

# MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY

## Report

**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



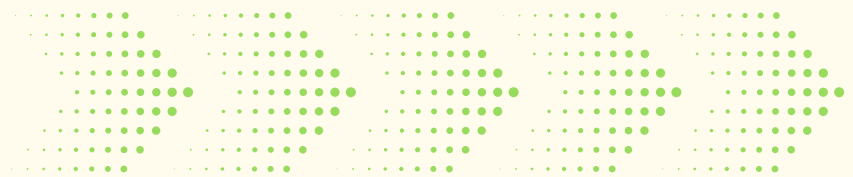
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# GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE SDG

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, adopted by the United Nations within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is one of the most fundamental global priorities aimed at eradicating hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. The goal envisions a world where all individuals have continuous access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, while agricultural systems operate in a sustainable, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner.

It also places strong emphasis on increasing the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, ensuring resilient agricultural practices, and strengthening food systems against challenges such as climate change, land degradation, and water scarcity. Despite global progress in recent decades, hunger and malnutrition remain critical challenges affecting millions of people worldwide.



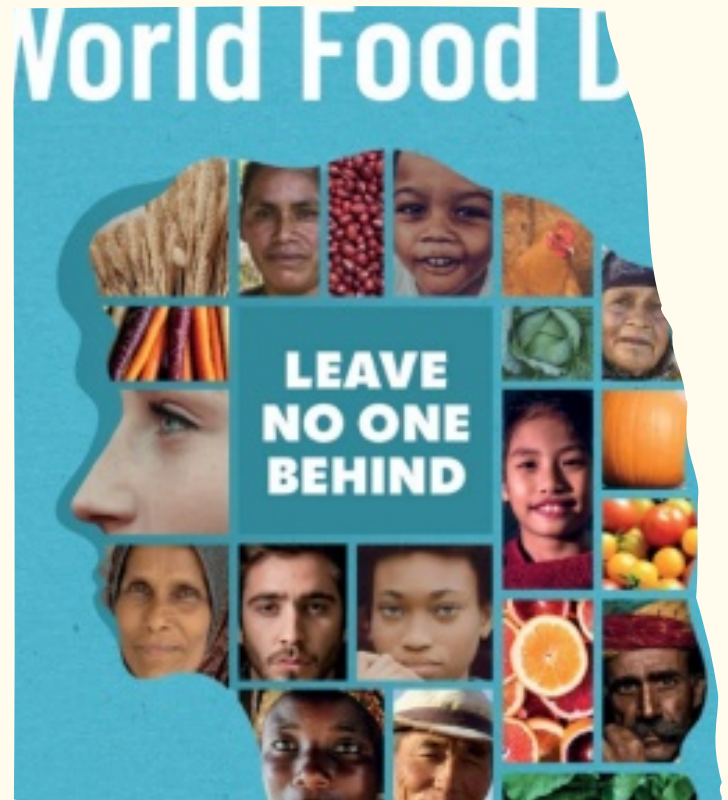
Food insecurity not only threatens physical health but also has long-term consequences for cognitive development, educational attainment, and economic productivity. In particular, vulnerable groups, including children and populations in rural areas, are disproportionately affected. Therefore, achieving SDG 2 is closely interconnected with other Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to poverty reduction, health and well-being, quality education, and sustainable economic growth. Addressing hunger is not only a humanitarian imperative but also a strategic necessity for building stable, equitable, and resilient societies.



Within this global context, Mingachevir State University recognizes its responsibility as a higher education institution to contribute actively to the achievement of SDG 2. Universities play a transformative role in shaping knowledge, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainable practices. MSU aligns its institutional strategy with sustainable development principles by integrating SDG-related themes into teaching, research, and community engagement activities. Through its academic programs, the university equips students with essential knowledge and competencies related to food security, environmental sustainability, and responsible resource management, thereby preparing future professionals to address complex global challenges.



This report is developed to provide a comprehensive overview of SDG 2 – Zero Hunger within the framework of Mingachevir State University. As an introductory section, it establishes the conceptual foundation of the goal, highlights its global significance, and outlines the university's commitment and contributions in this area. The report further aims to examine existing practices, identify challenges, and present future directions for strengthening MSU's role in advancing food security and sustainable development. Through this structured approach, the document serves as a basis for informed decision-making, strategic planning, and continuous improvement in alignment with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.



# POLICY AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

## INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

Mingachevir State University has identified the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a central institutional priority, integrating sustainability principles across education, research, administration, and community engagement in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities.” Within this strategic framework, topics such as food security, sustainable resource management, and responsible consumption are systematically embedded into academic programmes, research activities, and student-centered learning processes, ensuring that graduates are equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical competencies to address real-world sustainability challenges. At the same time, initiatives such as the “Green Campus” programme promote environmental awareness, efficient resource use, and social responsibility across the university, while supporting energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable behavioral practices. Through this comprehensive and integrated approach, MSU reinforces its role as an active contributor to sustainable development at institutional, regional, and national levels.



