

POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC FOOD SOURCING POLICY

1. PROLOGUE

Cochin University have a strong policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably and properly harvested. This policy applies to all food service operations, cafeterias, and procurement activities related to aquatic food products within CUSAT, binding on all staff, students, and contracted food service providers.

2. OBJECTIVE

To ensure that all aquatic food products procured and served within the university campus are sourced through sustainable harvesting practices while maintaining environmental responsibility and social accountability.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

3.1 Sustainable Sourcing Requirements:

- All seafood and aquatic food products must be sourced from suppliers who demonstrate compliance with sustainable fishing practices
- Priority shall be given to products from certified aquaculture operations and regulated capture fisheries
- Avoid products obtained through destructive fishing methods such as drift nets that result in significant bycatch.

3.2 Environmental Considerations:

- Ensure minimal negative environmental impact from sourcing activities
- Preference for products with eco-labels and lower carbon footprints
- Support suppliers implementing resource-efficient practices

3.3 Supplier Requirements:

- Suppliers must demonstrate ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) compliance
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of supplier practices
- Documentation of sustainable harvesting methods and supply chain transparency

3.4 Local Sourcing:

- Prioritize local suppliers where feasible
- Support small and medium enterprises in the local fishing community
- Reduce transportation-related environmental impact

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

4.1 Research and Development:

- Conduct regular research on sustainable aquatic food sources
- Monitor food supplies from aquatic sources
- Assess environmental impact of procurement practices

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement:

- Collaborate with academic community for guidance on best practices
- Regular consultation with sustainable fishing experts
- Engage with suppliers for continuous improvement

5. REVIEW AND UPDATES

- Annual review of policy effectiveness
- Regular updates to align with evolving sustainable practices
- Continuous improvement of procurement outcomes

6. COMPLIANCE

All procurement activities must comply with this policy in conjunction with other university procurement procedures and relevant regulations. This policy shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure continued effectiveness and alignment with sustainable practices.