

# UCU'S COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SUSTAIN SHARED AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Through its Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES), UCU has developed partnerships and joint-activities that bring research, education and community practice into alignment for shared ecosystem benefit.

For example, on June 27 2023, UCU's CCDES and its College of Engineering & Architecture joined a collaborative site visit with Pangasinan State University – Binmaley Campus (PSU-Binmaley) focused on aquaculture and hito (catfish)-culture technologies. PSU-Binmaley faculty shared their research and extension work in aquatic technologies, and UCU is now applying these insights into its own hydroponics and aquaculture pilot programs tied to local aquatic systems.

In addition, UCU recently conducted training on March 10 2023 for its directors, deans and program heads covering community partnerships and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This training emphasized the importance of building and maintaining effective relationships with local partners, including barangay officials and community organizations, which are crucial when working on shared aquatic ecosystems.

These collaboration efforts enable UCU and its partners to undertake practical initiatives: for example, engaging barangays in discussions about water use and aquaculture practices, facilitating joint monitoring of water bodies, and co-designing interventions that reduce runoff or promote sustainable aquaculture linked to local rivers or lakes.

**MAKE SDG#14 A REALITY**

