



SRI SRI UNIVERSITY

World University Rankings 2022



**Biodiversity, Education, Conservation, Restoration,
Planning, Awareness, Policy, Good Practice**

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About Us

Sri Sri University was established as a State Private University in Odisha, India which started its first academic year in 2012 and has been envisioned by Global Humanitarian, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji. The University offers a range of pivotal, unique, and cutting-edge undergraduate, postgraduate degree programs under eight Faculties, short-term, diploma, and certificate courses, Doctoral studies (Ph. D.), that offers the best of the East and offers the best of the West.

The impressive list of undergraduate programmes offered at Sri Sri University includes B. Sc. (Data Science), B. Sc. (Osteopathy), B. Sc. (Psychology & Contemplative Studies), B. Sc. (Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics), B. Sc. (Agri-business), Bachelor in Interior Design, etc., and that of post graduate programmes offered includes M.Sc. Osteopathy (first time in Asia), MBA (Entrepreneurship), MBA (General Management), MBA (Agri-Business Management), M.Com., M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology and Contemplative Behaviour, M.Sc. Environment Science, B. Tech. & M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning), etc.

Located in a sprawling 188- acre green lush campus, Sri Sri University takes pride in offering a curriculum that enriches both domain expertise and life skills. It provides a unique social culture that nurtures a rich learning environment and aids excellence in students through its virtually smoke-free, alcohol-free, drug-free, and completely vegetarian campus. The University defines Excellence as an academic process of motivating the students to learn in ways that make a sustained, substantial, and positive influence on how they think, act, and feel which defines our core value of **Learn-Lead-Serve**.

Sri Sri University has been ranked by Times Higher Education World University Impact Rankings on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the band of 601-800 based on all 17 SDGs. In the top four individual SDGs, Sri Sri University was ranked in the band of **101-200** for SDG 2: Zero Hunger. For the SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG15: Life on Land stand in the band of 201-300. Sri Sri University has been ranked **1st in Odisha, 7th in India, and 250th in the world** as per UI Green Metric Awards World University Rankings 2022 which is a quantum jump from 2020's ranking which was 3th in Odisha, 7th in India, and 304th in the world.

Being from the parentage of the Art of Living, one of the largest volunteer based organization in the world, and given the stature of the work of our founder Poojya Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji in the last four decades, we aspire to contribute in finding solutions to the problems faced by the world at large by way of conflict resolution, agriculture, Arts & Crafts, etc. Few of our initiatives in this regard includes the creation of Sri Sri University Resource Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability Education & Practices, Sri Sri Advanced Global Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, and Sri Sri Centre for Advanced Research in Water Resources and Environment Management, to name a few.

Introduction

The interconnections between SDG15 (Life on Land) and other sustainable goals, such as SDG1 (No poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG3 (Good health and well-being), SDG4 (Quality education), SDG6 (Clean water and Sanitation), SDG13 (Climate action), SDG14 (Life below water), etc. underscore the importance of SDG15. Additionally, economic activities are intricately linked with biodiversity, therefore, the related SDGs have also linkage to SDG15. Terrestrial biodiversity offers a wide array of ecosystem services on a global, regional, and local scale. At the local level, a rich biodiversity enhances soil quality, provides shelter for animals, improves water quality, and mitigates soil erosion. SDG15 primarily focuses on the preservation, improvement, and safeguarding of terrestrial biodiversity within designated landscapes and their surroundings. At Sri Sri University campus, SDG15 is addressed through educational initiatives, including the incorporation of biodiversity aspects into academic curricula, as well as practical actions like tree planting, monitoring, planning, and protection efforts. Outreach programs and awareness campaigns are also integral components of our approach.

All these initiatives are carried out by various departments and groups within the university. In addition to the faculty and university administration, several clubs, such as the Eco Club, Birding Club, and Farmers' Club, are dedicated to biodiversity-related activities. The university's commitment extends beyond creating a green campus; it aims to raise awareness among all stakeholders within the university community, including students. The development of a biodiversity rich campus requires not only institutional efforts but also individual contributions.

