

SDG 1 - Towards a Sustainable Tomorrow: UST's Contributions to SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) has long been committed to advancing the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12, which focuses on responsible consumption and production. SDG 12 calls for the efficient use of resources, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable consumption patterns. Through various initiatives, research projects, and community engagement activities, UST has made significant strides in promoting sustainable practices, minimizing waste, and fostering a culture of responsibility among its stakeholders. This narrative report highlights UST's key efforts aligned with SDG 12, showcasing how research, innovation, and community-driven programs contribute to the goal of sustainable consumption and production.

1. Research and Innovation in Sustainable Production

One of the primary ways UST contributes to SDG 12 is through research and technological innovation aimed at reducing waste and optimizing resource use. A notable project in this area is the development of a vegan sausage called soysage, created by a team led by Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas. This innovative product is made from okara, a byproduct of soy milk production, thus addressing food waste by turning a commonly discarded byproduct into a nutritious, eco-friendly food alternative. The project exemplifies UST's commitment to sustainable food production by promoting the use of waste products to create high-quality, sustainable goods. The research team plans to refine the product and conduct nutritional analysis, aiming to bring this innovative solution to market as an alternative to traditional meat-based sausages.

Additionally, UST is at the forefront of agricultural innovation through the development of the [AGROTIS Navigation System](#), a GPS-guided technology that automates agricultural tractors. Led by Assoc. Prof. Anthony James C. Bautista, this system is designed to reduce the labor and resource requirements for farming while improving efficiency. By automating tasks such as land tillage, the technology helps farmers reduce fuel consumption, labor costs, and time spent on field operations. This aligns directly with SDG 12 by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing environmental impact, and improving resource efficiency.

2. Community Empowerment and Education for Sustainability

Beyond technological innovation, UST's commitment to responsible consumption and production extends to community engagement and education. The [Sustainable Organic Agriculture Project \(SOAP\)](#), led by the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED), empowers rural communities to adopt more sustainable farming practices. Through the development of a **web application**, SOAP provides farmers with valuable resources on organic and sustainable farming techniques. The app aims to increase literacy on sustainable agriculture in rural communities, promoting resource efficiency and helping farmers minimize waste in

food production. This initiative supports SDG 12 by encouraging responsible consumption and production practices among local communities.

Another community-oriented initiative is the [One Values Project in Samar](#), a collaboration between UST's Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) and the Institute of Religion. This project promotes environmental stewardship and responsible consumption by educating the youth in Samar about sustainable practices. Through community consultations and interactive values formation modules, the project aims to foster a generation of young people who are conscious of their environmental impact and equipped to advocate for sustainable development in their local communities.

3. Institutional Efforts Towards Sustainability

UST's commitment to SDG 12 is also reflected in its institutional efforts to enhance sustainability on campus. A significant initiative in this regard is the [Energy Forum on Sustainable Practices](#), which focuses on improving energy efficiency across the university. The forum discussed the adoption of **solar panel installations** and the **Go! Renewable Time (GRT-76)** program, which aims to reduce the university's reliance on non-renewable energy sources. These efforts contribute to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) while also supporting SDG 12 by minimizing energy consumption and encouraging sustainable practices in the university's daily operations.

Furthermore, UST's **Research and Endowment Foundation (REFI)** has been involved in several environmental conservation efforts, including a grant for the [Siquijor Island conservation project](#), which focuses on restoring ecosystems and promoting **regenerative ecotourism**. By working toward making Siquijor a **zero-waste island** and developing sustainable livelihoods, REFI's initiatives contribute directly to reducing waste generation and fostering more sustainable tourism and production practices.

4. ****Global Advocacy for Responsible Consumption****

UST also plays a significant role in global advocacy for responsible consumption and production. Professors like **Arlen A. Ancheta**, who lectured on [environmental governance and zero-waste strategies](#) in the ASEAN region, contribute to raising awareness and shaping policies that promote sustainable production practices. Through her collaboration with environmental NGOs, Ancheta advocates for policies that support sustainable resource management, reducing waste and enhancing environmental protection.

Additionally, UST's College of Education, led by **Dean Prof. Pilar I. Romero** and **Dr. Renelyn Vizconde**, received a UNESCO grant to run workshops on [youth empowerment and sustainable leadership](#). This project aims to engage young people in responsible consumption and production through creative arts-based

workshops that encourage leadership in promoting sustainable practices. By empowering the next generation to take on leadership roles, UST ensures that the future of consumption and production is guided by sustainability.