

*Sustainexus*

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*Editorial*

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# Introducing Sustainexus: An Interdisciplinary Agenda for Sustainability Research

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A B S T R A C T

This inaugural editorial marks the launch of Sustainexus: Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability and introduces its scholarly purpose, research agenda and editorial commitments. The journal addresses sustainability questions that require attention to relationships across environmental, social, economic and technological systems. It welcomes research explaining the mechanisms behind these relationships, including opportunities for mutually reinforcing benefits, trade-offs and unintended consequences. Contributions may integrate perspectives across fields or provide disciplinary insights with substantial relevance to wider sustainability understanding. Guided by the mission of ABS Research Academy, "Academics for Better Society," the journal supports methodological diversity, transparent reporting, research integrity and participation across regions and career stages. Through open access and constructive scholarly evaluation, it seeks to develop a forum for research that strengthens understanding of sustainability challenges and informs context-sensitive responses.

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## Why Sustainexus, Why Now?

With this inaugural issue, we welcome readers, authors and reviewers to Sustainexus: Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability, published by ABS Research Academy. The journal's launch reflects our commitment to developing an international scholarly community that examines how environmental integrity, social well-being and economic resilience can be pursued together, and why tensions arise between them.

Disciplinary research provides essential knowledge about individual processes. Yet decisions concerning sustainability frequently involve interactions that extend beyond the boundaries of any one field. An energy transition may reduce emissions while redistributing employment opportunities and financial risks. Digital

technologies may improve production efficiency while increasing energy demand or excluding users with limited resources. Understanding such relationships requires attention to how benefits, costs and responsibilities are distributed across places, populations and time.

The name Sustainexus brings together sustainability and nexus to express this concern with interconnected outcomes. Our guiding statement is “Connecting Disciplines. Advancing Sustainability.” It expresses both an invitation to scholars and a commitment to the wider research community.

This emphasis shapes the questions we seek to advance: under what conditions do sustainability objectives reinforce one another, when do interventions shift burdens elsewhere, and how can institutions respond to competing priorities? By examining these questions, Sustainexus aims to connect disciplinary insights with the practical challenges of sustainable development.

## An Interdisciplinary Research Agenda

Sustainexus welcomes research across environmental science, climate change, renewable energy, circular economy, economics, finance, business and management, engineering, digital technologies, social sciences and public policy. Across these fields, sustainability must be central to the research question, analysis and contribution, rather than an incidental justification.

We particularly welcome studies investigating how green finance and environmental, social and governance practices influence organisational transitions; how artificial intelligence and digital transformation affect sustainable production and consumption; and how governance, innovation and institutions shape climate resilience and inclusive development. Contributions should examine the conditions and mechanisms underlying these relationships, including circumstances in which anticipated benefits do not materialise.

The journal also encourages research on biodiversity, sustainable cities, responsible supply chains, sustainable tourism, environmental justice and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These topics offer opportunities to investigate how decisions across sectors and scales shape sustainability outcomes. For example, research may examine how urban adaptation affects vulnerable communities, how supply-chain decisions distribute environmental burdens, or how tourism development interacts with ecosystem protection and local livelihoods.

Interdisciplinarity should mean more than placing concepts from different fields in one manuscript. It involves integrating relevant perspectives to address a question that would be incompletely understood through a single disciplinary approach. Such integration may occur through theory, research design, methods, evidence or levels of analysis. Authors should explain what the integration contributes and how it changes the interpretation of the problem.

Not every contribution must combine multiple disciplines or methods. Disciplinary studies are also welcome when they provide substantial insights into wider sustainability relationships and communicate their relevance beyond a narrow specialist audience.

## Research Quality, Methods and Integrity

Sustainexus welcomes quantitative, qualitative, mixed-method, experimental, computational, conceptual and comparative research, alongside systematic reviews and rigorous evidence syntheses. We value methodologi-

cal pluralism but do not equate analytical complexity with scholarly contribution. Strong research must demonstrate why its methods suit its questions, report findings transparently, acknowledge limitations and avoid claims unsupported by evidence.

We expect conclusions to remain proportionate to research design and evidence. Research reporting conflicting outcomes, unsuccessful interventions or limitations in established approaches is welcome when it offers a clear contribution to sustainability understanding.

The journal operates a double-blind peer-review process and is committed to editorial independence, constructive evaluation and recognised principles of publication ethics, including relevant guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics. We expect responsible authorship, appropriate ethical approval and informed consent where required, transparent conflict-of-interest and funding disclosures, and honest reporting of data and methods.

We encourage responsible sharing of supporting data, analytical code and research materials where ethical, legal and confidentiality requirements permit. Any use of generative artificial intelligence must comply with the journal's policies, with authors retaining full responsibility for their work. Editors and reviewers must protect manuscript confidentiality throughout evaluation.

## Global Participation and Open Knowledge

Sustainability challenges are shared globally, yet their causes and feasible responses differ across countries, institutions and communities. Evidence from developing and emerging economies is especially important for understanding resource constraints, institutional variation, climate vulnerability and locally grounded innovation. Such evidence can also test the applicability of established explanations and identify conditions under which prevailing assumptions require revision. Sustainexus seeks contributions from scholars worldwide and encourages collaboration across disciplines, regions and career stages.

We value research that takes local contexts seriously while explaining what its findings contribute to wider understanding. International relevance need not depend on a multicountry sample. It may arise from a well-supported explanation of a mechanism, a challenge to an established assumption, or evidence about conditions that have received insufficient attention.

Open access is central to this vision. Research intended to inform sustainable development should be accessible to scholars, practitioners, policymakers and communities without subscription barriers. To support participation during the journal's establishment, article processing charges are fully waived for manuscripts accepted on or before 31 December 2028. Editorial decisions remain based on scholarly merit, not financial considerations.

## Looking Ahead

The launch of a journal is a beginning, not an achievement in itself. Its credibility must be earned through the quality of its publications, the integrity of its editorial decisions and the trust of its authors and reviewers. Sustainexus aspires to publish research that advances theory, critically evaluates evidence, challenges assumptions and offers useful insights for policy and practice without overstating immediate impact.

We invite researchers to submit work that makes sustainability relationships explicit, examines competing explanations and communicates the significance and limits of its findings. We also welcome reviewers and academic partners who can support rigorous, fair and constructive evaluation.

Guided by the mission "Academics for Better Society," we launch Sustainexus with an invitation to help shape the journal through thoughtful research and critical debate. We look forward to building a scholarly community whose contributions will define the character and value of Sustainexus in the years ahead.

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## Author contributions

**Abdul Kaium Masud:** Conceptualization, Investigation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Validation, Visualization.
**Mohammad Masukujjaman:** Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Validation.

## Declaration of competing interest

The authors serve as Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editor-in-Chief of Sustainexus, respectively. The authors declare no other competing interests.

## Ethics statement

Not applicable.

## Data availability

Not applicable.

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