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## University Campuses as Seedbeds for Fighting Hunger and Co-engineering Food Security in the Wider Community- Case Studies

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### Abstract

The recent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations as well as the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have all sought to end poverty and hunger, improve health and education, make cities more sustainable, and combat climate change inter alia. That hunger continues to feature prominently indicates that there are still considerable challenges in the goal of ensuring unimpeded access by all people, especially the poor and people in vulnerable conditions, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food yearly. In South Africa, it is estimated that one in four people experience hunger on a regular basis with more than half of the populace at risk of hunger; such that food expenditure takes a great proportion of household income. Universities are a microcosm of society. They provide a platform to quality education, social innovation, opportunities and advancement. One area where such innovation is needed is in the Global South where the issue of security is urgent. Moreover the challenges of the larger society resonate on our campuses; hence the phenomenon of hunger cum the impacts of climate change is felt equally on our university campuses. In a bid to stem the tide of hunger and promote food security a number of universities across the globe are developing community food gardens as bottom up strategies for addressing the food security and championing healthy nutrition. Drawing on case studies from some universities across the globe, the study uses key informant interviews, focus group discussions and literature reviews to investigate this phenomenon and the factors that support such successful initiatives on university campuses

**Keywords:** Community food gardens, food security, policy framework, sustainable development, university campuses