

# SDG 2: Zero Hunger



## ***Executive Summary***

The Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata, showed strong commitment during 2024-25 to end hunger and malnutrition through campus nutrition, sustainable food, community outreach, and farming education. IEM's zero hunger plan combines meal programs, nutrition education, food waste reduction, and community support to ensure food security for students and aid needy populations. The campus meal system provides daily nutritious meals to students, with subsidies for those in need. The university also provides free lunch to all the staff members. Nutrition education is part of courses, and the institute joins national campaigns to promote healthy eating and food safety. Food waste is managed with composting and recycling, while water-saving efforts like rainwater harvesting support sustainability. Community outreach programs with partners such as Rotary and Lions Clubs deliver food and essentials to vulnerable groups, especially during festivals. Sustainable farming is taught through courses, research, farms, and expert talks, focusing on climate-smart practices. Quality and safety follow strict guidelines and regular training. Challenges include funding limits, supply issues, and changing eating habits, but these are managed through student involvement in menu planning, local sourcing, and education tailored to culture. Future plans aim to grow meal subsidies, build food pantries, launch student cooperatives, use nutrition apps, expand community programs, promote digital education, and improve research on fortified crops and new proteins. Gratitude is extended to leaders, staff, partners, volunteers, and donors for their vital support in reaching zero hunger goals. IEM's inclusive, sustainable efforts set an example in improving food security both on campus and beyond.

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## ***Overview and Context***

The Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata, during the 2024-25 academic year, demonstrated strong commitment to addressing hunger and malnutrition through a comprehensive approach. This approach includes campus nutrition programs, sustainable food practices, community food distribution, and agricultural awareness initiatives. Recognizing food insecurity as a complex challenge, IEM adopts integrated strategies that span nutritional access, sustainable agriculture, food waste reduction, and community support systems. Their institutional framework ensures food security for students and supports economically disadvantaged populations. The core mandate focuses on promoting societal health through nutrition programming, sustainable food systems, and empowering food-insecure groups. Annual strategic goals emphasize expanding nutritional support, enhancing agricultural awareness, strengthening partnerships, and embedding nutrition education throughout academic curricula. These efforts collectively reflect IEM's holistic commitment to advancing SDG 2: Zero Hunger through innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions.

## ***Core Mandate***

To promote comprehensive societal health via nutritional programming, sustainable food systems, and empowerment initiatives targeting food-insecure populations and promoting agricultural sustainability.

## ***Annual Strategic Goals for 2025-26***

- All students get access to healthy and balanced meals on campus.
- There is more awareness about how to grow food in environmentally friendly ways.
- Nutrition education and good lifestyle habits are taught regularly.
- The institute works with agricultural groups, food banks, and nutrition agencies.
- Many students and staff join activities for food distribution in line with SDG 2.
- Workshops are held to prevent malnutrition, promote sustainable farming, and reduce food waste.
- Campus keeps checking and improving how secure food is for everyone.
- Classes and campus activities promote sustainable food habits and nutrition science.

- Programs are carefully reviewed to check their results and improve food support.
- Student groups lead efforts to encourage healthy eating and caring for the environment.

## ***Campus Nutritional Support Programs***

### **Institutional Meal Provision System**

The institute operates a comprehensive campus meal provision system ensuring all students and faculties receive access to nutritious, balanced meals throughout their academic tenure. The campus food service infrastructure prioritizes nutritional quality, affordability, and sustainability.

### **Nutritional Service Framework:**

During the 2023-24 academic year, the institution provided:

- Daily nutritious meals to students and faculties through campus dining facilities
- Subsidized meal programs ensuring affordability for economically disadvantaged students
- Free lunch service for all faculty and staff members on working days
- Nutritionally balanced meal planning incorporating diverse food groups and dietary requirements

The campus dining system architecture emphasizes:

- High-quality protein sources ensuring adequate macronutrient intake
- Micronutrient-rich fruits and vegetables supporting immune function
- Culturally appropriate vegetarian meal options respecting diverse dietary preferences
- Hygiene and food safety protocols ensuring safe food handling and preparation

## ***Nutrition Education and Awareness***

### **Curriculum Integration**

Nutrition education components embedded within various academic programs include:

- Environmental Sciences courses addressing sustainable agriculture and food systems

- Life Sciences curricula covering nutrition, metabolism, and dietary health
- Public health modules emphasizing nutrition epidemiology and food security
- Sustainability studies exploring food system resilience and climate adaptation

