



Tantia University

SRI GANGANAGAR (RAJASTHAN)

(Established by State Govt. Act 32 of 2013 & U/S 2 (f) of UGC Act. 1956)

Policy title	<u>Food Security, Sustainable Food And Zero Hunger Policy</u>
Effective date	01 July,2024
Next scheduled review	Three years after the effective date, or earlier if applicable rules change

Purpose

University is committed to advancing food security, improving nutrition, preventing hunger, reducing food waste and promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems. This policy addresses relevant requirements relating to campus food waste, food insecurity, sustainable food choices, community engagement and responsible procurement.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students, employees, visitors and campus residents.
- All university campuses, hostels, cafeterias, canteens and food outlets.
- University-operated and outsourced catering services.
- Contractors, food suppliers and event organisers.
- Relevant teaching, research and community-engagement activities.

Objectives

The University shall:

- Ensure access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food.
- Identify and support students and employees experiencing food insecurity.
- provide vegetarian, vegan and other sustainable food choices.
- Measure and reduce food waste across the University.
- Prioritise locally produced, ethically sourced and sustainably farmed food.
- Support farmers and food producers through knowledge, technology and university facilities.

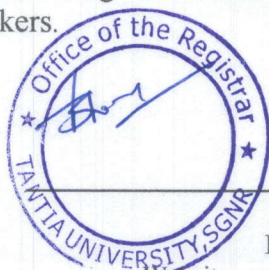
Policy Provisions

Food Security Support

The University shall maintain a continuous, targeted and coordinated programme to identify and address food insecurity among students. Confidential mechanisms shall be established through which students may seek support without discrimination or stigma.

Depending on assessed needs and available resources, support may include subsidised or free meals, food vouchers, emergency food assistance, food banks or pantries, financial assistance and referral to relevant welfare services.

The University shall also provide appropriate interventions for employees experiencing food insecurity, particularly low-income, temporary, contractual and outsourced workers.



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Healthy and Affordable Food

All university-managed and contracted food outlets shall provide healthy, nutritious and reasonably priced food choices. Menus should include balanced meals and clearly available vegetarian and vegan options.

The University shall encourage appropriate portion sizes, nutritional awareness and transparent display of menu prices. Food-service contracts shall include requirements concerning food quality, affordability, hygiene, sustainability and reporting.

Sustainable Procurement

The University shall prioritise food products obtained from local, seasonal, ethical and sustainable sources wherever quality, safety, availability and financial considerations permit.

Suppliers should demonstrate responsible farming, fair labour practices, animal welfare, biodiversity protection, efficient use of natural resources and minimal use of harmful pesticides and artificial fertilisers. Food derived from aquatic ecosystems shall be procured from legal and sustainably managed sources.

Procurement decisions and contracts shall incorporate sustainability criteria, and suppliers may be required to submit relevant declarations, certifications or traceability records.

Food-Waste Management

The University shall measure food waste generated by all campus catering services, including outsourced operations. Food waste shall be recorded in metric tonnes using a consistent and verifiable methodology.

Catering units shall reduce waste through demand forecasting, responsible purchasing, stock rotation, suitable storage, portion control and redistribution of safe surplus food. Edible surplus should be donated or redistributed in accordance with applicable food-safety requirements.

Composting and responsible disposal shall be used for unavoidable food waste. Food that is composted shall continue to be recorded as food waste, while food donated for human consumption shall not be classified as waste, consistent with the methodology.

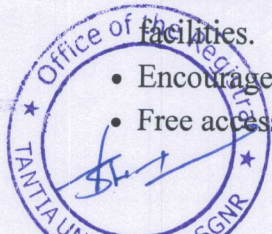
Education and Community Engagement

The University shall promote research, education and awareness relating to hunger, nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture.

Where relevant resources are available, the University shall:

- Provide local farmers and food producers with access to knowledge, training, skills and sustainable technologies.
- Organise events that connect farmers, food producers, researchers and students.
- Facilitate access to laboratories, technology, plant stocks or other suitable university facilities.
- Encourage student and employee participation in community food-security initiatives.
- Free access shall be prioritised for community programmes wherever feasible.

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Responsibilities

The designated sustainability committee shall coordinate implementation and annual review of this policy. Student welfare units shall manage food-security support, while procurement and food-service units shall oversee sustainable purchasing, menu standards and food-waste records.

All outsourced catering providers and suppliers shall comply with this policy and submit the information required for monitoring and reporting.

Monitoring and Disclosure

The University shall annually monitor:

- Food waste generated across campus.
- Coverage and utilisation of food-security programmes.
- Availability of sustainable, healthy and affordable food.
- Local and sustainable food purchases.
- Farmer outreach, events and facility access.

An annual summary of progress and supporting evidence shall be published on the University website.

Review

This policy shall be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required by legislation, institutional priorities or sustainability assessment requirements.


Registrar
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Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan)