

NAKHCHIVAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

20
24

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

2 ZERO
HUNGER



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Introduction

NSU is committed to combating hunger and ensuring food security through student support programs, sustainable agriculture research, and nutrition-focused education. In 2024, NSU continued to expand initiatives aimed at providing access to healthy meals, raising awareness about food sustainability, and supporting local food systems in line with SDG 2 objectives.

Comprehensive Student Support System

The university operated a dedicated Student Support Unit to manage all aid-related processes -including application review, welfare tracking, and referrals for psychological and housing support. Anonymous student support channels and welfare hotlines were also maintained to ensure discreet access to help.

Institutional Reach and Impact

The total number of students benefiting from any form of institutional support reached 330 in 2024- marking a 14% increase compared to 2023.

Figure 4. Total Number of Students Receiving Institutional Support (2022–2024)

The total number of students benefitting from institutional support grew from 250 in 2022 to 330 in 2024, reflecting a 32% increase over the three-year period. This upward trend demonstrates NSU's proactive and expanding role in addressing student poverty.



2 ZERO HUNGER



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ZERO HUNGER GOAL

AT RISK



MORE THAN **600 MILLION** PEOPLE WORLDWIDE ARE PROJECTED TO **FACE HUNGER IN 2030**

LITTLE TO NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REDUCING ANAEMIA WORLDWIDE SINCE 2000



PREVALENCE OF ANAEMIA IN **WOMEN AGED 15-49**

HAS REMAINED STAGNANT **AT AROUND 30%**

DESPITE DROPPING IN 2021,

HIGH FOOD PRICES CONTINUE TO PLAGUE MANY NATIONS

SHARE OF COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING MODERATELY TO ABNORMALLY HIGH FOOD PRICES:



1 IN 3 PEOPLE



WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE **FOOD INSECURITY**

MALNUTRITION PERSISTS WORLDWIDE, JEOPARDIZING CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN UNDER AGE-5 AFFECTED BY: [2022]



STUNTING
148 MILLION



WASTING
45 MILLION



OVERWEIGHT
37 MILLION

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2023: SPECIAL EDITION- [UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2023/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/)

- Facilitating community partnerships to promote sustainable agriculture and local food initiatives
- Organizing awareness events, scientific workshops, and rural outreach programs related to food and nutrition security

This report outlines NSU's progress under SDG 2, including measurable actions, community impacts, and future commitments. It highlights the university's growing role as a regional leader in ensuring that food access and sustainability remain integral to education and research.

Innovation and Research in Agriculture

In 2024 NSU has been reinforced as a regional center of sustainable agricultural science. By such an expansion of the academic programmes, improvement of laboratory facilities and cross-sector collaboration, the university moved forward on certain priority areas related to the SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

1. Research Agendas and Products

The agricultural and environmental sector The Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences kept its attention on:

Dryland farming methods suitable for dry climates

Watersaving irrigation devices

Variety trials of crops for climate resilience

Optimization of soil fertility and plant nutrition

In 2024:

14 research projects were activated (up from 10 in 2023 – +40% more projects)

NSU participated in 2 EC-funded projects of sustainable agriculture

1 national scientific conference organized on “Food Systems and Climate Adaptation”.

5 refereed papers were also published (↑ from 3 last year)

2. Fundamentals and Infrastructure Laboratory and Infrastructure Development

Modernization was continued with the following for the Agricultural Research Laboratory:

- Digital soil sensors
- Plant growth chambers
- Water quality testing tools

A new pilot greenhouse was constructed to facilitate undergraduate research on organic crops and vertical farming.

