pesticides, chemicals, or artificial fertilizers and is cultivated with exceptional care at every stage (Kilic et al., 2021). It includes soil preparation, water filtration, seed quality, and avoiding harmful cultivation methods (Truong et al., 2021). These practices ensure that organic products, such as organic food logos, meet specific certifications and standards. Additionally, Industry 4.0 technologies, like blockchain, are increasingly used to guarantee the quality of organic food products (Haji et al., 2020). The growing trend of organic food consumption is driven by consumer concerns for health and the environment, making innovative economies prioritize organic products (Bui et al., 2021). The organic food supply chain involves various stakeholders, including consumers, retailers, distributors/wholesalers, processors/manufacturers, and farmers (Ongena et al., 2020). These actors are interconnected, with products moving through each stage while maintaining the integrity of organic standards. Farmers are responsible for soil quality, seed selection, and sustainable cultivation practices (Bailey et al., 2021). Processors and manufacturers adhere to organic packaging standards and certifications (Casino et al., 2021). Distributors and wholesalers use inventory management tools to manage product flow efficiently (Casino et al., 2021). Retailers are vital in maintaining product shelf life, quality, and food security (Wang et al., 2020). Organic food consumers are discerning individuals who prioritize health and sustainability and must verify organic food certifications and labels (Ali, 2021). The organic food supply chain operates in real-time and must efficiently deliver organic, healthy products to consumers while also upholding ecological principles across all supply chain stages (Zeng, 2021).

Theoretical Framework

In organic food supply chain research, several theories and models serve as the basis for understanding the dynamics of this unique sector. These theories and models provide a foundation for analyzing organic food supply chains' contributions, characteristics, and future research directions. Here, we present a brief overview of some relevant theoretical frameworks: Concepts from established supply chain management theories, such as the SCOR (Supply Chain Operations Reference) model, can be applied to organic food supply chains. These theories emphasize the importance of efficient logistics, inventory management, and collaboration among supply chain partners. The Triple Bottom Line theory considers economic, environmental, and social sustainability and is particularly relevant to organic food supply chains. It highlights the need to balance profitability with environmental and social responsibility. The Theory of Planned Behavior and the Health Belief Model can be used to understand consumer motivations and behavior related to organic food consumption. This theory can be applied to assess the adoption and diffusion of organic food supply chain practices and technologies.

This study aims to offer policy recommendations for enhancing organic food supply chains in South Asia and building upon the theoretical framework and the organic food supply chain model. These recommendations will be grounded in the findings of the systematic literature review and will focus on strategies to promote economic growth, food security, and environmental sustainability. Integrating theoretical concepts and practical policy implications will help guide organic food supply chain stakeholders toward more effective and sustainable practices.

Research Methodology and Data Statistics

A literature review is explored to reproduce a systematic chain and explicit investigation to assess and comprehend the field (Seuring & Muller, 2008; Winter & Knemeyer, 2013). The approach enhances the research progress, most notably in activities of independent nature and in-depth subject analysis. The domain covers the particular field of historical perspective. The study explored two main goals regarding exposing the literature, i.e., summarization of overall research to examine various areas, connectedness, and concerns (Khan et al., 2020). The other is to explore the field's foundation by identifying a severe theoretical framework (Mentzer & Kahn, 1995). Further, it extends the advanced theory and development through aids to facilitate the approach (Meredith, 1993).

Harland et al., (2006) elucidated that SLR review and systematic exploration of literature is an examining method to cope with the activities relatively in the modern world. The scope is to observe the knowledge development synthetical framework, which further exposes reproducible logical and unambiguous results in light of research techniques (Akash et al., 2023). In this domain, the authors explored the strategic plan, a systematic review (Tranfield et al., 2003). Despite its origins in the medical sciences, SLR is extensively used in business, management, and organizational sciences (Akash et al., 2023). They noted that using specific criteria of systematic review methodology in management research might decrease bias by clearly stating the standards and norms overdue a study (Denyer & Tranfield, 2009). SLR is documented as a reliable and effective way to produce, utilize to cover the audit trail, and attempt to explore the contributions regarding certain topics (Hussain et al., 2011). Even though SLR requires a significant volume of stretch and work, the results are well-organized, truthful, and regarded as an "essential precise movement." (Mulrow, 1994).

