



SRI SRI
UNIVERSITY
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SRI SRI UNIVERSITY

World University Rankings 2023



**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 six individual SDGs, Sri Sri University was ranked in the band of **101-200** for SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 15: Life on Land, and in the band of **201-300** for SDG 7: Affordable Clean energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Sri Sri University has been ranked **1st in Odisha, 7th in India, and 233rd in the world** as per UI Green Metric Awards World University Rankings 2023.

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

Terrestrial biodiversity includes all types microbe, fungi, plant, and animal species, each group has its significance in maintaining ecosystems' integrity and ecological balance. The biodiversity strengthens the social, economic, and environmental dimensions, thus, is a key component of sustainable development. A large number of tangible and intangible benefits of the biodiversity are well known, on the other hand, myriad of advantages, especially intangible are hitherto unknown. It can be attributed to our limited knowledge of intrinsic characteristics of the biodiversity.

The SDG15: Life on Land is one of the important SDGs because the ecosystem services provided by the biodiversity connects it with other SDGs like SDG1 (No poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG3 (Good health and well-being), SDG4 (Quality education), SDG6 (Clean water and Sanitation), SDG13 (Climate action), and SDG14 (Life below water), etc. Therefore, the conservation and protection of terrestrial biodiversity by adopting plantation, sustainable farming, research, reducing pollution, etc. will be helpful in fulfilling the other SDGs.

Life on Land is one of the SDGs, which is given high priority on the campus of Sri Sri University. Over time, the university's ranking on The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings has shown a steady improvement, reflecting its dedication to the SDG15. Currently, SDG15 ranked within 200 on The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. Various departments and faculty members are actively engaged in practicing them through education, actions, outreach programs, awareness campaigns, etc. Additionally, the university's clubs, such as the Eco Club, Farmers Club, Birding

Club, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club, etc., play a vital role in undertaking diverse activities that contribute to fulfilling the SDG15.

Educational Measures



Sri Sri University is actively engaged in promoting the sustainable use and conservation of land through a variety of initiatives involving education, awareness, and community participation. Key activities included webinars (‘International Tiger Day’, ‘Climate Change and Himalayan Biodiversity’, Sustainable Farming Practices), competitions (Butterfly Photography, Bird Photography), field visits (Nandankanan butterfly park), etc. The activities are conducted on campus and off campus as outreach programme. These activities are executed through various clubs, departments, NSS unit, and Rover and Ranger unit of the university (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. A webinar on climate change

Sri Sri University offers B.Sc. (Hons) courses in Environmental Science and Agriculture, with a curriculum that includes subjects like Ecology, Biodiversity Conservation, and sustainable farming. These courses emphasize wildlife ecology, conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices. In addition to formal education, the university conducts numerous community outreach programs. For instance, a W20 discussion under G20 on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and biodiversity was held with local villagers. The university also hosted a webinar on Himalayan biodiversity and climate change and conducted farmer training on organic farming in collaboration with regional farming centers. These initiatives highlight the university's commitment to sustainability and community development, combining academic learning with real-world applications to address key environmental and agricultural challenges.

Biodiversity: Key Activities

Sustainable Farming

Sri Sri University demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainable farming through its well-defined food policy, which addresses critical aspects of environmental stewardship, such as the restoration of cultivable land, the elimination of agrochemicals, and the promotion of organic practices like *in-situ* composting and permaculture. The university's holistic approach integrates animal husbandry, medicinal gardening, soil rejuvenation, and afforestation, aligning these efforts with its mission to provide nutritious food for the well-being of both body and mind. By utilizing homemade natural fertilizers such as "Jeevamrit" and neem cakes, and by managing an organic animal farm that produces healthy milk and dairy products, the university successfully implements eco-friendly agricultural practices. The seasonal vegetables grown on campus are supplied to the common kitchen, reflecting a full-circle approach to sustainable food production. The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is strongly discouraged; instead, homemade fertilizers, cow dung, and homemade pesticides are employed (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Development of banana farm and vegetable garden