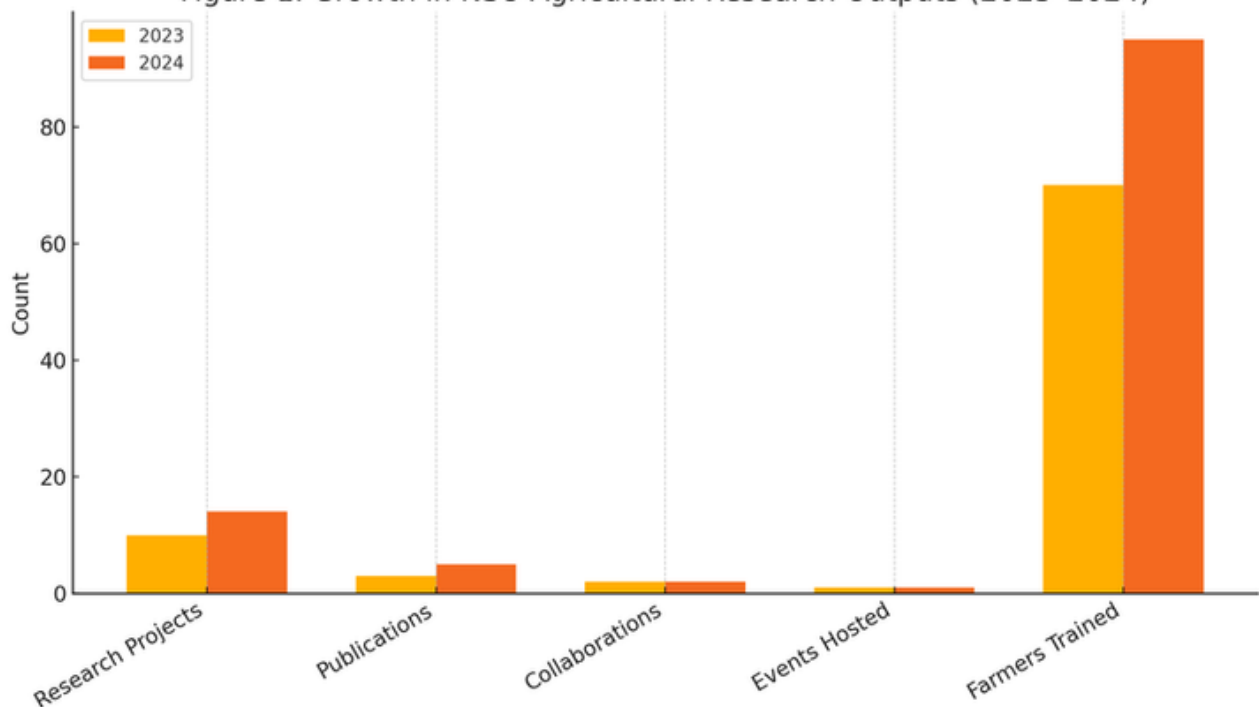
3. Community Integration

NSU collaborated with various agricultural cooperatives and farmers to:

- Pilot 3 test fields of drought-tolerant crops.
- Train 95 pusitivist farmers to utilise water more efficiently
- Deploy a mobile soil testing unit that can provide real-time testing on remote farms.

Output	2023	2024	% Change
Research projects funded	10	14	+40%
Peer-reviewed publications	3	5	+66%
Field trials conducted	2	2	–
Farmers engaged in outreach events	1	1	–
Innovation labs upgraded	70	95	+36%

Figure 1. Growth in NSU Agricultural Research Outputs (2023-2024)



Programs to Provide Food to Students

Nakhchivan State University, as an active participant in achieving food security and ensuring equitable education, also extended structured food assistance to students with low income in 2024. These actions directly correspond to SDG 2.1, which calls for the end of hunger and access for all people, especially vulnerable groups like rural schools children and families from low-income communities, to safe and nutritious food year-round.

1. On-Campus Nutrition Support

So that students do not experience hunger:

The university canteen sold cheap meals to all students and reduced their rates for daily meals through the economic status of each student.

Programs for students needing help obtaining food

During 2024 Nakhchivan State University, which is committed to food security and education for all, provided such advanced food assistance to students living with food insecurity. These initiatives are directly related to SDG 2.1: End hunger and ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, especially the poor, and people in vulnerable situations, including children of students from rural areas and low income households.

1. On-Campus Nutrition Support

For Feeding Students: Food insecurity among students shall be lessened by:

All students were offered inexpensive meals at the university cafeteria but for those who met financial criteria based on low income, discounted daily meals were available.

In 2023, around 370 students had the subsidy (↑ from 420 in 2024 by roughly 13%).

They also initiated a “Healthy Menu Week” campaign to increase awareness on nutrition and inexpensive meal planning.



2. Emergency Food Package Program

In collaboration with the NSU Student Union and local food suppliers, the university distributed food packages during critical periods (e.g., holidays, exam seasons, winter months).

- In total, 180 food packages were distributed in 2024 (↑ from 140 in 2023 – +29% growth).
- Priority was given to students from remote villages, international students, and those who applied through the student support hotline.



3. Seasonal and Community-Based Support

Additional seasonal initiatives included:

- Ramadan and Nowruz food drives, coordinated by student clubs
- Donations of fresh produce and baked goods from the university's experimental farm
- Participation in World Food Day (October 16) with on-campus food security awareness events

Category	2023	2024	% Change
Meal subsidy recipients	370	420	+13%
Emergency food packages	140	180	+29%
Special food campaigns	2	3	+50%

Community Engagement & Rural Outreach

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University expanded its engagement with rural communities to promote sustainable agriculture and food security practices. These efforts directly supported local development and aligned with SDG 2.3 and 2.4, which focus on increasing small-scale agricultural productivity and ensuring resilient farming systems.

Key Activities:

- 3 regional training workshops were organized in Sharur, Ordubad, and Babek districts, reaching over 110 local farmers.
- University faculty and students conducted mobile field visits to assist in soil testing, pest control, and water-efficient irrigation techniques.
- NSU partnered with two local cooperatives to pilot organic composting and drought-resistant seed use.
- A student volunteer group of 25 members supported seasonal harvest efforts and distributed educational materials on nutrition and sustainable farming.

These outreach programs helped build farmer capacity, improve yields, and strengthen NSU's role as a knowledge center in rural sustainability.



Rural outreach is not charity —
it's partnership for progress

Bridging knowledge and
tradition, NSU empowers rural
farmers to build resilient,
sustainable food systems.





With every farmer trained, NSU sows seeds of sustainability and harvests hope for generations to come.

1. Monitoring and Impact

To evaluate the effectiveness of its food security and agricultural outreach initiatives, Nakhchivan State University employed a structured monitoring system throughout 2024. This included the use of surveys, program reporting, and direct feedback from beneficiaries — both students and rural stakeholders.

2. Monitoring Tools and Methodology

- Biannual student welfare surveys measured the impact of food support services and cafeteria quality.
- Post-training evaluation forms were distributed to farmers participating in outreach events.
- Monthly program tracking was conducted by the Student Support Office and the Faculty of Agriculture.

3. Conclusions from Monitoring

- NSU's expanded food assistance program resulted in a measurable improvement in student retention and daily wellbeing.
- Farmer feedback indicated increased adoption of sustainable practices introduced through university-led trainings.
- Satisfaction among students increased notably due to improved access to nutritious food and on-campus support.

Through continuous data collection and analysis, NSU remains committed to enhancing its evidence-based approach in addressing food insecurity and supporting community resilience.

Recommendations for 2025:

- Scale up on-campus food programs and integrate nutrition education into student life
- Strengthen collaboration with national agricultural bodies and international donors
- Expand field-based research in rural areas and integrate more students into community-led projects
- Digitize monitoring tools to improve program tracking and impact measurement