جامعة هليوبوليس
Heliopolis University
for Sustainable Development

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

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ABOUT THIS **REPORT**

It is our pleasure to bring to you the **second** sustainability report of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU), covering the calendar year 2025. This report offers a holistic overview of the university's ongoing commitment to sustainability across teaching, learning, research, campus operations, and community development.

By encompassing environmental, social, cultural, and economical dimensions, the report showcases our active engagement and significant contributions to both global and national development agendas, including the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Egypt Vision 2030.**

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

This report was developed through designated focal points across all HU faculties, centers, and administrative units and compiled into a pilot Sustainability Indicator Database. Each indicator was reviewed for accuracy, alignment, and relevance, with "core indicators" representing the university's priority areas for long-term monitoring.

Supplementary data was also gathered from reporting forms, direct interviews and project documentation, covering the period from January to December 2025. Environmental indicators, such as greenhouse gas emissions and water use, follow internationally recognized methodologies including the **GHG Protocol** and **CoolFarm Tool** where applicable.

As part of an evolving institutional system, some indicators are currently based on partial data or estimates. Ongoing efforts to strengthen data collection and validation will enable more comprehensive coverage and improved year-on-year comparability in future reports.

MESSAGE FROM **THE CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

At Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, we continue to affirm our belief that education is a powerful driver of transformation. Building on nearly five decades of SEKEM's experience, the university continues to evolve as a model where education, research, and development are deeply interconnected.

Sustainability here is not an added dimension, but the foundation that shapes how we learn, collaborate, and engage with the world around us. Through this approach, we seek to nurture both knowledge and conscience, equipping students not only with skills, but with the capacity to act with awareness and responsibility.

Across our work - whether in agriculture, health, entrepreneurship, or community engagement - we see this vision taking form. Through collaboration with farmers, educators, and innovators, we continue to restore vitality to the soil, dignity to work, and meaning to learning.

Our role goes beyond preparing students for the labor market. It is about cultivating individuals who can create, lead, and contribute with integrity in a world that demands both resilience and insight.

This report reflects that ongoing journey. It captures our progress while reaffirming our commitment to continuous development and shared responsibility.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere appreciation to our students, faculty, staff, and partners for their dedication to this vision. Together, we will continue to build an institution that serves as a model for sustainability in action.

Sincerely,

Helmy Abouleish

MESSAGE FROM **THE PRESIDENT**

I am pleased to present the 2025 Sustainability Report of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development. Since its establishment, the university has worked to embed sustainability across its core functions - teaching, research, and community development. This approach is reflected in the continued expansion of experiential learning models, applied research, and partnerships that connect academic work to real-world challenges.

Throughout 2025, students, faculty, and partners contributed to initiatives addressing key development priorities, including sustainable agriculture, water management, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. These efforts are grounded in a practical understanding of sustainability, one that focuses on implementation, collaboration, and measurable impact.

Heliopolis University continues to position itself as a platform where knowledge is not only generated, but applied. By linking education with community needs and sectoral challenges, the university contributes to improving livelihoods, strengthening local systems, and supporting more sustainable development pathways.

This report reflects the progress made over the past year, while also pointing to the scale of opportunity ahead. As we move forward, our focus remains on deepening impact, strengthening partnerships, and advancing solutions that respond to the evolving needs of our communities.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to this work. Their efforts continue to shape a university that is not only responding to today's challenges, but actively contributing to building more sustainable and resilient systems for the future.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us,

Prof. Gouda Helal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The preparation of this report reflects a collective effort across Heliopolis University, made possible through the dedication and collaboration of colleagues from faculties, centers, and administrative units.

In 2025, the introduction of sustainability reporting focal points marked an important step toward strengthening our data collection systems. These focal points served as coordinators of this process - yet the data, insights, and progress captured in this report are the result of contributions from many individuals working across the university. The individuals listed below represent this broader collective - each name standing for a network of teams whose commitment, attention to detail, and shared sense of responsibility made this report possible. We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this effort.

Sustainability Reporting Focal Points

AHMED ABULSOUD
Faculty of Pharmacy

AHMED ASHRAF
Rural Development Center

AHMED GHOBASHY
Core Program

ALAA EL-DIN MOSTAFA
Human Development

CATHERINE BOSHRA
Admissions

EMAN SAMIR
International Relations

ESRAA ZAABALAWY
Education for Sustainable Development Center

JEHAD AMMAR
Carbon Footprint Center

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sustainability Reporting Focal Points

LABEEB MESHEL
Human Development

MARWA ELYAMANI
Space of Culture

MARWAN AMR
Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact

MAZEN BARAKAT
Faculty of Organic Agriculture

MOHAMED ABDELKADER
Office of Sponsored Programs

RAMY MOHAMED
Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt

SALLY BAHGAT
Faculty of Physical Therapy

SANDRA AYMAN
Training Academy

SAMAA ATTIA
Faculty of Business & Economics

SARA ELADAWI
Integrative Health Center

SHADY MAGED
Admissions

WAEL M. KHAIRY
Faculty of Engineering

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

CULTURAL LIFE

399 academic staff trained through 23 ESD modules

1,053 staff trained through the Training Academy

57 cultural events organized across multiple locations

1,800 **school students reached** through Arts for Climate initiative

363 participants / 10+ countries (SDGI Conference)

ECONOMIC LIFE

28 active projects across EU & international programs

1,500 **women targeted** through rural empowerment programs

1,871 Scholarships Awarded

€7.38M Active Research & Development Project Portfolio

385.9 tons of waste processed by waste management unit

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ECOLOGICAL LIFE

100% of campus waste water is recycled

100% of university carbon emissions offset

4,602 **tCO2e measured footprint,** with expanded Scope 3 accounting for accuracy

52,639 trees planted

12,322 tons compost produced

SOCIETAL LIFE

3,367 Students

443 International

2,367 **farmers reached** through national health screening initiatives

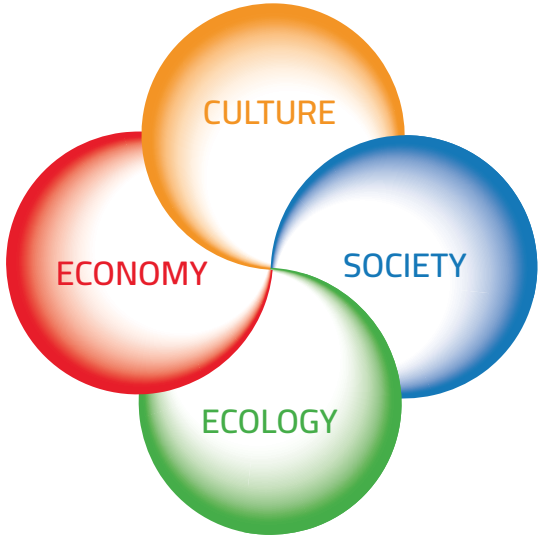
1,100 **patients treated** through community physiotherapy programs

51% of University staff are females

ABOUT **HELIOPOLIS UNIVERSITY**

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU), established in 2012, was founded with a mission to advance sustainable development in Egypt and to serve as a unique model for transformative education. Rooted in the broader SEKEM Initiative - a network of interconnected entities working toward shared development goals - the university integrates education, research, community development, and applied practice to address environmental, social, economic, and cultural challenges. These efforts are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while remaining grounded in the Egyptian context and local community needs.

While environmental, economic and social sustainability are widely recognized within conventional development models, the university places equal importance on the cultural dimension as a foundation for meaningful and lasting change. This dimension focuses on human development, values, creativity, ethics, and consciousness - recognizing that sustainable societies cannot be built through technical solutions alone, but through individuals who are capable of critical reflection, empathy, responsibility, and purposeful action. Together, these dimensions shape HU's holistic approach to sustainability, balancing human development, social wellbeing, environmental regeneration, and economic resilience.



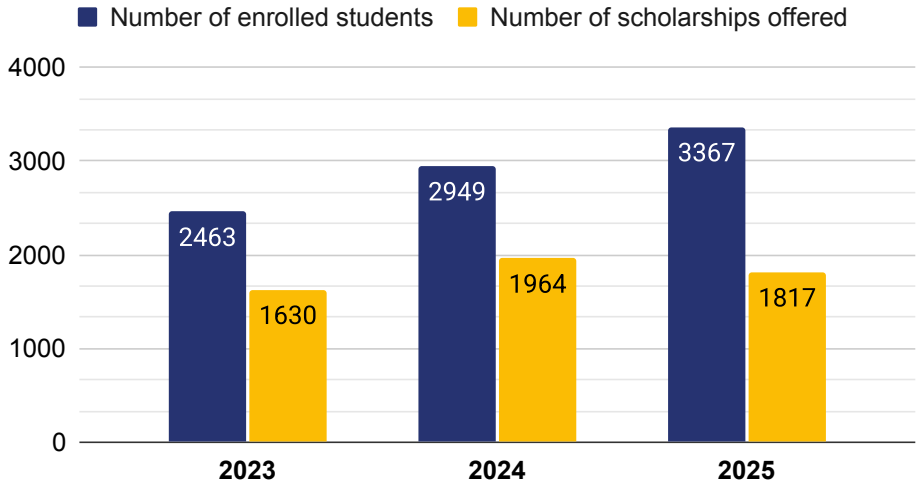
TEACHING & LEARNING

HU offers distinctive academic programs that **seamlessly blend theoretical knowledge, scientific research, and practical application** with a **humanistic core program** rooted in social sciences and fine arts - designed to nurture curious and creative minds.

In addition to its undergraduate and graduate programs, HU leads and participates in various national and international interdisciplinary research and development projects.

In 2025, a total of **3367 undergraduate students** were enrolled across **5 faculties,** of which **443** are **international students.** The university also awarded **1871 scholarships and financial aid packages,** reaffirming its dedication to inclusive education.

Number of students enrolled and scholarships offered



TEACHING & LEARNING

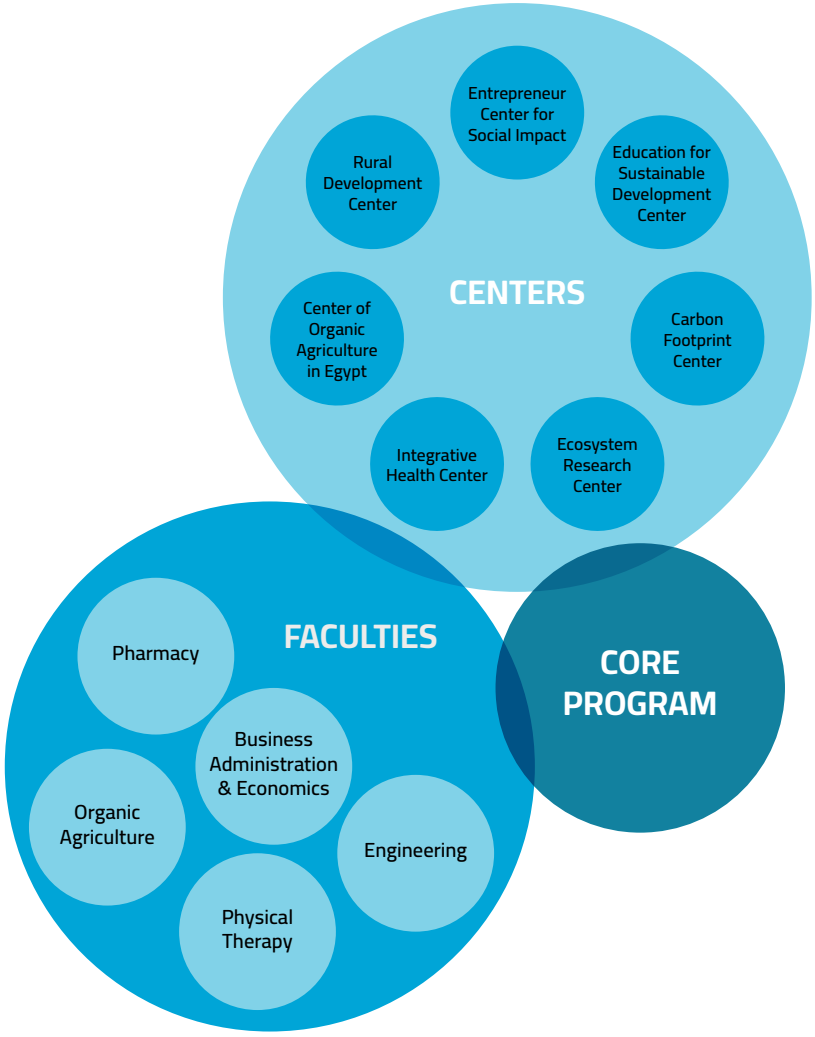
FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

Across faculties and departments, HU offers a wide range of discipline-specific and interdisciplinary courses, all grounded in sustainability concepts. These are paired with practical tools and methodologies that empower students to develop solutions to urgent local and global challenges.

