



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA
2024



Sustainability, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka 2024

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Timeless Sustainability: How Anuradhapura Inspires Rajarata University of Sri Lanka....

Anuradhapura, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, served as the first capital of ancient Sri Lanka from the 4th century BCE for more than 1,300 years. Renowned for its monumental stupas, sacred monasteries, and the revered Sri Maha Bodhi—the oldest historically documented tree—it became a centre of Buddhist learning, political power, and advanced urban development.

What makes Anuradhapura truly remarkable is its long-standing legacy of sustainability. Ancient Sri Lankan kings and communities developed one of the world's earliest and most sophisticated hydraulic civilizations, constructing vast reservoirs, canals, and the unique tank cascade systems to store and distribute water efficiently. These systems supported agriculture throughout dry seasons, prevented floods, and maintained ecological balance, many of which still function today.

The city's environmentally conscious planning, forest monasteries, green zones, and resource-efficient lifestyle reflect a deep respect for nature rooted in Buddhist principles. These practices offer valuable lessons for modern sustainability efforts.

At the university level, we can draw inspiration from Anuradhapura by promoting efficient water management, integrating green spaces into campus design, and encouraging responsible use of resources. Waste reduction, rainwater harvesting, biodiversity conservation, and community-based environmental stewardship echo the values upheld in ancient Anuradhapura. By adopting these time-tested approaches, universities can cultivate a sustainable culture that aligns with Sri Lanka's heritage while supporting long-term environmental well-being.



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University Sustainability Framework

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL)'s Sustainability Framework is closely aligned with the University's Strategic Plan and is structured around four main pillars: Teaching, Research, Operations and Governance, and Community Engagement. Each pillar encompasses specific focus areas that collectively drive the university's sustainability agenda. The entire framework is guided by the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring a holistic and globally aligned approach to sustainable development.

The inner circular structure of the framework symbolizes the concept of sustainability as a *continuous journey of improvement*, emphasizing that progress is ongoing rather than finite. The effective implementation of this framework is supported by strong university leadership, governance structures, strategic planning, and the active participation of academics, non-academic staff, and students.

Each pillar focuses on the following areas:

Teaching

- Curriculum integration, Capacity building for staff and students, Student-led sustainability projects, New program development, Teaching methods and innovation, Assessment of sustainability competencies

Research

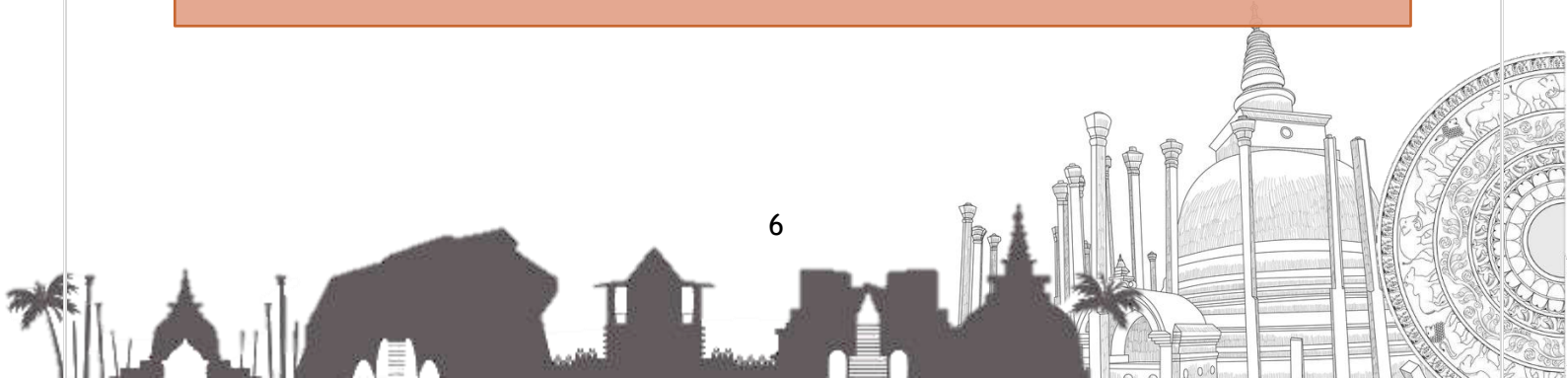
- Sustainability-focused research projects, Collaborative and interdisciplinary research, Research impact, Student research, Research centres or clusters, Open science and knowledge dissemination

Operations and Governance

- Sustainability governance and policy, Energy management, Water and waste management, Sustainable procurement, Campus infrastructure, Transportation, Equity and inclusion, Monitoring and reporting

Community Engagement

- Community-based sustainability projects, Awareness campaigns and events, Partnerships, Volunteerism and service learning, Extension and consultancy services, Public engagement, Alumni and stakeholder collaboration



Vice Chancellor's Message



It is with great pleasure that I present the *Sustainability Report 2024* of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This is the third consecutive report that documents our continuous progress and commitment towards achieving sustainability in all spheres of university life.

Building on the foundation laid in previous years, the University continues to align its activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the collective effort of our Faculties of Agriculture, Applied Sciences, Management Studies, Medicine and Allied Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Technology, we have made steady advancements in research, education, and community engagement related to sustainable development.

As the leading higher education institution in the North Central Province, Rajarata University remains committed to addressing regional and national challenges such as chronic kidney disease, environmental conservation, and social wellbeing. We take pride in transforming our research outcomes into practical solutions and commercially viable products that benefit local communities and the nation.

Our outreach initiatives, partnerships, and innovative projects reflect the University's growing contribution to global sustainability efforts. I extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the University Sustainability Committee and all contributors for their dedication to this important cause.

Dr P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara
Acting Vice Chancellor
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Director's Message

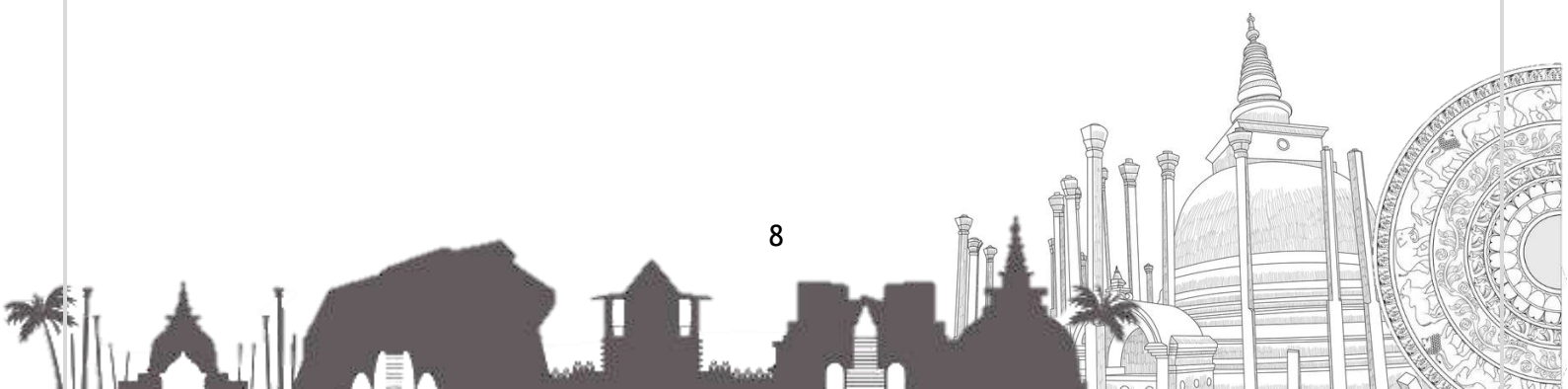


Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is proud to present its third Annual Sustainability Report, highlighting the University's continued commitment to integrating sustainability principles across its administrative operations, academic curricula, and research endeavors. Over the past year, our initiatives have focused on promoting environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and sustainable governance, closely aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We continue to strengthen governance mechanisms, enhance accountability, and raise awareness of sustainable practices among students, staff, and stakeholders.

This report not only documents our achievements but also identifies opportunities for further improvement, emphasizing continuous learning and adaptive management. As we look toward the future, Rajarata University reaffirms its role as a leader in higher education sustainability, contributing to the creation of resilient, environmentally responsible, and socially inclusive communities.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the University community for their unwavering support, engagement, and commitment to our sustainability vision. Sustainability is not a destination but a continuous journey that demands commitment, creativity, and courage. Together, we have the opportunity to shape a future that is not only more sustainable but also more just, resilient, and hopeful. Let us continue to move forward with purpose, advancing one step at a time.