Educational Measures

Biodiversity, its significance, concerns, and conservation are well-addressed in academic curricula under programs like Environmental Science and Agriculture. In the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Environmental Science, more than 10 credit courses are dedicated to supporting the land ecosystem in relation to biodiversity (e.g., Biodiversity Conservation, Biological Environment). Similarly, in B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, more than 15 credits are related to biodiversity and the land ecosystem (e.g., Agricultural Microbiology, Introduction to Biology, Introduction to Forestry, Biosafety, and Bioethics). Various types of events organized at Sri Sri University play a vital role in contributing to education. For the current academic year, these events included soil judging contests, ‘Know Your Soil’ on the occasion of World Soil Day, and different types of webinars and talks (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1. Celebration of World soil day

A part of the land on the university campus is dedicated to farming practices and animal husbandry. Sri Sri University promotes sustainable farming not only to preserve natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize environmental impact, and promote healthier food production but also to enhance the overall sustainability of the campus and raise awareness (**Fig. 2**). These farms serve not only for education and research but also for growing organic food, including pulses, vegetables, and fruits. The pulses grown here are used in the university's kitchen.

The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is strongly discouraged; instead, homemade fertilizers, cow dung, and homemade pesticides are employed. Furthermore, these homemade fertilizers and pesticides are distributed to neighboring villages as part of outreach programs. In addition to the regular academic curricula, Sri Sri University offers various certificate courses, such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and training programs like solar PV installer courses, which are directly related to ecosystem preservation (**Fig. 3**). Sri Sri University has initiated the Suryamitra Solar PV Installer training course, which is a government of India

initiative. Students from both Sri Sri University and external participants participate in this program. Both the students of Sri Sri University and people from outside have participated in these programmes.

Different departments and clubs at Sri Sri University extend their educational outreach programs related to the sustainable management of land for agriculture. The university preferably organizes such programs in the adjoining villages. These programs include plantation in shared ecosystems, quiz competitions, poster-making competitions, and guest lectures. Students from both Sri Sri University and other institutions enthusiastically participate in these events (Fig. 4).



Fig. 2. Cow farm in the university campus



Fig. 3. Solar PV installer raining

Actions

Plantation

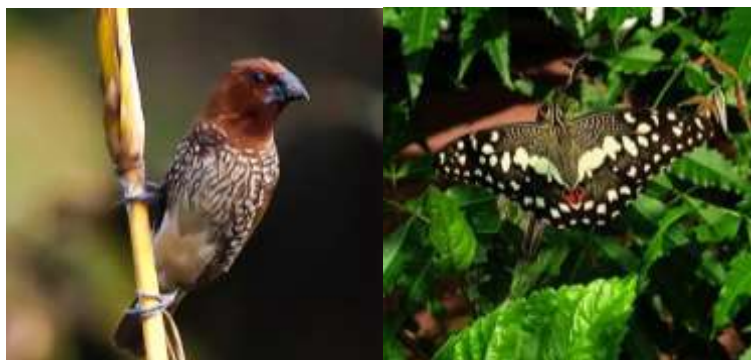
Plantation is a regular activity on the campus of Sri Sri University. The plantation drives are conducted on occasions such as World Environment Day, Independence Day, and during the monsoon season. Sri Sri University boasts a well-developed plant nursery, which supplies and donates plants for the campus

and other shared ecosystems. The intensive plantation drive has proved to provide a shelter for the animal species like mammals, birds, herpetofauna, butterfly species, etc. The university

campus is home to more than 8 mammalian species, including the Common Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Indian Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*), Five-striped Squirrel (*Funambulus pennantii*), Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), as well as several species of rats, mice, and bats. Additionally, the campus harbours around 92 bird species, 47 butterfly species (**Plate 4**), and numerous species of reptiles and amphibians. The university campus spreading over 188 acres of land is a type of self-sustaining ecosystem. There is a regular monitoring of the fauna and flora species following the IUCN guidelines.

Farming

University is committed to practice sustainably organic farming in the campus. The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is discouraged to prevent any residual toxicity in soil and water. A animal farm has been developed with organic principles to produce nutritionally healthy milk and milk products. Cow dung is used to make compost, which is eventually used in the farm lands of University.



