POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND SOURCING ON CAMPUS

Date Created	20 July 2022	**Approved By**	Board of Management
Last Reviewed	23 July 2025	**Next Review Due**	July 2028
Version	1.0	**Owner**	Office of the Registrar / IQAC

1. Preamble

P. P. Savani University (PPSU) recognises that sustainable food production is closely linked with soil health, water conservation, biodiversity, environmental protection and community well-being. With approximately 33 acres of agricultural land, the University provides a valuable space for diversified crop production, student practicals, field demonstrations and agricultural research. The policy promotes food production and sourcing that are environmentally responsible, educational, locally relevant and practical.

2. Objectives

The policy aims to:

- Promote sustainable and diversified food production;
- Maintain soil health and productive agricultural land;
- Use water, nutrients, energy and other resources responsibly;
- Encourage crop diversity, rotation and integrated crop management;
- Provide hands-on learning and research opportunities for students;
- Promote responsible pest, disease and nutrient management;
- Reduce food and agricultural waste and
- Encourage local and seasonal food sourcing wherever practical.

3. Scope

The policy covers the University's approximately 33 acres of agricultural land, including crop fields, demonstration and research plots, orchards, nurseries and other agricultural areas. It also applies to relevant food production, research, teaching, procurement, sourcing and waste-management activities involving students, faculty, staff, contractors and other stakeholders.

4. Sustainable Food Production

PPSU will manage its agricultural land as a living classroom and research space. Depending on season and requirements, the land may support cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables,

fruits, horticultural crops, fodder, medicinal and aromatic plants and crops selected for teaching or research.

Key practices may include:

- Crop diversification and rotation;
- Soil testing and balanced nutrient management;
- Compost and organic matter management;
- Integrated pest and disease management;
- Biofertilizers, biopesticides, and beneficial microorganisms;
- Efficient irrigation and moisture conservation;
- Responsible crop-residue management; and
- Protection of beneficial organisms and biodiversity.

5. Research and Student Learning

The agricultural land will support practical learning and research in soil health, crop production, plant protection, bio-inputs, irrigation, climate-resilient agriculture and resource conservation. Students may participate in crop establishment, soil and water testing, pest and disease monitoring, field demonstrations, composting, crop evaluation, research projects and other field-based activities.

6. Sustainable Food Sourcing and Safety

Produce from University fields may be used for appropriate educational, research, demonstration or institutional purposes, subject to food-safety requirements. Where food is purchased, the University will encourage local and seasonal food, local producers, fresh or minimally processed products and responsible suppliers, while considering quality, safety, affordability, availability and procurement procedures. Produce from experimental plots or materials exposed to treatments unsuitable for human consumption will not be used as food.

7. Food and Farm Waste Management

The University will promote:

- Segregation of food and agricultural waste;
- Composting of suitable organic waste;
- Responsible use of crop residues;
- Reuse of suitable biodegradable materials; and
- Awareness on reducing food and farm waste.

Students may participate in composting, recycling and resource-recovery activities.

8. Community and Student Participation

PPSU will encourage participation through field demonstrations, planting and harvesting, farm visits, soil-health activities, biodiversity observations, student research, composting and interactions with farmers and agricultural experts. Local stakeholders may also be invited to share practical knowledge and experiences related to sustainable agriculture and food production.

9. Measurable Targets

Area	Target
Agricultural land	Maintain approximately 33 acres for diversified farming, teaching, demonstrations and research.
Crop diversity	Maintain diversified cropping according to season and field requirements.
Soil health	Conduct periodic soil testing and use results for soil and nutrient management.
Sustainable practices	Gradually expand crop rotation, composting, IPM, bio-inputs and efficient irrigation.
Student learning	Provide regular hands-on opportunities in sustainable agriculture.
Local sourcing	Encourage local and seasonal food sourcing wherever practical.
Waste management	Promote segregation, composting, reuse and responsible management of suitable waste.
Review	Review sustainable food-production and sourcing practices annually.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

- **University Administration:** Overall support, approval and review.
- **School of Agriculture:** Sustainable farming, demonstrations, practical teaching and research.
- **Faculty and Researchers:** Scientific experimentation, documentation and field learning.
- **Farm Staff:** Crop management, irrigation and field maintenance.
- **Students:** Participation in practical learning, research, monitoring and sustainability activities.

- **Procurement/Food-Service Units:** Responsible sourcing while following food-safety and procurement requirements.

11. Monitoring and Documentation

The University may maintain records of cropping patterns, land use, soil-test results, production, water use, agricultural inputs, sustainable practices, student participation, research activities, food sourcing and waste management.

12. Governance and Review

The policy will be implemented through coordination among the University Administration, School of Agriculture, farm staff, concerned departments, procurement/food-service units and the University community.

The policy will be reviewed at least once every three years or earlier when required.

13. Commitment

PPSU considers its 33 acres of agricultural land as a living learning and research resource, not merely farmland. Through sustainable production, responsible sourcing, practical education, research and waste reduction, the University aims to promote a campus food system that is environmentally responsible, educational, resource-efficient and connected to the community.

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