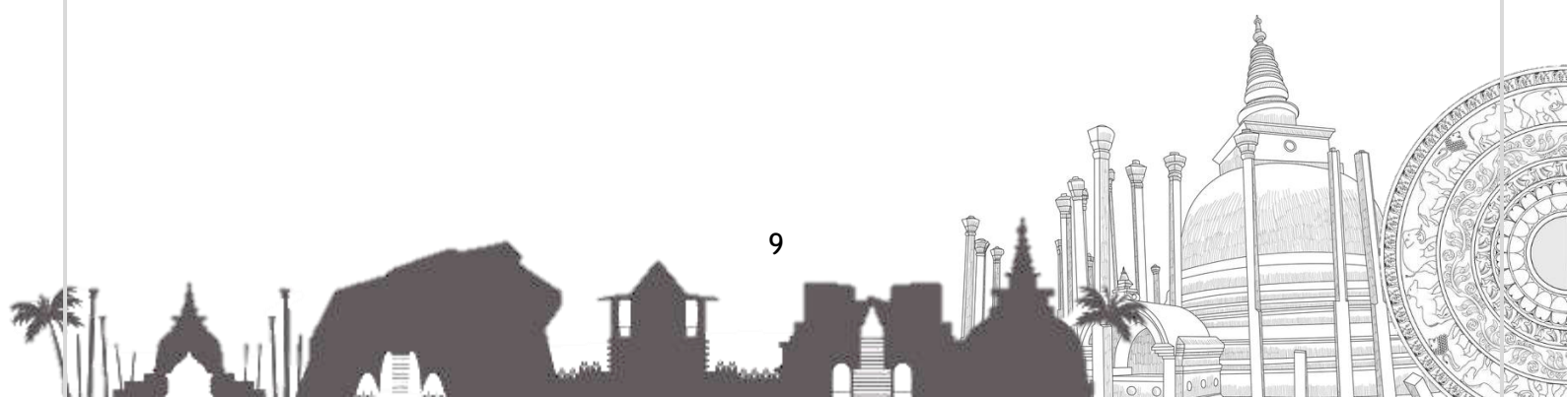
Dr.A.M.P.Adikari
Director
Sustainability
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Writing Team

The report is prepared by the steering committee members representing all the faculties

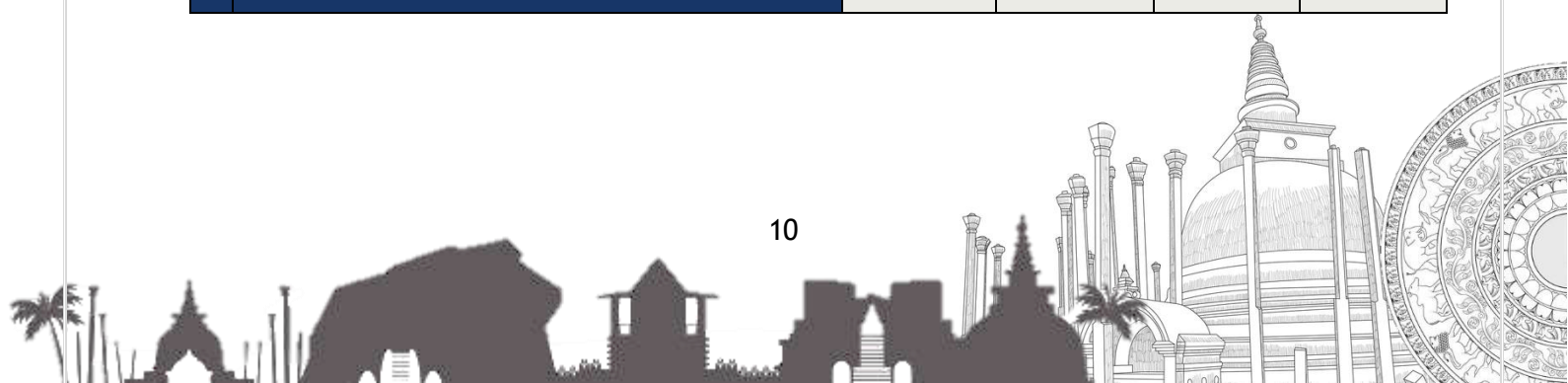
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SDG Index

The following table illustrates the alignment of RUSL's pillars with the SDGs

		Teaching	Research	Operation and Governance	Community Engagement
1	No Poverty	√	√	-	√
2	Zero Hunger	√	√	-	√
3	Good Health and Well-being	√	√	-	√
4	Quality Education	√	√	√	√
5	Gender Equality	√	√	√	-
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	√	√	√	√
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	√	√	√	√
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	√	√	-	-
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	√	√	-	√
10	Reduced Inequalities	√	√	√	√
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	√	√	-	√
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	√	√	√	√
13	Climate Action	√	√	√	√
14	Life Below Water	√	√	-	-
15	Life on Land	√	√	√	√
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	√	√	√	√
17	Partnerships for the Goals	√	√	√	-



Highlights of Teaching



Curriculum Integration

Sustainability Oriented modules –

- ✓ Faculty of Agriculture – 19+
- ✓ Faculty of Applied Science – 08+
- ✓ Faculty of Management Studies – 19+

Dedicated Sustainability related Degree offering

- ✓ The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities offers Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Environmental Management



Capacity building for staff and students

Conducted Trainings and workshops –

- ✓ Each module delivered over two workshops, exceeding the minimum requirement across all faculties and degree programs

Faculty-led sustainability initiatives for practical learning

- ✓ Faculty of Medicine and Applied Science - community collaborate health engagement workshops for undergraduates
- ✓ The Faculty of Applied Sciences - health awareness and scientific literacy program



Student-led sustainability projects

Student Club Initiatives

- ✓ Sarasavi Nature Club
- ✓ Zero Plastic society
- ✓ Green Magazine

Students Sustainability Projects

- ✓ The Faculty of Management Studies, Department of Business Management, conducted + 15 annual green and social projects under the Project Management



New Program Development

Embedded Sustainability into Degree Programs through New Curriculum Development

- ✓ Faculty of Management Studies – Sustainability Accounting and Reporting, Sustainable Business Development, Sustainability Marketing Management, Environment and Sustainable Tourism Management

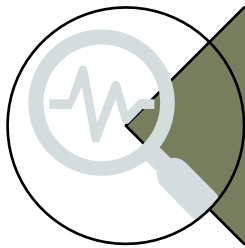


Teaching methods and innovation

Experiential and service Learning,

- ✓ Faculty of Applied Sciences – Using real world application –“ *From Micro Lab to Food Factory*”
- ✓ Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities- Field visits and study tours -+25 in 2024

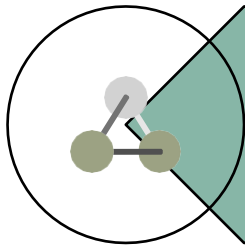
Highlights of Research



Overall Research Performance & Top SDG Contributions

331 publications/projects analyzed; over 90% aligned with the SDGs. Major contributions:

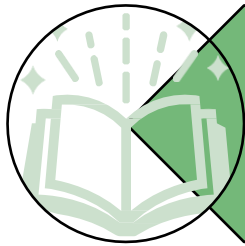
- ✓ SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being (23.87%),
- ✓ SDG 2 - Zero Hunger (14.20%),
- ✓ SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production (11.18%). The university shows a strong focus on health, food security, environmental sustainability, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student-led initiatives



Collaborative & Interdisciplinary Research

International collaborations have strengthened RUSL's research footprint through joint work with institutions in the

- ✓ United Kingdom,
- ✓ Brazil,
- ✓ China, and
- ✓ Ethiopia. Participation in the ECLIPSE Annual Scientific Meeting (Brazil) further enhanced global engagement.



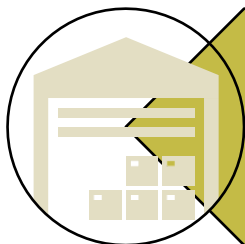
Research Impact

Evidence of research influencing national policy and decision-making. Prof. N.K.A. Silva was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) in 2024, marking a significant institutional achievement.



Student Research

Student-led projects address key sustainability themes: sustainable agriculture, land-use planning, cascade system dynamics, water sustainability, indoor environmental quality, coastal erosion, carbon sequestration, youth unemployment, rural poverty, welfare initiatives, tourism, public relations strategies, and sustainable economic growth



Research Centres

- ✓ The Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Studies (CECCS) produced a 2024 policy brief on climate change adaptation.
- ✓ The Research Excellence Awards (REA 2024) recognized outstanding research performance and high-impact publications.



Open Science & Knowledge Dissemination

RUSL hosted major research symposiums in 2024, including

- ✓ URSSSH 2024,
- ✓ IRSSSH 2024
- ✓ IRSM 2024, and the
- ✓ FAURS 2024. These events promoted sustainable agriculture, management, social sciences, climate resilience, and interdisciplinary knowledge sharing

Highlights of Operation and Governance

Policy Frameworks and Institutional Alignment

Sustainability-Integrated Policy Development

- Updated and aligned key university policies with national and global sustainability goals.
- Integrated environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into operational guidelines.
- Strengthened faculty-level and university-level sustainability committees to ensure coordinated implementation.

Governance for Sustainability

- Activated multi-stakeholder governance structures to support transparent and inclusive decision-making.
- Ensured representation from all faculties in sustainability steering committees.

Waste Management and Environmental Responsibility

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Strengthened waste segregation practices across academic and administrative units.
- Implementation of faculty-led campaigns promoting waste minimization and responsible consumption.
- Development of clear waste collection and recycling pathways.

Green Infrastructure

- Enhanced campus greening and biodiversity conservation initiatives.
- Introduced eco-friendly maintenance practices such as reduced chemical use and more natural landscaping.

Resource Efficiency and Infrastructure Modernization

Energy Management

- Expansion of renewable energy generation through solar installations across multiple buildings.
- Introduction of energy-saving technologies and campus-wide energy efficiency programs.
- Routine energy monitoring and audit processes established at faculty level.

Water Management

- Improved rainwater harvesting systems and water-efficient facilities.
- Regular monitoring to ensure optimal water usage and reduce wastage.

Equity, Inclusion, and Well-being

Inclusive Governance and Participation

- Promotion of gender balance in committee representation and leadership roles.
- Engagement of student and staff voices in major decision-making processes.

Well-being and Support Systems

- Strengthened mental health and wellness initiatives for staff and students.
- Launched programs promoting safe, inclusive, and healthy work/learning environments.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Accountability

Transparent Sustainability Reporting

- Institutionalization of regular sustainability progress reports at the university and faculty levels.
- Adoption of transparent monitoring mechanisms to track environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance.

Audits and Compliance

- Conducted periodic sustainability audits to ensure compliance with policy standards.
- Established data-driven tracking systems to support continuous improvement.

Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building

Capacity Building for Staff and Administrators

- Conducted workshops and training sessions on sustainability governance and operational efficiency.
- Enhanced staff skills in areas such as energy management, waste management, and ethical resource use.

Collaborations and Partnerships

- Strengthened partnerships with government agencies, local communities, and national sustainability networks.
- Facilitated knowledge-sharing platforms to promote best practices across faculties.