# POLICY AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

In support of SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, MSU organizes seminars, trainings, and awareness-raising activities to enhance knowledge of food security and sustainable nutrition among students and staff. Additionally, the university has adopted an **“Ethical Food and Procurement Policy”**, promoting responsible food sourcing, environmentally friendly procurement, and the reduction of food waste.

<https://sustainable.mdu.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Ethical-Food-And-Procurement-Policy.pdf>

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The “MSU 2030: Development Strategy” ensures the systematic integration of SDGs into all university activities by aligning academic programs, research priorities, and community engagement with SDG objectives. This process is supported through the establishment of SDG teams, implementation of action plans, and regular coordination and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring effective planning, evaluation, and continuous improvement. As a result, SDG principles, including those related to Zero Hunger, are fully embedded in MSU’s institutional and strategic framework.



# IMPLEMENTATION AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

## ▶ 3.1 TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Mingachevir State University, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger is addressed within relevant courses offered in fields such as social sciences, environmental studies, economics, and related disciplines. These courses provide students with foundational knowledge on food security, sustainable resource management, nutrition, and social well-being. Both theoretical instruction and practice-oriented approaches are applied, enabling students to develop not only academic understanding but also critical thinking, responsibility, and awareness of sustainable lifestyles.

MDU's educational programs incorporate SDG 2-related topics within broader subject areas, equipping students with knowledge on sustainable development, responsible consumption, and social welfare. Teaching methods include lectures, case studies, project-based learning, and research assignments, allowing students to connect theoretical concepts with practical applications. These programs contribute to students' academic development while fostering awareness of sustainability principles and healthy living practices.

SDG 2 topics are integrated into the curriculum through relevant courses and interdisciplinary approaches, where theoretical content on food security, sustainable practices, and social responsibility is complemented by practical assignments and projects that enable students to apply their knowledge in real-life contexts. At the same time, students at MDU actively participate in seminars, trainings, and awareness-raising activities related to sustainable development and healthy lifestyles, gaining practical experience, strengthening their social and communication skills, and developing a sense of responsibility, which supports their ability to apply SDG 2 principles in daily life and contribute positively to society.



### 3.2 RESEARCH

Research activities aligned with SDG 2 at MSU are systematically developed to address key challenges related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and the efficient management of soil and water resources, with a particular focus on regional needs and global sustainability objectives. Students and academic staff actively engage in a wide range of research projects, including field-based studies, the application of innovative food production technologies, and initiatives aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and resilience. These projects not only contribute to solving real-world problems but also provide students with valuable opportunities to develop analytical, research, and problem-solving skills within the context of sustainable development.



MSU's academic staff contribute to the advancement of knowledge in SDG 2 through the publication of scientific articles in reputable international journals. Research topics encompass food security, sustainable use of natural resources, reduction of food waste, and optimization of agricultural systems. Publications indexed in international databases such as Scopus and Web of Science enhance the global visibility and scientific impact of research outcomes, while also supporting evidence-based solutions to both regional and global food-related challenges. At the same time, master's and doctoral research plays a significant role in strengthening the academic foundation of SDG 2. Graduate students conduct in-depth studies on issues such as hunger eradication, sustainable food production, and the socio-economic dimensions of food security, employing both theoretical and applied research methods.



Furthermore, research centers and laboratories at MSU provide a strong infrastructure for scientific inquiry and innovation in SDG 2-related fields. These facilities focus on areas such as the quality and safety of agricultural products, soil and water analysis, and experimental approaches to food production and distribution. They create an enabling environment for both students and researchers to implement innovative ideas, conduct practical experiments, and contribute to the development of sustainable agricultural practices. In parallel, close collaboration with enterprises in the agriculture and food industry ensures that research and education remain aligned with real sector needs. Through joint projects, internships, and applied research initiatives, students gain hands-on experience and exposure to modern technologies, while also contributing to the development of practical solutions for regional food security. This integrated approach strengthens research capacity, enhances innovation, and reinforces MSU's role as an active contributor to sustainable agricultural development in line with SDG 2 objectives.



### 3.3 SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT

At Mingachevir State University, students and academic staff actively engage in community initiatives and social projects aligned with SDG 2, focusing on reducing food waste, preventing hunger, and improving food security at the regional level. These initiatives include awareness campaigns, volunteer activities, and outreach programs that address local food-related challenges and promote responsible consumption practices. Through active participation, students develop social responsibility, teamwork, and communication skills, while also strengthening the University's connection with local communities and contributing to overall social well-being.