HU also adopts a set of applied, student-centered learning approaches across its programs. **These include:**

- **Community-Based Learning (CBL),** which connects academic content with real-world community challenges and enables students to apply their knowledge in service-oriented contexts.
- **Industry-Based Learning (IBL),** which provides exposure to professional environments through collaboration with industry partners, linking theoretical knowledge to current market practices.
- **Problem-Based Learning (PBL),** which centers learning around complex, real-life problems, encouraging critical thinking, interdisciplinary analysis, and solution-oriented approaches.

Through these approaches, alongside applied research and partnerships with industry and civic organizations, students are prepared not only to understand sustainability challenges, but to actively design and implement solutions in real-world settings.



FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

FACULTY OF **ENGINEERING**

The Faculty of Engineering offers a five-year Bachelor's degree program with specializations in Green Architecture, Renewable Energy, Mechatronics, and Water Engineering, alongside two postgraduate programs: M.Sc. in Sustainable Energy Engineering and Management and M.Sc. in Sustainable Water Engineering and Management.

In 2025, the faculty's 5 academic departments offered a total of **90 courses** across undergraduate programs. Of these 61 courses **(68%)** were **directly related to or focused on sustainability** themes, positioning it as one of the strongest contributors to sustainability-focused education across the university. This year the faculty further integrated applied learning methodologies into its curriculum. 22 courses now incorporate CBL components in addition to 13 courses with IDL components. Through this integrated curriculum, students are equipped with the technical and analytical skills required to design solutions for pressing environmental and development challenges in Egypt and the wider region.

68%

of the Faculty's total course offerings is directly related to or focused on sustainability themes

FACULTY OF **ENGINEERING**

Research & Innovation

At the Faculty of Engineering, academic staff and students contribute to multidisciplinary research in water management, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure, while supporting the agenda of university's holistic research and community development. In 2025, the faculty maintained a solid research output, with **19 scientific publications** across peer-reviewed journals and international conferences, including **HU's International Journal for Holistic Research (IJHR).**

This work is further strengthened through participation in international cooperation projects under programmes such as **Interreg NEXT MED** and **Horizon Europe,** which focus on applied research, capacity building, sustainability and the co-development of context-appropriate technical solutions for Mediterranean and arid-region environments. Through these initiatives, the faculty contributes to technical assessments and modelling of water systems, the design of nature-based and low-impact solutions, and the development of knowledge products that support evidence-based decision-making. One example is the **Climate Smart Water Management and Sustainable Development for Food and Agriculture in East Africa (WATDEV)** project, funded by the Italian Cooperation (AICS-EU Desira), and implemented in collaboration with partners from Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Italy, the Netherlands, and Norway.

The project focuses on **sustainable water management solutions** and **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** in El-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt. Activities include stakeholder engagement, field data collection, and integrated modelling at watershed and basin levels (TOOLBOX) to select the best (crop-water-soil) management practices and to assess environmental, economic, and social impacts. To date, the project has engaged **over 1,000 beneficiaries,** including farmers, local actors, and research institutions. One other highlight from 2025 is students participating in the Sustainable Campus Workshop, conducted in collaboration with TU Graz, where they combined environmental analysis, community engagement, and design thinking to develop sustainable campus and community models.

Partnerships with external institutions further strengthen the Faculty's research capacities. In 2025, the Faculty maintained an active **Memorandum of Understanding with the National Water Research Center (NWRC),** supporting joint undergraduate and graduate research, technical training, and the development of innovative, low-cost solutions for water management and wastewater treatment.

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

FACULTY OF **PHARMACY**

The Faculty offers a five-year Bachelor in Pharmacy (PharmD and PharmD - Clinical Pharmacy), as well as a Pharmacognosy Master's program that blends academic excellence with practical application.

This year, the faculty's **7 academic departments** offered a total **148 courses** across undergraduate and postgraduate programs, up from 82 courses in 2024, reflecting a significant expansion and diversification of the curriculum.

The curriculum emphasizes not only scientific excellence, but also responsible practice and patient-centered care. Courses address topics such as rational drug use, public health, pharmaceutical quality control, and environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals, preparing graduates to respond to evolving healthcare challenges in Egypt and beyond.

Building on earlier efforts to introduce experiential learning approaches, in 2025, the Faculty offered **11 courses with a CBL component, 6 courses incorporating IBL,** and **9 courses applying PBL methodologies,** reflecting a growing shift toward practice-oriented education.

This shift is further reinforced through external partnerships such as that with the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) where students gain exposure to regulatory systems and access to internship placements and professional training.

Clinical training was expanded further through partnerships with a number of hospitals including the **Ministry of Health (MoH) hospitals, Police Hospitals,** and **Zagazig University Hospitals,** where students gained hands-on experience in real healthcare settings under professional supervision

The faculty also continued to support applied research aligned with national health priorities and the SDGs on topics such as health behavior, antibiotic use, lifestyle-related diseases, and integrative medicine resulting in a total of **88** scientific publications.

FACULTY OF **PHARMACY**

Community Development & Impact

Internally, the Faculty works closely with the Integrative Health Center (IHC) and the Faculty of Physical Therapy to design and implement projects such as Women's Health, Farmers' Health, Media Fasting and Antibiotic Resistance Awareness that aim to advance community health and wellbeing.

Through these initiatives, **623** pharmacy students participated in health screening activities, awareness campaigns, and community outreach.

Know more about the Integrative Health Center and Community-based Health Projects **here**

623
PHARMACY STUDENTS
participated in health screening and community awareness initiatives

2%
MOST INFLUENTIAL SCIENTISTS
Professor Dr. Khaled Al-Adl, and Professor Dr. Ahmed Abulsoud, were chosen among the most influential scientists in the world according to the Stanford University classification.

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

FACULTY OF **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

The Faculty of Organic Agriculture is dedicated to cultivating a new generation of agricultural engineers, and biotechnologists equipped with the values, knowledge and awareness necessary to advance regenerative agriculture. The Faculty offers a four-year Bachelor's degree with specializations in Organic Crop Production and Food Processing Technology.

Across the faculty's **3 academic departments,** and **112 courses,** the curriculum is designed to integrate scientific knowledge with practical application, equipping students with the skills needed to address challenges related to food security, resource efficiency, and environmental sustainability. In alignment with HU's institutional model of experiential learning, in 2025, **9 courses were updated to include a CBL component,** enabling students to engage directly with farmers, value chain actors, and local communities.

Research & Innovation

The Faculty actively supports applied interdisciplinary research aligned with national agricultural priorities and global sustainability agendas by addressing key areas such as soil fertility and ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, agriculture technology and sustainable biotechnology applications.

This work is further strengthened through participation in international research and innovation projects. A key example is the Sustainable Intensification of Food Production through Resilient Farming Systems in West & North Africa **(SUSTIN AFRICA),** funded by EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. Through collaboration with **16 partners across 11 countries in Africa and Europe,** the project empowers smallholder farmers, SMEs, and institutions to adopt sustainable farming practices. In 2025, the

FACULTY OF **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

project outputs included 2 scientific publications, 5 training courses, and 3 workshops.

The Faculty also contributes to the Innovation Solutions for the Development of Alternative Feeds from Food Industry By-products **(NEWFEED)** Project, funded by EU PRIMA Program for Research and Technological Development, which applies circular economy principles by converting food industry by-products into alternative animal feed, supporting more sustainable livestock production systems across the Mediterranean region.

In parallel, the faculty plays a central role in translating knowledge into practice through strong engagement with farmers, communities, and stakeholders across the agricultural value chain. Faculty members and students contribute to projects implemented by the **Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt (COAE), the Rural Development Center (RDC).**

These projects enable students to take part in field-based learning, farmers training and capacity building, while being exposed to sustainable food production and value chains, and climate-resilient agriculture in rural communities. These experiences strengthen students' practical skills while reinforcing the Faculty's contribution to sustainable livelihoods and food security.

Community engagement is further advanced through projects such as the Sustainable Soil and Subsoil Health **(SUS-SOIL),** which adopts a Living Lab approach to connect academia, farmers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders in the co-design of solutions that promote soil health and resilience. In Egypt, this work supports improved nutrient management, enhanced carbon sequestration, and reduced soil degradation in arid environments.

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

FACULTY OF **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

The Faculty of Physical Therapy promotes excellence and leadership by offering a comprehensive curriculum that integrates modern techniques in physical therapy, biomechanics, and medical sciences.

Experiential learning is a core component of the Faculty's educational approach. As a result, students are equipped with the knowledge and practical skills required to address a wide range of rehabilitation needs, with a particular emphasis on preventive care, mobility, and quality of life.

Community Development & Impact

In 2025, students participated in physiotherapy screening and treatment sessions, community outreach initiatives, and rehabilitation programs addressing orthopedic and neurological conditions through close collaboration with the **Integrative Health Center and the Rural Development Center.**

A key initiative is the **Physiotherapy Support Program,** now in its third year, which facilitates access to rehabilitation services for patients from rural communities in Sharkia, Egypt where **1100** patients were treated.

Student engagement is central to these efforts through their active participation in clinical assessments, supervised treatment sessions, and multidisciplinary healthcare teams, gaining hands-on experience in real community settings.

These activities not only strengthen students' professional competencies, but also contribute to improving access to essential rehabilitation services in underserved areas.

1100
PATIENTS
were treated in the Physiotherapy Support Program

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

FACULTY OF **BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

The Faculty is committed to pioneering innovative and alternative economic models that promote sustainable development and long-term resilience. In 2025, the faculty continued to advance the university's sustainability-oriented educational model through the integration of sustainability principles across teaching, applied learning, student research, and community engagement activities. Out of **61 academic courses, 7 courses are directly focused on sustainability-related themes** such as, CSR & Sustainability, Environmental Economics, True Cost Accounting, Developmental Economics, and Business Ethics. In line with HU's experiential learning model, **3 courses incorporate CBL components while 7 others integrate IBL.**

In line with global trends, research and publication activities during the year reflected increasing engagement with topics related to artificial intelligence, sustainability, digital transformation, and organizational development. Faculty members contributed to studies on AI-enabled workplaces, digital agriculture in Egypt, carbon credit disclosure, entrepreneurial opportunity recognition, and work-life balance and decent work.