After gaining an elementary consideration of the facts frame connected to the organic food supply chain employed in previous studies, the authors agreed on the study's aims and objectives. The Scopus database was used as a source (Akash et al., 2023). Scopus, managed primarily by Elsevier Publishing, is widely considered the premier non-concrete and citation record in the humanities, health, art, technology, applied science, and social sciences. Peer-reviewed titles covered 34346, publishers up to 7000, and Scopus up to 36377. Scopus is the most comprehensive database, including many well-acclaimed publications in the field of supply chain management, and is thus widely considered a reliable source (Wilding et al., 2012). A rigorous evaluation of the facts in the papers was ultimately chosen and undertaken by (Saunders et al., 2009).

Further, it determined the primary impressions, selected the shortcuts to be utilized in search ropes, and finally employed the data mining approach (Tranfield et al., 2003). One of the investigators searched the articles exclusively and thoroughly before comparing their observations and reconciling them (Khan et al., 2020) and also suggested by Tranfield et al. (2003). We examined the paper to identify and gather all philosophies auxiliary to the provision supply chain literature to assess the manuscripts' theoretical soundness and business growth (Akash et al., 2023).

Findings and Analysis

A systematic review of the literature (SLR) approach was used to complete this analysis. In our four-stage SLR procedure, we first determined the rule governing the search stages, then conducted an initial search, a second search, and a third search. The initial stage is a crucial step in the SLR line to create a procedure to carry out a thorough assessment (Khannan et al., 2021). The hunt process's first, second, and third steps focused on regaining investigative publications on the Scopus record over one decade from 2011 to 2021. The supply chain and organic food are the guiding principles of search. Table 1 displays two rules, subjects, and a

variety of keywords. The second step involved searching papers about the Scopus record from 2011 to 2021 using Instruction 1 for organic food and Instruction 2 for supply chain.

Table 1 Instruction, Topic, and Keywords

Instruction	Topic	Keywords	Number of Papers
Instruction 1	Organic food	“Organic farm*” OR “organic product*” OR “organic food*” OR “organic” OR “perishable*”	1,548,653
Instruction 2	Supply chain	“Supply chain*” OR “logistic*” OR “distributor”	1,856,250
Instruction 1 + Instruction 2			22,058

The study explored two dimensions of limit areas: Sciences regarding decisions, management, accounting, and business. We found 1,355 papers in the third search. After removing pieces that exclude the author's name, 1,314 articles were found in the final stage—paper's count and keywords multiple instructions, displayed in table 2.

Table 2 Third and Fourth Stages Results

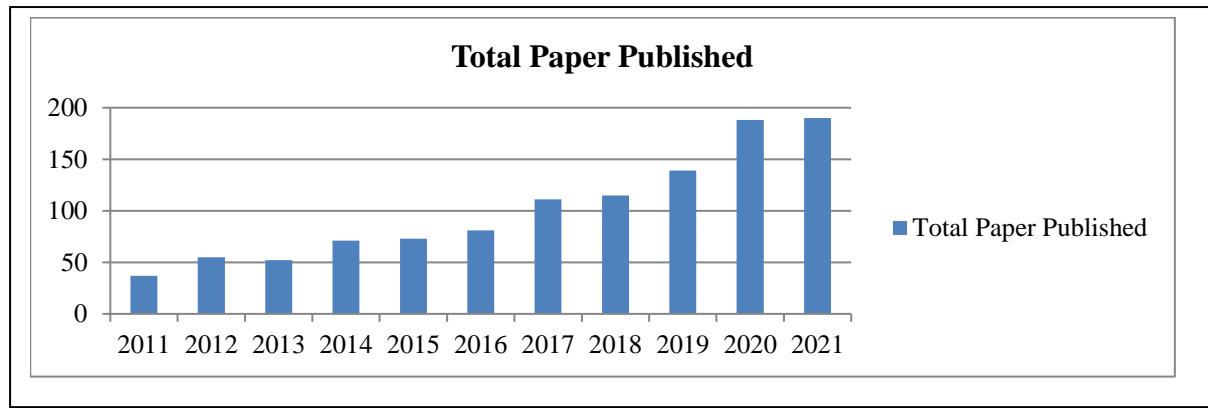
Step	Combination	Refine	Number of Papers
1st	Instruction 1 and Instruction 2	Year: 2011-2021	138,25
		Doc. Type: All	
		Source. Type: All	
		Language: All	
2nd	Instruction 1 and Instruction 2	Year: 2011-2021	119,23
		Doc. Tyle: All	
		Source. Type: Article	
		Language: All	
3rd	Instruction 1 and Instruction 2	Subject Area: business, management and accounting and decision sciences	1,355
4th	Instruction 1 and Instruction 2	No author name available	1,314
Final	Instruction 2		

