

7.1.5 Green campus initiatives

7.1.5.1 The institutional initiatives for greening the campus

The campus promotes sustainable transportation by implementing restricted entry of vehicles, encouraging the use of bicycles, and creating pedestrian-friendly pathways. This helps reduce carbon emissions and promotes active lifestyles among the campus community.

To minimize plastic waste and its harmful impact on the environment, the institution has implemented a ban on the use of plastic on campus. This includes the promotion of reusable alternatives and the proper disposal of plastic waste.

The campus is designed with thoughtfully landscaped areas, incorporating green spaces such as gardens and parks. This not only enhances the aesthetics of the campus but also promotes biodiversity and provides a pleasant environment for the campus community.

Overall, these initiatives contribute to the creation of a greener and more sustainable campus, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and providing a healthier and eco-friendly space for students, faculty, and staff.

Pedestrian friendly pathways

Through a detailed survey it was found that there is a growing demand for ornamentals and fruit tree saplings for the on-campus planting, local community and partner institutes. A major initiative to regenerate indigenous tree species such as *Morinda citrifolia* (Noni), *Syzygium cumini* (Njaval), *Syzygium jambos* (Rose apple), *Bunchosia glandulifera* (peanut butter fruit), *Garcinia gummi-gutta* (Camboge), *Phyllanthus emblica* (Gooseberry) was undertaken under the initiative of the Campus Beautification Committee of the Institution.

A pilot plantation of the species in the herbal garden of Union Christian College under the supervision of Research Scholars of the Department of Botany was carried out in a student-friendly manner with pedestrian friendly pathways.

Ban on use of plastic

Even though a complete ban on plastic is not declared, the NCC, NSS, Service Learning Centre and Campus Beautification committee jointly organizes plastic audit program in every 3-6 months, during which thrown away plastics are gathered and handed over for proper disposal.

However, such plastic audits could not be undertaken during the academic year 2020-21 owing to COVID restrictions and lockdown.

Landscaping

Over 200 varieties of ornamental plants which fall under *Dracaena* (25 + varieties), Croton (25 + varieties), *Ixora* (5 + varieties), *Tabernaemontana* (5 + varieties), Spiral gingers (5 + varieties), Pandanus (5 + varieties). Lilly (10 + varieties), Water lily (5 + varieties), Crassulaceans (10 + varieties) and over 100+ assorted flowering plants are planted on the campus. Over 10000 ornamental plants were raised and planted in the campus as a part of greening the campus.

Rooting and cultivation technology for *Schefflera arboricola*, *Graptophyllum pictum*, *Excoecaria cochinchinensis*, *Coleus scutellarioides*, *Dracaena* white, Red leaf edged dracaena, lucky bamboo, *Coleus* white and geranium aralia was developed by 7 students of BSc Botany. Biological methods for reducing invasion of apple snails in UCC campus is fast in progress.

Faculty members of the Department of Botany serve as consultants for the medicinal and aromatic plant garden in the Government Lower Primary School (Chamaparambu), Kadungalloor (Local school). Members also support the herbal garden in the School for the Blind, Keezhmadu, Aluva.



Reclamation of 50 cents barren area





Pathways



Land scaping