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Policy on Sustainably Farmed Food on Campus

Registrar

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S. No.	Particulars	Description
1	Policy Number	Ref-U-01/SVSU/2025/1368(1) Date- 10.01.2025
2	Policy Statement	Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut, is committed to promoting sustainable food systems, responsible consumption, and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices across its campus operations. Through this Policy, the University shall encourage the procurement, preparation, serving, and production of food from farms and suppliers that follow environmentally responsible agricultural practices, wherever feasible. The University shall promote sustainable sourcing, seasonal and locally available food products where practicable, food waste prevention, resource conservation, and the reduction of environmentally harmful packaging. The University Research Cell shall encourage research and innovation in sustainable agriculture and food systems, while relevant academic departments shall promote awareness through curriculum integration, projects, and learning activities. The University shall also undertake outreach, sensitisation, and capacity-building initiatives to encourage sustainable food practices among students, faculty, staff, suppliers, and the wider community. Implementation shall be supported by appropriate documentation, monitoring, and continual improvement, in alignment with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
3	Scope of the Policy	The policy applies to campus food procurement, university cafeterias, food outlets, hostels, canteens, and university-managed agricultural and horticultural production activities.
4	Policy Status	Original
5	Originated By	Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science
6	Reviewed By	Registrar
7	Effective Date of Policy	10.01.2025
8	Approving Authority	Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
9	Policy Review Date	

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1. Preamble:

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University is committed to promoting sustainable development through responsible institutional practices. As an educational institution, the University recognizes the importance of sustainable agriculture, responsible food consumption, and environmental conservation.

The University acknowledges that food production and procurement have significant environmental, social, and economic implications. Sustainable farming practices can help conserve soil and water resources, reduce environmental impacts, support biodiversity, and promote responsible food systems.

This policy establishes a framework to ensure that food available on campus is, wherever feasible, sourced from sustainably farmed agricultural practices. It also encourages the integration of sustainable food production, awareness, and education into campus operations.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish an institutional framework through which Swami Vivekanand Subharti University contributes to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and responsible food systems through its academic, research, administrative, operational, and community outreach initiatives. The specific objectives of this Policy are to:

2.1. Integrate the principles of sustainable agriculture, responsible food production, and sustainable consumption into the University's academic programmes, curriculum, research, and extension activities.

2.2. Promote awareness and understanding among students, faculty members, staff, and other stakeholders regarding sustainable farming practices, environmentally responsible food production, and healthy and sustainable food choices.

2.3. Encourage and support interdisciplinary research, innovation, and student projects focusing on sustainable agriculture, soil conservation, water management, biodiversity protection, organic farming, and climate-resilient food systems.

2.4. Promote institutional procurement practices that encourage the availability and use of food sourced from farmers, producers, and suppliers adopting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, wherever feasible.

2.5. Encourage sustainable food production through University-managed agricultural, horticultural, plantation, and demonstration activities, wherever feasible, to provide practical learning and research opportunities.

2.6. Strengthen collaboration with farmers, agricultural institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and local and regional communities through training programmes, workshops,

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awareness campaigns, knowledge-sharing activities, and outreach initiatives to promote sustainable farming practices.

2.7. Encourage student and faculty participation in experiential learning, field-based activities, community engagement, and capacity-building initiatives related to sustainable agriculture and responsible food systems.

2.8. Promote the conservation of natural resources, including soil, water, and biodiversity, while encouraging environmentally responsible agricultural practices and minimizing the environmental impact of food production and consumption.

2.9. Contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), including relevant institutional commitments concerning sustainably farmed food on campus.

This Policy shall apply to all relevant academic, research, administrative, operational, and outreach activities of Swami Vivekanand Subharti University that directly or indirectly contribute to the promotion of sustainable agriculture, sustainably farmed food, and responsible food systems. The scope of this Policy shall include:

3.1. All University-managed cafeterias, canteens, food outlets, hostels, and other food service facilities involved in the procurement, preparation, and availability of food on campus.

3.2. Institutional food procurement, supplier selection, and engagement with farmers, producers, vendors, and other stakeholders promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

3.3. Academic programmes, curriculum development, teaching-learning activities, and interdisciplinary initiatives incorporating sustainable agriculture, food security, sustainable food production, and responsible consumption.

