

# 12 CSR and Sustainable Food Supply Chain Management

## Aim

Discuss and investigate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the impact on the culinary and food service industry.

## Objectives

1. Define CSR and the key developments influencing food service organisations.
2. Explore the global food supply chain challenges and dilemmas and the impact these have on business strategy.
3. Explore how hospitality food service organisations use third party organisations to seek accreditations to support sustainable food supply chains.

## 12.1 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders (UNIDO, 2025). Firms that embrace CSR are typically organised in a manner that empowers them to act in a socially responsible way to positively impact the environment they operate in. It recognises that businesses have responsibilities beyond simply maximising financial profits and appreciative of its place in the environment, society and value that it brings. The notion of bringing these together is referred to as 'Triple Bottom Line': People (social responsibility), Planet (environmental sustainability) and Profit (economic viability). This is a shift away from a shareholder centric business to one focusing on wider stakeholders, including staff, customers and suppliers, with social and environmental considerations integrated into the core business strategy.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) works with leading businesses to support them in transforming their value chains to support sustained climate, nature and equity action. The WBCSD define Corporate Social Responsibility as:

*“The commitment of businesses to contribute to sustainable economic development – working with employees, their families, the local community and society at large to improve the quality of life, in ways that are good for business and good for development”*

WBCSD at [www.wbcsd.org/who-we-are/](http://www.wbcsd.org/who-we-are/)