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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MARKETING 4.0 ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE FOOD PRODUCTION SECTOR

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Abstract: This study examines the effectiveness of Marketing 4.0 in fostering sustainable entrepreneurship within the food production industry. With globalization and technological advancements reshaping the market landscape, the integration of digital channels in marketing presents both challenges and opportunities for businesses. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, this research highlights key strategies associated with Marketing 4.0, their implementation in food production, and the resultant impact on sustainability. The findings indicate that businesses employing Marketing 4.0 strategies not only improve their market performance but also contribute to sustainable practices, establishing a model for future growth and development.

Introduction. Sustainability has become a critical concern in the food production industry, given the environmental challenges and increasing consumer awareness surrounding the impact of food systems. Marketing 4.0, characterized by the integration of digital technologies into marketing strategies, seeks to bridge the gap between traditional and modern marketing. It emphasizes the importance of customer experience, community engagement, and sustainability. This paper aims to analyze how Marketing 4.0 activities contribute to the sustainable development of entrepreneurship in the food industry, focusing on effective strategies that align with consumer demands for sustainable products.

Methods. This study employed a mixed-methods research approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative datasets. The quantitative data was gathered through structured surveys distributed to 200 food producers implementing Marketing 4.0 strategies across various regions. The survey measured variables such as brand awareness, customer engagement, sales performance, and sustainability practices. The qualitative component consisted of semistructured interviews with 15 marketing professionals and entrepreneurs in the food sector, providing insights into the practical implications of integrating Marketing 4.0 strategies. The statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS to identify correlations between Marketing 4.0 activities and sustainability outcomes, while thematic analysis was applied to the qualitative data to extract key themes.

Discussion. The findings of this study emphasize the transformative role of Marketing 4.0 in reinforcing the interconnection between marketing efforts and sustainability within the food production sector. As digital channels become integral to marketing strategies, they do not merely serve to boost market performance; they also foster a culture of responsible consumption among consumers. This cultural shift is especially pertinent today, as a growing number of consumers are gravitating towards brands that resonate with their personal values and commitments to sustainability.

Research shows that consumers are now more discerning than ever before, making purchasing

decisions based on a company's environmental practices and social responsibility initiatives. This trend signifies a major paradigm shift in the marketplace, where consumers increasingly expect transparency and authenticity from brands. In this context, companies that effectively communicate their sustainable practices through digital marketing stand to gain a competitive edge. Brands that align their messaging with consumer values can cultivate deeper, more loyal relationships with consumers, ultimately leading to increased sales and customer retention.

Nonetheless, while the potential benefits are substantial, challenges persist in implementing Marketing 4.0 strategies. One significant challenge is the continuous need for adaptation in marketing efforts to keep pace with rapidly evolving consumer preferences and technological advancements. This requires businesses to stay agile and responsive, continuously refining their strategies to meet changing expectations. Furthermore, organizations must invest in technology and data analytics to better understand and predict consumer behavior. Failure to do so risks isolating brands from their target audiences and undermining their marketing effectiveness.

Additionally, the workforce may face skill gaps that hinder the effective execution of Marketing 4.0 strategies. As marketing becomes increasingly data-driven and technology-centric, there is an urgent need for training and development programs that equip employees with the necessary skills. Stakeholders—including businesses, educational institutions, and government entities—should collaborate to create initiatives aimed at enhancing digital literacy and marketing acumen within the workforce. Addressing these skill gaps will not only facilitate the successful implementation of Marketing 4.0 but also contribute to the overall growth of the food production industry.

Conclusion. In conclusion, Marketing 4.0 represents a significant opportunity for sustainable entrepreneurship within the food production industry. By aligning marketing strategies with the principles of sustainability, businesses can enhance their market performance while simultaneously contributing to broader environmental and social goals. This dual focus is not merely advantageous but necessary in today's rapidly evolving marketplace.

The study underscores the importance of ongoing research to further explore the complex dynamics of Marketing 4.0 and its implications for sustainable practices in food production. As digital marketing continues to evolve, it is crucial for future studies to assess the long-term impacts of these strategies on both business sustainability and consumer behavior. By doing so, researchers can provide valuable insights that will help businesses navigate the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities presented by Marketing 4.0. Ultimately, the integration of sustainability into marketing strategies will not only help firms thrive in the competitive landscape but also contribute to a more sustainable future for the food industry and its stakeholders.

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