In parallel, the University organizes a wide range of educational seminars, trainings, and interactive events related to SDG 2. These activities provide students with both theoretical knowledge and practical insights into food security, proper nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and healthy lifestyles. Through expert-led discussions, case studies, and applied learning approaches, participants gain a deeper understanding of food systems and sustainability challenges. As a result, students enhance their scientific knowledge, critical thinking, and practical skills, enabling them to apply SDG 2 principles in their daily lives and supporting their academic and personal development.







Furthermore, Mingachevir State University implements targeted initiatives aimed at strengthening regional food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development. The University collaborates closely with local farmers, agricultural enterprises, and community stakeholders to improve resource efficiency, increase productivity, and reduce food shortages. These initiatives often involve knowledge transfer, practical training, and joint projects that integrate academic expertise with real-world agricultural practices. By engaging in such activities, students gain valuable hands-on experience and develop a deeper sense of social responsibility, while the University strengthens its integration with the regional economy and contributes to the practical implementation of SDG 2 objectives.

### 3.4 CASE STUDIES: SDG 2 IN PRACTICE










#### CASE STUDY 1: APPLIED AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING




Mingachevir State University has implemented targeted training programs aimed at enhancing practical knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture among students and local stakeholders. These programs integrate theoretical instruction with hands-on experience, focusing on modern farming techniques, efficient resource use, and climate-resilient agricultural practices.


**BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025:**


 <b>18+</b> TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED	 <b>420+</b> STUDENTS ENGAGED	 <b>6</b> THEMATIC MODULES INTRODUCED INTO THE CURRICULUM
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**KEY IMPACT:**

-  Improved practical competencies in sustainable farming methods
-  Increased awareness of food security challenges at the regional level
-  Strengthened collaboration between the university and local agricultural communities





WORKING TOGETHER FOR A FOOD-SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Through applied training and capacity building, Mingachevir State University is empowering students and communities to build a more **sustainable**, **resilient**, and **food-secure** future.

Mingachevir State University has strengthened capacity in sustainable agriculture through applied training programs that combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Between 2024 and 2025, the University conducted over 18 training sessions, engaged more than 420 students, and introduced 6 specialized modules into the curriculum.

These efforts have enhanced practical farming competencies, increased awareness of regional food security challenges, and reinforced collaboration with local agricultural communities, contributing to more sustainable and resilient food systems.

## 3.4 CASE STUDIES: SDG 2 IN PRACTICE



**MINGACHEVIR  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**CASE STUDY 2:  
UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY  
COLLABORATION  
IN AGRIBUSINESS**



**2  
ZERO  
HUNGER**



**PARTNERSHIP  
FOR INNOVATION  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE**

The University has established partnerships with local agricultural enterprises and agribusiness stakeholders to support knowledge transfer and innovation in the food production sector. These collaborations include internships, joint research initiatives, and pilot projects focused on increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025:

 <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">9</p> <p><b>PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED</b> <small>with agribusiness entities</small></p>	 <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">48</p> <p><b>STUDENTS ENGAGED in internship programs</b></p>	 <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p><b>JOINT APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS implemented</b></p>
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**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH AGRIBUSINESS**



**INTERNSHIPS & PRACTICAL  
EXPERIENCE**



**JOINT RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION**

**KEY IMPACT:**

-  Enhanced employability of students in the agricultural sector
-  Improved adoption of innovative agricultural practices
-  Strengthened university-industry linkages for sustainable development



**TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE**



**BUILDING BRIDGES  
BETWEEN ACADEMIA  
AND INDUSTRY FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE**

By working together with industry, Mingachevir State University is driving innovation, creating opportunities, and building a more **productive** and **sustainable** agrifood system.

Mingachevir State University has strengthened collaboration with agribusiness partners to support knowledge transfer, student development, and innovation in the agricultural sector. Between 2024 and 2025, multiple partnerships, internships, and joint research initiatives were implemented, increasing practical experience opportunities for students.

These efforts have improved student employability, supported the adoption of innovative agricultural practices, and enhanced university-industry cooperation, contributing to more sustainable and productive food systems.

3.4 CASE STUDIES: SDG 2 IN PRACTICE



**MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CASE STUDY 3:  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
FOR FOOD SECURITY**



**2 ZERO HUNGER**



**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY**

SOIL MANAGEMENT | WATER USE EFFICIENCY | CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Mingachevir State University has expanded its research activities in areas directly linked to food security, including sustainable agriculture, soil management, and efficient water use. Research outputs are increasingly aligned with national and global SDG 2 priorities.

**BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025:**



**6**

RESEARCH PROJECTS  
focused on food security and agriculture



**20+**

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS  
produced in relevant fields



ESTABLISHMENT OF  
PILOT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS  
for applied research



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH



SOIL MANAGEMENT STUDIES



EFFICIENT WATER USE SOLUTIONS

**KEY IMPACT:**

-  Contribution to evidence-based solutions for food security
-  Strengthening the research capacity of the University
-  Supporting policy-relevant knowledge production



PILOT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS FOR APPLIED RESEARCH

- Crop Varieties
- Soil Fertility
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Climate Resilience

**RESEARCH OUTPUTS DRIVING IMPACT**



DATA & ANALYSIS



PUBLICATIONS



INNOVATION



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



Through research and innovation, Mingachevir State University is generating knowledge and solutions that contribute to **food security**, **sustainable agriculture**, and a **healthier future** for all.



RESEARCH



INNOVATION



EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS



FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Mingachevir State University has strengthened its role in food security through expanded research and innovation in sustainable agriculture, soil management, and water efficiency. Between 2024 and 2025, multiple research projects, academic publications, and experimental initiatives were developed, aligning with SDG 2 priorities.

These efforts have enhanced the University’s research capacity, supported evidence-based solutions, and contributed to policy-relevant knowledge for improving food security and sustainable agricultural practices.



3.4 CASE STUDIES: SDG 2 IN PRACTICE

MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY

### CASE STUDY 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FOOD AWARENESS INITIATIVES

2 ZERO HUNGER

The University has actively engaged with the local community through awareness campaigns, educational workshops, and outreach programs aimed at promoting responsible food consumption, reducing food waste, and improving nutrition knowledge.

BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025:

**14**  
AWARENESS EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED

**~800**  
BENEFICIARIES REACHED

COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

FOOD WASTE AWARENESS

NUTRITION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

ENGAGING YOUTH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

**KEY IMPACT:**

- Increased public awareness of food security and nutrition issues
- Promotion of sustainable consumption patterns
- Strengthened social responsibility role of the University

**Stronger Community, Better Future  
Together for Food Security**

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY**

SCHOOLS

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BUILDING AWARENESS. PROMOTING NUTRITION. CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Through community engagement and awareness initiatives, Mingachevir State University empowers individuals and communities to make informed food choices, reduce waste, and build a more **food-secure** and **sustainable** future for all.

→
→
→

AWARENESS → ENGAGEMENT → SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR → FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Mingachevir State University has strengthened community engagement through awareness campaigns, workshops, and outreach programs focused on nutrition, food security, and sustainable consumption. Between 2024 and 2025, multiple initiatives reached a wide audience and established cooperation with schools and local organizations.

These efforts have increased public awareness, promoted responsible consumption practices, and reinforced the University’s role in supporting sustainable and food-secure communities.



# EVIDENCE

At Mingachevir State University, various trainings, seminars, and events are organized on agriculture and efficient resource management, aiming to enhance students' knowledge of sustainable food production and responsible use of natural resources (see: [https://mdu.edu.az/support\\_02-10-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/support_02-10-25/)). These activities place particular emphasis on the efficient use of water in agriculture, addressing current challenges such as inefficient irrigation systems, water losses, and the impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity. Through interactive sessions and project-based learning, students are encouraged to develop innovative solutions and apply modern approaches to resource management. This process enables them to connect theoretical knowledge with practical experience while strengthening their competencies in sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and food security.



In addition, under the initiative of Mingachevir State University, a specialized training on the reduction and management of food waste was organized at the Mingachevir Youth House (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/training-on-reduction-and-management-of-food-waste-held-at-mingachevir-youth-house/>). The training provided a comprehensive overview of the causes and consequences of food waste across different stages, including production, transportation, storage, and consumption. Participants were informed about the environmental impacts of food waste, such as soil and water pollution, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and its contribution to climate change.





The training on the development of family farms aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical skills in sustainable agricultural management (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/training-on-development-of-family-farms-held-at-mingachevir-state-university/>). During the training, participants received comprehensive information on the fundamental principles of managing family farms, planning agricultural activities, and efficiently utilizing available resources. Key topics such as financial literacy, accurate cost calculation, risk assessment, and the creation of alternative income sources were thoroughly explained. In addition, discussions covered market demand analysis, the development of product sales strategies, and methods to increase the competitiveness of agricultural activities. Through practical exercises and real-life examples, participants were able to apply the knowledge gained, improving their ability to carry out agricultural activities in a more efficient and systematic manner.

