

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOURCING AND FARMING POLICY (UCU-SFFP NO. 2025-01)

I. Policy Title

Sustainable Food Sourcing and Farming Policy

II. Policy Statement

Urdaneta City University (UCU), in alignment with its commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**—particularly **SDG 15: Life on Land** and **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**—upholds the principle of sustainability in all aspects of campus operations, including food sourcing and consumption. This policy ensures that all food served, sold, or distributed within the University premises is sustainably farmed, environmentally responsible, and supportive of local agricultural communities.

III. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Promote **sustainable agricultural practices** that conserve biodiversity and protect natural resources.
2. Encourage **ethical food sourcing** from local farmers and suppliers who use environmentally sound methods.
3. Foster a **healthy and eco-conscious campus community** that values sustainability in everyday food choices.
4. Strengthen UCU's contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development through responsible consumption.

IV. Scope

This policy applies to all:

- Campus food service providers, canteens, and concessionaires;
- University-managed catering services during events, programs, and meetings;
- Student organizations and academic units that serve or distribute food within University premises.

V. Policy Guidelines

1. Sustainable Food Procurement

- UCU shall prioritize partnerships with local farmers, cooperatives, and food suppliers who practice organic or low-impact farming.
- At least 50% of raw ingredients used in campus food establishments shall be sourced from local and sustainably managed farms within Pangasinan and nearby areas.

2. Environmentally Friendly Farming Practices

- Suppliers must adhere to practices that **minimize chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and synthetic additives**, and promote **natural soil and water conservation**.
- Preference shall be given to farms certified by recognized **sustainable agriculture organizations** or those verified by the University's sustainability committee.

3. Biodiversity Protection and Animal Welfare

- Food products must not contribute to deforestation, habitat destruction, or biodiversity loss.
- Suppliers providing animal-based products must ensure humane treatment and responsible farming practices.

4. Campus Education and Advocacy

- UCU shall organize information campaigns, seminars, and student-led initiatives promoting sustainable food systems and responsible consumption.
- The University encourages academic integration of sustainable agriculture topics into relevant programs and research.

5. Monitoring and Compliance

- The Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Committee (SESC), in coordination with the Office of the Chief Operating Officer and the Auxiliary Services Unit, shall monitor compliance through regular audits and supplier evaluations.
- Non-compliance by food providers may result in sanctions, including the non-renewal of contracts or concessions.

VI. Responsibilities

- **Office of the President:** Provides strategic oversight and ensures institutional support for implementation.
- **Chief Operating Officer (COO):** Oversees operational compliance among campus vendors and food providers.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Committee:** Monitors implementation, conducts reviews, and recommends policy improvements.
- **Food Concessionaires and Canteens:** Ensure that all food items served comply with the sustainability standards set by this policy.

VII. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed **every two (2) years** by the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Committee to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with emerging global sustainability standards.

VIII. Effectivity

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval by the University President and dissemination to all relevant offices and stakeholders.

MAKE SDG#15 A REALITY

15 LIFE
ON LAND