Community engagement remained an important component of the faculty's educational approach. Students and faculty actively participate in the Integrative Health Center Rahma project, by offering business, entrepreneurship support and digital literacy training sessions.

The faculty also continued to strengthen external engagement and partnerships through collaborations and ongoing memoranda of understanding with a number of organizations including **the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO** and **the Egyptian Stock Exchange.**

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

CORE PROGRAM

The Core Program at Heliopolis University is a defining element of its educational model, designed to complement disciplinary knowledge with a values-based, interdisciplinary foundation.

Delivered through a mixture of compulsory and elective courses by the Humanities, Arts, and Languages Departments at HU, it develops key transversal competencies, including ethical reasoning, critical and systems thinking, cultural literacy, creative expression, and effective communication.

The Core Program ensures that all students, regardless of specialization, engage with questions of sustainability, human development, and social responsibility throughout their academic journey. By bridging disciplines, experiences, and perspectives, it acts as a unifying framework within the university, aligning academic learning with ethical purpose and societal impact.

The Core Program places strong emphasis on experiential and participatory learning approaches that connect theory with lived experience. Teaching methods include dialogue-based seminars, reflective assignments, artistic practice, field visits, and community engagement.

In 2025, the Core Program offered a total of **21 courses**, embedded within each degree, forming a continuous learning pathway that accompanies students throughout their university experience.

CORE PROGRAM

The program is structured around four interconnected tracks:

- **Language, Communication, and Skills Development:** which builds academic and professional competencies through courses such as Academic Writing, German Language, Communication, Creativity and Entrepreneurship.
- **Arts, Culture, Development, and Innovation:** which fosters creativity, perception, and reflective thinking through artistic and experiential courses
- **Social Sciences:** which develops analytical and ethical perspectives through subjects such as Philosophy, Human Rights, Sociology, Psychology, and Research Methodology.
- **Nature and Community:** which introduces ecological thinking and sustainability concepts through courses such as Sustainable Development, Deep Ecology, and Biology & Evolution.

Each student is required to complete 12 mandatory courses and 6 elective ones throughout their academic journey at HU.

12

mandatory courses and 6 elective ones throughout the academic journey at HU

FACULTIES & PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

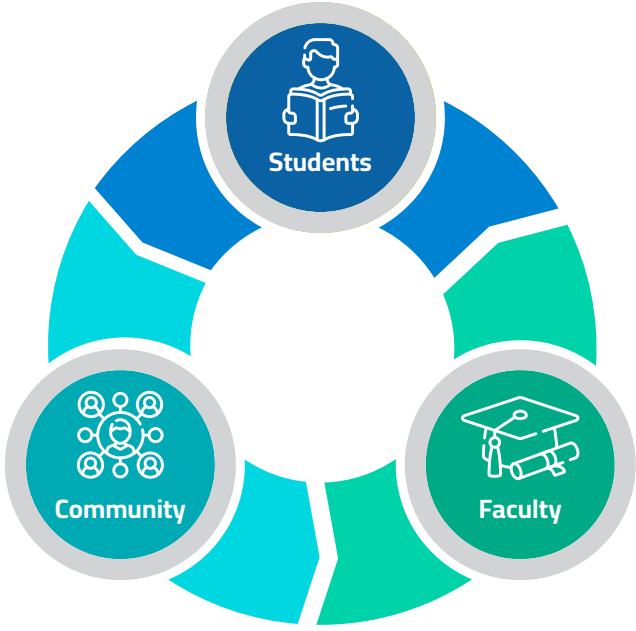
Community-Based Learning (CBL) serves as a core pillar of HU's experiential learning model. It is a transformative educational approach that bridges academic theory with real-world practice - fostering participatory action research. It is designed to help students connect classroom learning to the realities of surrounding communities, engaging with local institutions, history, literature, cultural heritage, and the natural environment.

At HU, **one week per semester is dedicated to CBL,** during which every student participates in a hands-on project. To date, over **2,000** students and faculty members have taken part in diverse initiatives - ranging from public health and awareness campaigns to social entrepreneurship projects and environmental advocacy.

HU aspires to be a national hub for CBL in Egypt, championing cross-sectoral collaboration and experiential education for social impact. As part of this vision, we partner with other academic institutions to co-create impactful CBL experiences. Through our Rural Development Center, we facilitate field visits and community engagement opportunities in the Sharkia Governorate and Bahariya Oasis, enabling students to work directly with the communities we serve.

In 2025, the program engaged **over 250 students** from the different faculties in **20+ field-based community projects and educational activities.** These included initiatives in waste management, sustainable agriculture, water systems, health services, and community awareness. Through field visits, surveys and workshops, students applied their academic knowledge in real contexts, developing practical skills in facilitation, teamwork, and problem-solving, while contributing to tangible community outcomes.

The program also advanced institutional learning through the development of a **structured CBL framework and faculty guide,** supporting more effective planning, implementation, and evaluation of community-based projects.

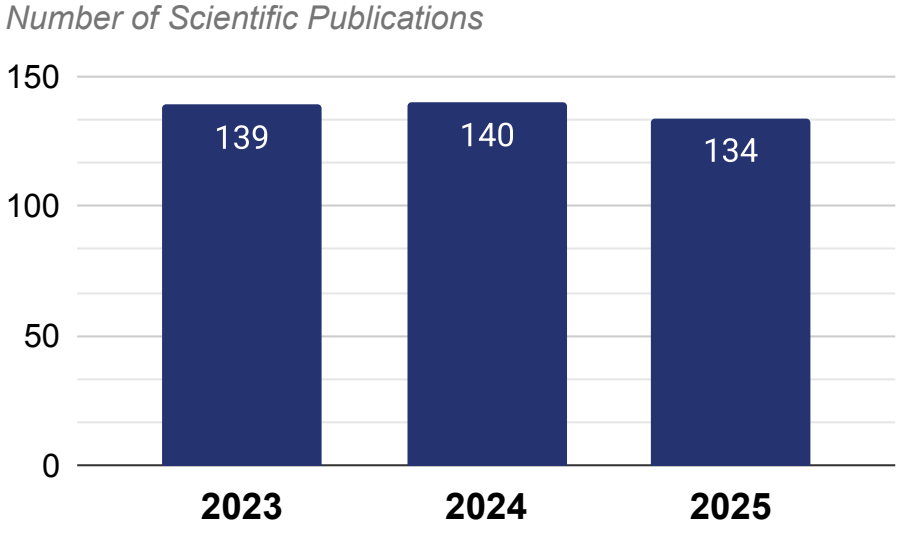


RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Research at HU is guided by a commitment to generating knowledge that is both scientifically rigorous and socially relevant. **Through its laboratories, Office of Sponsored Programs and Community Development Centers,** the university advances applied research, innovation, and field-based solutions that address pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. This integrated approach ensures that research is not confined to academic inquiry, but actively contributes to community development, policy dialogue, and sustainable transformation.

LABORATORIES

- **Medical Research Laboratory:** conducts advanced research to support the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases through innovative biomedical approaches
- **Soil Research Laboratory:** focuses on soil quality and fertility assessments, enabling precision agriculture, organic farming and sustainable land management
- **Water Research Laboratory:** conducts water quality monitoring and assessments with a strong focus on developing novel technologies for wastewater treatment and reuse.
- **Microbiology Research Laboratory:** studies microorganisms-including bacteria, fungi, and yeasts-to advance research in health, agriculture, and biotechnology

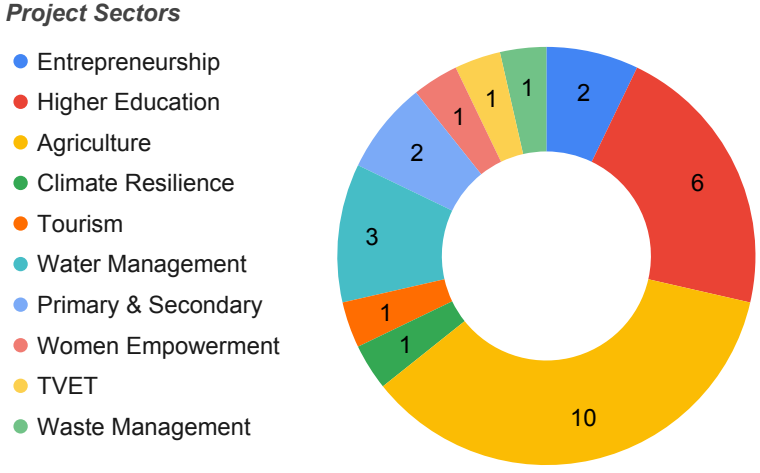


RESEARCH & INNOVATION

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) plays a central role in advancing Heliopolis University's research, innovation, and development agenda by securing external funding and supporting project development, management, and implementation.

In 2025, the OSP managed a portfolio of **28 active projects with a total funding volume of €7.38 million,** further strengthening HU's position as a trusted partner for international and regional funding organizations. The university's project portfolio is supported through a range of bilateral and multilateral funding programmes, including Horizon Europe, PRIMA, Erasmus+, and other strategic funding mechanisms.



Thematic Focus Areas

- **Higher Education & Capacity Building:** Strengthening academic programs and teaching methodologies, institutional development, and international collaboration in higher education.
- **Agriculture & Rural Development:** Advancing sustainable agriculture, small holding farmer support, and applied research for resilient livelihoods.
- **Water Management:** Developing solutions for efficient water use and sustainable resource management.
- **Climate Resilience:** Supporting climate adaptation and mitigation through nature based solutions.
- **Entrepreneurship & Innovation:** Fostering entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and impact-driven enterprise development
- **Waste Management & Circular Economy:** Promoting waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy approaches.

28
externally funded projects

total funding of
7.38M

COMMUNITY IMPACT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Heliopolis University's Community Development Centers serve as key platforms for translating knowledge into practice. Through interdisciplinary research, capacity building, and field-based interventions, these centers address critical challenges in areas such as education, health, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and rural development. By working closely with communities, partners, and institutions, they ensure that research outcomes extend beyond academia to create tangible impact.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Education for Sustainable Development Center (ESDC) serves as HUs central hub for advancing the global agenda of Education for Sustainable Development. The center leads a diverse portfolio of programs that combine academic staff development, student engagement, community-based learning and applied projects. Through this approach, the center strengthens the quality of education at HU while acting as a key bridge between knowledge and practice.

Education for Sustainable Development Program

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Program is the center's flagship initiative for academic staff development, designed to enhance teaching quality and embed sustainability principles across all disciplines. The program is built around three core pillars: **transformative learning**, which focuses on rethinking teaching practices and student engagement; **academic competence**, which strengthens pedagogical and research skills; and **culture and arts**, which integrates creativity and reflective approaches into the learning process

The program is fully funded by the university and is structured as a three year professional development pathway, combining both mandatory and elective modules, tailored to different academic roles from teaching assistants to senior faculty and academic leadership. This ensures that learning is relevant, progressive, and aligned with the evolving responsibilities of staff members. To date, **399 academic staff** members completed at least 1 ESD module.

In 2025, the ESDC delivered **23 ESD modules** covering topics such as sustainability-oriented pedagogy, problem-based learning, student engagement strategies, grant writing, and the integration of digital tools and artificial intelligence in education. In addition, targeted coaching sessions were introduced to support faculty in refining their teaching practices.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Leadership for Sustainability Program

Launched in 2023, the Leadership for Sustainability Program (LSP) is a selective, multi-year initiative designed to nurture future leaders and changemakers from the early stages of their undergraduate studies. The program combines leadership development, personal growth, and experiential learning through mentoring, peer learning, volunteer placements, and reflective activities focused on values, vision, and societal impact. In addition, LSP students receive **fully funded scholarships** that enable them to pursue their university education without financial barriers. In 2025, the program engaged **16 students** in a learning journey that strengthened self-awareness, systems thinking, communication, and design thinking skills, while fostering active community engagement.

