

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY MONITORING LOCAL AQUATIC SYSTEMS

UCU has incorporated water-resource management into its institutional research agenda, as reflected in its Research Manual which lists “water conservation and management; development of cost-effective technologies to prevent, control and monitor environmental concerns” among its priority themes. One concrete example is a documented site visit and collaboration on June 27 2023 between UCU’s Center for Community Development & Extension Services and Pangasinan State University – Binmaley Campus’s Aquaculture & Hito-culture project. During this activity, UCU faculty gathered knowledge on aquatic technologies, which will inform its upcoming monitoring and culture-systems work.

In practice, UCU’s monitoring approach involves sampling for microbiological and physico-chemical indicators. For example, a separate water-quality test in Urdaneta City showed that samples from a school faucet passed the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water in total coliform, thermotolerant coliform and heterotrophic plate count. Although this was not explicitly led by UCU, it demonstrates the kind of microbiological monitoring environment in the region.

Another monitoring dimension is UCU’s planned expansion of data collection through riparian and small-scale wastewater treatment systems. While the detailed results are not yet publicly posted, UCU’s research priorities (per the Research Manual) explicitly call for “technologies ... to monitor environmental concerns” under the “Environmental, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management” theme.

By linking these efforts collaborative aquaculture-site visits, microbiological sampling, and institutional research priorities UCU is building a monitoring framework for aquatic system health in Pangasinan. As a next step, the university is positioned to openly publish time-series data on chemical, physical and biological indicators from nearby water bodies and link those data to restoration and outreach projects.

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