Within the framework of “Climate Week” organized at Mingachevir State University, students actively presented a wide range of projects, models, and research-based presentations addressing key sustainability challenges (see: [https://mdu.edu.az/climate\\_16-11-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/climate_16-11-25/)). The event served as an important platform for discussing the ecological and social impacts of climate change, efficient resource utilization, and the principles of sustainable development. Particular emphasis was placed on topics such as water conservation, the integration of innovative technologies in agriculture, and the development of sustainable production systems.

Students introduced forward-looking solutions, including aquaponics systems, smart irrigation technologies, and the “smart village” concept, all aimed at improving productivity while ensuring efficient use of natural resources.



A training on “Urban Agriculture and Urban Farming” was conducted at Mingachevir State University, aiming to enhance participants’ understanding of agricultural practices within urban environments (see:

<https://mdu.edu.az/training-on-urban-agriculture-and-urban-farming-held-at-mingachevir-state-university/>). Within the

framework of the training, participants were provided with comprehensive information on the organization of agricultural activities in urban settings, the role of urban farming in modern city planning, and its importance from a sustainable development perspective. Key topics included efficient production models under limited resource conditions, opportunities for expanding green spaces in urban areas, and the application of innovative agrotechnologies.



A training session on “Urban Agriculture and Urban Farming” was organized at Mingachevir State University. During the training, participants received comprehensive information on organizing agricultural activities in urban environments, the role of urban farming in modern city planning, and its significance for sustainable development. The event covered topics such as efficient production models under limited resource conditions, opportunities to expand green spaces in urban areas, and the application of innovative agrotechnologies. These approaches are particularly important for increasing food production and using resources more efficiently. Additionally, the contribution of urban farming to ensuring food security and maintaining ecological balance was emphasized. The training was conducted interactively, allowing participants to engage in discussions and enhancing their practical knowledge and skills. Such events expand students’ understanding of sustainable agriculture and food provision, supporting the development of activities aligned with SDG 2 objectives. [https://mdu.edu.az/smart-farmingg\\_25-09-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/smart-farmingg_25-09-25/)






A scientific seminar on healthy nutrition and food culture for preschool-aged children was organized at Mingachevir State University. Participants received detailed information on the role of proper and balanced nutrition in children's development, the selection and proper consumption of food products, and the formation of culturally appropriate eating habits. The event emphasized the impact of healthy nutrition on physical and psychological development, the role of parents and caregivers in guiding food choices, and the importance of establishing balanced eating habits from an early age. The seminar was conducted in an interactive format, engaging participants in discussions on healthy eating principles and food culture. <https://mdu.edu.az/scientific-seminar-on-healthy-nutrition-and-table-manners-for-preschool-age-children-held-at-mingachevir-state-university/>

A training on agriculture under drought and water scarcity conditions was conducted to enhance participants' knowledge of sustainable farming practices in resource-constrained environments (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/training-on-agriculture-under-drought-and-water-scarcity-conditions-held-at-mingachevir-state-university/>). The program focused on key principles such as efficient water management, smart irrigation systems, soil moisture preservation, and climate-adapted crop selection. Participants gained practical insights into minimizing water losses and optimizing resource use, while also exploring strategies to maintain agricultural productivity under changing climate conditions. This training contributed to strengthening competencies in sustainable agriculture and supported food security initiatives in alignment with SDG 2 objectives.



# EVIDENCE

 [www.sustainable.mdu.edu.az](http://www.sustainable.mdu.edu.az)

## 04

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

An awareness campaign on “Reducing Food and Resource Waste” was carried out to promote responsible consumption and sustainable resource use within the university community (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/food-30-09-25/>). The campaign provided participants with comprehensive information on the causes of food waste and its negative environmental and social impacts, including resource depletion and increased pollution. Practical topics such as proper shopping habits, food storage techniques, meal planning, and the reuse of surplus food were discussed in detail, encouraging participants to adopt more sustainable daily practices. Interactive discussions allowed participants to reflect on their own consumption behaviors and explore ways to reduce waste in everyday life. Overall, this initiative contributed to raising awareness, improving resource efficiency, and supporting the implementation of SDG 2 principles, including food security, sustainable production, and responsible consumption.



2 ZERO HUNGER





The “Share One, Change One” campaign was organized to promote social solidarity, responsible consumption, and efficient use of resources among students (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/share-04-09-25/>). Within the campaign, participants exchanged items such as books, handicrafts, and personal belongings, reinforcing the principles of reuse and waste reduction. The initiative provided an interactive platform where students could engage in social exchange while also showcasing their creativity. By encouraging the reuse of existing resources instead of new consumption, the campaign contributed to reducing waste and promoting sustainable lifestyle habits. Overall, this activity supported the development of responsible consumption behaviors and resource conservation practices, aligning with the objectives of SDG 2.