Descriptive Analysis

Trend publications

A total of 1,314 papers were explored to investigate explanation and content. The annual publication distribution can identify the trend publication based on the number of documents Published. The first paper was established in 1990, and the sum of pieces enlarged meaningfully between 1990 and primary in 2021. From 139 articles in 2019, there was the most significant increase in 2020. The trend of increasing organic food research was also demonstrated by well-known researchers (Gruauskas et al., 2019), who wrote that the input of slight and average farmers might increase in the fourth coming unpaid due to the cumulative request for organic food products based on research (Alleweldt et al., 2013).

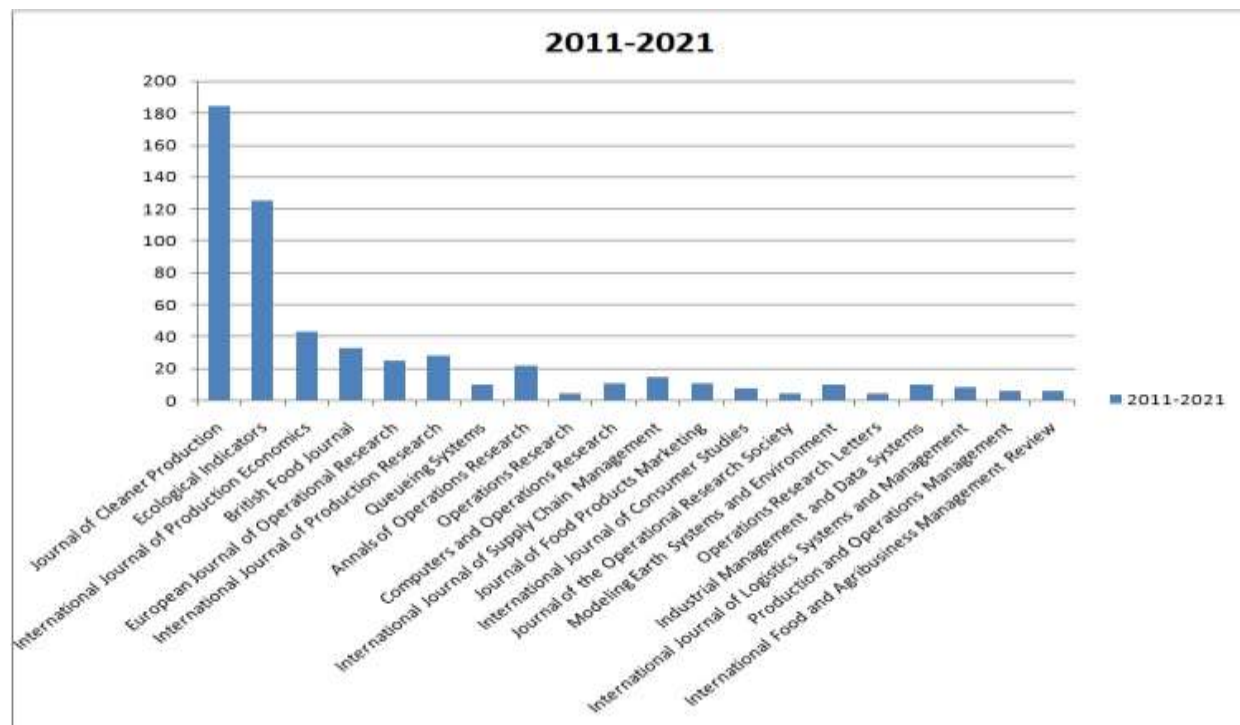
Figure 1 Trend publication on organic food in the supply chain.