Contribution to Funded Projects & Knowledge Production

In 2025, the ESDC played an increasingly strategic role in externally funded projects, acting as a key educational and implementation partner, contributing to curriculum design, stakeholder coordination, research, and the development of learning and governance frameworks.

One example is the **Science Club Project at Qubbah El-Hassana** Protected Area, in partnership with SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) under the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP). The project aims to transform the existing Science Club into an integrated environmental education center by embedding sustainability concepts into a new modern scientific curriculum. The project also includes capacity building for educators, infrastructure development, and the establishment of partnerships with schools to expand outreach.

Another example is the **Women Empowerment in Rural Egypt project,** funded by bbw gGmbH and implemented by Organic Egypt Foundation which aims to strengthen professional opportunities for women and girls by providing education, skills training, healthcare, and economic opportunities in rural areas. The ESDC supported the development of an interactive curriculum focused on skills development in sustainable agricultural value chains.

The Center also contributed to regional and international knowledge production through its involvement in the **UN ESCWA study "Educating for Change: Universities and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region,"** reinforcing HU's role as a reference institution for sustainability-oriented higher education.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

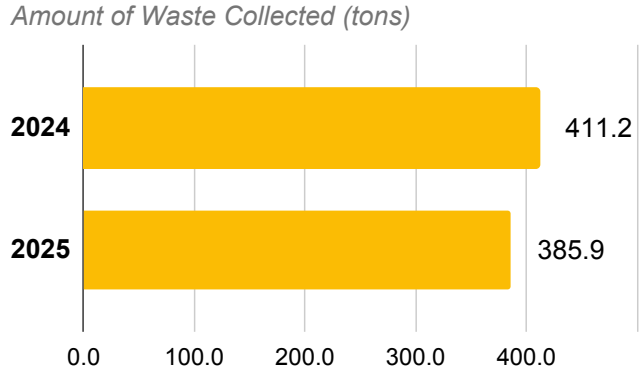
RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Rural Development Center (RDC) serves as the cornerstone of HU's community engagement and local development initiatives. Current efforts are focused in two key areas: **13 neighbouring villages in Sharkia Governorate** and the **Bahariya Oasis** in Egypt's Western Desert.

Waste Management

Waste management remained one of RDC's most visible and scalable impact areas in 2025. Over the year, the RDC-managed Waste Collection Unit handled **385.9 tons** of waste, including cardboard, plastics, glass and RDF, collected from HU, SEKEM factories, public schools, administrative facilities, and local villages.

In addition, the unit expanded its awareness activities, organizing sessions for the community to highlight the importance of waste segregation at source, thereby increasing the economic value of the collected materials instead of treating them as mixed, low-value.



A key initiative in 2025 was the **Waste for Food project,** funded by the Dutch Cooperation, with a primary focus on raising awareness around waste management, environmental responsibility, and sustainable practices at the community level. Implemented over from August to November across the 13 Villages, the project introduced a waste-for-vegetables exchange model as a practical tool to reinforce behavioral change while linking environmental action to food security. The project trained **137 participants in composting,** including **85 women and youth**, as well as **24 local stakeholders and 20 teachers.** Through school-based activities and door-to-door campaigns, the initiative reached **2,050 students** and **1,700 households,** in addition to engaging **325 participants** through open community events.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Health and Wellbeing

The RDC's partnership with the Faculty of Physical Therapy and SEKEM Medical Center continues to provide regular transport and specialized care for patients. Free physiotherapy services were provided to **1100 cases** from the 13 villages, supported by **185 transportation trips** to the SEKEM Medical Center and back.

The RDC also supported youth and well-being initiatives through the **SEKEM Sports Academy,** which provided regular sports and health training to **over 100 children and youth aged 8-16** from the 13 villages while preparing them for governorate-level football leagues.

Socio-Economic Empowerment

Building on its long-standing commitment to women's empowerment, the RDC launched the **Women Empowerment in Rural Egypt** in collaboration with Organic Egypt Foundation, the Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA), and SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF).

Operating across the 13 villages, the initiative targets **1500 women and girls**, offering career guidance, health insurance access, and organizational capacity-building for women-led initiatives.

In parallel, a two-day training on **Gender and Youth in the Olive Value Chain**, organized under the EU-funded H2020 SustInAfrica engaged **35 participants** (15 women and 20 men) to analyze roles and opportunities for gender-responsive agriculture.

Additionally, under the **Wahat Women's Program (WWP)**, a three-year initiative that combines entrepreneurship training with sustainable production skills, **45 women** participated in business and management workshops, and the program reached an agreement with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to establish a community center in Al-Harra in Bahariya Oasis.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Education, Culture, and Sustainability Awareness

Education and awareness-raising remained integral to RDC's holistic model. For the second year running, the Center organized **learning visits for more than 1000 participants** under the national **"Be an Ambassador"** initiative by the **Egyptian Ministry of Planning and Economic Development** in partnership with the **National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development,** enabling trainees to experience HU and SEKEM's integrated model of education, agriculture, industry, and circular economy in practice.

For school-aged children, the RDC continued to implement the **Arts for Climate Initiative** in four schools, reaching **1,800 students** through arts, drama, and sports-based learning approaches that translated climate change concepts into live practice. In parallel, a dedicated **Summer School Program** engaged **more than 60 rural students**, combining environmental education on biodiversity and climate change with robotics, arts, athletics, and cultural learning.

Contribution to Funded Projects & Knowledge Production

A central focus of RDC's work in 2025 was climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable water management. Under the **GWS-SENCE** Project, in partnership with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the Center expanded participatory groundwater monitoring from earlier pilots to 28 wells, distributing EC, pH, and nitrate testing devices to farmers who shared them within their communities. This approach strengthened local capacity for monthly groundwater quality monitoring, improved decision-making around irrigation practices, and raised awareness of pollution prevention.

Within the framework of the **Climate Smart Water Management and Sustainable Development for Food and Agriculture (WATDEV),** the RDC supported the Faculty of Engineering and its partners (AICS Cairo, CIHEAM Bari, ASARECA) in delivering a regional Innovation Roadshow on Best Management Practices, engaging **46 farmers** in practical training on soil and water conservation in arid regions. The RDC also co-coordinated two large stakeholder workshops in the 13 villages, engaging policymakers, regional planners, researchers, and more than **100 farmers.**

In Bahariya Oasis, under the **DEG developpp** Project, the Center finalized five educational modules covering biodiversity, energy, soils, crops, and water management, reaching 858 students (650 HU students and 208 vocational center trainees). The project successfully embedded these modules into CBL, ensuring long-term institutional uptake beyond the project's lifespan.
Internationally, RDC leadership contributed to global knowledge exchange through **keynote speeches and workshops** at the **Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) Conference 2025** in Austria and participation in the **Global Project for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (GMACC) Conference** in Namibia.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

CENTER OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT

The Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt (COAE) is HU's specialized entity for inspection and certification in organic and biodynamic agriculture (Demeter), as well as the Economy of Love. Operating in compliance with the Egyptian Organic Agriculture Law and EU Regulation 2018/848, the Centre supports farmers, producer groups, and agribusinesses in meeting internationally recognized standards and accessing sustainable markets.

COAE also provides carbon emissions validation and verification services, supporting climate action and participation in voluntary carbon markets. Through these activities, the Centre contributes to transparent value chains, resilient food systems, and sustainable rural development.

Accreditation and International Recognition

A major focus of COAE's work this year was strengthening and expanding its **accreditation and external recognition.** In 2025, the center was **granted the authority to issue local organic certificates under the Egyptian Organic Agriculture Law** by the General Department of Agriculture, marking an important milestone in its national regulatory role.

COAE also achieved accreditation under **ISO/IEC 17029:2019,** alongside **ISO 14064-3:2019 and ISO 14066:2023,** following a comprehensive assessment process by the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC). This milestone represents a significant advancement from 2024, when accreditation processes were still underway, and positions the Center to operate according to internationally recognized standards in greenhouse gas validation and verification.

CENTER OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT

At the international level, COAE expanded its role as a **Validation and Verification Body (VVB)** by completing registration with multiple international carbon standards in 2025. One example is **ORMEX,** a regenerative agriculture-focused greenhouse gas standard. Likewise with **Plan Vivo** and **Verra,** two of the world's leading frameworks for nature-based and climate projects. Additionally, the center took part in the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International Accreditation Programme. In parallel COAE became **accredited from the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA)** for carbon credit certification, reinforcing its leadership position within the national voluntary carbon market.

Certification and Verification Services

Alongside accreditation advances, COAE significantly scaled its **inspection, certification, and verification activities** in 2025. Over the course of the year, the Center conducted **3520 organic farm inspections** across Egypt, verifying compliance with Organic, Biodynamic (Demeter), Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), and Economy of Love standards. Through these efforts, **3738 farmers** were supported in obtaining organic certification under the Economy of Love framework. These efforts accounted for the removal of approximately **130,317 tons of CO_2e** through regenerative practices - a clear demonstration of the environmental and economic benefits of carbon-positive agriculture.

3738

farmers supported to sequester
130,317 tons of CO_2e

Capacity Building

This COAE invested heavily in capacity building and institutional development throughout 2025. Staff members participated in specialized training programs delivered in partnership with international accreditation bodies such as EGAC, JASANZ, and the GHG Management Institute, covering ISO standards for validation, verification, and certification, as well as IPCC guidelines across agriculture, forestry, waste, and industrial processes. The Center also took part in the Egypt Voluntary Carbon Market Capacity Development Initiative (EVCM) in cooperation with the FRA, strengthening national capacity for high-integrity carbon markets.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

The Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact (ECSI) serves as HU's platform for nurturing innovation, entrepreneurship, and socially driven enterprise. Positioned at the intersection of education, technology, and sustainable development, the center supports students, graduates, and entrepreneurs in transforming ideas into viable solutions that address societal and environmental challenges.

Entrepreneurship Support & Incubation

The fifth cycle of the **Estedama Incubator,** completed in 2025, focused on four key sectors: **Agri-Food, Integrative Health, Renewable Energy, and Green Construction.** A total of 40 applications were received, with **14 start-ups** selected. Participants underwent pre-pitching and investor-readiness workshops, equipping them with business and technical skills to strengthen their impact-driven ventures.

In November 2025, ECSI also launched the **Innovation Harnessing to Unlock Breakthroughs for Youth (Inno-HUB) Project,** a three-year initiative aimed to turn "ideas into impact" by offering incubation cycles, technical training, and fabrication support for youth-led startups.

Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC)

Additional milestones in 2025 included progress toward establishing an Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) at HU, with initial acceptance and engagement with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) on intellectual property frameworks.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Student Innovation and Technical Support

A core component of ECSI's work in 2025 was **student innovation and technical support,** particularly through its engagement with students enrolled in the Creativity and Entrepreneurship course. Throughout the year, students accessed technical advice, mentorship, and Fabrication Lab (FabLab) tools and equipment, enabling them to develop functional prototypes.

Extending its outreach beyond university students, ECSI conducted **four training sessions** for students of SEKEM's Vocational Schools focusing on **personal development, career readiness, and social entrepreneurship.** The sessions introduced self-assessment tools such as SWOT analysis, goal-setting frameworks, emotional intelligence and ideation exercises.

Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

In collaboration with the **U.S. Embassy in Cairo,** ECSI hosted a thought-provoking session titled "How AI is Beating Humans in the Creative Arts" presented by Dr. Michael Hsieh, a Stanford-affiliated AI expert. The session explored the transformative role of artificial intelligence in creativity and innovation, inspiring students to reflect on the intersection between technology and human imagination.

The center also partnered with the **Egypt Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center (EEIC),** a national initiative under the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, to co-host a meeting at SEKEM Farm. The gathering brought together directors of entrepreneurship centers from across Egypt to discuss pathways for collaboration and exchange.

ECSI's participation in the **100th Edition of the Cairo Climate Talks,** organized by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), reaffirmed its role in advancing climate entrepreneurship. The Center contributed to discussions on sustainable business models, youth-led innovation, and cross-sectoral collaboration in Egypt's green economy.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CENTER

The Integrative Health Center (IHC) remains at the heart of HU's vision of holistic well-being. The center integrates conventional medicine with complementary approaches, including anthroposophic medicine, nutrition, lifestyle education, mental wellbeing, and community health. Its work is guided by a vision of ensuring that all individuals - particularly underserved populations - have access to safe, balanced, and preventive healthcare.

Preventative Healthcare

The **Farmers' Health Project,** launched in November 2024 in Bahariya Oasis and expanded throughout 2025 nationwide, aims to assess the health status of organic and biodynamic farmers in comparison to conventional farming populations through physical examinations, laboratory tests, and structured interviews addressing agricultural practices, diet, and lifestyle.

In 2025, **22 Pharmacy faculty members and 236 students, alongside 11 Physiotherapy staff and 26 students, participated in reaching 2,367 farmers** across Egypt. with results regularly communicated back to participants alongside personalized health recommendations Internally, IHC conducted preventive health screenings for HU students and staff reaching **1,392 individuals.**

Health and Wellbeing

The Center addressed the growing impact of digital exposure through the **Media Fasting Awareness Project,** launched at SEKEM Primary School in November 2025. The initiative engaged parents, teachers, and university students in discussions on healthy media use, encouraging alternatives to excessive screen time that support children's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Women's health and empowerment were addressed through the **Rahma Women's Health Project,** launched in April 2025 across the 13 villages trained **12 women as community health coaches** to lead a 12-week well-being program that benefited **82 female workers** over a twelve-week period. Through open dialogue and education, the program addressed menstrual health, menopause, self-care, gender-based violence, and female genital mutilation (FGM), creating safe spaces for discussion while linking health awareness to dignity and empowerment.

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CENTER

Awareness and Education

Health awareness and behavior change were further promoted through a series of targeted campaigns and workshops. These included the **"Hand in Hand for Health" campaign** for farming communities, the **"Give Yourself a Break" media fasting campaign** reaching **1,000 HU students,** and **Muscle Week,** which raised awareness about work-related musculoskeletal injuries among more than **200** participants.

Professional workshops addressing **antibiotic resistance, nutrition, immune health,** and **workplace ergonomics** were also conducted for healthcare providers, and the wider university community. The Center also hosted the **Women's Health Forum** at HU in March 2025, bringing together academics, artists, and health professionals to promote women's physical and psychological well-being

In parallel, **12 participants** completed the Foundation Studies in Anthroposophical Medicine offered in collaboration with **Klinik Arlesheim (Switzerland)** and the **Medical Section at the Goetheanum (Switzerland).** The program covered 100 teaching units of contact study and an additional 100 self-study hours, enhancing competence in integrative medical practice.The IHC also expanded its educational role through **two internship programs,** each hosting **18 students,** offering hands-on experience in integrative healthcare delivery.

Additional cultural and community engagement activities, including health workshops at the **El-Wahat Dates Festival,** extended the Center's reach to rural farming populations, addressing diabetes, renal health, and occupation-related risks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

CARBON FOOTPRINT CENTER

The Carbon Footprint Center (CFC) is HU's specialized research and technical center dedicated to advancing climate action, carbon management, and low-emission development pathways in Egypt. The Center conducts carbon footprint and baseline assessments, provides technical consulting, and develops carbon reduction initiatives aligned with international standards and voluntary carbon market requirements.

The Center is double certified with both **ISO 14064-1:2018** and **ISO 14064-2:2019,** ensuring that all greenhouse gas (GHG) emission data and offset reporting meet internationally recognized standards for accuracy and reliability.

Climate Change Mitigation and Carbon Credits

During 2025, the Center conducted feasibility assessments and baseline reports for projects including the **Saudi Coffee Company (EMAR), South Sinai,** and **Matrouh** initiatives. It also contributed to the **management and sale of up to 10,000 carbon credits,** coordinating with multiple stakeholders and ensuring proper certification through recognized registries.

The CFC also expanded its technical consulting and carbon accounting services across multiple sectors. In 2025, the Center conducted full **carbon footprint assessments and reports** for **Heliopolis University, SEKEM Group, Link-Misr** (five factories and headquarters), Concrete **Headquarters and factories.**

In addition, the CFC carried out **17 shipment emission calculations** for Lotus Company, supporting the offsetting of logistics-related emissions.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CENTER

Contribution to Funded Projects and Knowledge Production

In 2025, the CFC launched **Toward Organic Agriculture in Matrouh Governorate (TOAP),** a two-year project supporting **700 smallholder farmers** in transitioning to organic farming to improve soil health, reduce chemical use and emissions, and generate additional income through carbon credits.

Throughout the year, the project delivered **18 training sessions,** supported the planting of **52,639 trees** and aided the production of **12,322 tons of organic compost** and installation of **24 solar photovoltaic units.**

This year, the CFC also completed **Smart Governance and Operational Models for Agroecological Carbon Farming (Farms4Climate)** project, funded by EU-PRIMA and implemented over 36 months, with a focus on establishing practical and scalable governance frameworks for agroecological carbon farming.

Through its Living Lab Bahariya Oasis, the project supported the transition of 40 farmers to biodynamic practices, generating around **400 tonnes** of CO_2-equivalent carbon credits in the first year, alongside a 30% increase in soil organic matter and a 15% reduction in farming costs.

In parallel, a second pilot in Wahat tested Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW) as a nature-based solution, achieving a 15% increase in soil organic matter, a 15% reduction in costs, and the generation of over 1,000 carbon credit units.

The project also incorporated community-based approaches, including the engagement of 60 women in capacity building and income-generating activities.

52,638
trees planted in Matrouh

12,322
tones of organic compost produced

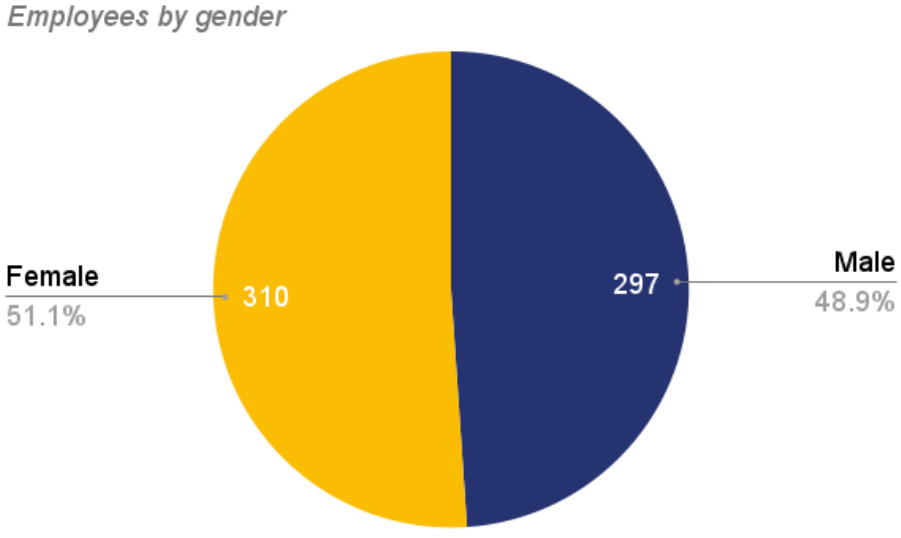
PEOPLE & CULTURE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) stand for providing all people with equal opportunities and removing any chances of discrimination. This is an integral part of HU's culture, where people with different backgrounds, nationalities and beliefs are working together every day.

Equality in the Workplace

HU's human capital reflects its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The university's workforce spans academic, administrative, and project-based roles, supporting its integrated model of education, research, and community engagement. In 2025, the University employed **483 full-time and 124 part time employees,** with a near gender balance across the institution **(51% female, 49% male).**



Monthly non-monetary benefits are offered to all HU employees including subsidized meals and transportation, private health insurance, and access to higher education for employees' children at subsidized rates. HU also offers both maternal and paternal leave.

Workforce Age Profile

Employee retention and institutional continuity remain a priority. In 2025. 157 staff members have been employed for more than 7 years and 286 have been employed for more than 3 years indicating strong institutional stability. The University recorded a 23% staff turnover rate, reflecting both natural workforce transitions and the dynamic nature of project-based and fixed-term contracts within research and development initiatives.

33%
OF STAFF
employed for more than 7 years

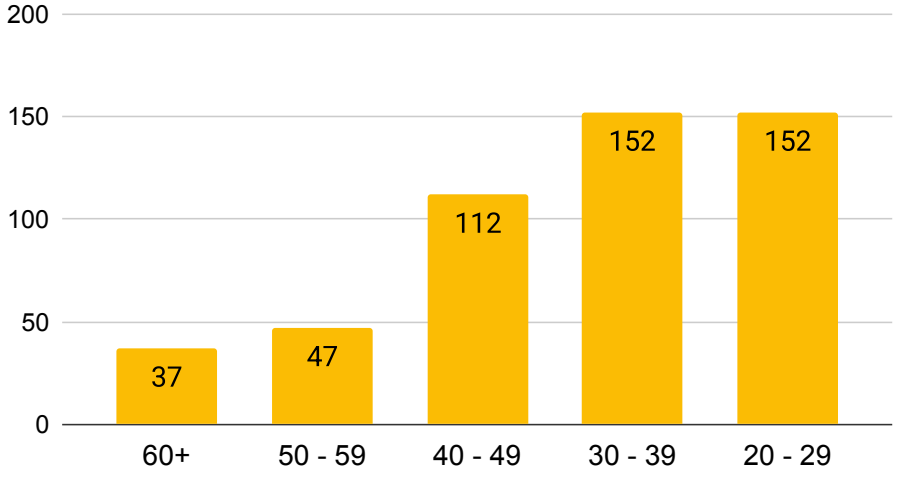
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Workforce Age Profile

HU maintains a balanced age structure that supports both operational performance and long-term sustainability. The majority of employees fall within early- and mid-career age groups, complemented by a solid base of experienced professionals.

Employees under the age of 40 account for more than half of the workforce, positioning HU as an employer of choice for young professionals and early-career academics. This demographic profile supports innovation, adaptability, and sustained institutional growth. At the same time, HU benefits from a strong base of experienced staff. This intergenerational composition enables effective knowledge transfer across academic, administrative, and project functions.

Age Distribution of full time employees



Training Academy

The Training Academy at HU plays a central role in fostering lifelong learning and capacity building for staff, and the wider SEKEM community. The Academy offers programs that integrate both personal development and professional skills.