Highlights of Community Engagement

Community-Based Sustainability Projects



- Elder care campaigns in-partnership with public health authorities addressing essential health needs of senior citizens
- Outreach programs empowering communities to combat neglected tropical diseases
- “Mathaka” school supplies donation program promoting educational access
- “Self-Employment Opportunity Program” aiming to uplift the household economy and wellbeing of needy communities

Awareness Campaigns and Events



- Events promoting sustainable agriculture, rural development, and environmental protection
- “Krusha Dekma” Farmer Day Exhibition and Mihintale Lake Cleanup

Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations



- AI-powered renewable energy microgrid project with Alta Vision (Pvt) Ltd. &
- Global partnership with Max Planck Institute for research on tropical diseases and community health strengthening multi-sector collaboration for sustainability

Volunteerism and Service Learning

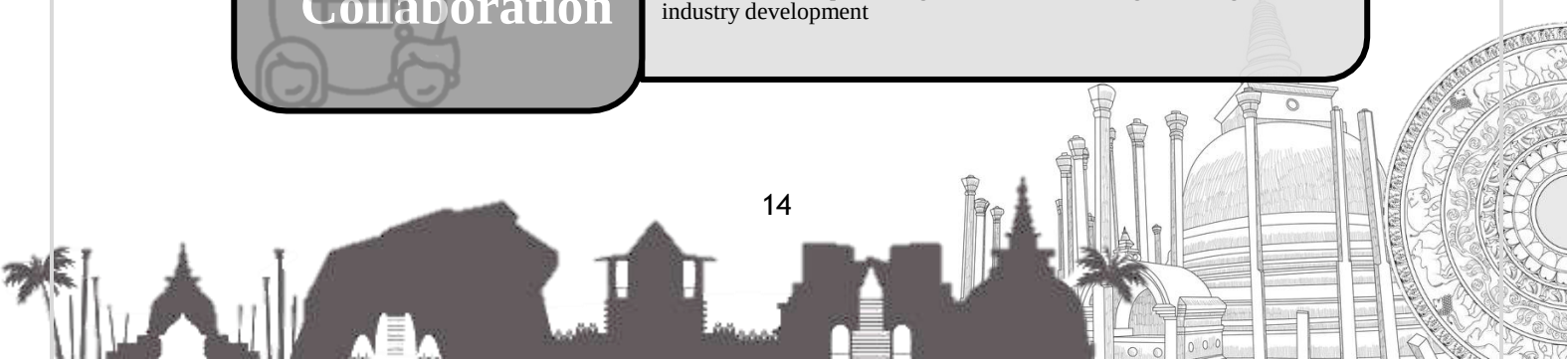


- Student-led initiatives to improve rural school infrastructure, library facilities and sanitation
- Outreach programs promoting and enhancing reading habits among school children
- Digital skills training programs enhancing e-learning capacity of provincial officers

Alumni and Stakeholder Collaboration



- Saline farming in collaboration with Mega Plantations (pvt) Ltd. to convert unused saline lands into productive, climate-resilient agricultural areas
- Ornamental Fish Industry Workshop connecting public, private and academic sectors promoting innovation, knowledge exchange and industry development



Pillar 01: Teaching

RUSL is strongly committed to advancing institutional sustainability through teaching and learning, a core pillar in the higher education landscape. The university strives to integrate sustainability principles across all academic programs to nurture graduates who are competent, ethical, and dedicated to fostering sustainable societal transformation.

Aligned with the University's Sustainability Plan, RUSL pursues its teaching-related sustainability goals through a range of key strategic initiatives, including curriculum integration, staff and student capacity development, student-driven sustainability projects/activities, the introduction of new academic programs, and the adoption of innovative and experiential teaching approaches.

Covering SDGs



Curriculum Integration

RUSL has systematically integrated sustainability concepts and the SDGs into its academic programs. All degree programs have incorporated sustainability-related content and explicitly aligned their program learning outcomes with relevant SDGs. In the Faculty of Agriculture, over nineteen modules address various SDGs. Examples include *AS 3208 – Human Ecology* (SDG 5, 13, 15), *AS 3220 – Sustainable Agriculture* (SDG 5, 13, 15), and *AS 2101 – Agricultural Communication* (SDG 2, 4, 17). The Faculty of Applied Sciences has embedded SDGs across all twelve degree programs,

with more than eight modules directly linked to sustainability, such as



BOT 1201 – Plant Pathology (SDG 2, 3, 12, 15) and *ZOO 2204 – Fish Biology* (SDG 2, 4, 14, 15). The Faculty of Management Studies, which offers six degree programs, has also aligned its curricula with the SDGs. For instance, *MGT 4223 – Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility* (SDG 2, 4, 14, 15), *MGT 2152 – Social and Ethnic Harmony* (SDG 10, 16), and *THM 32013 – Environment and Sustainable Tourism Management* (SDG 12, 14, 15) exemplify this integration. The Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, while primarily focused on medical education, has explicitly linked its courses with the SDGs to promote holistic health and sustainability awareness. The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, offering nine degree programs, contributes significantly to sustainability education, with the *Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Environmental Management* specifically dedicated to addressing all SDGs. Other notable examples include *ARCH 22012 – Ancient Built Environment* (SDG 11) and *HEMG 11022 – Natural and Cultural Heritage* (SDG 15). Similarly, the Faculty of Technology, which offers five degree programs, integrates SDGs across all its curricula. Illustrative modules include *CML 1204 – Health and Well-being* (SDG 3) and *BPT 2202 – Introduction to Bioprocess Technology* (SDG 9).

Through this broad-based and systematic curriculum integration, RUSL ensures that students across all faculties are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

Capacity building for staff and students



RUSL has demonstrated a strong and enduring institutional commitment to strengthening the capacity of its academic community through sustainability-focused education, professional development, and experiential learning opportunities. Across all faculties, both staff and students actively participated in workshops, seminars, and innovative teaching activities aligned with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and SDGs.

The Faculty of Agriculture has been a pioneer in advancing sustainability awareness through several impactful initiatives. The flagship event, *“Krusha Dekma – Farmer Day 2024,”* fostered knowledge exchange among farmers, students, and academics, promoting sustainable agricultural practices aligned with SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 12, and SDG 17. The *“Science of Well-being”* online session enhanced student resilience and emotional health, contributing to SDG 3 and SDG 4. Furthermore, the workshop on *“Gender Equity and Equality: Living with Diversity”* advanced awareness of inclusivity, addressing SDG 5 and SDG 10, while the Aquaculture Workshop supported sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation in line with SDG 8 and SDG 14.

The Faculty of Applied Sciences integrated sustainability into its teaching through health awareness and scientific literacy programs. The *Awareness Programme on Medicines* and the *Dental Health Awareness Programme* promoted preventive healthcare and responsible medication use, directly supporting SDG 3. Guest lectures such as *“Imperative Adaptations in Primate Cell Repair after Protein Damage”* and webinars like *“Astrobiology & NASA’s Search for Life in the Universe”* expanded scientific understanding and global curiosity, reflecting the spirit of SDG 4 and SDG 9.

The Faculty of Management Studies emphasized holistic education and professional capacity building through diverse learning experiences. The *“X-Pectra Show”* cultivated teamwork and creativity while promoting student well-being (SDG 3). The *“HR Blossom”* counselling workshop and *Leadership Camp* enhanced mental health, leadership, and teamwork (SDG 3, SDG 4). The *Professional Mentoring Programme* improved career readiness and lifelong learning (SDG 4, SDG 8), while *“Brand Fusion”* promoted sustainable entrepreneurship (SDG 8). The *Mihintale Cleanup Project* raised environmental consciousness among students, aligning with SDG 13 and SDG 15.



The Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences advanced health promotion and sustainability education through integrated teaching and outreach. Its initiatives on preventive medicine, mental health awareness, and community health engagement aligned with SDG 3 and SDG 4. Collaborative programs with hospitals and public health institutions offered experiential learning opportunities, fostering empathy, professionalism, and community responsibility.

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities strengthened inclusive and equitable learning through the “*IT Competition 2024*”, which enhanced digital skills and promoted gender equity. The initiative supported SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 16 by encouraging innovation, collaboration, and ethical conduct.

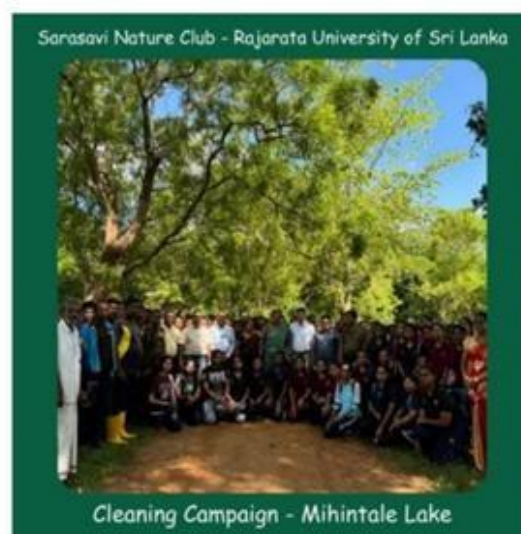
The Faculty of Technology demonstrated leadership in advancing gender equality, innovation, and employability. The *Webinar on Gender Equality in STEM* and *EmpowerYou Mentoring Programme* promoted women’s participation in STEM disciplines (SDG 5). The *Curriculum and Leadership Development Workshop* with Michigan State University emphasized sustainability and climate resilience (SDG 4, SDG 13), while the *Leadership Development Series* and *Future Ready – Skill Development Workshop* supported career readiness and ethical leadership (SDG 8, SDG 16).

Collectively, these initiatives reflect Rajarata University’s integrated and transformative approach to ESD, embedding sustainability across curricula and professional practice. Through experiential learning, mentorship, and inclusive participation, the university continues to build the capacity of its staff and students to become socially responsible, innovative, and sustainability-

driven professionals dedicated to achieving the UN SDGs.

Student-led sustainability projects

Across faculties at RUSL, students actively drive sustainability efforts through innovative projects, competitions, and research-based initiatives that integrate environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development.



