

Preface

This book is written for both academicians and practitioners who are interested in Supply Chain Finance. It can also be used as a textbook for seniors and MBA students or for those preparing for examinations at the intersection of supply chain management and trade finance.

Supply Chain Finance has become more and more important during the last years. The effect of globalization of supply chains makes it more challenging than ever for companies to keep their competitive edge. More recently the economic crisis in 2008/2009 resulted in reactions that are fueling the widespread adoption of trade finance due to the scares liquidity and unsound working capital situation of trade partners in the global market place.

This publication provides background on the growing importance of Supply Chain Finance, delving into the key elements and available options from which these solutions are crafted and implemented. While the market for Supply Chain Finance is still in the early stages of development, innovative companies already have made use of it and others will soon follow.

Because of the novelty of this subject, most publications so far have only covered certain parts of Supply Chain Finance and have left many research gaps. This might also explain why some companies still hesitate to use Supply Chain Finance solutions and to reap its benefits.

Our contribution explores the different aspects of Supply Chain Finance and solutions available in the market. It attempts to develop an understanding of how developments in international trade and other drivers have impacted supply chain management and have increased the interest of major corporations to adopt new practices in trade finance and working capital management. In our publication the reader will learn about the different challenges and benefits and the potential market size of Supply Chain Finance solutions as well as get some indications where these practice can be applied in attempts to improve working capital and company value.

It is hoped that readers will appreciate the new insight in Supply Chain Finance in general and the calculated global market potential and market size of the solution in particular.

The valuable comments and support of our colleagues, especially at the Chair of Logistics Management, University of St. Gallen (Switzerland), has been most welcome. At the end, we wish to acknowledge the generous support of Nathalie and Andrea for the publication of the book.

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