

GROWING SUSTAINABILITY,
ONE BANANA TREE AT A TIME.



ECOHARVEST

Strengthening Sustainability Through
Banana Planting at NORSU

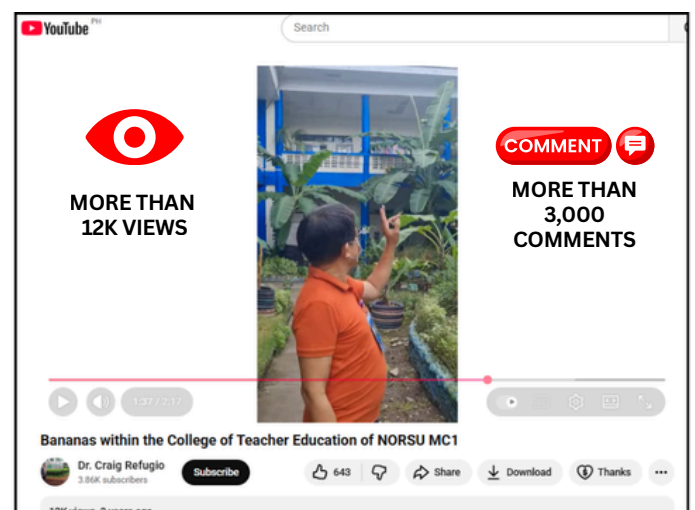


STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH BANANA PLANTING AT NORSU

At Negros Oriental State University (NORSU), a groundbreaking initiative is taking root with the EcoHarvest program, aimed at tackling two critical global challenges: hunger and climate change. Led by Dr. Craig Refugio, this innovative project focuses on sustainable agriculture by planting banana trees at the NORSU Main Campus 1. The project is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), and demonstrates how local efforts can create substantial environmental and social change.

A Green Initiative Rooted in Sustainability

The EcoHarvest project is not just about growing banana trees; it's about fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience to climate change. The program's primary goal is to promote food security while raising awareness about environmental stewardship. By utilizing the campus grounds as a living classroom, the project aims to educate students, faculty, and the local community on sustainable agricultural practices and climate action.





Although initially confined to the university campus, the banana planting project has the potential for far-reaching impact. The trees planted within the College of Teacher Education are a physical representation of NORSU's commitment to environmental sustainability. The initiative is designed to be a hands-on, educational tool, allowing students to see firsthand how agriculture can be a viable solution to both food security and climate change.

From Campus Initiative to Community Collaboration

The long-term vision for EcoHarvest goes beyond the boundaries of the university campus. In the coming years, the project aims to expand its reach by involving local farmers, NGOs, and government organizations in an effort to create a replicable, community-driven model for sustainability. By fostering partnerships with these external stakeholders, the program will be able to scale its impact, helping not only the university but also the surrounding community to tackle issues like hunger and environmental degradation.

As of now, the banana trees planted on campus are thriving, but the program's success is still in its early stages. The short-term focus is on maintaining the trees, raising awareness about the environmental benefits of the project, and laying the groundwork for future collaborations. Through outreach and educational campaigns, EcoHarvest is working to build a network of partners that can help sustain and expand the project.



Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

One of the most exciting outcomes of EcoHarvest is its ability to engage the students and faculty of NORSU in sustainability efforts. Through hands-on involvement in planting, maintaining, and learning about banana cultivation, students gain practical experience in sustainable agriculture and develop a deeper understanding of how local actions can contribute to global environmental goals.

The program has also become a focal point for academic discussion on sustainability and climate change, integrating real-world solutions into the curriculum. Professors have expressed strong support for the project, seeing it as an opportunity to enhance their teaching and offer students tangible examples of how agriculture can play a role in addressing food security and climate change.

Looking Ahead: Growing the Program's Impact

The future of EcoHarvest looks bright. As the program continues to grow, NORSU plans to build upon its success by engaging more stakeholders, expanding its network, and exploring new funding avenues. The long-term goal is to create a self-sustaining ecosystem that not only benefits the university community but also serves as a model for other institutions and communities seeking to address global challenges.

Through collaboration, education, and continued support, EcoHarvest will help NORSU lead the way in sustainable campus initiatives, demonstrating how universities can be powerful agents of change in creating a more sustainable and equitable world. With the ongoing support of local communities, governmental agencies, and other institutions, this initiative is poised to have a lasting impact on both the environment and the communities it serves.

EcoHarvest is more than just a campus project; it's a vision for a sustainable future, rooted in local action and driven by global goals. By addressing food security and climate change, this initiative not only contributes to achieving SDGs 2 and 13 but also serves as a shining example of how simple, local efforts can spark meaningful change. As the banana trees continue to grow, so too does the hope for a more sustainable and resilient world.

