SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

Metric 15.2 Supporting land ecosystems through education



15 LIFE ON LAND

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

AY 2025-2026

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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Indicator 15.2.2 Sustainably farmed food on campus



15 LIFE ON LAND

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

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SLU sustains commitment to food security through continuous hydroponics harvests

Saint Louis University (SLU) has carried on in its commitment to sustainability, food security, and environmental stewardship through its ongoing hydroponics initiative under project PEY-AS (Productive Ecological Yield in Agriculture towards Sustainability), marked most recently by the successful harvesting of hydroponic crops in December 2025.

Anchored in the native value of binnadang, which embodies mutual help, shared responsibility, and collective action, the initiative reflects SLU's mission of fostering community-centered and values-driven education. What began as a capacity-building and learning initiative has steadily evolved into a sustained institutional practice that integrates education, research, and community service.

The recent December harvest underscores SLU's long-term dedication to innovative agricultural solutions that address the challenges of urban food production, climate resilience, and responsible resource management.

The hydroponics program, implemented across various units of the University, provides a living laboratory where students, faculty, and staff actively engage in sustainable farming methods. Through hands-on involvement in planting, monitoring, and harvesting crops, participants gain practical knowledge while reinforcing values of environmental responsibility and service to others.



The December 2025 harvest highlights the continuity and consistency of the initiative. Despite changing academic cycles and environmental conditions, SLU has maintained the hydroponics system as a productive and functional model of sustainable agriculture. The harvested produce not only symbolizes agricultural success but also reflects the University's mission to translate learning into meaningful action for the community.

Beyond food production, the initiative serves as an educational platform that strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration. Students apply concepts from science, environmental studies, and social development, while faculty mentors guide them in linking sustainability theories with real-world practice. The program also complements SLU's service-learning and outreach efforts by promoting awareness of alternative farming technologies that can be replicated in households and local communities.

A key strength of Project PEY-AS is its collaborative approach. The initiative is carried out in partnership with American Corner Baguio, the City Veterinary and Agriculture Office (CVAO), and Barangay South Central Aurora Hill, whose support and expertise have helped strengthen technical capacity, community engagement, and sustainability education. These partnerships exemplify binnadang in action, reinforcing the shared mission of empowering communities through inclusive and cooperative efforts.

As SLU continues to nurture and expand its hydroponics efforts, the institution remains steadfast in its vision of sustainability as a continuous journey rather than a one-time project. Each harvest stands as a testament to SLU's enduring commitment to innovation, environmental care, and service to humanity-values that define the Louisian education.





Posted on the SLU Website:

https://www.slu.edu.ph/2026/01/07/slu-sustains-commitment-to-food-security-through-continuous-hydroponics-harvests/

SLU NSTP conducts university-wide extension program: ‘Biodynamic Coffee Project’

The entire universe, including even the smallest creatures, is in danger. Protecting all life and preserving the world’s beauty requires much effort, and saving our neglected Mother Earth is a responsibility we all share. Amid today’s environmental crisis, simple projects on sustainability remind us of the value of every being and deepen our awareness of our connection to all creation and to the Creator.

One vital example is coffee, a crop recognized and valued worldwide. Coffee production supports the livelihoods of over 25 million people globally, with farmers supplying small processors, large companies, and specialty coffee shops (Philippine Coffee Industry Roadmap 2017-2022). However, this important industry faces severe threats: in 2019, scientists at Britain’s Royal Botanic Garden reported that 60 percent of all wild coffee species could vanish in the coming decades due to climate change, deforestation, and the spread of fungal diseases and pests (National Geographic, 2019). This highlights the urgent need to protect both biodiversity and the environment that sustains us.

On 4 August 2022, a three-year university-wide Extension Program entitled the “Biodynamic Coffee Project” was launched. Its vision was to uplift local coffee farmers and to produce quality coffee through proper training and education and to help the farmers with better land, better ecosystems and better revenues.



As a manifestation of cooperation, KAPE TI UMA, Inc.; Wyldwood Coffee Project; Farm to Cup Benguet; the School of Accountancy, Management, Computing and Information (SAMCIS) departments (Entrepreneurship, Human Resource and Marketing Management Department, Financial Management, Accountancy, Computer Applications Department and Information Technology); SLU National Service Training Program (NSTP) Department; School of Engineering and Architecture (SEA); SLU Community Extension and Outreach Program Office; and SLU University Research and Innovation Center (UnRIC) signified a continuous partnership for coffee endeavours to protect the planet and coffee production. A planting site was also established at the SLU Maryheights Campus.