In 2025, the Academy delivered **22 courses** across **54 training groups,** reaching a total of **1,053 participants.** Approximately **85% of participants** completed the full course cycles, reflecting strong engagement and relevance of the training content.

The Academy's offerings covered a wide range of themes aligned with HU's sustainable development pillars. Courses such as **HU/SEKEM Vision, Economy of Love, and Social Transformation** deepened participants' understanding of ethical economics, responsibility, and conscious leadership. Complementary modules on **Circular Economy, Social Entrepreneurship,** and **Organic Agriculture** strengthened applied knowledge and practical skills related to sustainable production and innovation.

Cultural and creative development remained a core pillar of the Training Academy's approach. Courses in **fine arts, music, speech, poetry, and acting,** alongside **culture and history,** supported self-expression, dialogue, and cultural awareness. Additionally language courses, including English and German, further contributed to intercultural competence and international engagement.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Unified Policy for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In 2025, HU adopted a Unified Policy for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to serve as a comprehensive institutional framework governing ethical conduct, inclusion, dignity, and accountability across all aspects of university and community life. The policy brings together previously existing instruments into a single, coherent standard.

The Unified Policy integrates the institution's:

- **Code of Conduct**
- **Anti-Harassment Policy**
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy**
- **Gender Equality and Balanced Society Framework**

At its core, the policy affirms that **human dignity, equity, and inclusion are essential pillars of sustainable development.** It promotes equal opportunity, accessibility, and gender balance, while explicitly prohibiting discrimination, harassment, abuse of authority, and retaliation.

A zero-tolerance approach to harassment is reinforced through clearly defined reporting channels, impartial investigation procedures, and safeguards to protect those who raise concerns.

The policy is firmly anchored in **Egyptian national legislation and international human rights and labor standards,** including the Egyptian Constitution, Labor Law No. 14 of 2025, the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018), ILO conventions, CEDAW, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals - particularly SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10, and 16 Through this Unified Policy, HU reinforces its commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and respectful learning and working environments, where diversity is recognized as a source of strength and where ethical integrity underpins education, research, and community engagement.

PEOPLE & CULTURE

SPACE OF CULTURE

Art and culture is a powerful language - connecting individuals, bridging intellect and emotion, and nurturing the will to create change. At HU, this vision continues to be realized through the Space of Culture (SoC). In 2025, SoC delivered a dynamic and diverse cultural program spanning talks, concerts, theatre performances, poetry salons, exhibitions, and festivals.

A total of **57 events** were organized across multiple locations, including HU, and select locations in **Greater Cairo, Sharkia and Minya governorates and Bahariya Oasis.** The program featured a strong mix of local and international contributions, while also increasingly spotlighting student-led productions and community-based artistic expression.

CAMPUS & OPERATIONS

HU campus is a reflection of the university's deep **commitment to conservation, resource efficiency, and sustainability.** Through ongoing innovation and targeted initiatives, we actively work to reduce our environmental footprint while promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

BUILDINGS & DESIGN

HU's campus design philosophy emphasizes low emissions, waste reduction and energy efficiency. All buildings are constructed using sustainable materials, resource-efficient practices with architectural features that maximize natural lighting and ventilation.

The buildings feature large overarching windows to promote airflow and reduce dependence on artificial lighting and cooling. Abundant greenery and shade help regulate indoor temperatures, reducing energy consumption.

Campus furniture is produced in the carpentry workshop at SEKEM Vocational Training Center using recycled and sustainable materials. The campus also hosts a hydroponics and aquaponic facility, providing fresh vegetables and fish for university dining.

TRANSPORATION

Recognizing the daily travel needs of staff and students-many of whom commute from Sharkia Governorate and surrounding areas - HU offers daily shuttle services to reduce individual car use and associated emissions. Plans are underway to expand routes into Greater Cairo and explore incentives for carpooling.

CAMPUS & OPERATIONS

WASTE

A considerable amount of waste is generated everyday on campus and is sorted weekly. Organic waste, such food waste from the cafeteria and byproducts of landscaping, are turned into compost that is then used to fertilize campus gardens. Non-organic waste, such as plastic and paper, is recycled to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills. To spread awareness and encourage students and staff to sort their waste, all trash bins around campus are separated and labeled organic and non-organic. A clothing and fabric collection station encourages the donation of used items. In partnership with The Clothing Bank, usable pieces are distributed to families in need, while others are upcycled into materials for arts and crafts on campus.

ENERGY & WATER

Paving the way for a greener future, HU aims to become Egypt's first university to operate on 100% renewable energy during winter months. Currently, **two** solar stations - one at the Faculty of Pharmacy and another at the Administrative Building - supply clean energy to campus operations.

With Egypt's renewable water resources estimated at just 600 cubic meters per person per year, which is far below the water poverty line (1000 cubic meters annually per capita). With a steadily growing population and climate change impacts, the water situation in Egypt is expected to be even more tense. Therefore, we place high priority on water conservation. Efforts include treating wastewater and using it for landscape irrigation.

CAMPUS & OPERATIONS

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Egypt has long demonstrated regional and global leadership in addressing climate change, reflected in its ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, and through its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). As of January 2022, Egypt has submitted its NDCs, which include mitigation targets, renewable energy development and energy efficiency strategies, adaptation measures, and requests for international support in finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

HU aligns its climate strategy with these priorities through **annual carbon footprint assessments.** By assessing and offsetting our footprint annually, we not only meet reporting standards, but also identify key areas for research, innovation, and operational efficiency.

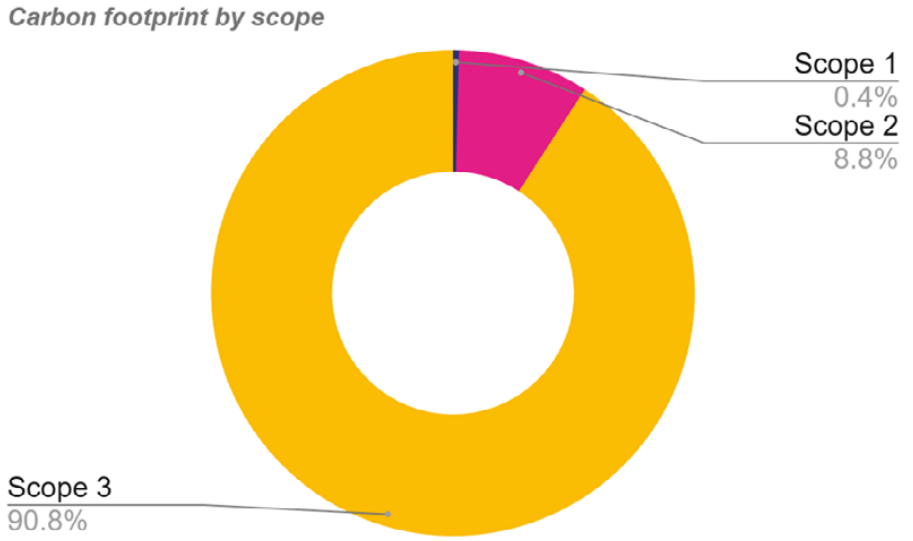
Methodology

HU's carbon footprint assessment follows the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol,** the globally recognized standard for measuring, managing, and reporting organizational greenhouse gas emissions. This framework categorizes emissions into **three scopes:**

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the university
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity
- **Scope 3:** Other indirect emissions resulting from University activities, such as commuting, business travel, paper consumption, and waste

Carbon Footprint Results and Year-on-Year Comparison

In **2025,** HU's total greenhouse gas emissions amounted to **4602 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($mtCO_2e$),** compared to **724 $mtCO_2e$ in 2024** and **532 $mtCO_2e$ in 2023.** This substantial increase does not reflect a sudden rise in emissions, but rather a **methodological enhancement in Scope 3 accounting,** as detailed below.



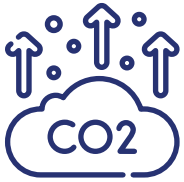
CARBON FOOTPRINT

Scope 1 emissions, which include direct emissions from University-owned vehicles and other on-site fuel use, totaled **18 $mtCO_2e$** in 2025. This represents a slight increase from **15 $mtCO_2e$** in 2024, but remains a relatively small share of the University's overall footprint, accounting for **less** than **1% of total emissions.**

Scope 2 emissions, arising from purchased electricity consumed on campus, reached **404 $mtCO_2e$,** up from **291 $mtCO_2e$** in 2024. Electricity consumption continues to be a major contributor to HU's footprint, underscoring the importance of energy efficiency measures and the planned expansion of on-site solar energy generation, particularly given HU's location in a high-sunlight region.

The most significant change in 2025 occurred within **Scope 3 emissions,** which totaled **4,180 $mtCO_2e$,** compared to **418 $mtCO_2e$ in 2024.** This tenfold increase is primarily attributable to an **expanded Scope 3 methodology,** whereby the University now calculates emissions from **both staff and student commuting.** Starting from 2025, this will now be the new baseline for our Scope 3 emissions.

4602
METRIC TONS
Total emissions of CO_2e in 2025



100%
CARBON EMISSIONS
offsetted through voluntary carbon credit market

With the inclusion of student commuting in 2025, HU now presents a **more complete and accurate representation of its indirect emissions,** in line with the GHG Protocol's recommendations for higher education institutions. Under this expanded methodology, commuting-related emissions represent the dominant share of Scope 3 emissions, highlighting mobility patterns as a critical area for future mitigation efforts.

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility, HU continues to **offset 100% of its carbon emissions through the voluntary carbon credits market.**

This approach complements internal reduction efforts by supporting verified climate mitigation projects that generate environmental and social co-benefits, while the university advances toward longer-term decarbonization pathways.

LOCAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HU continues to strengthen its role as a globally connected institution, positioning international collaboration as a key pillar of its approach to education, research, and sustainable development.

Partnerships

In 2025, the university significantly expanded its international network through the signing of **21 new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with universities, research institutions, private sector entities, and NGOs across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. These partnerships support academic exchange, joint research, professional training, and community-based collaboration. New and ongoing collaborations span institutions in the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Latvia, Croatia, China, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt, reflecting both the diversity and strategic depth of HU's global engagement.

Visits & Knowledge Exchange

The university hosted **over 200 international visits** in 2025, welcoming more than **1,000 guests** from academic institutions, embassies, funding agencies, and international organizations. These visits serve as platforms for knowledge exchange, partnership development, and the dissemination of HU's integrated model for sustainable development.Highlights include visits by representatives from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, alongside the Oikocredit delegation, to explore collaborative opportunities in agricultural innovation and sustainable finance. Similarly, a delegation of 25 representatives from Zagreb University in Croatia, as well as groups from TU Graz University and FH-Joanneum in Austria, engaged in insightful discussions with our faculty regarding interdisciplinary approaches to education and shared interests in sustainable development.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Student & Staff Mobility

International mobility remains central to HU's educational model, enhancing academic quality, professional development, and cross-cultural understanding.

In 2025, a total of **64 students and staff** participated in international mobility programs. Students engaged in semester exchanges and training opportunities in countries including Germany, Austria, Slovenia, the Netherlands, and Italy. These experiences provided exposure to diverse academic environments and strengthened interdisciplinary learning. Staff mobility also contributed to institutional capacity building, with academic and administrative staff participating in teaching assignments, training programs, and international conferences. These engagements support knowledge transfer, curriculum development, and the strengthening of international academic networks.

152
STUDENTS & STAFF
participated in mobility programs

Internships & Practical Exposure

International internships represent a key component of HU's applied learning approach. In 2025, students from multiple faculties participated in structured internship programs in Europe, particularly in the Netherlands and Germany.