Biodiversity Protection

Sri Sri University's commitment to biodiversity preservation is evident through its continuous efforts both on and off campus. Regular plantation drives on degraded land and the transformation of barren patches into thriving ecosystems are key initiatives. These activities are supported by the Rover and Ranger Unit, the Farmer's Club, and the Faculty of Agriculture, demonstrating a strong

community focus on environmental sustainability. The university's efforts were recognized with the Parivesh Bandhu Award for its village plantation programs. Additionally, creative environmental awareness activities, like the drawing competition and participation in Van Mahotsav Week, engage the local community and students. With over 60 tree species, a variety of wildlife, and birdbath installations, the university has created a sanctuary for local biodiversity, reinforcing its dedication to environmental stewardship. Currently the campus sustain more than 7 mammalian, 90 bird, 25 herpetofauna, and 50 butterfly species (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Faunal diversity of Sri Sri University Campus



Fig. 4. Environment day

The university actively engages in a range of biodiversity conservation efforts on and off campus. A well-developed nursery provides a variety of saplings, which are used for plantation activities on campus and distributed to nearby villages. Environmental initiatives, such as plantation drives during World Environment Day, involve students and community members in restoring degraded land. Additionally, birdbath structures have been installed to support local wildlife, and regular monitoring of bird and butterfly species ensures ongoing conservation efforts (Fig. 4, 5).

Biodiversity survey and monitoring are regular practices on the Sri Sri University campus. The list of species is consistently updated, and all species undergo assessment for their conservation status based on the IUCN Red List. Sri Sri University places a strong focus on individual recovery plans, particularly emphasizing species that are threatened. Restoration plans for species aim to reach a point where they no longer require protection, leading to stabilized populations.

Sri Sri University is deeply committed to sustainable infrastructure practices, especially in building construction. The university prioritizes the use of degraded and abandoned land for development, aiming to protect local biodiversity. With a clear policy in place, it promotes green technology, green materials, and eco-friendly renovation. Rehabilitation of degraded land, the integration of local biodiversity in courtyards and backyards, and the development of green walls in academic buildings reflect this dedication. Additionally, abandoned quarries and dumping sites are being transformed into nurseries, gardens, and playgrounds.



Fig. 5. Plantation on degraded land

Habitat Restoration

Sri Sri University is deeply committed to sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and habitat restoration, as outlined in its well-defined policy. This policy focuses on the conservation of native species, promoting landscaping through native flowering plants, avenue trees, fruit trees, and soil-binding plants, as well as the protection of habitats and conservation of animal species. It undergoes an annual review to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with emerging conservation needs. The planting of exotic species without authorization is prohibited. The ornamental plants are grown in an enclosed area and students and staff are educated about the impact of alien species like *Lantana camara*. The university prioritizes native flora by removing invasive species mechanically and fostering a greener, more sustainable campus environment in alignment with its commitment to biodiversity and sustainability goals.

Outreach Programs and Awareness Campaigns

Sri Sri University actively engages in a range of extension programs aimed at educating local and national communities. These initiatives are spearheaded by the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Science, and different clubs. Notably, the university hosted a series of programs on climate

change and ethical concerns as part of the W20 initiative, which included discussions with villagers and workshops involving 62 village women leaders (Fig. 6). The university also organized a campaign against single-use plastic at Nandankanan Zoological Park to raise public awareness. Additionally, a webinar on Farmer's Day featured experts sharing insights with students and local farmers. Further, a webinar on soil restoration, led by the Faculty of Agriculture, focused on the role of diverse microbes in improving soil health. These programs underscore Sri Sri University's commitment to community outreach, sustainability, and environmental education.

