

Cultivating Minds, Markets and Meaningful Innovation

Message from the Vice Chancellor / The Academic Lens

The most consequential transformations occur when knowledge crosses boundaries. Agriculture, economics, entrepreneurship, technology and sustainability may be studied as distinct fields, but the challenges confronting Asian food systems are inherently interdisciplinary.

This reality has important implications for higher education. Universities must prepare learners not simply to know, but to apply, collaborate, innovate and respond responsibly to complex problems.

Learning by Doing

CUTM's emphasis on skill-based and experiential learning is closely aligned with this changing educational landscape. In agriculture and agribusiness, practical competence is especially important because the distance between an innovation and its adoption can determine whether research produces meaningful social impact.

Students need opportunities to engage with real problems, real enterprises and real communities. They must learn to test assumptions, work across disciplines, communicate with stakeholders and translate ideas into workable solutions.

CUTM's academic ecosystem has been designed to support this philosophy across a broad range of disciplines. With more than 18 schools and programmes spanning engineering and technology, management, agriculture, life sciences, pharmacy, computing and data science, law, nursing and other professional areas, the University creates opportunities for learners to encounter perspectives beyond their immediate fields of study. More than 45 production labs further support its hands-on, practice-oriented approach to learning.

Research, Extension and Technology Transfer

Research is central to this process. It allows society to move from assumptions to evidence and from isolated interventions to scalable approaches. But research reaches its full value only when its insights can travel beyond academic boundaries.



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An aerial view of the CUTM campus: an ecosystem where learning, research and innovation converge.



Agricultural extension, capacity building and technology transfer therefore deserve sustained attention. The future agribusiness professional must be able to understand not only how an innovation works, but also why people adopt it, what barriers they face and how solutions can be made more accessible.

This requires an academic environment in which research is connected to application. CUTM's specialised research ecosystem encompasses areas including smart agriculture, genetics and genomics, aquaculture and fish processing, data science and machine learning, phytopharmaceutical research, design and manufacturing, and waste-to-wealth. Such interdisciplinary capacity creates opportunities for research findings to interact with technology, industry and community needs, strengthening the pathway from knowledge creation to practical impact.

Sustainability as an Academic Imperative

CUTM's strong performance in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2026 provides a useful institutional context for this commitment. The supplied institutional material places CUTM in the global 101–200 band and fifth in India, with particularly strong global positions in SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy (#26), SDG 13, Climate Action (#27), SDG 1, No Poverty (#43), and SDG 2, Zero Hunger (#44). It also records strong positions in SDG 14, Life Below Water (#51), and SDG 15, Life on Land (#65).

These results reinforce an important principle: sustainability must not be treated as an isolated theme. It should inform curriculum, research, innovation, community engagement and institutional decision-making.

The Special Issue of Horizon JHSSR brings these concerns together through its focus on sustainable agribusiness, entrepreneurship, economics and innovation. I hope it will encourage scholars and students alike to think across conventional boundaries and to pursue research that is both intellectually rigorous and socially relevant.

To cultivate the future of agriculture, we must first cultivate the minds capable of imagining it.



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