# EVIDENCE

Within the framework of the “No Waste Campus” initiative, an educational video on food waste was produced to raise awareness about sustainable consumption and efficient resource use (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/no-waste-campus-2/>). The activity included observing, measuring, and analyzing food waste generated in the student cafeteria, providing students with practical insights into everyday consumption patterns. Through the video and accompanying discussions, participants learned about the importance of reducing food waste, adopting responsible consumption behaviors, and using resources more efficiently. The initiative encouraged students to reflect on their habits and apply simple, effective strategies to minimize waste in daily life. Overall, this activity contributed to strengthening ecological awareness, promoting sustainable lifestyles, and supporting SDG 2 priorities related to food security and responsible resource management.




A seminar titled “Food Shortage – A Global Problem and Its Causes” was held to increase awareness of global food security challenges and their underlying factors (see: [https://mdu.edu.az/food-shortage\\_05-12-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/food-shortage_05-12-25/)).

The seminar provided participants with comprehensive insights into the economic, social, and environmental causes of food shortages, as well as their impacts at both national and international levels. Key topics included sustainable food production, efficient resource use, and the role of agriculture in addressing hunger. Through interactive discussions, students and faculty analyzed global food system challenges, explored strategies to reduce food loss and waste, and considered practical measures to enhance food security. This initiative contributed to strengthening awareness and understanding of SDG 2 priorities, including sustainable agriculture and improved food supply systems.



# EVIDENCE

 [www.sustainable.mdu.edu.az](http://www.sustainable.mdu.edu.az)

## 04

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger



Mingachevir State University hosted a “Sustainable Food Systems” hackathon aimed at strengthening food security, promoting efficient resource use, and encouraging ecological sustainability through innovative solutions (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/sustainable-food-systems-hackathon-19-09-25/>). During the event, participants analyzed challenges across the food production and consumption chain and developed digital and technological approaches to reduce food waste, optimize logistics, and minimize environmental impact. Proposed projects included smart food tracking systems, AI-based demand forecasting models, digital platforms for food waste management, and blockchain solutions ensuring transparency from production to consumption. Through intensive team-based work, participants transformed their ideas into practical concepts, enhancing their analytical, problem-solving, and innovation skills.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Mingachevir State University organized a hackathon titled “Local Production and Food Safety” aimed at strengthening food security, improving the efficiency of local food production, and promoting the sustainable use of resources (see: [https://mdu.edu.az/local\\_08-10-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/local_08-10-25/)).



During the event, participants developed projects focused on enhancing agricultural productivity, optimizing the food supply chain, and ensuring food safety standards. The proposed solutions addressed real-world challenges and emphasized integrated approaches such as local production combined with sustainable processes. Through collaborative teamwork, students generated innovative ideas while improving their analytical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. This initiative contributed to advancing sustainable food systems and directly supported the objectives of SDG 2 related to food security and responsible production.





Mingachevir State University organized an awareness campaign on food waste aimed at increasing knowledge about its causes, impacts, and prevention methods within the university community (see: [https://mdu.edu.az/food\\_21-09-25/](https://mdu.edu.az/food_21-09-25/)). Participants were informed about the environmental, social, and economic consequences of food waste, including resource loss and its contribution to pollution.

The campaign provided practical guidance on reducing waste in daily life through proper planning, balanced shopping habits, correct food storage, and the use of surplus products. Interactive discussions encouraged participants to reflect on their consumption patterns and adopt more responsible behaviors. Overall, this initiative supported efficient resource use, promoted sustainable lifestyles, and contributed to the implementation of SDG 2 priorities related to food security and responsible consumption.



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# EVIDENCE



www.sustainable.mdu.edu.az

## 04

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

Mingachevir State University organized a startup competition titled “Zero Food Waste” to promote the reduction of food waste, efficient resource use, and sustainable development principles among students (see: <https://mdu.edu.az/zero-food-14-12-25/>). Within the competition, participants explored the global causes and impacts of food waste and developed innovative solutions to address these challenges. Student teams proposed technological ideas such as surplus food redistribution systems, mobile applications for managing food stocks in restaurants and stores, smart logistics solutions, and optimization tools for food resource management.

The projects were evaluated by experts based on innovation, feasibility, and socio-environmental impact. This initiative enhanced students’ creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork skills while fostering sustainability-oriented thinking, directly contributing to SDG 2 objectives related to reducing food waste and building sustainable food systems



2 ZERO HUNGER



# IMPACT

At Mingachevir State University, the implementation of SDG 2 has generated a broad and multidimensional impact across education, human capital development, society, and regional economic growth. Teaching activities related to agriculture, food security, sustainable production, and food waste reduction provide students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with practical skills such as smart farming technologies, food security management, and efficient resource use. As a result, the quality of education is enhanced, while students' analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and innovative approaches are significantly strengthened, alongside increased awareness of global food security challenges.