Sri Sri University actively promotes environmental conservation through various community-based initiatives. A few activities are summarized in this section. On February 23, 2024, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology organized a massive beach cleaning drive at Puri, Odisha, in collaboration with institutions like KIIT, KISS, and SOA, involving 700 participants (Fig. 7). Additionally, in July 2023, the Rover and Ranger unit led multiple plantation drives in Nausahi, Sandhapur, and Ramdaspur villages of Odisha. These efforts brought together students, volunteers, and local villagers to enhance green cover and foster environmental stewardship on community lands. Such initiatives reflect the university's commitment to sustainability and community engagement.



Fig. 6. W20 (G20) program in a village



Fig. 7. Beach cleaning program at Puri

Waste Management

Sri Sri University is committed to execute the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' principles of waste management and environmentally sound disposal of the waste. The university has implemented a

comprehensive water reuse policy that ensures the safety of drinking, treated, and disposed water on campus. The university has established rainwater harvesting systems and various water treatment plants, including a new sewage treatment plant (STP) with a capacity of 250 MLD. The treated water from rainwater, sewage, and effluent plants is utilized for agricultural, horticultural, and silvicultural purposes (Fig. 8).

Sri Sri University is committed to create a plastic-free campus. Key actions include the complete ban on single-use plastics, the promotion of eco-friendly alternatives like jute and cotton bags, and the use of areca leaf plates and steel tumblers at events. The university has set up a robust recycling infrastructure with strategically placed dry waste bins for plastic disposal and recycling (Fig. 9). Sri Sri University has implemented a robust Hazardous Waste Policy that aligns with the Hazardous and Other Rules, related to the wastes. This policy ensures the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials across the campus, including waste generated from laboratories, hospitals, and construction sites. The waste is carefully segregated, monitored, and handled by licensed contractors (Fig. 10).



Fig. 8. A new STP



Fig. 9. Jute bag



Fig. 10. Waste segregation in the lab

Policies

For the smooth execution of all activities related to the biodiversity conservation, protection, restoration, and management, outreach programs, the development of a green campus, waste management, and the sustainability, the university has formulated a few policies and guidelines. The policies are reviewed, and revised every year, if required. A list of policies are given below:

1. Policy on sustainably farmed food
2. Restoration ecology and sustainability policy

3. Monitoring IUCN and other conservation species
4. Alien species reduction policy
5. Water reuse policy
6. Plastic use policy
7. Hazardous waste policy

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

Conclusion

Sri Sri University exemplifies its commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices through a multifaceted approach encompassing education, outreach, community engagement, and sustainable development. Recognizing the pivotal role of terrestrial biodiversity

in maintaining ecological balance, the university integrates sustainability principles into its academic programs, operational policies, and community initiatives, aligning closely with SDG15: Life on Land.

Through its courses in Environmental Science and Agriculture, the university fosters an academic understanding of biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming, preparing future leaders to address environmental challenges. Complementing formal education, outreach programs, such as village training sessions and webinars on biodiversity, ensure the dissemination of knowledge to local and regional communities.

Sri Sri University's innovative practices, including organic farming, in-situ composting, and permaculture, underscore its focus on sustainable food production. The campus itself serves as a living example of biodiversity conservation, hosting a variety of native flora and fauna while systematically monitoring species and adopting restoration plans for those under threat. Community-focused initiatives, such as plantation drives, beach cleanups, and environmental awareness campaigns, highlight the university's dedication to engaging with stakeholders beyond the campus. Policy frameworks, such as water reuse and hazardous waste management, support sustainable practices and align with broader environmental goals.

Through clubs like the Eco Club and Birding Club, the university fosters a culture of environmental awareness among students, faculty, and staff. Its prohibition of invasive species and emphasis on native flora reflect a thoughtful approach to ecological restoration. The integration of green building practices and utilization of degraded land further demonstrate its commitment to sustainability.

Sri Sri University's impactful work in biodiversity conservation not only contributes to SDG15 but also strengthens its connections to other SDGs, such as Zero Hunger, Clean Water, and Climate Action. With its holistic approach and innovative strategies, the university continues to serve as a model for integrating academic excellence with environmental stewardship, creating a sustainable and thriving ecosystem both on and off campus.