Sarasavi Nature Club – Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The *Sarasavi Nature Club* of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities actively promotes environmental awareness and sustainability through diverse educational and community initiatives. In 2024, the club organized a *Webinar Series for World Environment Day* (SDG 13) focusing on land restoration, drought resilience, and healthy living environments. The *Interdepartmental Debate Competition “Wāk Pratibhā 2024”* fostered critical thinking on environmental and social challenges. Guest lectures on *Disaster Management* and *Climate Change Governance* (SDG 13, SDG 16) deepened students’ understanding of resilience and policy frameworks.

The seminar on *Environmental Sustainability through Social Entrepreneurship* (SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 13) encouraged innovative green business practices. The launch of the “*Bloom Nature*” newsletter (SDG 4, SDG 17) further enhanced student engagement in sustainability communication. Collectively, these initiatives reflect the club’s commitment to fostering environmental stewardship and leadership among undergraduates.



In the Faculty of Agriculture, students organized “*Nutrition Day*” (November 2024) and a webinar on the “*Sustainable Dairy Industry*” (January 2024), fostering awareness on nutrition and sustainable food production, aligning with SDG 2, SDG 3, and SDG 12. Workshops on aquaculture and ornamental fish industries further promoted knowledge sharing and livelihood development (SDG 8). The Faculty of Applied Sciences showcased sustainability through the *Charity Shop 2024* and *FAS Explore Exhibition 2025*, encouraging resource reuse and community health awareness—addressing SDG 3, SDG 12, and SDG 13. Additionally, the *Zero Plastic Society*’s national webinar emphasized reducing plastic pollution and promoting eco-friendly materials (SDG 12 and SDG 13). In the Faculty of Management Studies, third-year Project Management students implemented community-focused projects such as

building libraries, renovating classrooms, and supporting rural schools. These projects advanced educational equity and community resilience, aligning with SDG 4, SDG 10, and SDG 11. The Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences established the *Resuscitation Club of FMAS* (April 2024) to enhance emergency response skills and leadership, directly supporting SDG 3 and SDG 4. The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities conducted *World Environment Day Webinar Series 2024*, debates, guest lectures, and launched the *Bloom Nature* newsletter, promoting climate awareness, environmental governance, and eco-entrepreneurship (SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 13, and SDG 17). Meanwhile, the Faculty of Technology introduced *Empower You Mentoring Program* (November 2024), empowering female STEM students and advancing SDG 5.

New Program Development

All faculties of RUSL are actively engaged in integrating sustainability-focused content and aligning program learning outcomes with the SDGs through ongoing curriculum revisions. The Faculty of Management Studies has recently reviewed its curricula and developed new degree programs across all departments, with *sustainability* identified as a key attribute of the graduate profile for every program.



(Brand Fusion Event- The Marketing Management Department of Faculty of Business Studies)

In the Department of Accountancy and Finance, a new module titled *ACF 31053: Sustainability Accounting and Reporting* (SDG 8, 12, 13, 17) has been introduced to enhance students' understanding of sustainable business practices and reporting frameworks. Similarly, the Department of Business Management has launched a new course, *MGT 41052: Sustainable Business Development* (SDG 8, 9, 12, 13, 17), aimed at fostering innovation, ethical leadership, and sustainability-driven entrepreneurship.

These few examples illustrate RUSL's ongoing university-wide process of curriculum renewal across all faculties, where each faculty is reviewing and updating its academic programs with a strong focus on integrating SDG-related concepts and sustainability competencies. These developments reflect RUSL's strong institutional commitment to embedding sustainability principles into academic programs, ensuring graduates are equipped to contribute effectively to sustainable and responsible business practices in diverse professional settings.

Teaching Methods and Innovation

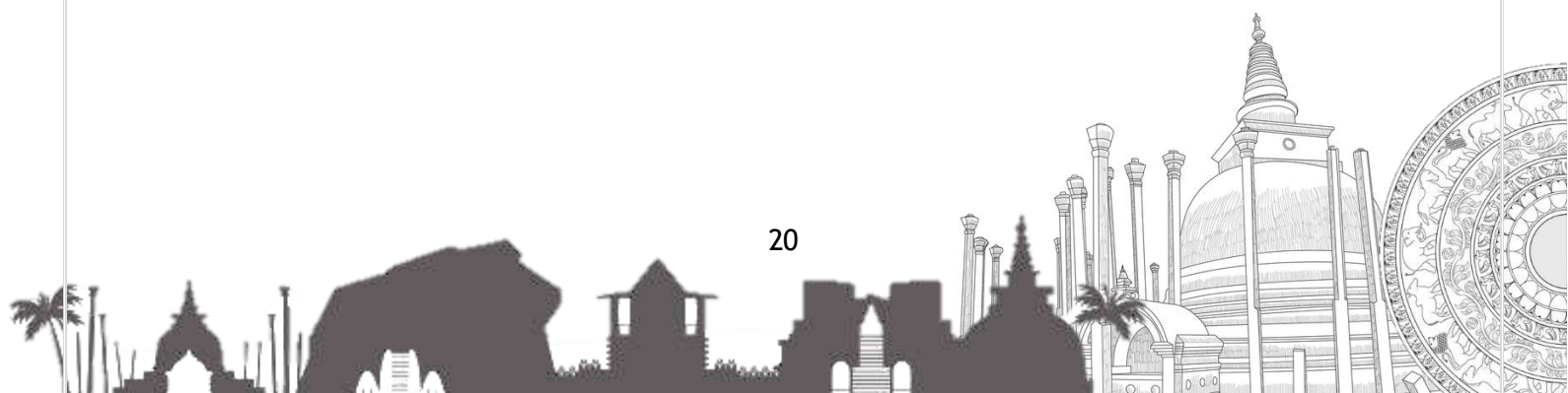
RUSL places strong emphasis on experiential learning, service learning, and community-based education to equip students with practical knowledge and sustainability-oriented skills. These innovative teaching methods link theory with real-world applications, fostering problem-solving, critical thinking, and social responsibility across faculties.



In the Faculty of Applied Sciences, the event "*From Micro Lab to Food Factory*" (February 2024) allowed students to design miniature food industry models, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship linked with SDG 9. Field visits such as the *Thuruvila Water Plant Study Tour* integrated classroom learning with environmental observation, supporting SDG 6 and SDG 4. Similarly, physics students conducted field research at the *Wahawa Hot Spring Field* to assess geothermal potential, directly contributing to renewable energy knowledge and SDG 7. The *Tech Boot Camp 2025* bridged academia and industry through hands-on technology training, enhancing employability and aligning with SDG 8.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration was also evident through a *Sustainable Horticulture Workshop* and a *Field Visit to Knuckles Mountain Range*, which deepened understanding of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation, thereby advancing SDG 2, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 15. The Faculty of Management Studies integrated experiential learning through workshops such as *Fire Safety Training*, promoting occupational health awareness and aligning with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Meanwhile, in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, initiatives like the *Workshop on Environmental Law* and *Field Visits to Pitawalapathana and Aruwakkalu Landfill* combined legal, environmental, and policy perspectives, directly addressing SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 16.

Collectively, these innovative practice-oriented teaching strategies cultivate well-rounded graduates capable of applying sustainability principles to societal challenges. By merging classroom learning with real-life practice, RUSL continues to nurture globally responsible citizens committed to achieving the United Nations SDGs.



Pillar 02: Research

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) continues to lead in sustainability-driven research, contributing substantially to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2024 SDG Mapping analyzed 331 publications and projects across all faculties, revealing that over 90% align with one or more SDGs. The most prominent areas of contribution include SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being (23.9%), SDG 2 – Zero Hunger (14.2%), and SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production (11.2%), reflecting the university's strong focus on health, food security, and environmental sustainability.

Demonstrating leadership in advancing sustainability-focused research and innovation, RUSL has deepened its commitment to addressing pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic partnerships, and student-led initiatives. These collective efforts not only strengthen national capacity for sustainable development but also position RUSL as a regional hub for sustainability science, driving transformative impact and inclusive growth in alignment with Sri Lanka's national priorities and the global Agenda 2030.

Covering SDGs



Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research

Partnerships across faculties and with external institutions addressing environmental or social sustainability

The university continues to foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research that connects faculties and strengthens global partnerships to address pressing environmental and social sustainability challenges. These initiatives align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing through national and international collaborations.

Recent projects, such as studies on land use change in village tank cascade systems and stakeholder roles in flood risk management, demonstrate integrative approaches linking environmental management, water governance, and community resilience (SDGs 6, 13, 17). Research on indoor environmental quality and public health further reflects collaboration between environmental science and human well-being (SDGs 3, 11).

International collaborations have expanded the university's research footprint through joint efforts with institutions in the United Kingdom, Brazil, China, and Ethiopia. Participation in the ECLIPSE Annual Scientific Meeting held in Brazil in April 2024 brought together experts from these countries to share insights on community-based research and sustainable development. The program emphasized health, community engagement, and creative approaches to knowledge exchange.

Public Health Research Laboratory Accreditation

The Public Health Research Laboratory of the Department of Community Medicine, This recognition reflects the laboratory's dedication to high-quality diagnostics and research on leptospirosis.



Research Impact

Evidence of research influencing policy, industry practice, or community sustainability

Prof. N. K. Anjana Silva from the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) in June 2024. The NASSL, comprising leading scientists across diverse disciplines, provides independent policy advice to the Government on matters of national importance. This achievement marks a significant milestone for Rajarata University, reflecting its growing role in national scientific leadership and research-informed policy development.

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, received accreditation from the International Leptospirosis Society for conducting the Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT).

