



AZƏRBAYCAN
TEKNOLOGIYA
UNİVERSİTETİ

Azerbaijan Technological University

REPORT ON

SDG 2: Zero Hunger



**End hunger, achieve
food security and
improved nutrition
and promote
sustainable agriculture**

Introduction

The Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) is actively contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2: Zero Hunger, through its focus on food science and technology. The university's Food Engineering Faculty is at the core of this effort, conducting research and training specialists to improve food security and sustainable agricultural practices in Azerbaijan. This faculty emphasizes innovation in food processing, safety, and environmental protection, aligning with the global mission to reduce hunger and promote sustainable agriculture. Additionally, ATU collaborates on international projects that aim to address issues related to hunger and sustainable development, such as the REFRESH project, which focuses on food sustainability and waste reduction. These initiatives reflect the university's commitment to solving local and global food security challenges through education, research, and international cooperation. By training professionals in these fields and engaging in relevant research, ATU is positioning itself as a key player in supporting SDG 2 at both the national and regional levels.

1. Campus Initiatives: Canteens and Sustainable Food Choices

In addition to its efforts in food science and sustainability, Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) contributes to SDG 2: Zero Hunger through its campus canteens, which offer a range of food options that cater to various dietary needs. Currently, there is no food waste monitoring at cafeterias but Azerbaijan Technological University working on this issue mutually with food providers and will measure food waste in the next academic year.

The canteens focus on providing balanced meals, and there is an increasing emphasis on introducing vegetarian and vegan choices. These options promote health-conscious and sustainable eating habits, which align with the university's goals for addressing food security and reducing hunger. By offering plant-based meals, ATU supports not only local food security but also global sustainability initiatives by reducing the environmental impact of meat consumption. Vegetarian and vegan meals are part of a broader strategy to promote sustainable consumption within the campus, contributing to healthier and more sustainable food systems.

In another hand, Student Union Committee (SUC) and Student Youth Organization (SYO) which are in partnership with university delivers lunch discount vouchers for low-income students.



2. Key Forums and Events

This initiative complements ATU's academic and research focus on food engineering, particularly in developing innovative approaches to food production that align with sustainable agriculture.

The Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) reinforced its commitment to food security and sustainability through the "Food Industry and Food Safety" forum, held in 2023 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev. This forum, jointly organized by ATU and the Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute (AQTI), was held at the Heydar Aliyev Center and focused on critical discussions about food safety and sustainable food systems. Local food industry leaders, such as the Gabala Canning Plant, Azgranata Juice and Wine Processing Plant, and Gama/Orzax Company, supported the two-part forum. The participation of these companies underlined the importance of collaborative efforts between academic institutions and the food industry to address issues like food safety, sustainability, and hunger alleviation. This forum aligns with ATU's academic and research initiatives aimed at supporting Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) by enhancing food security, promoting innovative food technologies, and ensuring access to safe and nutritious foods.

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Another significant event was the **"Viticulture and Winemaking Development Forum"**, held in partnership with the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ganja Destination Management Organization, AzGranata LLC, and Shirvan Wines LLC. This forum, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, brought together representatives from local and international scientific communities, higher education institutions, and industry experts from Turkey and Spain. Discussions focused on advancing the viticulture and winemaking sectors, crucial components of Azerbaijan's agricultural economy. The collaboration between industry and academia at this event underlined the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in ensuring food security.



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Student Internships and Industry Partnerships

ATU offers students opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the food industry through internships with local leading companies. These internships, which are an essential part of the students' education, are designed to help them apply theoretical knowledge to practical settings, enhancing their understanding of food production and safety.

Students have the opportunity to intern with key players in Azerbaijan's food industry, including:

- ATS Food
- Gabala Canning Plant
- AzGranata Juice and Wine Processing Plant
- Shirvan Wine Plant

- Ganja Wine-2
- Ganja Mill

These internships provide valuable experience in food processing, safety standards, and sustainable production methods. By engaging with industry leaders, students gain insights into both local and global food security challenges and become better equipped to address issues of hunger and sustainability.

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Future goals

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) aims to strengthen its role in contributing to SDG 2: Zero Hunger through the following future goals:

Expand Research in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

ATU will continue to expand its research in innovative and sustainable agricultural practices, focusing on improving food production efficiency and reducing waste. Future projects will explore climate-resilient crops, sustainable food processing technologies, and alternative sources of nutrition. The university plans to deepen collaborations with local and international research institutions to drive innovation in food systems.

Enhance Student Engagement in Food Security Initiatives

ATU will prioritize involving more students in food security projects and initiatives. This includes increasing participation in internships with local food industry leaders such as ATS Food, Gabala Canning Plant, and AzGranata Juice and Wine Processing Plant. These internships will help students apply their academic knowledge in real-world settings, while contributing to solving food security issues at the local and national levels.

Develop Specialized Programs Focused on Food Security and Sustainability

ATU intends to introduce new academic programs and courses specifically tailored to address food security, sustainability, and climate change impacts on agriculture. These programs will equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop innovative solutions to food security challenges, aligning with both national priorities and global SDG 2 goals.

Promote Sustainable Practices on Campus

ATU plans to further promote sustainable consumption and production practices within its campus. By increasing the availability of plant-based meals (vegetarian and vegan options) in campus canteens, the university aims to reduce its environmental footprint and foster a culture of sustainability among students and staff. ATU will also explore waste reduction strategies, including composting and food waste management, to minimize its environmental impact.

Strengthen Partnerships with the Food Industry and International Organizations

Building on existing collaborations, ATU aims to strengthen partnerships with local food companies, government bodies, and international organizations. This includes participating in more joint forums and projects, such as the "Food Industry and Food Safety" forum and the "Viticulture and Winemaking Development Forum." These partnerships will enable ATU to contribute to policy development, industry standards, and innovations in food security and sustainable agriculture.

Lead Community Outreach Programs on Nutrition and Food Access

ATU plans to engage more actively with local communities through outreach programs that focus on improving access to nutritious food, especially in underprivileged areas. This could include educational campaigns, workshops on sustainable farming practices, and partnerships with NGOs to support local food banks and food distribution initiatives.

Through these future goals, ATU aims to continue making meaningful contributions to SDG 2 by fostering innovation, education, and collaboration to address hunger and promote sustainable agriculture.

Azerbaijan Technological University's efforts to advance food security and sustainable agriculture through education, research, and collaboration are key contributions to achieving SDG 2: Zero Hunger. From offering sustainable food options on campus to hosting forums that bring together industry and academic leaders, ATU is dedicated to fostering a future where hunger is reduced and food systems are made more resilient and sustainable.

