Policy on Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building in Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Aquaculture

BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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1. Preamble

Brainware University recognizes that higher education institutions can contribute to sustainable and resilient local food systems by creating structured opportunities for interaction between academic communities and local farmers, food producers, agricultural practitioners, producer groups, self-help groups, food entrepreneurs and allied community stakeholders. Such engagement enables knowledge exchange, practical learning, dissemination of appropriate technologies, awareness of sustainable agricultural practices and improved understanding of food security and nutrition.

This Policy establishes an institutional framework for organizing and supporting events through which the University facilitates two-way knowledge transfer with local farmers and food producers. The Policy is intended to strengthen community engagement and contribute to **SDG 2 - Zero Hunger** through education, outreach, innovation, sustainable food practices and responsible community partnerships.

2. Policy Statement

Brainware University shall provide, facilitate, support or collaborate in organizing events and knowledge-sharing activities for local farmers and food producers to transfer relevant academic, scientific, technological and practical knowledge to the community while also bringing community knowledge and local practices into the University's teaching, research and extension ecosystem.

The University shall promote inclusive, practical and need-based engagement and shall maintain documentary evidence of activities, beneficiaries, knowledge themes, participation and outcomes for institutional quality assurance, sustainability reporting and SDG-related reporting.

3. Objectives

- Facilitate regular interaction between faculty members, students, researchers and local farmers/food producers.
- Transfer practical knowledge relating to sustainable agriculture, food production, post-harvest management, food safety, nutrition, digital technologies, water management, climate resilience and allied areas.
- Provide opportunities for local producers to demonstrate traditional knowledge, local practices, indigenous techniques and community innovations.
- Support awareness and adoption of appropriate technologies and evidence-based practices.

- Promote entrepreneurship, value addition, food processing, market awareness and digital market access where relevant.
- Strengthen community-based learning, student projects, internships, field visits and extension activities.
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among agriculture-related, engineering, management, life science, food, environmental, social science and other relevant disciplines.
- Create measurable institutional evidence of contribution to food security, sustainable food systems and community capacity building.

4. Scope

The Policy may cover engagement with:

- Individual farmers and small/marginal farmers.
- Local food producers, food processors and value-addition enterprises.
- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives and producer groups.
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs), community-based organisations and rural entrepreneurs.
- Agricultural extension workers, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, government agencies and technical experts.
- Local food businesses and sustainable food-system stakeholders.
- Community institutions and NGOs working in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

5. Permissible Institutional Activities

Activity	Indicative Focus
Farmer Knowledge Workshops	Workshops on sustainable cultivation, soil health, water conservation, climate-resilient practices, pest management, farm mechanisation, digital agriculture and related topics.
Food Producer Training	Sessions on food processing, preservation, packaging, food safety, quality management, value addition, branding and market readiness.
Demonstration and Field Events	Demonstration of appropriate technologies, prototypes, laboratory-supported practices, irrigation solutions, renewable-energy applications or other relevant innovations.

Knowledge Exchange Meets	Structured interaction between faculty/researchers and farmers or food producers for exchange of academic and experiential knowledge.
Expert Talks and Extension Lectures	Invited sessions by subject experts, practitioners, government agencies, agricultural scientists and experienced producers.
Exposure Visits	Visits by farmers/food producers to relevant University laboratories, facilities, demonstration sites or innovation centres, subject to safety and operational requirements.
Community Innovation Clinics	Problem-identification and problem-solving sessions in which local producers present field challenges and University experts/students explore feasible solutions.
Student–Farmer Engagement	Field-based projects, internships, surveys, technology demonstrations and community-learning activities involving students and local producers.
Entrepreneurship and Market Linkage Events	Awareness programmes on value addition, entrepreneurship, digital platforms, financial literacy, market access and business development.
Food and Sustainability Awareness Events	Programmes addressing sustainable food choices, food waste reduction, nutrition, responsible consumption and resilient local food systems.

6. Knowledge Transfer Themes

- Sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- Soil health, composting, organic inputs and efficient resource use.
- Water conservation, irrigation efficiency and rainwater management.
- Crop planning, integrated pest management and biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Post-harvest management, storage, processing and value addition.
- Food safety, hygiene, quality assurance and responsible food handling.
- Nutrition, food security and locally appropriate food systems.
- Digital agriculture, data-based decision-making and use of information technology.
- Renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies relevant to agriculture and food production.
- Entrepreneurship, branding, packaging, market access and digital commerce.

- Waste reduction, circular economy approaches and sustainable food practices.
- Appropriate innovations emerging from university research and community practice.

7. Principles of Engagement

- Need-based engagement: activities should respond to identified community needs rather than being limited to one-way dissemination.
- Two-way knowledge exchange: local knowledge and farmer experience shall be treated as valuable inputs to institutional learning.
- Accessibility and inclusion: activities should, as far as practicable, be accessible to small producers, women producers, youth, producer groups and economically vulnerable participants.
- Practical orientation: demonstrations, examples and hands-on learning should be encouraged wherever feasible.
- Scientific integrity: technical information disseminated by the University should be evidence-based and appropriately reviewed.
- No compulsory commercial participation: University engagement shall not require participants to purchase products or services from the University.
- Responsible data handling: personal information and photographs shall be collected and used in accordance with applicable institutional requirements and consent practices.
- Sustainability: activities should promote resource efficiency, environmental responsibility and long-term community benefit.