SDG 2-related seminars, hackathons, research projects, and practical trainings also contribute substantially to the development of both students and faculty. Students improve their academic and professional competencies through active participation in innovative projects, while faculty members enhance their expertise by integrating new research findings and practical approaches into teaching. From a societal perspective, the university's initiatives play an important role in raising public awareness of food security and sustainable consumption.



Activities such as food waste reduction campaigns, promotion of local and sustainable food production, and community-based awareness programs contribute to encouraging responsible consumption habits and strengthening social responsibility. Engagement with local communities allows knowledge transfer beyond the university, supporting healthier lifestyles and improved understanding of sustainable practices.

# IMPACT

In terms of industry and the labor market, SDG 2 initiatives equip students with practical competencies in areas such as agricultural technologies, smart farming, food logistics, and sustainable production systems. This enhances their employability and prepares qualified specialists for the local economy. Participation in startups, innovation projects, and incubator programs further expands students' career opportunities and supports the development of agriculture and the food sector in the region.

At the regional level, these initiatives contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices through trainings, seminars, hackathons, and applied projects. By strengthening food security, supporting local production, and encouraging innovation, Mingachevir State University plays an active role in regional socio-economic development.



# IMPACT



## ZERO HUNGER (SDG 2)

Advancing Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security for All



Indicator Category	KPI (Key Performance Indicator)	2024 (Baseline)	2025 (Current Status)	2026 (Target)	2027 (Target)
Sustainable Agriculture Training	Students trained in sustainable agriculture and related programs	180	420	650	900
Industry & Community Partnerships	Active partnerships with agricultural enterprises and communities	5	9	12	15
Research & Innovation for Food Security	Research projects focused on food security and sustainable agriculture	3	6	8	10
Community Engagement & Awareness	People reached through awareness events and outreach programs	250	800	1200	1600
Resource Efficiency in Agriculture	Adoption of efficient water and soil management practices	20%	35%	50%	65%
Contribution to Food Security	Initiatives contributing to improved food security at local/regional level	4	7	10	13

Promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems

Strengthening university-industry and community collaboration

Generating research and innovation for food security

Engaging communities and raising nutrition awareness

Improving resource efficiency and climate resilience

Building a food-secure, healthy and sustainable future for all

Between 2024 and 2025, there is clear progress across all indicators, showing steady institutional improvement. The share of students with access to affordable and nutritious meals increased from 65% to 75%, while the use of sustainable food products rose from 20% to 30%. Participation in nutrition education programs also grew significantly, from 300 to 500 individuals.

At the same time, the number of food-related initiatives increased from 3 to 5, and food waste reduction improved from 5% to 10%. Community support programs expanded as well, with beneficiaries rising from 150 to 250.

# CHALLENGES AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



## CHALLENGES AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ADVANCING SDG 2 AT MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY

### OVERCOMING LIMITATIONS TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Despite the significant progress achieved in advancing SDG 2, Mingachevir State University faces several challenges that limit the full effectiveness, scalability, and long-term impact of its initiatives related to food security and sustainable agriculture.

One of the primary challenges is the limited integration between research outputs and practical implementation. Although the University conducts various research projects and academic activities on food security, the translation of these findings into large-scale, real-world applications within the agricultural sector remains relatively constrained.

Another important challenge is the insufficient level of industry collaboration and technology transfer. While partnerships with local agricultural stakeholders exist, stronger and more structured cooperation with industry actors is required to ensure that innovative solutions are effectively adopted in practice.



The lack of advanced monitoring and impact evaluation systems also represents a key limitation. Current activities are mainly assessed through output-based indicators (such as number of trainings, seminars, or participants), while long-term impact indicators (e.g., improvements in food security, productivity, or resource efficiency at the regional level) are not yet systematically measured.

In addition, there are challenges related to resource and infrastructure limitations, particularly in expanding research laboratories, experimental facilities, and applied training environments necessary for modern agricultural education and innovation.

Another area for improvement is the limited level of interdisciplinary integration. Although SDG 2 topics are included in several academic programs, deeper integration across disciplines such as economics, environmental science, engineering, and data science is needed to address complex food system challenges more effectively.

Furthermore, the scale of community outreach and awareness activities remains relatively limited in relation to regional needs. While various campaigns and trainings have been conducted, expanding their reach and ensuring sustained engagement with rural communities and vulnerable populations is essential.



Mingachevir State University is committed to addressing these challenges through continuous improvement, innovation, and partnership to achieve a food-secure, sustainable, and climate-resilient future in line with SDG 2: Zero Hunger.



# CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND RESPONSE STRATEGY



## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND RESPONSE STRATEGY

IN ADVANCING SDG 2 AT MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY



In response to the challenges identified in the previous section, Mingachevir State University has developed a comprehensive set of corrective actions aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, scalability, and long-term impact of its SDG 2 initiatives.

To address the gap between research and practical implementation, the University will enhance the application-oriented dimension of research activities. This includes the establishment of pilot projects, demonstration farms, and experimental platforms where research findings can be tested and applied in real-world agricultural settings. Collaboration between academic staff, students, and local farmers will be further institutionalized.

In order to strengthen industry collaboration, the University will expand partnerships with agricultural enterprises, agribusiness companies, and relevant government agencies. Joint projects, internship programs, and knowledge transfer initiatives will be developed to ensure that innovative solutions are effectively adopted in practice.



To improve monitoring and evaluation, the University will introduce a comprehensive KPI-based impact assessment framework. This system will integrate both output and outcome indicators, including productivity improvements, reduction in food waste, and resource efficiency at the regional level. Digital tools and data management systems will be utilized to ensure accuracy and transparency.

Addressing infrastructure limitations, the University plans to invest in modern research laboratories and applied training facilities. This includes upgrading existing laboratories, establishing new experimental units, and integrating smart agricultural technologies such as precision farming and data-driven resource management systems.

To strengthen interdisciplinary integration, the University will develop cross-disciplinary academic modules and research programs combining agriculture, environmental science, economics, and digital technologies. This approach will

enable a more holistic understanding of food systems and sustainability challenges.

In response to the need for broader community engagement, the University will scale up outreach and awareness programs, particularly in rural areas and among vulnerable populations. Long-term partnerships with local communities will be established to ensure continuity and sustainable impact.

# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND FUTURE PLANS

MINGACHEVIR  
STATE UNIVERSITY

2 SDG#

Mingachevir State University  
Enhancing Contributions to SDG 2:  
Zero Hunger



Mingachevir State University adopts a forward-looking and strategic approach to continuously enhance its contributions to SDG 2, with a strong focus on strengthening food security and expanding the application of sustainable agricultural technologies. The university aims to increase the number of innovative projects involving both students and faculty, while further developing research and practice-oriented programs that address local and global food challenges.

Key priorities include reducing food waste, implementing smart farming solutions, promoting sustainable agricultural production, and ensuring efficient use of natural resources. In addition, MDU plans to expand its cooperation within regional and national SDG 2 initiatives, fostering leadership and expertise in food security among students and academic staff.





Future initiatives will include the organization of hackathons, startup competitions, research laboratories, and interactive training programs designed to encourage innovation and problem-solving. These activities will support the development of creative solutions for reducing food waste, strengthening local agricultural systems, and advancing sustainable food production models.

At the same time, the university will continue to organize public seminars and awareness campaigns to increase social responsibility and community engagement, contributing to greater awareness of food security issues at the regional level.





To ensure continuous improvement, Mingachevir State University will focus on enhancing the quality and effectiveness of its educational and research activities. This includes making curricula more interactive and practice-oriented, increasing the number of interdisciplinary research projects, and strengthening collaboration between students, faculty, and local stakeholders. The university also plans to establish innovation-support platforms, integrate smart agricultural technologies into both teaching and practical applications, and implement advanced solutions for minimizing food waste. These strategic directions will support the achievement of SDG 2 objectives, strengthen sustainable food systems, and promote a culture of responsible consumption and sustainable living within the university community.





# CONCLUSION

Mingachevir State University continues to actively implement SDG 2 through a comprehensive approach that integrates teaching, research, training, and community engagement. The seminars, hackathons, startup competitions, and awareness campaigns organized at the university have significantly enhanced the knowledge and skills of students, faculty, and the local community in areas such as food security, reduction of food waste, and sustainable agriculture. These initiatives combine academic learning with practical application and social engagement, contributing to the strengthening of food security and the development of sustainable food systems at the regional level.



**MINGACHEVIR STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER**



# CONCLUSION

Key achievements of Mingachevir State University in SDG 2 implementation are reflected across education, research, and societal engagement. The university has enhanced students' analytical, practical, and innovative skills through courses and applied projects, while advancing research in areas such as smart farming, food waste reduction, and sustainable agriculture. Trainings, hackathons, and startup initiatives have strengthened student and faculty development, providing valuable practical experience. At the same time, awareness campaigns and community-based activities have increased public understanding of food security and strengthened cooperation with local communities. These efforts have also improved students' employability and contributed to regional economic development, demonstrating MDU's strong commitment to sustainable food systems and SDG 2 objectives.





# THANK *You*

We sincerely thank all partners, academic and administrative staff, students, and participants for their support in implementing these initiatives. The achieved results contribute to the MSU's progress in sustainable development.

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