### **National Nutrition Awareness Campaigns**

The institution participated in national nutrition campaigns including:

- National Nutrition Week observances promoting balanced diet awareness
- World Food Day celebrations highlighting global food security challenges
- Food Safety Day activities emphasizing safe food consumption practices
- International Yoga Day programs connecting physical wellness with nutritional health

## ***Sustainable Food Practices and Waste Management***

### **Campus Food Waste Reduction**

The institution implemented comprehensive waste management systems addressing food waste sustainability:

#### **Solid Food Waste Management:**

- Strategic waste segregation with designated bins for organic food waste
- Composting initiatives converting organic waste into nutrient-rich compost for campus gardens
- Daily waste disposal coordination with NKDA (New Town Kolkata Development Authority)
- Recycling prioritization reducing environmental impact and operational costs

#### **E-Waste Recycling Metrics:**

Progressive electronic waste management demonstrating environmental commitment:

- 2019-2020: 486 Kg e-waste recycled
- 2020-2021: 522 Kg e-waste recycled
- 2021-2022: 1,344.26 Kg e-waste recycled
- 2022-2023: 1,752.60 Kg e-waste recycled
- 2023-2024: 2,169.90 Kg e-waste recycled

## ***Water Conservation and Agriculture***

### **Rainwater Harvesting Infrastructure:**

- Artificial groundwater recharge systems augmenting water reservoirs
- Treated wastewater reuse for campus gardening and landscaping
- Separate piping systems for rainwater distribution reducing freshwater dependency
- Water conservation protocols promoting responsible water usage

### **Campus Gardening Initiatives:**

- Tree plantation drives enhancing campus green cover and producing fruits
- Kitchen garden projects demonstrating small-scale sustainable food production
- Ornamental and edible landscaping combining aesthetics with food production
- Composting integration using campus food waste for soil enrichment

## ***Community Food Distribution and Outreach***

### **Inner Wheel Club Nutrition Programs**

The Inner Wheel Club of IEM orchestrated extensive community nutrition initiatives:

- Regular nutritious food distribution to economically disadvantaged populations
- Daily groceries and essential food items provision to urban slum families
- Meal provision during festivals ensuring festive participation regardless of economic status
- Nutritional support for children in marginalized communities through educational kit distributions including food supplements

### **Rotary Club Community Food Support**

Operating under IEM's institutional framework, the Rotary Club organized comprehensive food welfare initiatives:

- Living essentials distribution including food staples (rice, pulses, cooking oil)
- Cooked food provision campaigns during public health emergencies and natural disasters
- Household cookware distribution enabling families to prepare nutritious meals
- Sanitization kit provision ensuring food safety during pandemic periods

- Community kitchen support for large-scale meal preparation during emergencies

### **Lions Club Nutrition Outreach**

The Lions Club conducted:

- Community meal programs fostering social cohesion through shared dining experiences
- Charitable food drives collecting non-perishable food items for distribution
- Free meal services for marginalized communities during cultural celebrations

### **Festival-Period Food Distribution Drives**

During major cultural celebrations, particularly Durga Puja festivities, the institution orchestrated large-scale distribution campaigns:

- Clothing and food provisions to hundreds of economically disadvantaged community members
- Nutritious meal distribution ensuring festive participation for vulnerable populations
- Food basket donations containing essential groceries for families

### **Faridpur Outreach Nutrition Initiative:**

A significant nutrition-focused outreach effort in Faridpur region benefited:

- 103 differently-abled children receiving nutritious meals, educational kits, and health support
- 48 elderly residents accessing food supplies, clothing, and medical assistance

## ***Agricultural Awareness and Research***

### **Sustainable Agriculture Education**

The institution promotes sustainable agricultural practices through:

- Environmental Sciences curriculum covering organic farming, crop rotation, and soil conservation
- Research projects exploring climate-resilient agriculture and water-efficient irrigation
- Guest lectures by agricultural experts sharing best practices in modern farming



- Field visits to agricultural sites providing practical exposure to sustainable farming methods

### **Centers of Excellence for Food Systems Research**

IEM established 23 Centers of Excellence, with 5 centers initiated during 2023-2024, supporting innovation and research. Centers focusing on sustainable food systems include:

- Agricultural Technology Research Labs developing climate-smart agricultural solutions
- Environmental Engineering Centers addressing water management in agriculture
- Biotechnology Research Units exploring bio fortification and crop improvement
- Sustainability Research Hubs studying food waste treatment

## ***Food Safety and Quality Assurance***

### **FSSAI Compliance and Training**

The institution maintains strict adherence to FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) guidelines:

- Annual food safety audits ensuring compliance with national standards
- Staff training in food handling covering hygiene, storage, and preparation protocols
- Student awareness campaigns on safe food consumption practices
- Collaboration with FSSAI participating in national food safety initiatives

### **Campus Dining Hygiene Standards**

Quality Assurance Mechanisms:

- Daily kitchen sanitation protocols ensuring clean food preparation environments
- Regular equipment maintenance preventing contamination risks
- Temperature monitoring systems for food storage and serving
- Supplier quality verification ensuring ingredient safety and freshness

## ***Collaborative Partnerships and Networks***

- Lions Club International supporting community meal programs
- Inner Wheel Club network facilitating food distribution in urban slums

- Rotary Club International organizing food security initiatives
- Local NGOs working on malnutrition prevention in children

## ***Data and Metrics***

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Value</b>
E-waste recycled cumulative % increase from 2019 to 2024	346.48%
Centers of Excellence established	23
Centers initiated (2023-2024)	5-6
Differently-abled children benefited (Faridpur)	103
Elderly residents benefited (Faridpur)	48

## ***Challenges, Learnings, and Adaptive Approaches***

- Limited funds restrict growth of community food programs.
- Infrastructure is sometimes unable to serve all meals during busy times.
- Supply chain issues cause inconsistent ingredient availability.
- Seasonal price changes affect the sustainability of meal programs.
- People resist changing eating habits to healthier options.
- Some lack knowledge about nutrition.
- Food waste remains a problem despite awareness.
- Diverse cultural food preferences require varied menus.
- Coordinating large meal services on time is challenging.
- Ensuring food quality at high volumes is difficult.
- Getting enough volunteers for food drives is tough.
- Tracking nutritional outcomes needs continuous effort.
- Including students in menu planning boosts meal acceptance.
- Nutrition education that respects culture better changes behaviour.
- Collaborating with local suppliers strengthens the food supply chain.
- Student-led activities increase peer participation in sustainability.
- Combining education, access, and environment gives better results.

## ***Future Directions and Growth Strategies***

- Starting meal subsidy programs reaching economically vulnerable students
- Developing food pantry systems providing emergency food assistance
- Creating student food cooperatives offering affordable nutritious snacks
- Implementing nutrition tracking apps helping students monitor dietary intake
- Establishing campus demonstration farms showcasing organic farming practices

- Developing rooftop kitchen gardens producing fresh vegetables for campus consumption
- Partnering with local farmers sourcing fresh, seasonal produce sustainably
- Implementing aquaponics systems combining fish farming with vegetable cultivation
- Scaling up food distribution networks reaching more vulnerable populations
- Establishing community nutrition education centers in neighboring areas
- Developing meal kit programs teaching families to prepare nutritious meals
- Creating food voucher systems empowering beneficiaries with food choice
- Digital nutrition education platforms accessible via mobile devices
- Online recipe libraries promoting healthy, affordable cooking
- Food waste tracking systems identifying reduction opportunities
- Agricultural technology demonstrations showcasing precision farming
- Intensifying nutrition research addressing regional malnutrition challenges
- Developing bio fortified crop varieties improving micronutrient content
- Exploring alternative protein sources supporting sustainable diets
- Investigating food preservation techniques reducing post-harvest losses

## ***Acknowledgments and Gratitude***

Profound appreciation is extended to the institutional leadership for their visionary guidance and commitment of resources toward food security. The dedicated dining services staff consistently ensure daily provision of nutritious meals. Collaborative NGO partners have amplified the reach of community food distribution efforts. Agricultural experts and consultants contribute valuable knowledge on sustainable farming practices. The alumni community generously supports student meal assistance funds. Student volunteers actively participate in food distribution drives with enthusiasm. Government agencies facilitate policy alignment and oversee food safety, while corporate donors provide crucial support for campus food security infrastructure. Special recognition is given to some partner organizations whose steadfast support has enabled transformative progress toward achieving zero hunger goals.

## *Photo Gallery*



*Social Bite organized by CSR club on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



*Outreach at local schools*