Scaly-bellied Munia

Lime Swallowtail

Fig. 4. Faunal species present in the university campus

Development Process and Biodiversity

Being an educational institute, the development of infrastructure is routine process in the university. However, the conservation and protection of biodiversity is an utmost priority in the campus. Notably, there are many abandoned stone quarries in the university. These quarries have

been used for the development of playgrounds and construction of buildings so that additional acquisition of the land can be avoided or minimized for the protection of biodiversity (**Fig. 5**).



Fig. 5. Construction work by using the quarry site

The courtyards and backyards of the building are maintained with local biodiversity. The locally available materials and fly ash bricks are used in the building construction. These materials are energy efficient and considered more eco-friendly (**Fig. 6**). The Excavated soil and the stone (as the place is a rocky land) are reused for the construction.

Sri Sri University has a clear policy, resolution, and commitment to prioritize degraded and abandoned land for activities such as building construction, playgrounds, and more, in order to conserve local biodiversity. Additionally, the university promotes the use of green technology and eco-friendly materials for its infrastructure facilities, construction materials, and renovation projects.



Fig. 6. Construction with fly ash bricks

Policies Addressing the Biodiversity

Sri Sri University has seven policies and guidelines in place to address the issues of conserving and restoring biodiversity on campus. The Sustainable Farmed Food policy focuses on aspects such as food security, sustainable farming systems, outreach and training programs, etc.. The university also owns its own farmland and cowshed.

The Restoration Ecology and Sustainability policy addresses the promotion of native flowering plants, avenue trees, fruit trees, soil-binding species, and the conservation of local biodiversity. This policy also considers the protection of rare and endangered species through inclusive sustainability approaches and the rehabilitation of degraded habitats. Regular monitoring of faunal and floral species on the university campus follows the IUCN guidelines, and the university maintains records of the species and their IUCN status.

The university has an Alien Species Reduction Policy in place, aiming to enhance native biodiversity on campus, protect the university from invasive plant species, and maintain a green campus status. The Water Reuse Policy of the university includes provisions for rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment, effluent treatment, and their use for agriculture and horticulture purposes.

Plastic is known to have immense impacts on animals if not managed properly. To address plastic waste management and disposal in an environmentally sound manner, the university has implemented the Plastic Use Policy. Single-use plastic is completely prohibited on campus, therefore, eco-friendly alternatives are available. The policy provides proper guidelines for the collection, disposal, and recycling of other plastic materials. Similarly, the university has a Hazardous Waste Policy in place, addressing the management of medical, laboratory, and electronic waste.

Outreach Programmes and Awareness campaign

Sri Sri University is dedicated to fulfilling its social and environmental responsibilities. The university campus is located in a central place of rural area with easy access to neighboring villages for various social and environmental activities. The university's different units, including academic departments, administration, and clubs, actively engage in activities such as plantation, waste management, and cleaning campaigns.

Typically, on occasions like World Environment Day, World Forest Day, World Ocean Day, National Science Day, etc., the university conducts outreach programs and awareness campaigns in rural areas (**Fig. 7**). Some of the clubs focus on raising awareness about waste management, biodiversity conservation, water conservation, and more (**Fig. 7**).

The faculty and students of the Faculty of Agriculture regularly participate in outreach activities by providing training on organic farming, distributing organic fertilizers, distributing seedlings, and sharing knowledge with the community.



(a) (b) (c)
Fig. 7. Outreach and awareness related activities of Sri Sri University: (a) World Environment day, (b) awareness activities on ban on single use plastic and (c) celebration of World forest day

Good Practices

The good practices do not require many resources and additional funds but play a significant role in protecting the natural resources including biodiversity. The good practices in Sri Sri University include:

1. Sustainable Plantation with native species
2. Removal of alien species
3. Regular monitoring of flora and fauna
4. Awareness on biodiversity conservation through clubs like birding club and eco-club
5. Regulation plantation in the university campus
6. Maintain wilderness
7. Provision of corridors for the movement of animals

8. Recycling of wastes
9. Use of abandoned quarries for the construction works
10. Proper treatment of muck dumping area, if any
11. Teasing of wild animals are especially birds and butterflies are prohibited
12. Feeding of wild animals are prohibited
13. Non-vegetarian food is prohibited in the Sri Sri University campus