Student Research

Students at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka have undertaken a range of research projects addressing national and global sustainability challenges in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Research in sustainable agriculture explored integrating traditional farming practices with modern land-use planning in rural Sri Lanka, supporting SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land). Studies on water sustainability assessed undergraduates' awareness of water use and traced water dynamics in cascade systems, advancing SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Environmental and climate-focused research examined coastal erosion, tourism-driven land-use changes, and carbon sequestration potential of grass species, contributing to SDGs 11, 13, 14, and 15. A study on indoor environmental quality assessed air quality in residential settings, identifying potential health risks and environmental impacts, thereby supporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Projects on rural food insecurity also highlighted the link between environment, health, and community resilience (SDGs 2, 3, 11, 13).

In the social and economic domains, students investigated youth unemployment, rural poverty, and welfare initiatives in estate communities, linking to SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10

(Reduced Inequalities). Research on public relations strategies in event marketing and tourism management emphasized sustainable economic growth and innovation (SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12, 13).

Collectively, these projects demonstrate the university's strong commitment to student-led, multidisciplinary research that contributes to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and community well-being.

Research centres or clusters:

Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Studies (CECCS)

The Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Studies (CECCS) at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka initiated a policy brief in 2024, compiling all staff research related to climate change and adaptation. This initiative aims to integrate academic findings into evidence-based policy and practical strategies for sustainable development.

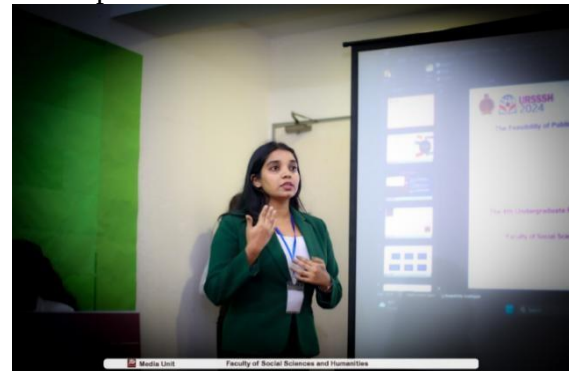
In the same year, the university's Research and Publication Committee conducted a mandatory evaluation of academic staff research.

Rajarata University Research Excellence Awards (REA 2024) was conducted to recognize outstanding achievements. Awards were presented for excellence in research, high citation impact, and departmental performance, reflecting a strong institutional commitment to research quality and innovation. These efforts contribute directly to advancing several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including: SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Open science and knowledge dissemination:

The University hosted several major research events in 2024:

- The 4th Undergraduate Research Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities (URSSSH – 2024), themed *“Interdisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Global Challenges”*, provided a platform for undergraduates to share their findings and engage in cross-disciplinary discussions. Research presented covered sustainability, tourism, environmental management, and social development.



- The 3rd International Research Symposium on Management (IRSM – 2024), held on 28 November 2024, focused on *“Strengthening Management Ecosystems for Sustainable Futures.”* The event featured contributions from international scholars, industry experts, and a pre-symposium webinar on energy security.



- The 16th Annual Research Symposium of the Faculty of Agriculture (FAURS – 2024), themed *“Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security for a Resilient Future”*, promoted climate-smart agriculture, environmental sustainability, and food system resilience through

research presentations by undergraduate and postgraduate students.



- "International Research Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities (IRSSSH – 2024), organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, serve as a premier platform for global academic engagement and intellectual exchange. The symposium aims to promote interdisciplinary research, enhance scholarly dialogue, and encourage innovative thinking among researchers, academics, and professionals from various fields. The 2024 symposium was held under the theme “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Global Challenges,” emphasizing the need for collaborative research to tackle critical issues such as environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation, social equity, and climate change adaptation. By aligning its research focus with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IRSSSH – 2024 contributes to advancing knowledge and supporting Sri Lanka’s and the world’s broader sustainable development agenda.



Collectively, these symposiums highlight RUSL’s strong institutional commitment to advancing sustainability-driven knowledge creation, particularly in the areas of agriculture, management, and social sciences. Many of the presented studies secured national and international funding, reflecting the growing recognition of RUSL’s research excellence and societal relevance.

Outreach Activities – Jeewaka Yathra & Public Lectures on SDGs

The Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences (FMAS) at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized the “Jeewaka Yathra” Annual Medical Camp 2024 on June 17–18 at the Ruwanweliseya premises, Anuradhapura. The event offered free medical consultations, health screenings, and medications to the community, demonstrating FMAS’s strong commitment to public service and social responsibility.

In addition, RUSL conducted public lectures on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to raise awareness of sustainability, health, and social equity. These initiatives highlight the university’s dedication to community well-being (SDG 3) and education for sustainable development (SDG 4 & SDG 17), integrating outreach, learning, and social impact.



Webinar Series – World Environment Day 2024

To mark World Environment Day 2024, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka hosted a webinar series on 5th June 2024. Sessions included “*Land Restoration for Sustainable Development*” by Prof. R. K. L. M. Dharmasiri (SDG 15 – Life on Land), “*Drought Risk*” by Dr. Niranga Alahacoon (SDG 13 – Climate Action), and “*Indoor Environment and Health*” by Dr. M.M.S.A. Marasinghe. The series promoted awareness on environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and public health.



The *Research on Folk Culture in Kabithigollawa Division* contributes to SDG 2 by documenting traditional agricultural knowledge and food practices that have sustained local communities for generations. The study explores sustainable farming methods, indigenous food systems, and crop diversification strategies that enhance local food security. By preserving and promoting these cultural and agricultural traditions, the research supports improved nutrition, environmentally responsible farming, and the continuity of sustainable livelihoods within the Kabithigollawa region.



Pillar 03: Operation and Governance

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka continues to strengthen its commitment to sustainability through robust operations and effective governance mechanisms that align institutional practices with national and global sustainability standards. Under the pillar of Operations and Governance, the University has adopted a comprehensive approach that integrates environmental stewardship, resource efficiency, ethical management, and institutional accountability into its core operational framework. These initiatives are guided by the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and continuous improvement, ensuring that sustainability remains a cross-cutting priority in all administrative and academic functions.

During the reporting period, the University focused on enhancing policy frameworks, improving energy and waste management systems, and fostering participatory governance structures that empower all stakeholders to contribute to sustainable development goals. Through the integration of sustainability-oriented decision-making and operational practices, Rajarata University seeks to create a resilient institutional environment that supports long-term ecological balance, social well-being, and economic efficiency. This section highlights the key initiatives, governance reforms, and operational improvements implemented to advance the University's sustainability agenda.

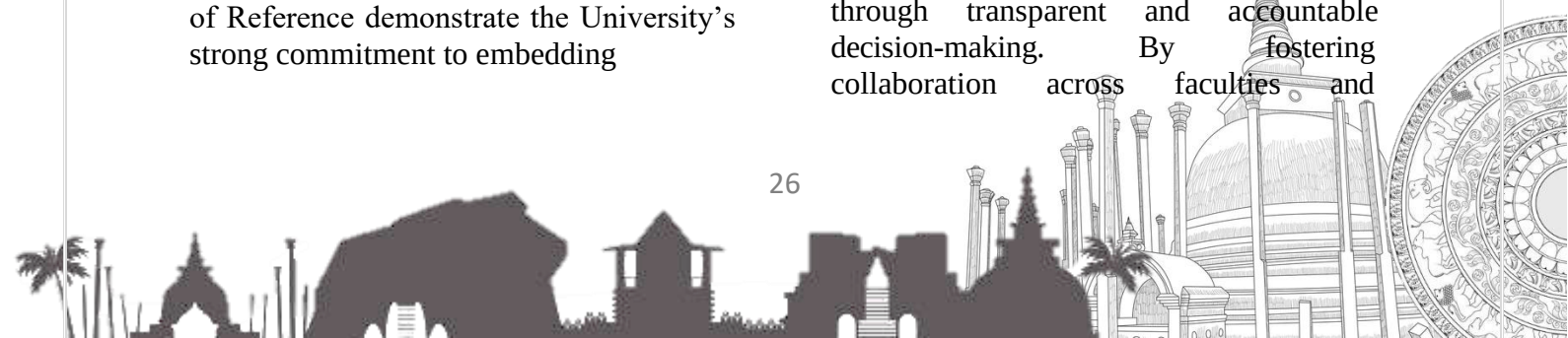
Appointment of Sustainability Committee

The establishment of the Sustainability Committee and the formulation of its Terms of Reference demonstrate the University's strong commitment to embedding

sustainability within its operational and governance structures. Initiated in 2023, the Committee serves as a key institutional mechanism to enhance accountability and to promote sustainable practices across all functional areas of the University. By 2024, the Committee was fully operational and actively contributing to the advancement of the University's sustainability agenda.

The Sustainability Committee comprises two main bodies: the Management Committee and the Steering Committee. Committee membership includes the Vice-Chancellor, the Director and Coordinator of the Sustainability Team, the Registrar, Bursar, Librarian, Works Engineer, Curator, all Faculty Deans, and the respective Faculty Coordinators.

This university's initiative demonstrates a strong alignment with key SDGs by fostering governance, leadership, and accountability in its operations. The initiative advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) by integrating sustainability principles into curricula and institutional practices, thereby promoting education for sustainable development. Through responsible management and reporting mechanisms, it contributes to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), ensuring that university operations adhere to sustainable standards. Additionally, the initiative strengthens SDG 13 (Climate Action) by enhancing awareness and institutional capacity to address climate-related challenges. The establishment of formal governance structures, including management and steering committees, further supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) through transparent and accountable decision-making. By fostering collaboration across faculties and



administrative units, the initiative also promotes SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Collectively, these efforts underscore the university's comprehensive commitment to embedding sustainability across all aspects of its functions.

Green building designs, sustainable landscaping, and eco-friendly facilities.

The Faculty of Technology Green building designs

The Faculty of Technology in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka achieved a Platinum rating under Green building Council of Sri Lanka for New Constructions V2.0 in 2024 which is a form of green building award and recognition. This evaluation showcase the low energy usage of the building with innovation, modern technologies and proper utilization of resources.