Top Journals

Table 3 shows the top 20 journals that published papers on organic food in the supply chain from 2011 to 2021. Journal of Cleaner Production (184 documents), Ecological Indicators (125 pieces), International Journal of Production Economics (43 papers), British Food Journal (33 articles), and European Journal of Operational Research are the top five significant journals (28 documents). The top five journals published 35% of the papers on organic food in the supply chain.

Figure 2 Categories of Journals Publishing Papers on organic food in the supply chain



Top Cited Papers

The following are the most frequently cited articles by researchers. We must examine the quoted uppermost paper since it demonstrates that it is advantageous and is utilized by countless researchers to mention anything and convert a position. The top paper has the same citation value, 405, and ranges from 2011 to 2021. Overall, the top 3 articles reveal that the dominating ones are related to supply chains, such as inventory, demand and supply, retail, pricing, and distribution. 40% of the top papers exploring this topic since the 2000s show a tendency of supply chain study on perishable items. Surprisingly, the supply chain research on

organic food published in 2017 (the most recent article linked to other publications) has the same total citation as the previous paper, with the most significant entire quotation per year hitting 100, precisely 101.25. It demonstrates that organic research is at its height.

Table 3 Top Cited Paper

Ranks	Authors	Title	Total citations
1	Bakker M., Riezebos, J.	Review of inventory system with a deterioration since 2001	405
2	Govindan K., Jafarian A., Khodaverdi, R.	two-echelon multiple vehicle location routine problem with time windows for optimization of sustainable network of perishable food	405
3	Rana J.	Consumer behavior and purchase intention for organic food: a review and research agenda	405

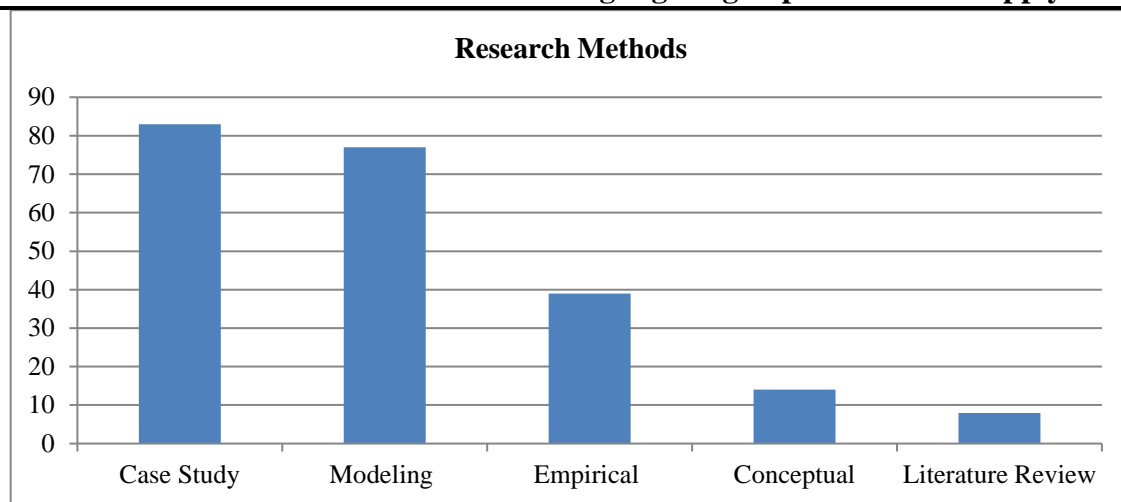
Content Analysis

This section of the scholar gives content analysis from articles, plus study method, food kind, and supply chain scope.

Research Methodology

The classification of research methods in this review paper employs five categories explored by (Kothari, 2004): modeling, case study research, conceptual framework, empirical studies, and literature review. One of the sought methodologies is modeling research, in which the anticipated model is explored to disclose the desired system actuality and mandatory information that deals with parameters and inputs (Sulistyo, 2013). Another look is a case study, which holds qualitative research and involves a survey regarding observing the organization or any business. The study's scope is generally comprehensive, and the period is extensive (Kothari, 2004). As stated by Kothari (2004), concrete research is the generation of novel thoughts or perceptions from pre-prevailing philosophies or concepts.

