

SDG 2 - From Campus to Community: UST's Impact on Achieving Zero Hunger

The University of Santo Tomas (UST), a prestigious Dominican institution founded in 1611 under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas, has consistently dedicated itself to the holistic formation of students and to addressing pressing global challenges, including hunger. In alignment with its vision to be a leading Catholic institution in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030, UST has committed to the values of servant leadership, social transformation, and community advocacy. This narrative report highlights UST's contributions towards achieving Zero Hunger, a key component of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through its educational, research, and community development initiatives.

Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Rector of UST, has underscored the importance of humanity and compassion in education, particularly in addressing societal needs such as hunger. In his address, Fr. Ang emphasized that UST's mission is to form competent and compassionate individuals who will serve not just as professionals but also as agents of positive change, addressing the root causes of issues like hunger and inequality. As part of this commitment, UST students are expected to demonstrate the Thomasian Graduate Attributes (ThoGAs), which include becoming servant leaders who lead initiatives promoting life, freedom, justice, and solidarity – all of which are essential to the fight against hunger and poverty.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) has made significant strides in advancing food science, agricultural innovation, and community development. Below is an overview of key initiatives and their impacts:

1. Current Topics in Food Science Webinar Series

UST's Graduate School hosted a webinar series discussing sustainability, emerging technologies, and regulatory standards in food science. Experts such as Dr. Mildred O. Guirindola and Mr. Jacus S. Nacis shared insights into transforming food systems and using omics technologies for personalized nutrition, while Mr. Carl Vincent Cabanilla discussed tools for enhancing food quality. The series supported SDG 2: Zero Hunger, focusing on food security and sustainable agriculture.

2. [AGROTIS Navigation System](#)

A GPS-guided system developed by UST researchers and alumni to automate agricultural tractors, reducing land preparation time and boosting farming efficiency. The system, funded by DOST-PCAARRD and incubated at the UST TOMASInno Center, has earned a 90% acceptance rate among farmers and was highlighted as a Game Changer by GMA Network.

3. [Cultural and Community Engagement](#)

UST officials, in collaboration with the Tomasinong SOCCSKSARGEN alumni chapter, celebrated the Feast of the End of Ramadan with the Muslim community in General Santos City. The event featured a shared meal and gift-giving, underscoring UST's commitment to cultural solidarity and community building.

4. TESDA-Accredited Caregiving Training

UST's College of Nursing and Simbahayan Community Development Office partnered with the Religious of Mary Immaculate congregation's Holy Family Social and Educational Center to provide basic caregiving training to 27 domestic helpers and youth, empowering them with essential caregiving skills.

5. [ASEAN Table Kitchen Competition](#)

Culinary Entrepreneurship students from UST earned a Silver Medal in an international competition, showcasing their skills and representing the university on the global stage.

6. Sustainable Agriculture App

UST's Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED) introduced the "UST Family Literacy app," a tool for promoting sustainable farming practices among rural families. The app was developed through the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Project (SOAP) and aims to empower families in agricultural communities with educational resources.

7. Kamanlalakbay

This forum showcases a long-standing commitment to community engagement, tracing its evolution and impact since 2002. The forum highlighted the importance of action research in creating sustainable solutions, especially during the pandemic, while emphasizing the need for collaboration and evaluation to ensure success.

8. [Pistang Tomas](#)

This event is another prime example of UST's engagement with its partner communities, offering workshops on livelihood opportunities, such as culinary entrepreneurship and financial literacy. These sessions provide vital skills that help individuals start small businesses and strengthen their economic independence.

9. [Community Transformation through HydroponICS and "Agri Sila! Agri Tayo! Agri Para sa Lahat!"](#)

These projects aim to address food insecurity by promoting sustainable agriculture and providing rural communities with essential farming tools and knowledge. These projects titled "Community Transformation through HydroponICS" and "Agri Sila! Agri Tayo! Agri Para sa Lahat!" aim to promote sustainable agriculture practices and address food insecurity, providing communities with the knowledge and tools needed for self-sufficiency. By focusing on innovative farming techniques and agricultural advocacy, these projects contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

10. [Noble Artisan](#) and [Project 3Ps](#)

These initiatives focus on vocational training, economic self-sufficiency, and community health, aiming to create lasting, positive impacts by empowering individuals with practical skills while addressing their nutritional and hygienic needs.