A notable example is the **MOBILISE Project,** through which Organic Agriculture students completed a full-year development pathway combining pre-departure training, international placement, and post-return capacity building. Additional internships were facilitated through partnerships with universities, companies, and international networks, providing students with hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture, business, and engineering fields.

65 MoUs
with international partners

1000
international guests

LOCAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

EMUNI Knowledge & Innovation Center

In May, HU, in collaboration with the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), proudly hosted the launching event of the EMUNI Knowledge & Innovation Center (EKIC) in Egypt, officially established at HU's premises. The event brought together distinguished guests from academic, diplomatic, and business sectors, including H.E. Ambassador Sašo Podlesnik, Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to Egypt; Prof. Roberto Biloslavo, Vice President of EMUNI; and Prof. Abd Elhamid Elzoheiry, former President of HU and EMUNI and Co-Chair of the PRIMA Foundation.

We were also honored by the presence of esteemed representatives from several Egyptian universities, including Prof. Alaa Abdelbary, Vice President for Postgraduate Studies and Scientific Research at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, along with representatives from Alexandria University, Alamein International University, and Galala University. The event was hosted by Mr. Helmy Abouleish, Chair of the Board of Trustees of HU, and Prof. Gouda Helal, President of HU.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Sustainable Development for Global Impact Scientific Conference

In September 2025, HU organized the **first edition of the Sustainable Development for Global Impact (SDGI) Scientific Conference.** It brought together **363 participants** and **79 presenters** from academia, policy institutions, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, from Egypt and more than ten countries worldwide.

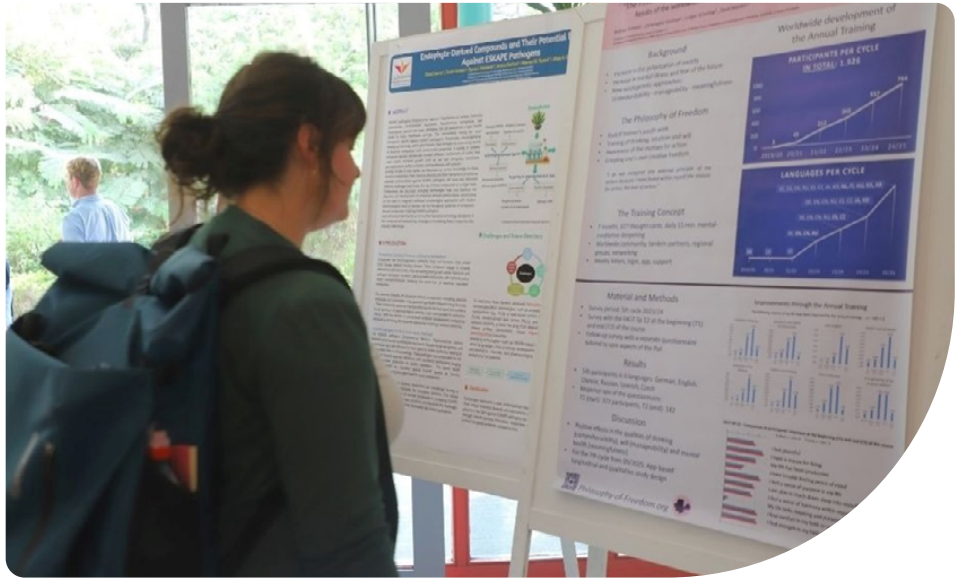
Designed around HU's holistic sustainable development framework, the SDGI Conference was structured across **four interlinked pillars: Ecology, Economy, Society, and Culture.** The program included keynote presentations, high-level panels, and thematic oral and poster presentation sessions, creating a balanced space for scientific exchange, policy dialogue, and experiential learning.

SDGI CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

363 Participants
79 Presenters
114 Abstracts Submitted
70 Oral Presentations
44 Poster Presentations
11 Interactive Workshop
2 Keynote Presentations
35 Full Papers Published in IJHR Journal
10+ Countries Represented
2 High-Level Panels

The conference emphasized the need for **integrated, values-driven, and context-specific approaches to sustainable development,** Discussions highlighted that sustainability solutions must go beyond technical innovation to address social justice, cultural identity, ethical governance, and human dignity.

A defining feature of the SDGI Conference was its **hands-on workshop program,** with more than **200 participants** engaging in experiential sessions that translated sustainability principles into practice. Workshops ranged from holistic research design and commercialization of green innovations to embodied learning, biodynamic agriculture, integrative health, and values-based economic models.



EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Second Organic Research Conference

In November 2025, HU hosted the Second African Organic Research Conference (AFROREC), in a hybrid format, bringing together **214 participants** from across Africa and beyond, including researchers, farmers, policymakers, private sector actors, and development partners.

Convened under the theme Strengthening Organic and Agroecological Farming in Africa through Innovative Research, AFROREC served not only as a scientific conference but also as the General Assembly of the Network of Organic and Agro-ecological Researchers in Africa (NOARA), positioning it as a strategic platform for coordination, agenda-setting, and knowledge exchange at the continental level.

The conference was structured around four interlinked sub-themes: research and innovation, markets and certification, education and capacity building, and cross-cutting issues including policy, climate, gender, and youth.

Through keynote sessions, scientific presentations, panel discussions, and policy dialogues, AFROREC emphasized the need to transition from fragmented approaches toward integrated food systems thinking. Discussions highlighted that organic agriculture and agroecology are not niche alternatives, but scientifically grounded pathways for addressing interconnected challenges of climate change, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, and rural inequality.

Evidence presented underscored their potential to enhance soil health, sequester carbon, improve public health outcomes, and strengthen resilient livelihoods - reframing farmers as key actors in climate solutions rather than contributors to environmental degradation.

A central focus of the conference was bridging the gap between research, policy, and implementation. Sessions explored the role of data systems and evidence-based policymaking in scaling organic and agroecological practices across Africa, while also addressing persistent barriers such as weak statistical systems, limited financing, and fragmented institutional coordination. The conference also contributed to shaping the Organic and Agroecology Research Agenda for Africa (OARAA 2036), a continent-wide framework designed to guide research priorities and inform policy and investment decisions. In parallel, innovative models such as SEKEM's Economy of Love were showcased as practical mechanisms to link research with climate finance, enabling smallholder farmers to access carbon markets and transition toward regenerative practices.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Regional Sustainable Development Forum

Also in November 2025, HU partnered with Aspire to host the second edition of the Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSD) bringing together over 700 participants from across the Arab region and beyond. Positioned as a dynamic platform for cross-sector collaboration, the forum brought together representatives from government, academia, private sector, civil society, and development organizations to explore integrated pathways for sustainable development under the central theme Weaving Threads.

HU also received the Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development award during the forum, reflecting its growing influence as a regional leader in sustainability-driven education, research, and community development. As a strategic partner, HU played a leading role in shaping the forum's content and dialogue, curating two key panels addressing critical dimensions of sustainability.

The Green Projects Ecosystem in Egypt panel explored how interconnected initiatives across agriculture, renewable energy, and ecotourism contribute to climate resilience, highlighting the importance of policy frameworks and cross-sector collaboration in scaling impact. In parallel, the Sustainable Health Initiatives in Rural Areas panel showcased integrated approaches to healthcare delivery, emphasizing the role of partnerships between academia, government, and community actors in improving access to quality health services in underserved regions.

Heliopolis University was also actively represented in high-level discussions, with Dr. Mohamed Anwar, Director of HU Rural Development Center, contributing to the Zero Hunger: Food Security in Times of Crisis panel, bringing forward perspectives on sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and community resilience.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

COP30

In 2025, HU was represented at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, by Dr. Ahmed Elshazly, Vice President for Community Development & Partnerships, to further our contribution to global dialogues on climate action, regenerative agriculture, and the role of education in sustainable transformation.

Contributions from HU emphasized the importance of regenerative agriculture as a scalable solution, while underscoring the need for enabling systems - particularly financing models such as carbon markets and payment for ecosystem services- to support farmers in transitioning sustainably.

the Visit of the European Union Ambassador

In 2025, HU welcomed the EU Ambassador to Egypt, H.E. Mrs. Angelina Eichhorst, in an official visit that underscored the growing collaboration between the university and the European Union in the fields of education, research, and sustainable development.

Highlights from the day included an interactive discussion on Science for Society between the ambassador and HU students. In addition to a campus tour and visit to external sites where a number of applied projects implemented under EU funded projects exist.

THE WAY FORWARD

Over the past year, HU has continued to grow in both the scope of its activities and the depth of its engagement with sustainability. Across education, research, community initiatives, and partnerships, this report reflects a collective effort to better understand and articulate the university's holistic model in action.Over the past year, HU has continued to evolve - not only in the scale of its activities, but in the depth of its approach to sustainability as an integrated, living system. Across education, research, community engagement, and partnerships, this report reflects an ongoing journey of growth.

This journey has also brought into focus the structural challenges that accompany growth. As our portfolio expands, so does the complexity of tracking, measuring, and communicating impact across diverse programs and entities. Yet, rather than a limitation, this has become a catalyst for transformation. In 2025, initial steps were taken to address these gaps, including efforts to improve data collection practices and introduce more structured approaches to monitoring and evaluation. While still evolving, these efforts represent an important shift toward more systematic and transparent reporting. Looking ahead, the university is entering a new phase - one that prioritizes integration, institutionalization, and influence. At its core, this work remains rooted in people - students, researchers, practitioners, and communities - who collectively shape and carry this vision forward. We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this report and to the broader mission it represents. Their commitment affirms that sustainability at HU is not an outcome to be achieved, but a continuous process of learning, reflection, and transformation.

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INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS

AASHE	Association for the advancement of sustainability in Education
AFROREC	African Organic Research Conference
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ASRT	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CBL	Community based learning
CFC	Carbon Footprint Center
CIHRAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
COAE	Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt
COP	Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CO2e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
ECSI	Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact
EDA	Egyptian Drug Authority
EEIC	Egypt Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center
EGAC	Egyptian Accreditation Council
EoL	Economy of Love
ERW	Enhanced Rock Weathering
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESDC	Education for Sustainable Development Center
EU	European Union
EVCM	Egypt Voluntary Carbon Market
FabLab	Fabrication Laboratory
FRA	Financial Regulatory Authority
GEF/SGP	Global Environment Facility / Small Grants Programme
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GMACC	Global Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HU	Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development

INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS

H2020	Horizon 2020 (European Union Research and Innovation Programme)
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IBL	Industry-Based Learning
IHE Delft	IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
IHC	Integrative Health Center
IJHR	International Journal for Holistic Research
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KPI	Key performance indicator
LSP	Leadership for Sustainability Program
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSMEDA	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency
mtCO2e	Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NOARA	Network of Organic and Agroecological Researchers in Africa
OSP	Office of Sponsored Programs
OTC	Office of Technology Commercialization
PBL	Problem-Based Learning
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
R&D	Research and development
RDC	Rural Development Center
RDF	Refuse-Derived Fuel
SDGI	Sustainable Development for Global Impact (Conference)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDF	SEKEM Development Foundation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLR	SEKEM for Land Reclamation
STARS	Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN ESCWA Asia	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VVB	Validation and Verification Body
WEFE Nexus	Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus

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ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

We recognize the importance of aligning our sustainability practices with globally recognized frameworks. This inaugural sustainability report has been structured to reflect core principles and reporting elements outlined by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While data collection systems are still being developed and refined, this report lays the groundwork for a robust, standardized reporting structure. In future editions, we aim to deepen alignment with these standards and expand both the breadth and accuracy of reported indicators.