A 50 m³ sewer and wastewater treatment plant has been established at the Faculty to treat both greywater and black water. The system facilitates the reuse of treated water for landscaping and toilet flushing purposes, thereby promoting efficient water resource management. It has been granted an Environmental Protection License in recognition of its adherence to best practices and compliance with relevant environmental standards. Incorporating primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment units, the system meets modern wastewater treatment requirements and supports the

University's commitment to sustainable and responsible water management.

Solar Power Initiative

The Faculty of Technology has installed a 300 kW (AC) solar photovoltaic system on the rooftops of its buildings to promote the use of renewable energy and reduce dependence on non-renewable power sources. The system operates under the net accounting method, enabling the Faculty to obtain maximum financial benefits through energy cost savings. Based on initial calculations, the solar installation is expected to supply approximately 15% of the Faculty's total energy demand. This initiative directly supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Affordable and Clean Energy by promoting renewable energy adoption, and SDG 13: Climate Action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with conventional electricity consumption.



Furthermore, the building's energy-efficient design aligns with SDG 13 (Climate Action) by reducing carbon emissions and improving environmental performance.

Digital Tree Inventorying and Identification

In 2024, the Landscaping Development Committee of the university introduced the Digital Tree Inventorying and Identification Program, an innovative initiative designed to promote sustainability and enhance botanical literacy within the university community. The program directly supported several SDGs, including SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

This initiative centered on the novel concept of digital tree inventorying and tree identification through QR code technology. Participants embarked on an interactive learning journey across the university's arboretum, using their mobile devices to scan QR codes attached to various tree species. Each scan provided detailed information on the tree's characteristics, ecological roles, and potential medicinal and environmental benefits.

By transforming the campus landscape into a living laboratory, this activity not only strengthened participants' understanding of biodiversity but also fostered a deeper appreciation of the interconnectedness between humans and nature. The program successfully combined technology, education, and environmental stewardship—demonstrating the university's commitment to integrating sustainable innovation into its educational and operational practices.

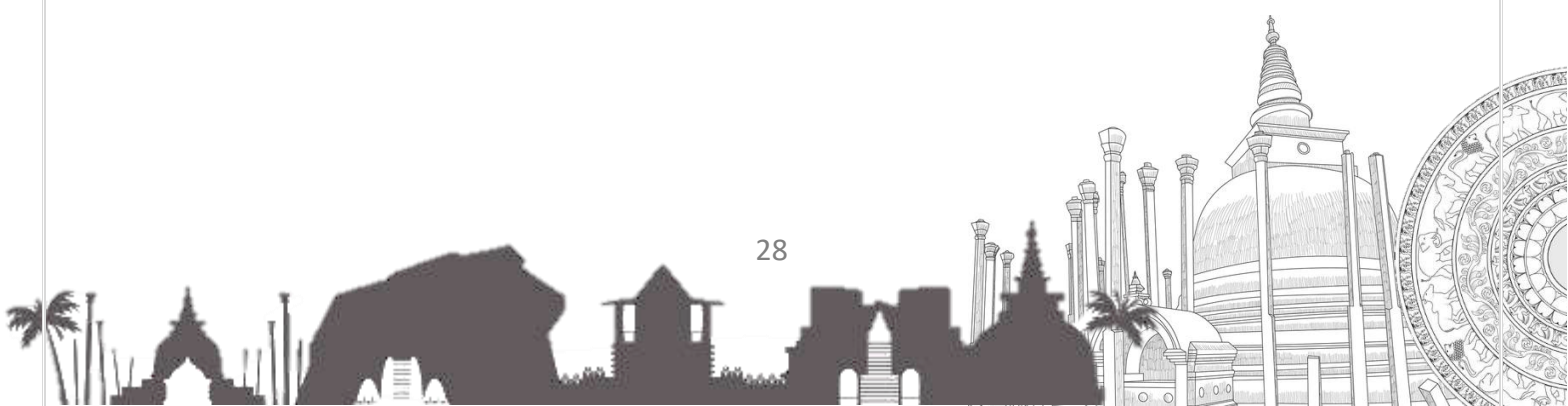
Water and waste management

Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has made significant progress in advancing its sustainability agenda through comprehensive waste and wastewater management initiatives. The Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Plant, commissioned in 2023 and now operating at full capacity, stands as a major milestone in the University's environmental stewardship. By ensuring the responsible treatment of wastewater, the facility enhances public health, protects natural ecosystems, and supports the sustainable use of water resources. This project directly contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 13: Climate Action, by improving water quality, promoting public health, and mitigating environmental impacts.

Solid Waste Management Project

Throughout 2024, the university's Solid Waste Management Project has actively maintained a comprehensive compost production initiative as part of its broader waste management program. This ongoing operation ensures systematic waste segregation across university premises, promoting resource recovery and circular economy practices. Paper waste generated within the university is collected and delivered to a certified paper recycling center, while food waste is repurposed to support fig farming activities, and garden waste is processed into nutrient-rich compost. Collectively, these initiatives advance the achievement of multiple SDGs.



They support SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting waste minimization through effective recycling and reuse strategies. Additionally, they contribute to SDG 13: Climate Action by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste management. Furthermore, these efforts enhance soil health and encourage sustainable agricultural practices, thereby aligning with SDG 15: Life on Land.



Online membership registration system

The University transitioned to an online membership registration system using Google Forms, replacing the traditional paper-based application process. This digital initiative significantly reduces paper consumption, printing materials, and the associated solid waste generated by physical documentation. By minimizing reliance on paper and eliminating processes related to ink, toner, and printing, the Library not only advances efficient waste management practices but also indirectly reduces water consumption associated with paper production. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, by promoting resource efficiency, and supports SDG 13: Climate Action, through the mitigation of environmental impacts linked to paper production and waste.

Official Sustainability Website and Pledge

On January 1, 2024, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka unveiled its new sustainability website and pledge, demonstrating the university's dedication to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The website as well as commitment seeks to inspire people to take actions for a greener future by educating and involving the University community in the value of sustainability. The Sustainability website functions as an all-inclusive information center for the community at large, as well as for educators, staff, and students. The website also lists Rajarata University of Sri Lanka's 17 sustainable development — objectives. Additionally, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka actively participates in numerous programs that work toward sustainable development goals in partnership with sixteen government and non-government organizations.

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka carried out several sustainability projects between 2019 and 2023. In an effort to encourage others to follow suit, the website will also include success stories and accomplishments of the university's sustainability initiatives. The current Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Mrs) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, and the steering group on sustainability came up with the idea to collaborate with the University community on its sustainability. Everyone who works in administration, including deans, attended the function. The Vice Chancellor pledged to promote sustainability, and she expected everyone else to follow similar.



Pillar 04: Community Engagement

Community engagement is one of the foundational pillars of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka's sustainability strategy. Through collaborative projects, volunteerism, partnerships, and public education, the university is creating impactful, long-term relationships with stakeholders both on and beyond campus. This section outlines key areas of community-based involvement under Pillar 04, demonstrating how collective action supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as enhancing health and well-being, social equity, and promotes ecological responsibility.

Covering SDGs

The achieved SDGs through community engagement are as follows,



Community-Based Sustainability Projects

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has prioritized active collaboration with local communities to address pressing health, environmental, climate change, and social challenges. Sustainability initiatives are developed in close partnership with residents, industries, local leaders, and grassroots organizations to ensure

relevance, inclusivity, and long-term impact.

Key Projects

- **Caring for Our Elders: A District-Wide Geriatric Health Initiative**

In partnership with regional health authorities (Teaching hospital Anuradhapura, divisional hospital Thalawa, Social services department of north central province, regional directors' office (RDHS) of Anuradhapura and the ministry of health and indigenous medicine of Sri Lanka) the Department of Medicine at Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University has initiated a district-wide program to establish comprehensive geriatric services in Anuradhapura. Launched in early 2024, the program includes specialized care at tertiary, intermediate, primary, and community levels, addressing the complex health needs of the aging population. Key developments include an acute geriatric unit, multidisciplinary clinics, intermediate care wards, and outreach services for elderly care home residents. These services are supported by trained healthcare professionals and community nurses, enhancing access to quality elder care while reducing the burden on tertiary hospitals. The initiative directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being, particularly in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages and supports SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by improving access to specialized care for vulnerable elderly populations in underserved regions.

- **Community-Driven Health Action for Leishmaniasis Prevention and Well-being"**

WHO Funded Sandfly Vector Control Project



In collaboration with the Public Health Inspector (PHI) area of Madawachchiya, the Faculty of Technology conducted a Citizen Scientist training programme to strengthen community-led capacity in sandfly vector control and Leishmaniasis prevention—addressing a critical vector-borne disease prevalent in Sri Lanka's North Central Province. The initiative engaged selected healthcare volunteers through a series of online and onsite workshops focused on vector identification, breeding site management, and monitoring practices. Supported by structured training and awareness activities, participants were empowered to lead local health campaigns and share preventive knowledge within their communities.

As part of its community engagement efforts to combat Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL), the ECLIPSE Project at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University, launched two innovative awareness programs. A radio drama was developed in collaboration with Rajarata Sevaya, featuring voice performances by undergraduates trained through a dedicated voice workshop; an effort to deliver accurate and engaging health messages to wider audiences. In parallel, a targeted awareness session was held for 109 rural development committee members in Nachchaduwa, led by Prof. Kosala Weerakoon and the ECLIPSE research team. This session enhanced grassroots understanding of CL symptoms,

transmission, and prevention, empowering local leaders to disseminate knowledge and promote early health-seeking behavior within their communities.

This initiative directly supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being, particularly Target 3.3, by strengthening local capacity to address neglected tropical diseases and fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

In addition, various health-related projects and awareness programs are conducted by different departments across the faculties of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, aiming to support the SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being including “Promoting Early Detection and Cancer Awareness among Underserved Communities”, “Integrating Preventive Health Education into Medical Training” and “*Jeewaka Yathra*” Annual Medical Camp.