3.4. Research, innovation, consultancy, and student projects undertaken by various Faculties, Departments, Research Centres, and University Cells in the areas of sustainable farming, soil and water conservation, organic agriculture, biodiversity, and climate-resilient food systems.

3.5. University-managed agricultural, horticultural, plantation, kitchen garden, and other food-producing activities undertaken for demonstration, research, experiential learning, and sustainable food production, wherever feasible.

3.6. Awareness programmes, seminars, conferences, workshops, training sessions, exhibitions, and capacity-building initiatives for students, faculty members, staff, farmers, and other stakeholders on sustainable agricultural practices and responsible food choices.

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3.7. Extension, outreach, and community engagement activities undertaken in collaboration with farmers, agricultural institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and local and regional communities to promote sustainable farming and food systems.

3.8. Student participation through NSS, institutional clubs, student societies, experiential learning, field visits, internships, and other community-based activities related to sustainable agriculture and food sustainability.

3.9. Institutional collaborations, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing initiatives with relevant national and international organisations working towards sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental conservation.

3.10. Monitoring, documentation, and assessment of the University's initiatives and contributions towards sustainable food production, responsible procurement, awareness generation, and relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Sustainable Food Procurement Principles

4.1. Sustainable Agricultural Practices

The University will encourage the procurement and availability of food produced through agricultural practices that promote environmental sustainability and responsible resource use. These may include:

4.1.1. Soil conservation and maintenance of soil fertility.

4.1.2. Efficient use of irrigation water and water conservation practices.

4.1.3. Integrated nutrient management and responsible use of fertilizers.

4.1.4. Integrated pest management and environmentally responsible crop protection.

4.1.5. Use of organic manures, compost, and other sustainable soil amendments, wherever feasible.

4.1.6. Crop diversification and practices that support agricultural biodiversity.

4.2. Responsible Food Procurement

The University will encourage responsible food procurement practices, including:

4.2.1. Preference, wherever feasible, for food suppliers and producers who follow sustainable farming practices.

4.2.2. Encouragement of locally and seasonally available food, wherever feasible.

4.2.3. Promotion of fresh agricultural and horticultural produce.

4.2.4. Encouragement of suppliers to provide information regarding the origin and production practices of food products.

4.2.5. Consideration of environmental sustainability in food procurement decisions, while maintaining food quality, safety, affordability, and institutional requirements.

4.3. Sustainable Food Production on Campus

The University will encourage sustainable food production through its agricultural and horticultural activities, wherever feasible.

Such activities may include:

4.3.1. Development and maintenance of campus kitchen gardens.

4.3.2. Production of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and other suitable food crops.

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4.3.3. Demonstration of sustainable agricultural practices for educational purposes.

4.3.4. Use of compost and organic manures in campus food-producing areas.

4.3.5. Promotion of water-efficient irrigation and resource-conserving cultivation practices.

4.3.6. Encouragement of student participation in sustainable food production and agricultural awareness activities.

4. Sustainable Food Management Strategy

The University shall adopt a multi-dimensional strategy for promoting sustainably farmed food on campus, consisting of the following components:

5.1. Sustainable Food Procurement

The University will encourage the procurement of food from sources that demonstrate responsible agricultural and environmental practices, wherever feasible.

5.2. Campus Food Production

The University will encourage the development and maintenance of food-producing areas on campus, including kitchen gardens and suitable agricultural or horticultural production activities.

5.3. Awareness and Education

The University will promote awareness among students, faculty, and staff and local and regional communities regarding sustainable farming, responsible food consumption, and the environmental importance of sustainable food systems.

5.4. Resource Conservation

Food-related activities will encourage efficient use of water, soil, energy, and other resources, wherever feasible.

5.5. Collaboration and Partnerships

The University will encourage collaboration with farmers, agricultural institutions, suppliers, and other relevant stakeholders to promote sustainable food procurement and agricultural practices.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

The Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science shall maintain records and reports of sustainable food-related initiatives and activities.

Periodic reports may include:

6.1. Sustainable food procurement initiatives.

6.2. Campus agricultural and horticultural production activities.

6.3. Awareness and educational activities related to sustainable food systems.

6.4. Progress toward institutional sustainability goals.

6.5. Other relevant sustainability-related food management activities

6. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed as and when required.

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