Report Section	GRI
About Heliopolis University / Institutional Ecosystem	**GRI 2-1 to 2-6:** Organizational Profile, Activities, Value Chain
Teaching & Learning	**GRI 3-3:** Management of Material Topics (Education, Capacity Building)
Core Program & Community-Based Learning	**GRI 413-1:** Operations with Local Community Engagement
Research, Innovation & Impact	**GRI 203-1:** Infrastructure Investments & Indirect Economic Impacts
Entrepreneurship & Innovation (ECSI)	**GRI 203-2:** Significant Indirect Economic Impacts (Startups, SMEs Support)
Campus Operations (Energy, Water, Waste)	**GRI 302-1:** Energy Consumption, **GRI 303-3:** Water Withdrawal & Use **GRI 305-1/2/3:** GHG Emissions, **GRI 306-3/4/5:** Waste Generation & Management
Carbon Footprint Center	**GRI 305-1/2/3:** Direct & Indirect Emissions, **GRI 305-5:** Emissions Reduction

ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

Report Section	GRI
Agriculture, Rural Development & Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt	**GRI 304-2/3:** Biodiversity & Ecosystem Restoration, **GRI 413-1:** Local Community Engagement
Integrative Health Center & Wellbeing	**GRI 403-6:** Health Promotion & Wellbeing
Life on Campus & Workforce	**GRI 401-1:** Employment, **GRI 404-1:** Training & Education **GRI 403-6:** Employee Wellbeing
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	**GRI 405-1:** Diversity of Governance Bodies & Employees **GRI 406-1:** Non-discrimination
Training Academy & Capacity Building	**GRI 404-2:** Programs for Skills Development
Ecosystem Restoration / Greening Projects	**GRI 304:** Biodiversity
Global Engagement, Conferences & Partnerships	**GRI 2-28:** Membership Associations **GRI 413-1:** Stakeholder Engagement & Community Impact

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CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN SDG	HU Contribution Examples	Related Sections
SDG 1: No Poverty	Rural livelihoods development, women's economic empowerment programs, access to income-generating opportunities in underserved communities	Rural Development Center, Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Regenerative and organic agriculture education, farmer training, sustainable food systems research	Faculty of Organic Agriculture, Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt, Rural Development Center
SDG 3: Good Health & Well-being	Community health screenings, Farmers' Health Project, women's health initiatives, physiotherapy services in rural areas	Integrative Health Center, Faculty of Physical Therapy
SDG 4: Quality Education	Sustainability-integrated curricula, Community-Based Learning (CBL), experiential learning models, ESD Program for staff development	Teaching & Learning, Core Program, Education for Sustainable Development Center
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Women's empowerment programs in rural communities, gender-focused training, DEI policy and inclusive institutional practices	Rural Development Center, Life on Campus
SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation	Water management research, groundwater monitoring systems, wastewater treatment and reuse initiatives	Faculty of Engineering, Rural Development Center, Campus Operations
SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy	On-campus solar energy systems, renewable energy education and research, solar installations in community projects	Faculty of Engineering, Campus Operations, Carbon Footprint Center
SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth	Entrepreneurship incubation programs, vocational training, support for SMEs and local value chains	Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact, Rural Development Center, Training Academy

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN SDG	HU Contribution Examples	Related Sections
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	Applied research in water systems, sustainable technologies, incubation and prototyping support, innovation labs	Faculty of Engineering, Entrepreneurship Center for Social Impact, Office of Sponsored Programs
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	Inclusive education access (scholarships), rural outreach programs, health and economic empowerment initiatives	Teaching & Learning, Research & Community Development Centers
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities	Integrated rural development in 13 villages, waste management systems, community-based projects addressing local challenges	Rural Development Center, Community-based Learning
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production	Circular economy practices, waste segregation and recycling, compost production, sustainable agriculture value chains	Campus Operations, Rural Development Center, Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt
SDG 13: Climate Action	Carbon footprint assessment and offsetting, carbon credit projects, climate-resilient agriculture, participation in COP30	Carbon Footprint Center, Research & Impact
SDG 15: Life on Land	Soil health and ecosystem restoration, biodiversity-focused agriculture, tree planting and land regeneration initiatives	Faculty of Organic Agriculture, Rural Development Center, Center of Organic Agriculture in Egypt
SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Institutional governance frameworks, DEI policy, ethical standards and inclusive campus practices	Life on Campus
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	EU-funded projects (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, PRIMA), international research collaborations, multi-stakeholder development initiatives	Office of Sponsored Programs, International Relations

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GRI × SDGs ALIGNMENT MATRIX

This matrix reflects the alignment between Heliopolis University's sustainability activities, GRI Standards, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- ● **Strong alignment** - Direct, measurable contribution
- ○ **Indirect alignment** - Supporting or enabling contribution

GRI Standards ↓ / SDGs →	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
GRI 2: Organizational Profile			●	○					○					●	●
GRI 3: Material Topics			●								●	○			
GRI 203: Economic Impacts	○						●	●	●	○		○			○
GRI 302: Energy						●		○			●	●			
GRI 303: Water	○				●			○		●		●	○		
GRI 304: Biodiversity	●										○	●	●		
GRI 305: Emissions						○						●	●		○
GRI 306: Waste	○							○		●	●	●			
GRI 401: Employment	○			●			●		●					●	

GRI × SDGs ALIGNMENT MATRIX

GRI Standards ↓ / SDGs →	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
GRI 403: Health & Safety		●	○												
GRI 404: Training & Education			●	○			●		○					○	
GRI 405: Diversity & Inclusion			○	●					●					●	
GRI 406: Non-discrimination			○	●					●					●	
GRI 413: Local Communities	●	●	●	●	○		●	○	●	●	○	○	●	○	●

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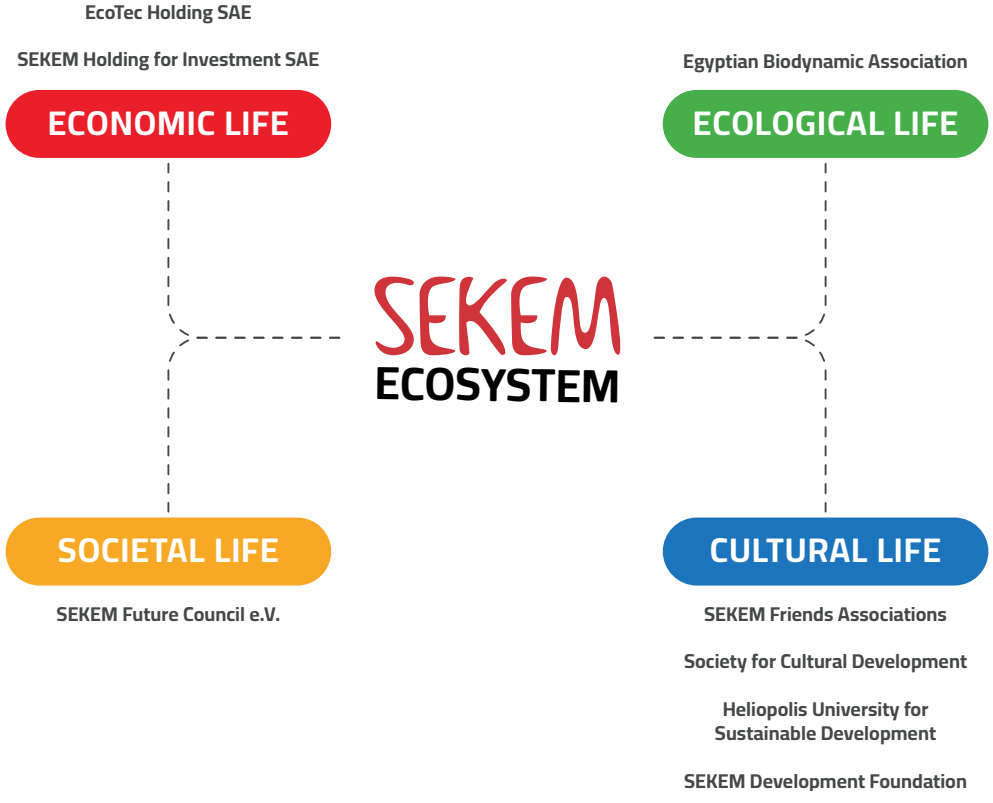
INSTITUTIONAL ECOSYSTEM

HU is an integral part of the broader SEKEM Initiative - an ecosystem of interconnected entities that collaborate toward shared goals - **the SEKEM Vision Goals.** These goals are closely aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and thoughtfully adapted to the Egyptian context. As a member of this ecosystem, HU operates within a dynamic local, national, regional, and international network. It actively engages with diverse stakeholders across the quadruple helix model which includes academia, industry, government, and civil society; fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, innovation, and impact.



INSTITUTIONAL ECOSYSTEM

SEKEM HOLDING GROUP OF COMPANIES

The history of SEKEM starts with a group of companies under the SEKEM Holding founded in 1977 by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish to strengthen sustainable development in Egypt. On the scale of Egyptian and international markets they produce, process, and market Organic and Biodynamic foodstuff, textiles, and phyto-pharmaceuticals

LOTUS S.A.E /LOTUS UPPER EGYPT S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1977/2008

Services:
Production, import and export of organic and biodynamic products

Products: Herbs, spices, seeds

ISIS ORGANIC S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1997

Services:
Production of organic food

Products: Herbal teas, honey, juices, spices, fruit and vegetables, oil

SEKEM FOR LAND RECLAMATION S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 2008

Services:
Reclaiming and cultivating new pieces of land according to biodynamic principles, operating in total 3 SEKEM farms located in Wahat Bahareya, Sinai and Minya.

NATURETEX S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1998

Services:
Design, manufacturing, marketing of the products

Products:
Baby and kids wear, toys, home textiles, fabrics, assorted adult items from organic cotton

ATOS PHARMA S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1986

Services:
Manufacture & marketing of phytopharmaceuticals

Products:
Natural medicines and healthcare products

SEKEM LABORATORIES S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1979

Services:
Management of SEKEM main farm (Sekem 1,2,3) and Adleya farm, grafting and plant cultivation services for fruit and vegetable plants; animal welfare, production of milk, eggs, beef, sheep, and chicken.

INSTITUTIONAL ECOSYSTEM

LIBRA S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 1988

Services:
Animal husbandry, compost production

EL-MIZAN S.A.E.

Year of establishment: 2006

Services:
Nursery for trees and agricultural crops, crafting of plants

SEKEM EUROPE GMBH

Year of establishment: 2005

Services:
Import and sales of SEKEM's products, customer care, export marketing, market development.

PARTNER NGOs

EGYPTIAN BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION (EBDA)

Founded by Dr. Ibrahim Abuleish in 1994, EBDA (also known as Demeter Egypt) is an independent non-governmental organization that supports farmers in Egypt to shift from conventional practices to sustainable agriculture. Ever since its establishment, EBDA has continuously guided more than 2100 Egyptian farmers towards organic and biodynamic agriculture. EBDA was able to increase the living standard of its members through sustainable production methods and well-coordinated market access of organically and biodynamically produced raw materials.

Learn more from: http://ebda.earth/

THE SEKEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (SDF)

The SDF is a private non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of people's lives. It implements a variety of projects and programs in the field of social development, health care, education and ecology. Financed partly by a profit share from SEKEM's companies and supported by a variety of organizations and donors (e.g. SEKEM friends)

Entities: SEKEM Primary and Secondary Schools, Nursery, Kindergarten, Vocational Training Center, Medical Center.

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