- **Community-Led Social Development Projects: “Mathaka” School supplies donation program**

“Mathaka” School supplies donation program was organized by the undergraduates of Accountancy & Finance Association (ACFA), Faculty of Management Studies ensuring community support while supporting SDG goal 4: ***Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*** This event mainly focused the underprivileged students in the North Central Province and the program was launched for 110 needy students. The program not only benefited the community by empowering young learners and easing financial burdens on families but also strengthened the bond between the university and the local community. Through direct engagement and shared goodwill, students developed social responsibility and empathy, while the university enhanced its image as an

institution committed to community development and education for all.

Awareness Campaigns and Events

Raising awareness is a core strategy for cultivating a culture of sustainability. The university organizes regular campaigns, workshops, and celebrations that align with global SDG awareness movements.

Key projects

Farmer Day: Krushi Dekma' exhibition disseminating sustainable agriculture among dry zone farmers



“Krushi Dekma” exhibition was organized by the Faculty of Agriculture with the aim of expanding and disseminating agricultural knowledge among dry zone farmers, undergraduates, and the public community. It brought together a diverse audience passionate about agriculture and rural development while participants had the opportunity to explore field stations and

stalls showcasing innovative agricultural products, equipment, and initiatives promoting rural development in line with SDG goal 1 : *End poverty in all its forms everywhere* and SDG goal 2: *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*. The day was filled with insightful discussions, interactive sessions, demonstrations, and meaningful company collaborations empowering farmers and fostering agricultural sustainability.

Restoring Nature Together: Mihintale Lake Area Cleanup Program by Sarasavi Nature Club

Sarasavi Nature Club; part of the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Science and Humanity organized a significant environmental cleanup at Mihintale Lake. This initiative emphasized the university's dedication to environmental protection, fostering collaboration among students, faculty, and the local community to improve the lake's ecosystem. The local community also participated significantly, including members from the Mihintale Village Farmers' Association, representatives from the Pradeshiya Sabha, and personnel from the Civil Security Department, creating a unified effort toward shared environmental goals.

Through this impactful initiative, the Sarasavi Nature Club advances the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically contributing to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, by maintaining and protecting local water resources; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, through community-led environmental action; and SDG 15: Life on Land, by fostering ecosystem health and resilience. This commitment to sustainable practices and community partnerships sets a meaningful precedent for future environmental efforts in the Mihintale area

and the surrounding area.



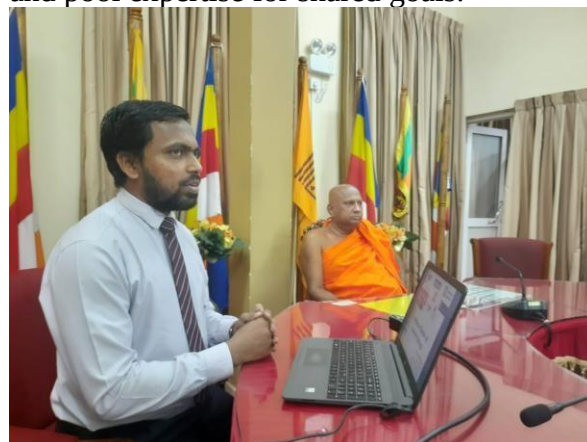
Awareness Session on SDGs in BUSL

On December 5th, 2024, Bikshu University of Sri Lanka held an awareness session on Sustainability and University Rankings in the University Senate Room. Mr. U. Ahamed, the Assistant Librarian and University Coordinator on Sustainability, led the session. The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Ven. Kanattegoda Saddharatana Anunayaka Thera, along with the Deans of the faculties, the Librarian, and executive staff members. The discussion focused on the university's adoption of the SDGs and their role in university rankings.

Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations

Sustainable development requires a multi-stakeholder approach. Our university has

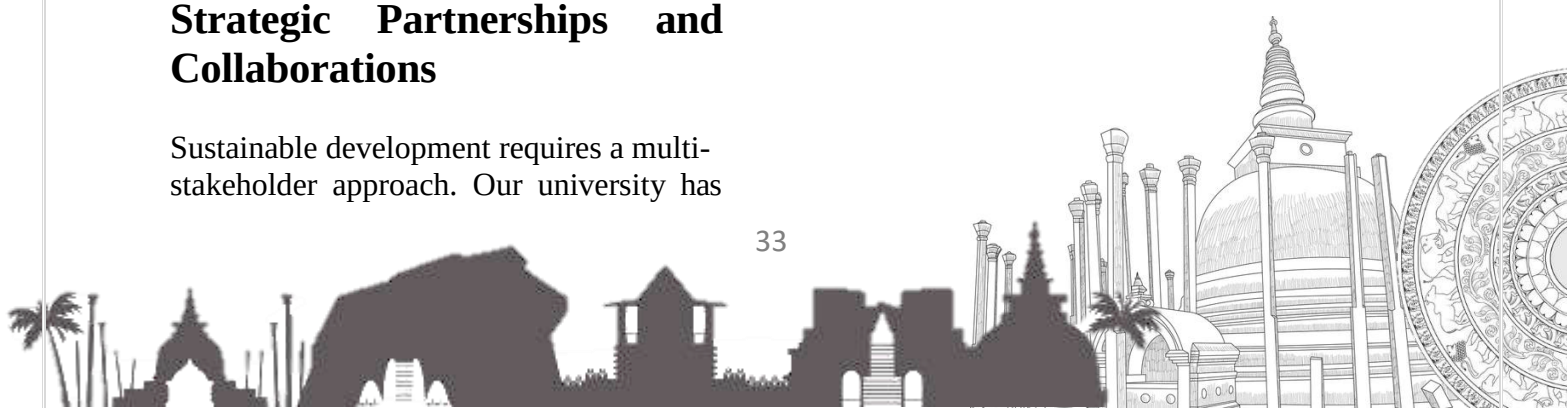
entered into numerous partnerships with external organizations to amplify impact and pool expertise for shared goals.

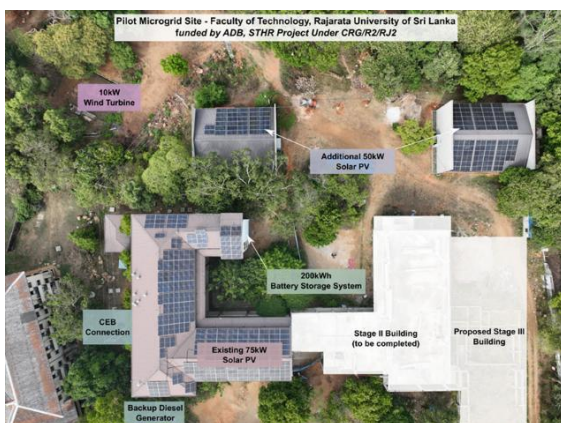


Key Collaborations:

MoUs with Alta Vision (Pvt) Ltd for affordable and cleaner energy

Through a strategic partnership with Alta Vision (Pvt) Ltd and funding support from the Asian Development Bank, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka launched an AI-powered Renewable Energy Microgrid Pilot Project at its Faculty of Technology. This collaboration led to the successful development of an intelligent microgrid integrating solar, wind, and battery storage, controlled by advanced AI forecasting and optimization software. The project addresses Sri Lanka's clean energy goals by demonstrating a scalable model for decentralized, efficient, and resilient power systems in rural and academic settings. It also contributes to curriculum development and research capacity by introducing a new undergraduate module and supporting student-led innovation. Aligned with SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, this initiative advances targets on renewable energy adoption, energy efficiency, and access to clean energy technologies through academic-industry cooperation.





Global Partnerships: towards good health and well-Being

Collaboration with the Max Planck Institute to Address Neglected Tropical Vector-Borne Diseases.

In June 2024, the Department of Bioprocess Technology and the faculty of medicine and allied sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka partnered with the Max Planck Institute for Biology, Germany, to advance genetic research on the parasitic nematode *Strongyloides stercoralis*. This collaboration combined fieldwork, laboratory analysis, and public health outreach, including two community awareness programs and free medication distribution in Naoya. The initiative not only deepened scientific understanding of parasitic disease transmission in Sri Lanka but also directly contributed to health promotion and disease prevention in vulnerable communities. The project supports SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, specifically Targets 3.3 and 3.8, by enhancing access to preventive care and addressing neglected tropical diseases. This partnership highlights the university's commitment to leveraging international scientific cooperation to achieve sustainable development outcomes through shared expertise and research innovation. Through global university and research institute networks, the university shares best practices and benchmarks its progress in community engagement and sustainable development.

Volunteerism and Service Learning

Active participation from students and staff plays a crucial role in translating sustainability principles into practice. Volunteer programs and service-learning modules offer hands-on experience and strengthen the university's bond with the wider community.



• Student-Led Volunteer Programs: Advancing Community Well-being through Service Learning

Demonstrating the principles of volunteerism and service learning, undergraduates from the Department of Business Management at Rajarata University led several impactful community-based projects aimed at improving education, sanitation, and overall well-being in rural schools of the Anuradhapura District. These initiatives included constructing a library at Walahaviddaveva Vidyalaya, building an outdoor classroom, renovating existing classrooms, and developing a toilet facility.



The library enhances reading skills and academic performance, while the outdoor classroom fosters experiential learning and creativity in a natural setting—especially valuable where indoor space is limited. The newly constructed toilet scheme ensures access to safe and hygienic sanitation, promoting health, dignity, and gender-sensitive facilities for students. These student-led efforts exemplify how academic learning can be effectively integrated with meaningful service to address community needs and support sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 1: No Poverty.

- **Faculty-Led Service Learning: Building Digital Bridges for Smarter Public Service in the North Central Province**

As part of a faculty-led service learning initiative, the Department of Computing, Faculty of Applied Sciences at Rajarata University conducted a digital competency workshop to enhance the skills of civil servants in the North Central Province. In collaboration with the provincial Training Division, this program trained 30 officers from various departments and statutory boards in essential e-learning and digital workplace tools. Designed and delivered by faculty members, the workshop combined academic expertise with practical application, empowering participants to adopt innovative technologies for more efficient and responsive public service delivery. This initiative not only strengthened the digital capacity of local government institutions but also demonstrated the transformative role of higher education in driving community-centered development. It directly supports **SDG 4: Quality Education** and **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** by promoting inclusive access to digital learning and improving institutional effectiveness.



