



# Scientific Research in Sustainability: Which Direction Should We Take?

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In the ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future, it is essential to pay attention to emerging themes that will shape this path. Sustainability has been constantly evolving, primarily driven by moments of ecological crises and social imbalances, where the scientific research plays a crucial role in promoting knowledge and awareness of the impacts of our actions on the planet and the society.

The Brazilian scientific community researching sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective lacks high-quality national scientific journals for disseminating their work, which is why have been developed the Sustainability Interdisciplinary Dialogues Journal.

The study by De Benedicto *et al.* (2020), published in our first edition, emphasized that sustainability is a multifaceted phenomenon constantly under construction. To comprehend it fully, it is necessary to analyze the subject by integrating knowledge from various fields, promoting a research, which enables the attainment of more promising results. In this regard, the journal has been publishing studies from researchers across different areas of knowledge, along with interviews with international experts who are leading authorities in this field of knowledge.

Among the most significant and recent milestones that serve as a guideline, were found the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum* (Francisco, 2015, 2023). In these documents, the Pope Francisco underscores the interconnection between the environmental crisis and social issues, urging humanity to care for creation and promote sustainable development that respects both the environment and human dignity. These documents illustrate how interdisciplinarity is crucial in the field of sustainability.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the UN in 2015, provide a comprehensive roadmap for building a more just, equitable, and sustainable world by 2030. With 17 interconnected goals, the SDGs address a wide range of issues, from eradicating poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality, ensuring access to quality education, and protecting the environment. The SDGs offer an essential framework for guiding policies, investments, and actions towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for all inhabitants of the planet.

Reflecting on the Vatican documents and the Agenda 2030, it becomes clear that sustainability is not only an environmental issue but also a matter of social, economic, and ethical justice. As seeking solutions to global challenges progresses, it is essential to incorporate the principles of *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum* and the goals of the SDGs into scientific research on sustainability, ensuring that the scientific community becomes a significant promoter of prosperity and well-being for the planet.

Currently, climate change has been one of the most emphasized topics in sustainability research. Its interdisciplinary nature calls upon various fields of knowledge to develop research and propose solutions. In this sense, applied research also gains prominence, as it not only provides contributions to literature and the scientific community but also impacts society directly.

Applied research plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability as it focuses on finding practical solutions to the challenges faced by society, especially regarding environmental conservation, efficient resource use, and social justice.

One of the greatest advantages of applied research is its ability to translate scientific knowledge into tangible actions that can be applied to sustainable development. Taking this into account we expect to present studies of high social impact in this edition, as well as theoretical studies and systematic literature reviews that address cutting-edge topics in the various fields of sustainability studies.

The academia has significant potential to directly impact public policies, business practices, and individual behaviors, leading to positive and lasting changes towards sustainability. Moreover, collaboration across various sectors, including academia, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and governments, is crucial for creating innovative and integrated solutions from a collaborative, multi and interdisciplinary perspective.

By decoding knowledge into concrete actions and fostering collaboration across different sectors, applied research has the potential to drive significant changes, reduce social vulnerabilities, propose technological innovations, structure new economic models, and create initiatives that mitigate negative environmental impacts and ecological scarcity. This aligns with the principles presented in the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the SDGs.

As we delve deeper into these emerging sustainability themes, it is essential to involve and empower individuals to become agents of change in their own communities. This entails continually connecting research with education, bringing the latest advancements in this field of knowledge to society. Educating about sustainability principles, promoting environmental literacy, and inspiring individual and collective actions are essential steps toward building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Finally, it is important to remember that sustainability it's not a habit acquired suddenly but rather a continuous journey. Only through collective and ongoing commitment to innovation, social justice, and awareness can we hope to create a world where the needs of present and future generations are met equitably and sustainably. Every step towards these goals brings us closer to a future where human prosperity is in harmony with the health of the planet.

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