

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

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.

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

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

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.