8. Institutional Responsibilities

Unit/Role	Key Responsibilities
IQAC / Nodal Unit	Maintain policy oversight, reporting framework, evidence register, annual review and quality monitoring.
Academic Departments	Identify relevant expertise, faculty coordinators, knowledge themes, demonstrations and student participation.
Extension/Community Engagement/UBA Units	Coordinate community contacts, field activities, beneficiary identification and outreach logistics.
Faculty Coordinators	Design sessions, ensure technical quality, maintain participant and activity records, and prepare activity reports.

Students	Participate in approved fieldwork, demonstrations, surveys, projects and knowledge-sharing activities under faculty supervision.
Administration	Provide logistical support, approvals, venues and other institutional resources as appropriate.
Partner Organisations	Support community mobilisation, technical expertise, field coordination and follow-up, where applicable.

9. Event Planning and Approval Procedure

- Identify the local farmer/food producer group and the community need or knowledge gap.
- Prepare a brief activity proposal specifying objectives, topic, target participants, resource persons, venue, proposed date and expected outcomes.
- Obtain approval through the University's applicable institutional process.
- Identify suitable faculty experts, practitioners or external resource persons.
- Conduct the event using participatory methods such as demonstrations, discussions, practical sessions, question-and-answer sessions or field-based learning.
- Record participation and collect feedback wherever appropriate.
- Document knowledge transferred, issues raised by participants and immediate outcomes.
- Where feasible, undertake follow-up activities to assess whether knowledge was applied or whether further technical support is required.
- Archive the evidence in the designated institutional repository/evidence register.

10. Documentation and Evidence Requirements

Evidence Item	Minimum Information
Event Notice/Proposal	Title, objective, date, venue, organising unit and target group.
Programme Schedule	Session topics, resource persons and timings.
Participant Record	Names/identification of participant group, category and number of participants, subject to applicable privacy requirements.
Photographic Evidence	Photographs showing the activity, interaction, demonstration or facility use, with appropriate consent/permissions.
Knowledge Transfer Record	Topics covered, methods used and key technical/practical messages.

Feedback	Participant feedback or structured response, where feasible.
Outcome Report	Activities conducted, participation, key outcomes, challenges and follow-up requirements.
Follow-up Evidence	Subsequent visits, adoption feedback, additional training or problem-solving support, where applicable.
Partnership Evidence	Letters, MoUs, collaboration records or correspondence, where applicable.
Annual Consolidation	Number of events, participants, thematic areas, communities reached and outcomes.

11. Monitoring Indicators

- Number of farmer/food producer engagement events conducted annually.
- Number of local farmers and food producers participating.
- Number of villages/communities or producer groups reached.
- Number of faculty members and students engaged.
- Number of knowledge themes covered.
- Number of demonstrations, training sessions and field-based activities.
- Number of follow-up interventions conducted.
- Participant satisfaction/feedback indicators.
- Documented cases of knowledge application, adoption or community problem-solving, where evidence is available.
- Number of collaborative programmes with government agencies, NGOs, FPOs, cooperatives or other stakeholders.

12. Outcome and Impact Assessment

The University shall progressively move from activity-based reporting to outcome-oriented reporting. Wherever feasible, the organising unit should document what participants learned, what problems were addressed, whether further support was requested, and whether any practice, process or technology was subsequently applied.

Level	Illustrative Indicator
Input	Faculty expertise, facilities, training materials, partner support.

Activity	Workshops, demonstrations, field visits, knowledge exchange meetings.
Output	Participants trained, sessions delivered, knowledge materials shared.
Short-term Outcome	Improved awareness, skills or understanding reported by participants.
Intermediate Outcome	Application/adoption of relevant practices or technologies, where verifiable.
Community Impact	Contribution to sustainable food production, food security, resilience, livelihoods or responsible food systems, where evidence permits assessment.

13. Linkage with Teaching, Learning and Research

The University may integrate farmer and food-producer engagement into community-based learning, student projects, internships, research, innovation challenges, design projects, extension activities and interdisciplinary studies. Community problems identified through these interactions may be considered as inputs for research and innovation, subject to academic and ethical requirements.

14. Partnerships and Collaboration

The University may collaborate with government departments, agricultural extension agencies, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, FPOs, cooperatives, NGOs, local bodies, research institutions, industry and other relevant organisations to increase the reach and technical effectiveness of farmer and food-producer engagement.

15. Funding and Resource Support

Activities may be supported through approved University budgets, departmental/community engagement funds, sponsored projects, research projects, extension programmes, grants, partnerships or other permissible sources. All expenditure shall follow applicable financial rules and institutional procedures.

16. Ethics, Safety and Risk Management

- Activities involving laboratories, machinery, chemicals, electrical systems, field equipment or other hazards shall follow applicable safety procedures.
- Technical recommendations shall be communicated responsibly and within the competence of the resource persons.
- Participation shall be voluntary unless an activity is part of an approved programme with clearly communicated participation requirements.
- Photographs, testimonials and personal information shall be handled in accordance with applicable consent and institutional requirements.
- The University shall avoid claims of guaranteed agricultural yield, income or commercial success.

17. Annual Reporting and Quality Review

Each implementing unit shall submit an annual summary of farmer and food-producer engagement activities to the designated nodal unit. The annual review shall assess reach, thematic coverage, participation, outcomes, evidence quality and opportunities for improvement. The findings may be incorporated into the University's annual quality, extension, sustainability and SDG reporting.

18. Conclusion

Through this Policy, Brainware University establishes an institutional mechanism for meaningful engagement with local farmers and food producers. The approach emphasizes two-way knowledge exchange, practical capacity building, community participation, sustainable food systems and documented outcomes. The Policy provides a structured basis for implementing, monitoring and evidencing the University's contribution to SDG 2 – Zero Hunger through community knowledge transfer and outreach.