To ensure sustainability of the Biodynamic Coffee Project, the NSTP Department took this initiative as one of its Bolstering and Intensifying Lousian Initiatives for Greening Movements (BILIG) Projects that uphold the CICM and CEAP advocacies on environment, as well as support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG Goals 13 and 15.

In 2023, during the International Day of Forests, National Philippines' Earth Day, National Arbor Day, and World Environment Day, the NSTP faculty members and students monitored the status of the coffee plants, replaced the dying coffee seedlings, and cleaned the coffee planting site.



2024 was a productive year for the project where the NSTP faculty and NSTP-CWTS 2 students cleaned the site and applied fertilizers to the existing coffee trees to contribute to the health of the coffee plants. In addition, 30 new coffee seedlings were planted. These activities support coffee plant health and environmental sustainability while fostering teamwork and community among students and faculty.

The first coffee harvest took place in January 2025, bringing together participants from the SAMCIS Dean's Office, SAMCIS-EHM Department, and STELA-NSTP Department. This collaborative effort involved gathering kilos of coffee beans from seven coffee trees planted in 2022.
This hands-on experience not only fostered teamwork among the participants but also served as a valuable educational opportunity. Participants were able to learn about agricultural practices, including planting, nurturing, and harvesting crops, as well as the principles of environmental stewardship.





Posted on the SLU Website
https://www.slu.edu.ph/2025/01/29/slu-nstp-conducts-university-wide-extension-program-biodynamic-coffee-project/
SDG 15: Life on Land

SAMCIS Outreach Program supports local farmers through Community Collaboration

In a meaningful display of compassion, solidarity, and social responsibility, the School of Accountancy, Management, Computing, and Information Studies (SAMCIS) of Saint Louis University (SLU) successfully held its outreach program on 15 May 2026 at the SLU Maryheights Campus, aimed at supporting local farmers by purchasing and distributing fresh vegetables.

Through the collaborative effort of the SAMCIS Dean's Office staff and faculty members, the school purchased approximately 1,700 kilos of cabbage directly from farmers, helping provide them with additional market opportunities and financial support during a challenging period for the agricultural sector. The fresh cabbages were distributed among students, faculty members, security guards, janitors, support service personnel, campus canteens, and the Halfway Home for the Boys.



The outreach initiative reflected SAMCIS's commitment not only to academic excellence but also to community engagement and sustainable social action. Instead of allowing agricultural produce to go to waste, the school transformed the initiative into a community-sharing activity that benefited various sectors within the Louisian community and beyond.

The activity became a simple yet meaningful reminder that small acts of collective action can create a significant impact when rooted in compassion and shared responsibility. The event also highlighted the importance of supporting local farmers, who play a vital role in ensuring food security and sustaining local economies. By directly purchasing produce from farmers, SAMCIS helped bridge the gap between producers and consumers while promoting a culture of sustainability, cooperation, and social awareness within the university community.
The outreach activity was coordinated by Ma. Araceli D. Tambol, facilitating the implementation and distribution of the program. Faculty, staff, and beneficiaries reported appreciation for the initiative and noted that the program promoted generosity and community ties. The distribution proceeded with volunteers and participants working together to deliver the harvest to beneficiaries.



Posted on the SLU Website

https://www.slu.edu.ph/2026/05/15/samcis-outreach-supports-farmers-through-community-collaboration/

A bite into vitality and wellness: SLU offers healthy food options for students and staff

Nature's bounty is right on your plate as Saint Louis University (SLU) provides healthy food sources that nurture the physical well-being of Louisian students and staff. At the SLU Main Campus, at the SLU-Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) Medical Arts Parking Building, and along the areas of Assumption Road extension, Kabayanihan Brgy, Baguio City, there are concessionaires that serve healthy, affordable, green, and sustainable food choices for all.

By widening the selection of food sources, SLU creates a supportive environment that helps in developing lifelong healthy habits while simultaneously helping in balancing their lifestyle both as students and persons of their own.

Among the concessionaires is Amare Caffe, which banks on fresh herbs hand-picked daily for every dish prepared with locally sourced ingredients, with intention and care. The cafe offers a menu that helps Louisians redirect their diets toward investing in the long-term treasure of keeping their bodies well-nourished.

Another concessionaire is Green Foods, which introduced a curated meal list inspired by the "Eat Healthy" advocacy. From fresh fruit smoothies, vegetarian and vegan dishes, yogurt bowls, to healing turmeric drinks, the gush of refreshment with every bite is assured. This food source offers wholesome ingredients for vitality through mindful bites of wellness.

Posted on the SLU Website
https://www.slu.edu.ph/2025/08/27/a-bite-into-vitality-and-wellness-slu-offers-healthy-food-options-for-students-and-staff/



The SLU SDG Report 2026