Supplementary File S1

Participant Information Sheet and Informed Consent Form

Study: Analyzing Industry 4.0 Integration Challenges in Sustainable Supply Chains: A Study of Bangladesh's RMG Industry Using Fuzzy AHP and BWM

Part A — Participant information sheet

Purpose of the study. I have been invited to take part in an academic study that identifies and prioritises the barriers to adopting Industry 4.0 technologies for sustainable supply chain management in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector of Bangladesh.

What participation involves. I will be asked to complete a structured questionnaire that (i) rates the relevance and significance of a list of barriers identified from the literature, (ii) records general information about my company and my professional experience, and (iii) asks for pairwise comparisons between barriers for Fuzzy AHP and Best-Worst Method analysis. I understand that there are no foreseeable risks or direct benefits to me, and that I will not receive any payment.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal. My participation is entirely voluntary. I may decline any question and withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without any consequence. If I withdraw, my responses will be removed from the dataset where this is still possible.

Confidentiality and data use. My name and my company's name will not be recorded in the analysis dataset or in any publication. My responses will be analysed and reported only in aggregated form, used solely for academic research, and stored securely by the research team. Anonymised data may be shared with journal editors or reviewers on reasonable requests.

Contact. If I have any questions, I can contact Sayef Ahmed (Corresponding Author), Department of Textile Engineering, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh; e-mail: sayefsowro@gmail.com.

Part B — Consent form

By signing below, I confirm each of the following statements:

1. I have read and understood the participant information sheet for this study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.
3. I understand that my responses will be treated confidentially, that I will not be identified in any publication, and that the results will be reported in aggregated form only.
4. I agree that my anonymised responses may be used for academic research and publication.
5. I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older.
6. I agree to take part in this study.