On the other hand, empirical studies are founded on practice or experimentations from a study in which investigators can manipulate the seek factors. A conceptual model is a set of thoughts that symbolize (but do not explain) an occurrence, body, or progression. A conceptual model's premises are only rational declarations, not epistemic links (Meredith, 1993). The empirical study was motivated by remarks of a miracle, which typically begins with questions about what happened, what the event entails, and how frequently it occurs. On the other hand, empirical research examining observed events must have a well-thought-out explanation for the study, such as why it is intriguing or potentially relevant (Helfat, 2007). A literature review distills the available literature in a discipline to review the state of the art. Based on this analysis of earlier and recent work, it is possible to suggest areas where more research may be beneficial (Slack, 2004).

Figure 3 Classification of Research Methods Highlighting Papers on Food Supply Chain

Scopes of Supply Chain

The food supply chain has several associations and activities globally, including several participants from farmers to divides (Verhoosel et al., 2018). Countless participants in the fresh food supply chain (fruit and vegetables) in the United Kingdom have realized the relevance of method incorporation and have launched measures to strengthen their upright organization (Wilson, 1996). It suggests that organic food supply chain management should be explored. Table 6 illustrates the number of research articles published in each supply chain domain. The logistics and farming sectors of the supply chain have received the most attention. The food supply chain has several associations and functions worldwide, including many stakeholders, from farmers to forks (Verhoosel et al., 2018). Countless participants in the world's fresh food supply chain (fruit and vegetables) have realized the relevance of course incorporation and have launched measures to strengthen their vertical coordination (Wilson, 1996). It demonstrates that not only processes and activities in the farming area but also processes and activities in the logistics area must be regulated.

Table 4 Classification of Papers Based on Scopes of Supply Chain Jorgen.

No	Scopes of Supply Chain	Number of Papers	Authors (example)
1	Farming	230	Asian et al., 2019; Baez et al., 2020; Annunziata et al., 2010
2	Food Processing	98	Casey, 2008; Bettels et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2020
3	Logistics	400	Aguirre Gonzalez, 2012; Azoury & Miyaoka, 2013
4	Retail	200	Margunani et al., 2018; Onyango et al., 2007; Padel & Midmore, 2005
5	End Customers	90	Yan & Ke, 2018
Total		1,018	

Discussions

This research paper contributes to expanding on prevailing research publications on organic food in the supply chain. This article also aims to develop a future research agenda on organic food throughout the supply chain. For example, Kushwah et al. (2019) identified future study goals for consumer motivation and hurdles in organic food consumption, quantitative customer buying decisions, and consumption value of organic food products. Hansmann et al. (2020)

suggested that the integrated model be used to objectively forecast purchases of organic food goods, including self-reported behavior. The objective of practitioners is to use risk assessment to limit the frequency and impact of risk occurrences in a long organic food supply chain. Many practitioners stressed the need for risk assessment throughout the supply chain, particularly the food supply chain (Vanany and Zailani, 2010).

It is unexpected to see the literature review as a research method utilized by academics to study organic food throughout the supply chain. Second, organic oil items were the most frequently chosen for investigation, with organic fish products in second place. Kalogeras et al. (2009) studied Dutch consumers' willingness to pay (WTP) for organic olive oil and discovered that customers' experience, perception, and awareness all have a role. In consumer purchase decisions, it will be interesting to investigate whether the principal elements influencing consumers' willingness to pay for organic olive oil goods are the same or different from those for other types of organic food items in the future. Finally, prior study has expanded the field of inquiry to include the downstream, upstream, and complete supply chain. The breadth of logistics and farming studies has dominated previous research.

Conclusions

Based on bibliometric and content research, this study has provided a complete assessment of organic food along the supply chain over time. This study has talked about how scientific publications contribute to organic food research and how researchers contribute to the escalating discipline of supply chain management. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to use content analysis as a research approach to identify research trends, top journals, and most-read papers, as well as organic food varieties and supply chain scopes. This research study cannot comprehend a more detailed description and content analysis. Meanwhile, efforts have yet to be made to develop research clusters or conduct co-citation analyses using a bibliometric technique. The implications of this study are based on the content analysis. Despite its limits, this study offers knowledge and encouragement to future researchers interested in organic food research.

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