

Current Challenges in the Pharmaceutical Industry Related to SDGs

The pharmaceutical industry drives life-saving innovations but faces challenges aligning with SDGs. While advancing treatments for diseases like cancer, its practices fall short in addressing broader issues like poverty, climate change, and sustainability.

1. Environmental Impacts and Carbon Emissions

- The pharmaceutical industry emits more greenhouse gases than the automotive sector.
- Energy-intensive drug production and inefficient supply chains increase CO₂ emissions.
- The industry must cut emissions by 59% by 2025 to align with the Paris Agreement.

2. Misalignment Between Drug Innovation and Global Health Needs

- R&D focuses on diseases prevalent in developed countries (e.g., cancer, neurological disorders).
- Neglected diseases (e.g., infections, neonatal conditions) in developing countries receive less investment.
- This imbalance deepens global healthcare inequality.

3. Regulatory and Financial Constraints

- Strict regulations and profit-driven models hinder sustainable practices.
- Proposed climate-related disclosures may impose financial burdens on small biotech firms.
- Patent laws delay access to affordable treatments.

4. Limited Government Support for Sustainable Drug Development

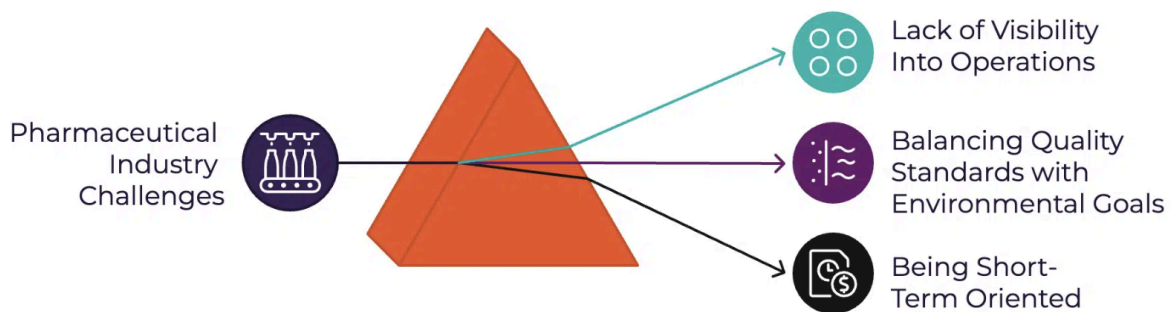
- Public investments reduce risk, but private companies gain financial rewards.
- Governments must promote sustainability-focused drug programs.

5. Challenges in Sustainable Drug Production

- Traditional chemical processes cause pollution and resource depletion.
- Natural product-based alternatives face legal and technical barriers.
- Poor waste management and antibiotic contamination pose environmental risks.

Key Challenges in Achieving Pharma Sustainability Goals

Navigating Pharma Sustainability Challenges



Business Plan to Apply SDGs in the Pharmaceutical Sector

1. Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

Pharmaceutical companies can prioritize improving access to essential medicines and healthcare solutions by:

- **Expanding Access to Healthcare:** Implementing tiered pricing models to ensure affordability across different income groups and providing access programs for underserved populations.
- **Investing in Global Health R&D:** Focusing on the research and development of medicines and vaccines for neglected tropical diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and infectious diseases.
- **Strengthening Healthcare Systems:** Collaborating with local governments and organizations to enhance healthcare infrastructure and provide training for healthcare workers in low-resource settings.

2. Goal 4: Quality Education

Pharmaceutical companies can promote knowledge sharing and continuous learning by:

- **Promote Lifelong Learning:** Develop continuous training programs for employees and external partners to stay updated on the latest medical and technological advancements.
- **Engage in Knowledge Sharing:** Participate in cross-industry collaborations and benchmark groups to share best practices and innovations.

3. Goal 5: Gender Equality

Pharmaceutical businesses can advance gender equality by:

- **Diverse Workforce Development:** Implementing inclusive hiring practices and supporting career advancement for women.
- **Leadership Representation:** Setting measurable targets to increase female representation in senior leadership roles.

4. Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

To ensure responsible water use, companies can:

- **Sustainable Water Management:** Implement policies to reduce water consumption, prevent pollution, and achieve water stewardship certification.
- **WASH Compliance:** Ensure access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for all employees across global operations.

5. Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Pharmaceutical firms can reduce their carbon footprint by:

- **Energy-efficient Infrastructure:** Design facilities with energy-efficient technologies such as high-performance insulation, optimized natural lighting, and smart energy systems.
- **Renewable Energy Adoption:** Transition to renewable energy sources like solar and hydroelectric power for manufacturing and research operations.

6. Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

To promote a fair and safe working environment, companies can:

- **Safe and Inclusive Workplaces:** Implement occupational health programs and mental well-being initiatives for employees.

- **Economic Development:** Invest in local communities through employment generation and skills development programs.

7. Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Innovation drives pharmaceutical progress through:

- **R&D Investment:** Prioritize research on advanced therapies, personalized medicine, and new drug delivery technologies.
- **Infrastructure for Innovation:** Build modern facilities that foster collaboration and accelerate scientific discovery.

8. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Minimizing environmental impact throughout the product lifecycle includes:

- **Circular Economy Practices:** Implement recycling programs, reduce single-use plastics, and ensure responsible waste disposal.
- **Product Stewardship:** Design products with lower environmental impacts and promote sustainable supply chain practices.

9. Goal 13: Climate Action

Pharmaceutical companies can tackle climate change by:

- **Carbon Reduction Goals:** Commit to net-zero emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon offset programs.
- **Sustainable Supply Chains:** Collaborate with suppliers to reduce Scope 3 emissions and adopt low-carbon technologies.

10. Goal 15: Life on Land

Pharmaceutical companies can protect biodiversity and promote sustainable land use by:



- **Sustainable Sourcing:** Ensure that all agricultural, forestry, and marine-derived materials are sustainably sourced and free from deforestation.
- **Biodiversity Preservation:** Implement programs to restore local ecosystems, protect endangered species, and enhance habitat conservation.
- **Environmental Impact Reduction:** Minimize land degradation and pollution by adopting eco-friendly production processes and responsible waste management practices.

11. Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Ethical business practices are critical to sustainable growth. Companies can:

- **Ethical Governance:** Ensure transparency and compliance with international human rights standards.
- **Anti-Corruption Measures:** Implement robust systems to prevent bribery and uphold integrity across operations.

12. Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Collaborations are essential to scaling impact. Companies should:

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Partner with governments, NGOs, and academic institutions to address public health challenges.
- **Data Sharing and Collaboration:** Establish coalitions to share data and insights for better decision-making and global health outcomes.

