SDG 2: Zero Hunger



Crop Research and Production

The University continues to pursue research and development strategies to support food security within the institution and the surrounding community. In 2025, the university integrated agricultural technologies into crop production, aiming to enhance crop quality, boost yields, and strengthen climate resilience. Specifically, the Department of Research and Development (DRD), in collaboration with BioPrime Corporation, has successfully produced naturally sweeter and more nutritious honeydews through the use of bio nano-fertilizers. The DRD also initiated the “Harvest Happiness Program”, which offers free vegetable picking for employees, students, visitors, and those in need. This initiative champions environmental sustainability, food security, and community empowerment by providing nutritious and locally grown produce to the public.

Furthermore, TAU secured accreditation form the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) to produce inbred rice seeds. This accreditation serves as a testament to the high quality of rice seeds produced by the University, ensuring farmers have access to affordable and high-performing rice varieties. Most importantly, this initiative contributes to the achievement of food self-sufficiency through sustainable farming process. In line with these efforts, TAU entered into significant partnership agreements with government and industry partners.

The collaboration with Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) focuses on the developing of science-based, location-specific fertilizers for key-rice producing provinces, ensuring higher productivity and improved soil management under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Seed Program. This is complemented by a partnership with the TAU Multipurpose Cooperative and Verde Carbon Capture Inc., which focuses on reducing methane emissions in rice production through the Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) method.



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Sweetpotato

The Rootcrops Research and Training Center (RRTC) recently secured its re-accreditation certificate of its sweetpotato nursery from the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI). This accreditation certifies that the University's nursery produces healthy, virus-free Sweetpotato Clean Planting Materials (SP-CPM) for various varieties such as VSp-6, UPL Sp6, SG 96-35-03, JK 018, and JK 027. Currently, the RRTC maintains 24 sweetpotato varieties within its germplasm collection. Recent operational milestones include the harvest of 8,925 cuttings, the planting of 5,717 mother plants, and the successful acclimatization of 7,442 tissue culture plantlets.

As sweetpotato is one of the banner commodities of the University, the RRTC continues to innovate by developing sweetpotato-based food products that offer higher nutritional value compared to traditional wheat-based alternatives. By successfully substituting sweetpotato as a primary ingredient in products such as buchi, polvoron, cookies, and brownies, the Center demonstrates the versatility of this rootcrop. This innovation integrates significant value addition to a humble staple, supports sustainable utilization, and advances food sufficiency in the community.

Nourishing the Mind

TAU continues to empower stakeholders to achieve food security through strategic training, partnership, and education. In 2025, the University collaborated with Zennor Hydroponics Farm to explore agricultural advancement opportunities and partnered with the Taiwan Technical Mission to strengthen capacity-building initiatives for small farmers in sustainable farming solutions. Furthermore, TAU engaged with the Kapisanan ng Magsasaka ng Bogtong Silag to introduce modern farming techniques to local practitioners.

A notable highlight of the year was the TAU Vegetable Derby and Harvest Festival, organized in coordination with the Philippine Seed Industry Association, the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III), and various industry partners. This event showcased cutting-edge farming technologies using hybrid seeds, making fresh, high-quality produce available for purchase to stakeholders.

Beyond technical outreach, student involvement remains a key thrust of the University in promoting food security, ensuring that minds are nurtured along with the community's physical needs. In 2025, TAU produced 490 graduates in agriculture and sustainability-related programs. These graduates are equipped with the technical expertise and practical skills necessary to contribute significantly to the nation's pursuit of food security.



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Highlights



Rice Planting Days

As the College of Agriculture and Forestry (CAF) and the Business and Auxiliary Services (BAS) Office collaborate to host Rice Planting Days, September 16–18, 2025. Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) staff and students are exchanging their office and classroom duties for fieldwork.

This practical exercise gives participants a rare chance to learn about the everyday challenges faced by farmers and gain firsthand knowledge of both traditional and contemporary methods of rice cultivation.



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Organic Vegetable Production by BSA Students



Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU)-College of Agriculture and Forestry (CAF) is glad to present well-maintained and various types of crops, produced by the organic methods of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) students, 26 April 2025.

As one of the requirements in the practicum class, second-year BSA students use their knowledge learned in class for crop production and sustainable agriculture in general, with the help of their respective BSA professors.

Moreover, Dr. Sinamar E. Estudillo, who is the Dean of CAF, fully supports the activity during the site inspection of the CAF vegetable garden. The future harvests would also be available to the TAU community.



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Harvest Festival and SMART Agriculture Center Activities



Emphasizing the integration of traditional and innovative methods, the Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) organizes the Harvest Festival and invites visitors to the SMART Agriculture Center during the university's 80th year of establishment celebration, 18 December 2025.

This includes the harvest festival as one of TAU's contributions to the vegetable derby that showcases the variety of agricultural products from various seed companies and assists the farmers to determine the type of seeds suited for the locality.

The program also featured different food and merchandise booths in front of the TAU Multipurpose Center that exhibits agricultural products, technology, and services of various organizations and partner firms.

Moreover, TAU offered a glimpse into the SMART Agriculture Center for visiting delegates who will see first-hand the use of technology in agriculture through precision agriculture equipment, data-based decision-making systems, and modern methods of production.