5. Alumni and Stakeholder Collaboration

Our alumni network and external stakeholders are vital allies in sustaining and scaling community-based sustainability projects.

Stakeholder collaboration: Sustainable Progress Through Saline Farming and Industry Collaboration

The Saline Farming project advances sustainable development by converting unused saline lands into productive, climate-resilient agricultural areas through a strategic collaboration between Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Mega Plantations (Pvt.) Ltd. This partnership focuses on cultivating Salicornia, a highly salt-tolerant plant that thrives in coastal zones and supports environmentally friendly agriculture with minimal freshwater use. Together, the teams developed a value-added dried Salicornia powder (bio-salt), enriched with antioxidant, antidiabetic, and cardioprotective properties. This nature-based innovation helps restore degraded coastal ecosystems while generating new economic opportunities for local communities. Backed by the Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project and funded by the Asian Development Bank, the initiative directly contributes to national sustainability goals, including SDG 2, 11, 12, 13, 15, ensuring climate resilience,



responsible production, and sustainable rural development.

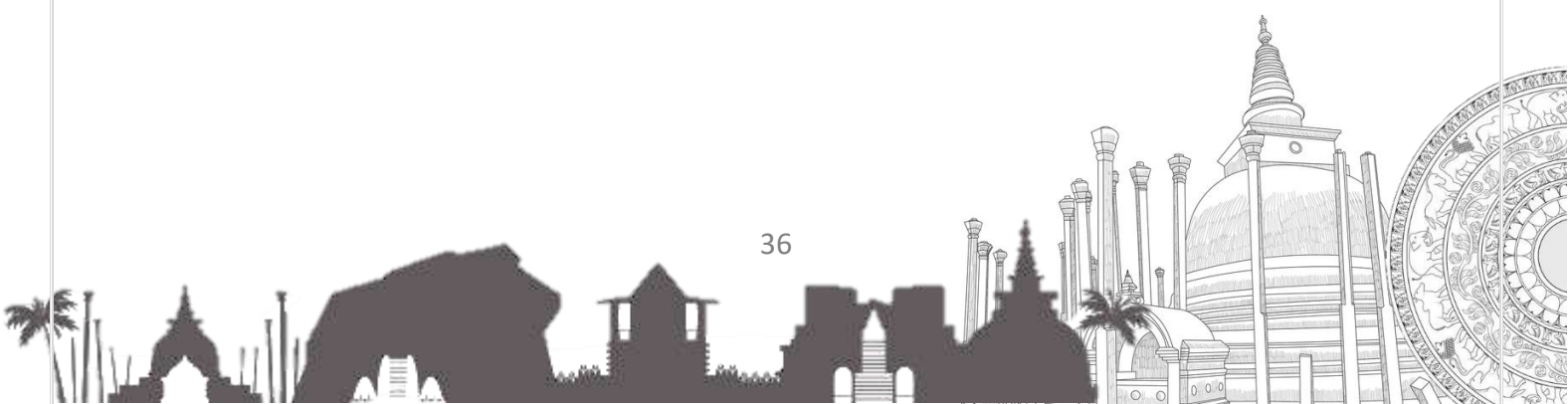
Putting Food on the Table: *Salicornia* Commercial Cultivation Project



Promoting Ornamental Fish Farming through Stakeholder Collaboration

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, hosted a workshop on ornamental fish production, strengthening collaborations between public and private institutes engaged in ornamental fish farming in Sri Lanka. The Export Development Board, in collaboration with the Association of Live Tropical Fish Exporters of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Ornamental Fish Farmers' Association conducted this workshop at the Faculty of Agriculture with participation of 175, including ornamental fish farmers from the Anuradhapura District, students from the University College Anuradhapura and the School of Agriculture in Anuradhapura, and students from the faculties of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The successful stakeholder collaborations support the SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure aiming to promote industry growth while contributing to the national economy.

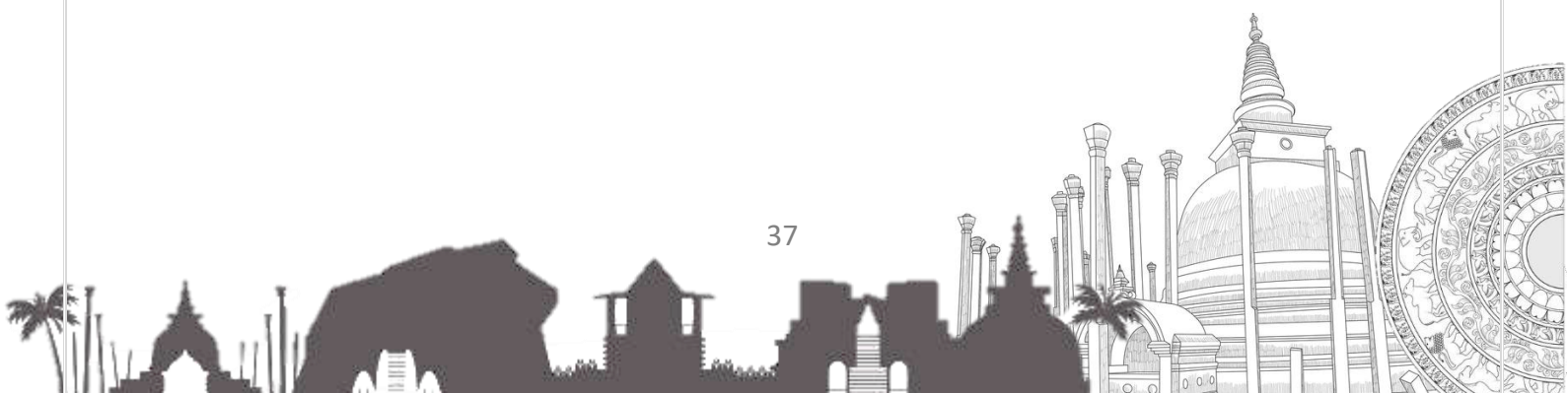
Community engagement at our university goes beyond outreach; it is about **shared responsibility, mutual learning, and transformative impact**. By aligning education, research, and service with the needs of our communities, the university is not only fulfilling its mission as a center of learning but also as a catalyst for sustainable change. Pillar 04 demonstrates that sustainability is most powerful when it is **collaborative, inclusive, and rooted in community**.



Future Plan

The following table presents the main future strategies in the coming year to enhance sustainability in the university

<i>Pillar</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
<i>Teaching</i>	Integrate sustainability concepts and SDGs into degree programs during upcoming curriculum revisions.
	Conduct awareness sessions among academic, non-academic staff, and students to encourage collaboration in implementing sustainability initiatives.
	Establish Sustainability Clubs in each faculty and foster collaboration among all sustainability-related student clubs for greater collective impact.
<i>Research</i>	Allocate increased funding for sustainability-focused research studies.
	Introduce a Vice Chancellor's Award for the best sustainability-related research project.
	Promote interdisciplinary and industry-based research collaborations to address real-world sustainability challenges.
<i>Operations and Governance</i>	Establish a Sustainability Cell with dedicated staff and facilities.
	Allocate a specific budget line for the Sustainability Cell to support its initiatives.
	Introduce shared services and employee engagement programs promoting sustainable workplace practices.
<i>Community Engagement</i>	Collaborate with the <i>Protect North Central Province Project</i> and initiate more sustainability-focused community development projects.
	Increase the number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with organizations for energy and waste management partnerships.
	Establish a community garden to promote sustainable food practices and local participation.



Contact Information

Further information

We invite feedback on this report and our sustainability projects.

Please email us at info@sdg.rjt.ac.lk

More information about sustainability at RUSL can be found at

<https://sdg.rjt.ac.lk/>

The RUSL Sustainability Committee thanks everyone who contributed to this report.

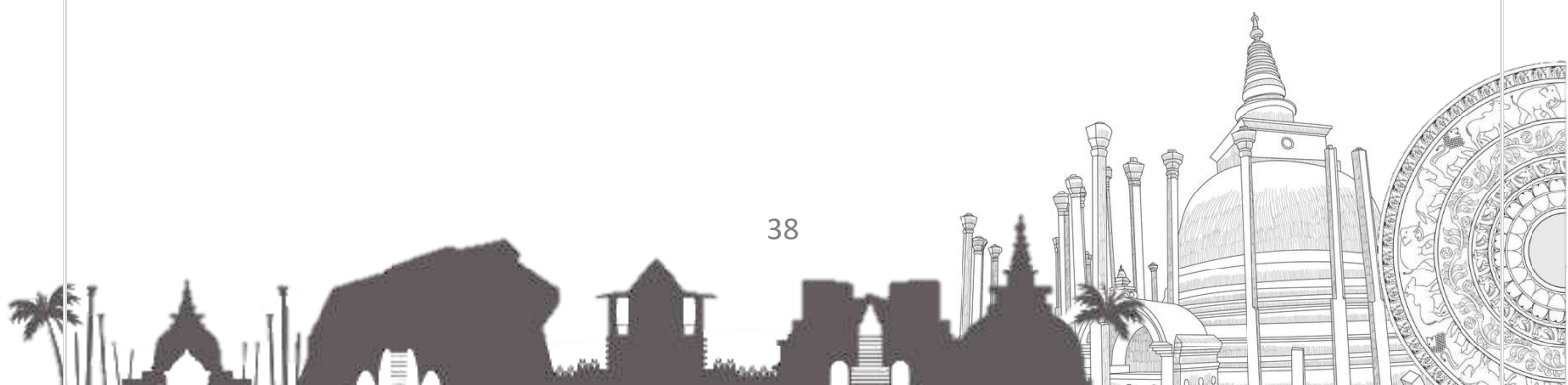


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