



**Book of Abstracts**

**“13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Industrial Engineering and  
Industrial Management” and  
“XXIII Congreso de Ingeniería de  
Organización (CIO2019)”**

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## How to Ensure Gender Equity through Social Sustainability in Agri-Food Supply Chains

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**Keywords:** Conceptual Framework; Gender Equity; Social Sustainability; Agri-Food Supply Chain;

### 1           Objective

The purpose of this paper is to propose a conceptual framework that identifies the main decisions and objectives to be pursued by the agri-food supply chain members in order to guarantee gender equity. If gender equity wants to be ensured, this conceptual framework can be used by the agri-food supply chain members as a tool to identify those areas in which special attention should be paid when making decisions.

### 2           Method

From the sustainable agri-food supply chains (AFSC) literature review proposed by Prima Dania, Xing and Amer (2016) it is concluded that up to now more attention has been paid to the economic and environmental aspects of sustainability than to social ones. This is also highlighted by Fuertes-Miquel et al. (2018) who classify the main objectives pursued by AFSC stakeholders to be sustainable in uncertain contexts into the three sustainability aspects. Both men's

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and women's inherent behaviours, aspirations and needs are taken into account, valued and equally shared, independently of their gender (Cuenca et al., 2019).

To ensure gender equality in AFSC, first of all it is necessary to identify the supply chain processes, objectives and related decisions that can have either a positive or negative impact on gender equity.

### 3 Results

A conceptual framework to improve social sustainability in AFSC by means of gender equity is proposed. The organizational processes that highly impact on gender equity have been identified, the objectives to be pursued at each process to ensure gender equity have been defined, and decisions in which decision-makers should focus to reach the objectives have been determined. The agri-food supply chains stages in which each decision should be made have been identified.

### 4 Conclusions

This framework can be used as a guide tool by AFSC members to reduce gender inequities in their organizations and in the whole supply chain, hence becoming more socially sustainable. This conceptual framework can be used as a reference guide to identify those processes, objectives and decisions that require more attention when pursuing gender equity improvements in an organization or supply chain. Thus, this tool can be either used in a distributed (individually) or centralized (collaboratively) way.

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