






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An optimization model for routing–location of vehicles with time windows and cross-docking structures in a sustainable supply chain of perishable foods

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Abstract

The effective distribution of perishable food items is a critical aspect of managing the food industry's supply chain, given their physical–chemical, biological characteristics and composition, which make them highly susceptible to rapid deterioration. This research presents a transport model incorporating a cross-dock system to efficiently deliver goods from production plants to markets. The model incorporates a vehicle routing model that considers time windows for pick-ups and deliveries, optimal cross-dock center locations, a heterogeneous vehicle fleet of limited capacity, and scheduling product